



## WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS WELCOMES ALBERT HUNT, GIGI MANIYATTE, AND KEVIN YEN TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**The three join a distinguished group of individuals dedicated to advancing the organization's mission and wide-ranging artistic programs on stages and in schools and neighborhoods throughout the national capital region**

**WASHINGTON**— Washington Performing Arts announced the appointment of **Albert Hunt**, **Gigi Maniyatte**, and **Kevin Yen** to its Board of Directors. With their diverse backgrounds and accomplishments, all three bring valuable perspectives to the organization as it continues to enrich the cultural landscape of the nation's capital.

A clarinetist and educator, **Hunt** currently serves as president of the Friday Morning Music Club, which, alongside founder Patrick Hayes and the Washington Performing Arts Women's Committee, helped establish our Concerts in Schools arts education program.

**Maniyatte** has served in various senior managerial and accounting roles at Pepco Holdings Inc. for 17 years, assuming the role of Chief of Staff to the CEO in 2024. For 35 years, Pepco has been a steadfast champion of Washington Performing Arts, supporting a wide range of impactful artistic, arts education, and community engagement programs. Maniyatte's appointment continues a long history of Washington Performing Arts Board service for senior PEPCO executives.

**Yen** is a Principal at BGO, where he invests in a range of property types including industrial, office, retail, multi-family, and medical office investments. Yen has served as Chair of the Investment & Retirement Plan Committee for two years and moves to the full Board of Directors after serving on the Washington Performing Arts Junior Board for 5 years.

"We are thrilled to welcome three dynamic and engaged new members to our Board, said Washington Performing Arts's President and CEO **Jenny Bilfield**. "Their dedication to the

mission of Washington Performing Arts — to champion the unifying power of the arts — builds upon a foundation of exceptional board leadership and governance that is crucial in challenging times. We look forward to their partnership in the years ahead.”



### **ALBERT HUNT**

Dr. Albert Hunt serves as the president of the Friday Morning Music Club, and brings a wealth of experience as a performer, teacher, and administrator to the position. He has been involved with FMMC for many years as a performer with the Avanti Orchestra, Chamber Music Program, and as Yearbook Editor, Performance Director, and Board Member.

Dr. Hunt received degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University (BME), Manhattan School of Music (MM), and The Juilliard School (MM, DMA). He has performed in chamber music and solo concerts on five continents. As an orchestral musician, he has performed with the Cleveland Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke’s, The National Philharmonic, and The Richmond Symphony, among others. He was a full-time faculty member at the University of West Florida and Mercyhurst University, and a music administrator at Oberlin Conservatory, and the Alabama School of Fine Arts. His private clarinet studio produces international competition winners, principal clarinetists of the Maryland All-State Orchestra and Bands, and members of elite local youth orchestras. Dr. Hunt is also International Coordinator of Sinfonía por la Vida (Ecuador), an organization dedicated to social inclusion through music. For his achievements as a performer, teacher, and philanthropist, Dr. Hunt was named a Distinguished National Arts Associate by the international music fraternity, Sigma Alpha Iota.



### **GIGI MANIYATTE**

Gigi Maniyatte is the Chief of Staff to the CEO of Pepco Holdings Inc., a role she assumed in 2024 after serving in various senior managerial and accounting positions at the company over her 17-year tenure. As Chief of Staff, she is the liaison between the CEO, executive and senior leaders, and staff for business initiatives, large capital project updates, key risk mitigation strategies, external stakeholder communications, and broad corporate strategies. She also serves as Pepco’s Crisis Management Team lead and co-sponsors the Pepco Holdings’ DEI Council and Employee Resource Group activities.

Her previous positions at Pepco included Senior Manager of Business Planning and Analysis and Senior Accounting Manager. Prior to Pepco, she held accounting roles at Bank of America, Computer Science Corporation, and Prudential Insurance Company.

She serves on the Audit Committee of the Board of Pensions for the State of Delaware Office of Pensions.



#### **KEVIN YEN**

Kevin is a Principal at BGO and a senior transaction officer for the firm's US Investments team. Since joining BGO in 2014, Kevin has invested in a diverse range of property types including industrial, office, retail, multi-family, and medical office investments. Prior to joining BGO, Kevin served as an Acquisitions Analyst at New York-based Sterling Equities. He is an active member of the Urban Land Institute's Health Care and Life Science Council and an active member of NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association's National Industrial Perspectives Forum.

Kevin grew up in Tainan, Taiwan where he frequently volunteered as an usher and receptionist for his mother's community orchestra, the Tainan Civic Symphony Orchestra, which fostered his interest in the performing arts. Kevin received his B.S., magna cum laude, in Urban and Regional Studies from Cornell University. He lives with his wife, Tiffany, in Arlington, Virginia.

#### **ABOUT WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS**

One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, Washington Performing Arts has engaged for more than half a century with artists, audiences, students, and civic life. The city is truly our stage: for decades, in venues ranging from concert halls and clubs to public parks, we have presented a tremendous range of artists and art forms, from the most distinguished symphony orchestras to both renowned and emerging artists in classical music, jazz, international genres, and more. We also have an ever-expanding artistic and educational presence online, envisioning ongoing opportunities for online connection and community.

Washington Performing Arts deeply values its partnerships with local organizations and other arts institutions. Through events online and in myriad performance venues and neighborhoods, we engage international visiting artists in community programs and introduce local artists to wider audiences. We place a premium on establishing artists as a continuing presence in the lives of both young people and adults through residencies and education programs.

Our achievements have been recognized with a National Medal of Arts and with three Mayor's Arts Awards from the DC Government. We have now embarked upon our second half-century, ever inspired by the motto of our founder, Patrick Hayes: "Everybody in, nobody out."

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