



WASHINGTON
PERFORMING ARTS
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Washington Performing Arts Teaching Artists

Enriching Experiences for Seniors (EES)

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MUSIC

Bernard Mavritte

Bernard Mavritte was born in Washington, DC where he received his education in the public schools, and later studied Education and Vocal Studies at Howard University. He also studied Choral Conducting at the Inter-American University in Puerto Rico. He taught in DC Public Schools for many years as well as performed internationally. He also hosted a DC radio show on a leading Gospel Music station. In 1965 he toured Europe at the Assistant Musical Director for James Baldwin's play *The Amen Corner*, and served as the Choral Music Director for the Tony Award winning play *The Great White Hope* for which one of his own compositions was used. He has performed for President John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, Barbara Streisand, Leonard Bernstein, Sammy Davis Jr, Duke Ellington, and others. He is also featured on the soundtrack of ABC television special *Back to Glory* where his arrangement of "The Colored Volunteers" is heard. Currently, Bernard is the CEO of the publishing company Branches Music and his own record label. He has recorded five CDs and continues to perform in DC and beyond. He serves as the director and a musician for the Chancel Choir of his church, and enjoys performing regularly for Washington Performing Arts's Enriching Experiences for Seniors program.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In my performance, I attempt to convey the message of each song and bring the listeners into the experience by showing photographs of the composers and giving a brief biography of each composer. I like to make it a fun experience by giving prizes to audience members. I cover a wide genre of music including: Classical, Broadway Shows, Popular Songs, Folk Songs, Negro Spirituals, and Gospel Music.



Caron Dale

Caron Dale is a singer/songwriter who has been heard to say that she continually searches for the center of her spiritual tootsie pop — always exploring, questioning, writing and singing! Her song, "Marching Feet Can Make It Right" won the 2018 Great American Song Contest in the R&B/Hip Hop category.



She is founder, manager and lead singer of Lox & Vodka, the renowned klezmer, Jewish and American music group. Some Lox & Vodka highlights include: Kennedy Center Artists in Residence, Washington Post Best Pick, US Presidential performances, featured band in Festivals and concerts in Charleston, SC, Chambersburg and Harrisburg, PA, Richmond, VA, Baltimore, MD, Smithsonian Institute and the Lincoln Memorial Rally for Respect and many embassy events.

Caron is also the founder and CEO of Chords of Courage, a non-profit organization dedicated to changing the conversation from the demoralizing and cynical to the hopeful and inspirational one song at a time. They work with students to write powerful songs about people of great courage and then perform acts of STEPPING UP!, community service, in the spirit of the brave person about whom they just wrote a song. Chords of Courage firmly believes that by creating socially conscious music with young people today, we help create socially conscious citizens for tomorrow.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Caron offers an energetic, participatory concert with lots of singing, movement, rhythm and discussion. Her concerts are entertaining, educational and heartfelt. There's always something to learn whether it's singing in a different language or details about a composer. Everyone can walk away with a smile on their faces and a new bounce in their step! Caron sings and plays guitar in a variety of musical styles (folk, blues, light jazz, light rock, world and more) through sing-a-long, musical games, and customized programs.

KA/PO—Karen Ashbrook & Paul Oorts

For more than 40 years, Karen Ashbrook has been instrumental in the development and revival of the hammered dulcimer. After building her first dulcimer in 1976, she pursued Irish music and learned her craft in the pubs of England and Ireland, while traveling in Europe and Asia for five years. She then wrote the first book for intermediate/advanced dulcimer playing in the States, "Playing the Hammered Dulcimer in the Irish Tradition," on Oak Publications.



Karen plays a variety of styles including Irish, Appalachian, Belgian, English, Classical and Jewish. She teaches at festivals and music camps around the States, and is central in the revival of hakkebord (the Flemish hammered dulcimer) in Belgium. Add her wooden flute and pennywhistle playing, and you have the consummate Irish musician.

Based in the DC area, Karen teaches and performs as the duo KA/PO with her husband Paul Oorts, playing his native Belgian and French music. She has several recordings both solo and with the group Ceoltoiri, on the Maggie's Music label. Committed to education, Karen founded the Sligo Creek Hedge School Irish music and culture summer camps in 1998. Performance highlights include RTE 1-Irish National Television, the Smithsonian Institution, National Geographic, and playing at the White House for President Bill Clinton.

Karen's most recent recordings are KA/PO in Concert and Starry Starry, a fantasia of American, Celtic, Asian and classical lullabies on solo dulcimer.

In 2013 Karen became a Certified Music Practitioner (CMP) through the Music for Healing and Transitions Program (mhttp.org). She currently works at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in the Stages of Healing Program and in the Arts & Humanities Program at the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. She teaches workshops internationally encouraging other musicians to use their music for healing. In 2017 Karen received the Maryland State Arts Council Award for Solo Performing in the World Music Category.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Karen Ashbrook & Paul Oorts perform folk music from the cultural crossroads of Europe. This duo presents an engaging musical travelogue with traditional dance tunes, songs and airs from Europe on hammered dulcimer, accordion, wooden flute and harp guitar.

Not 2 Cool Jazz Band

The Not 2 Cool Jazz Trio, led by trumpet player Michael Grasso, is a professional jazz band that focuses on music from a bygone era. They perform Bossa Nova, New Orleans, and Swing music, with an emphasis on tasteful and timeless melodies from the 1920s through the 1960s.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Not 2 Cool Jazz Band is a professional music group in the Baltimore-Washington area, led by trumpet/piano player Michael Grasso. They play a mixture of standards and classic jazz in the spirit of Chet Baker and Miles Davis. Focusing on music from a bygone era, they have an intimate and lyrical sound that follows the west coast style of cool jazz. They perform bossa nova, New Orleans, swing music, and soft rock, with an emphasis on tasteful and timeless melodies from the 1920s through the 1970s.

Reverb

Reverb is a Wammie Award-winning a cappella vocal group who sings an uplifting blend of soul, pop and Gospel classics and original songs written and arranged by group members. Reverb has performed along the East Coast and toured East and Southern Africa, the Persian Gulf and the Caribbean.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The five male singers of Reverb take audiences on an a cappella musical journey through African-American history, focusing on the social issues of 1619, 1866, the 1960s, and today. Audiences participate by answering and asking questions, singing, and playing hand-held percussion instruments. Reverb's repertoire engages audiences and provides insight into issues that are still thought provoking today.



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Rhythm Wranglers

Since 1969, Steve Bloom has performed and/or recorded in over a dozen countries. His work in Afro-Cuban folklore, Celtic music, and in Persian percussion has taken him to the Lincoln Center, to top-tier folk festivals around the U.S., and in 2006 Bloom performed for the United Nations General Assembly, presented by Ban Ki-Moon. He has been engaged for the last four years as "Resident Creative" at the National Building Museum.



Since receiving his Master's Degree in Percussion Performance from Indiana University, Kevin Mott has toured and performed extensively in Europe, the Middle East, and has also been designing and building Marimbas and Xylophones, and offering master classes at universities and conservatories around the country on Marimba repertory, technique and design.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Rhythm Wranglers duo presents a participatory lecture/demonstration throughout which the artists perform short works on a wide variety of percussion instruments, whose origins and sonic properties are compared and contrasted. The program is adaptable for all audiences, and features segments on mallet percussion, Persian drum rhythms, Cuban conga rhythms, and even a spotlight on the phenomenon of the cajon' in varied styles, including hybrid drum set. Peppered with units of vocal call-and-response, rhythm games, and the like, this rapid-fire program challenges audiences of all ages, and entices them with insights into such musical domains as meter, melody, syncopation and polyrhythm.

Thalea String Quartet

The Thalea String Quartet brings their signature vibrancy and emotional commitment to dynamic performances that reflect the past, present, and the future of the string quartet repertoire while celebrating diverse musical traditions from around the world. Fueled by the belief that chamber music is a powerful force for building community and human connection, the Thalea String Quartet has performed across North America, Europe, and China, and has appeared at the Kennedy Center, Massey Hall, and Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall.



Winners of the 2021 Ann Divine Educator Award from the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, the members of the Thalea String Quartet have been celebrated for their innovative approach to education and community engagement. The members of the TSQ have presented masterclasses and workshops at institutions across North America, including the Berkeley College of Music, the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami, and San Francisco State University.

The Thalea String Quartet is the Doctoral Fellowship String Quartet at the University of Maryland. The quartet has also held fellowship positions at the University of Texas at Austin and the San Francisco Conservatory. They served as Associated Artists at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel in Waterloo, Belgium for the 2019-20 season and were the 2019-20 Ernst Stiefel Quartet-in-Residence at the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts. They were top prize winners at the 2018 Fischhoff Competition and 2018 Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Legacies

The Thalea String Quartet explores American musical traditions in this hour-long performance. Dvorák's timeless "American" String Quartet highlights the influence of the Black spiritual on American music, and Alexander Vittal's "Abbey Road Suite" celebrates rock 'n' roll, one of America's most popular musical languages.

Program:

Antonin Dvorak: String Quartet in F major "American"

- i. Allegro non troppo
- ii. Lento
- iii. Molto vivace
- iv. Finale

The Beatles, arr. Alexander Vittal: Abbey Road Suite



Sandra Y. Johnson Band

Sandra Y. Johnson, a native Washingtonian and performs straight-ahead Jazz, Blues, and R&B/Oldies music, including Motown. Sandra joined the Women's Fellowship Choir at her church in 1985, and the Blacks in Government Gospel Choir, Department of Labor Chapter, in 1986 where she was the section leader and coordinator of the choir's activities for fourteen years.



Sandra was a member of the WPA Men & Women of the Gospel Choir from 1995 - 2015 that performed annually at the Kennedy Center, where she had been chosen as a soloist. Sandra every first Sunday of each month at the Gospel Rescue Mission in Washington, D.C. from 1995 until they closed in 2014. In 2001, Sandra became a student at the Elliston Jazz Studies Workshop under the direction of Ronnie Wells and Ron Elliston. She also studied privately for a year and a half with the late Calvin J. Jones, University of the District of Columbia's Coordinator of Jazz Studies. She currently studies with Connaitre Miller, Professor of Jazz Voice at Howard University, Washington, DC.

Sandra's first "gigs" were at The Islander Restaurant, Westminster Presbyterian Church Jazz Series, The Old Post Office Pavilion, and Twin's Jazz Lounge on U Street. Since 2002, she has performed at several jazz festivals to include the Fish Middleton Jazz Scholarship (FMJS) Fund's East Coast Jazz Festival at the Double Tree Hotel in Rockville, 2006 Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival, The 2010 and 2011 Taste of Georgetown, Herndon Labor Day Jazz Festival, 2012 Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival and many outdoor concerts. Sandra also performed several times at the Henley Park Hotel and the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. From 2005 – 2010, she performed every Friday night at Laporta's Restaurant in Alexandria, VA. She performed at the Smithsonian's American Art Museum's "Take 5" in 2008 and again in 2011. Sandra also performed at the Phillips Collection in May 2012. Sandra performed a "Tribute to Billie Holiday" at the Walter's Art Museum in Baltimore, MD in 2014 and 2015. She performed a musical "Tribute to Gloria Lynne" at the Anacostia Art Museum in July 2015. (For a full list of previous performances, [click here](#).) She entered and won 2nd Place at the 2006 and 2007 Billie Holiday Vocal Competition in Baltimore, MD.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

We perform jazz, blues, and R&B oldies, including Motown for seniors. We try to make the program interactive by asking the audience the names of the group performing or the lead singer, especially when we perform R&B/Oldies. We encourage the audience to dance and a couple of us might dance with them.



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World Music Collective

The World Music Collective is a mixed instrumentation ensemble representing diverse musical heritages with improvisation as a common theme. Each member is an internationally recognized performer, composer and improviser based in the Washington DC metropolitan area. Each of our performers has more than 20 years' experience as teaching artists in a variety of settings including programs and residencies in the DC Public Schools, masterclasses, community workshops and clinics, and college teaching.



Deepak Ram, Indian flute player, has been featured on NPR and has performed for Nelson Mandela. **Noah Getz** is a Grammy-nominated artist that has been hailed as a “highly skillful and an even more highly adventurous player” (Washington City Paper). Drummer **Advait Shah** received advanced training from Ustad Tari Khan in Chicago, IL and has performed with Nisar Bazmi, Ustad Nafiz Ali Khan, Arun Ramamurthy and Pandit Subroto Roy Choudury. Bassist **Karine Chapdelaine** has led an active performance career that includes international performances in Europe, South America, Mexico, Africa, and Asia. **Cristian Perez** is an Argentine-American guitarist/composer/arranger who has performed internationally (Bulgaria, Canada, South Korea, Bolivia, China, Dominican Republic) and continues to be very active in the local music scene.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The World Music Collective will perform a concert of genre-bending original pieces that explore the diverse cultural connections between improvisation and written musical traditions around the world. This concert will include pieces that pay homage to Afro-Cuban, Indian classical, jazz, and Chilean musical styles. The ensemble consists of internationally known musicians from multiple countries of origin that have settled in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Each of musicians in the ensemble bring a wealth of musical experience to these compositions.



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DANCE

Coyaba Dance Theater

Coyaba Dance Theater was founded in 1997 by Founder/Artistic Director Sylvia Soumah. The mission of Coyaba Dance Theater is to present traditional and contemporary West African dance and music focusing on the diverse ethnic groups and various humanitarian themes of West African culture. Coyaba Dance Theater performs throughout the year and has been featured at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The Public Playhouse, the Lincoln Theater, the Lisner Auditorium, Dance Place, the Chicago Theater and the World Culture Open in Seoul, South Korea. Website: <http://www.danceplace.org/coyaba-dance-theater/>



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

OH' Africa: Africa is Continent not a Country

Oh' Africa, is a 45 minute, high energy, interactive performance highlighting the music dance and culture from the Mali Emperor (Mali, Senegal, Guinea). The audience will experience their rich history and culture from these amazing countries and their diverse ethnic groups. Program will include Drum Call (Calling of the Ancestors), Harvest Dance, Drum History, Dance of the Griot, and audience participation and closing Mantra: LOVE-PEACE-RESPECT for EVERYBODI'. Coyaba looks forward to taking you on this journey with us.



Ziva's Spanish Dance Ensemble

Ziva's Spanish Dance Ensemble engages students of all ages with dances that were inspired by the culture of Spain's Andalusia region. A skilled professional dancer and instructor, she blends traditional Spanish and modern dance, resulting in unique neoclassical choreography. Her ability to connect with students through creative expression while educating them about the historical influences of dance, has made Ziva one of the most sought-after teachers in the Washington, D.C., area.



Guest artists have come from a variety of dance and musical fields such as jazz, modern, tap, Indian, African, and Moorish. The Ensemble has appeared in venues throughout the Washington, DC, area including the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, Corcoran Gallery of Art, George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium, Alden Theatre, Jack Guidone Theater, Dance Place, and the Atlas Theater. Ziva's Spanish Dance Ensemble provides programs for diverse audiences, including embassies and numerous private engagements throughout the region.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Ziva Cohen guides audiences through a historical journey of the roots of flamenco Spanish dance. Using footwork, hand movements and basic choreography, participants are led through an authentic flamenco routine. Participants learn about the influences that led to the creation of these unique dances.

VISUAL ART

Karen O. Brown

Karen is a professional artist with extensive experience as an arts educator. She draws students and teachers into the creative process as they discover the joys of artistic expression. She conducts workshops, residencies and professional development for organizations including The Kennedy Center, Washington Performing Arts (WPA), The National Museum of the American Indian, Teaching for Change, Howard University, Inspired Child and numerous public libraries. Karen recently led professional development workshops for 20 Native American Elementary Education Teachers in North Dakota for the Smithsonian Education Outreach Program.



She has permanent art installations at the DC Commission for the Arts, Children's National Medical Center and the DC Convention Center. She designed and completed a 23' mural based on the painted house designs of the Ndebele women of South Africa with help from 1st through 5th graders at Ideal Academy Public Charter School. Karen also created artwork for six annual meetings of The Washington Area Grantmakers Association. Each year she made hundreds of individual pieces of artwork for attendees including flying birds, articulated puppets and hand-painted houses and chairs! Her international travels in Asia, Europe, Central and South America and South Africa inform and enrich her creative and imaginative approach to teaching and creating public art. Ms. Brown's education includes graduate studies in textiles, ceramics, sculpture, 3-D and surface design, bookmaking and photography.

PROGRAM OPTIONS

Playful Book of Memories! In this workshop series, Karen uses simple techniques and materials as she leads participants in making a variety of easy, handmade books. Each book can be used as the maker wishes such as My Most Memorable Travel Experience, My Proudest Accomplishments, My Favorite Pet, etc. And, the popular - A Book of Family Recipes. Karen demonstrates how to illustrate content using colorful collage techniques adaptable to any subject. Examples of book structures are The Maze Book, The Pop-Up, The Accordion, The Lotus Fold and The Cereal Box Book.

Letting Loose with Paint! In this workshop series, Karen leads participants to discover the joys of abstract painting. Working with large brushes, decorative painting tools, and exciting color, Karen demonstrates how easy it is to create new and exciting non-representational designs. Any one can join in as adaptive tools are available for all mobility levels. In addition, paintings from these workshops can be displayed for exhibition in your center.

Weaving with Paper! In this workshop series, Karen leads seniors in how simple paper, oil pastels and yarn create large, colorful paper weavings reminiscent of West African textile traditions. Participants draw and collage on paper pieces, weave them together and embellish with yarn. Artwork can be taken home or mounted to create a beautiful group exhibition at your center.

Yes You Can! Visual Arts for All Ages and Abilities: Visual arts are enjoyable and therapeutic for everyone. In this workshop series, Karen takes seniors on a visual arts exploration of materials and techniques. Referencing the descriptions above for bookmaking, painting and weaving, participants have an opportunity to experiment with a variety of possibilities. These hands-on workshops invite creativity and participation on any level.



Marcie Wolf-Hubbard

Marcie shares her love of drawing, painting, and collage/mixed media, much of which is inspired by nature. She provides guidance and encouragement to participants in her art sessions. Marcie is a proud winner of the 2022 Nancy Frankel Artist Award. This annual prize recognizes one of America's greatest artists and is presented in an effort to continue her legacy in the culture. Marcie has received numerous grants from the Maryland State Arts Council, and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, including grants for Artist Residencies, Artist & Scholars Grants, and Professional Development.



Marcie teaches students of all ages, including individuals with special needs and seniors with dementia. Her paintings and sculpture in encaustic (wax) and mixed media have been exhibited widely on the East Coast. Marcie has illustrated for magazines and books, as well as worked as a courtroom illustrator. Marcie is an instructor at Glen Echo Park, Yellow Barn Studios, and the Smithsonian. She received her B.A. from the University of Maryland in Studio art and studied Fine art & Illustration at the Maryland Institute, College of Art.

Marcie is the Education/Social team leader in Ch/Art, a community arts organization in Northwest Washington, DC, and Maryland. She is an active member of Teaching Artists of the Mid-Atlantic (TAMA.)

PROGRAM OPTIONS

Build Your Own Tiny House or Interior

The artist will lead participants in designing their own tiny house or interior. Options for constructing the houses or interiors are in 2D or 3D. We will begin with sketching ideas on paper and then add collage elements to complete our artwork. Options for constructing in 3D include cardboard, collage and mixed media. Materials may include oil pastels, colored pencils or acrylic paint.

Inspired by Nature Collage Art

Participants will create a collage artwork inspired by nature using a variety of papers including homemade collage papers. Embellish your collage with oil pastels to complete your mixed media artwork. Painting and mixed media techniques include acrylics, making prints with textures, and photo transfer.

Enjoy Observing Nature

Participants will study specimens including seashells, plants, and flowers and develop drawings in pencil and watercolor.

Deconstructing and Constructing

Be inspired by sample art and artists. Participants will design their own art using colorful strips of paper to create collages. May include painting in watercolor or acrylic, drawing in pencil, or oil pastels, and using mixed media techniques.