



**WASHINGTON
PERFORMING ARTS**

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**Washington Performing Arts Announces
MARS ARTS D.C. Lineup for
Free Concert Series at Songbyrd Music House**

The four-part series runs March-June 2024 with performances by Moonshine Society, James Murphy, Roz White and The Blacc Print Experience

WASHINGTON– [Mars Arts D.C.](#), the Washington Performing Arts signature community engagement initiative, presents a free concert series this spring at Songbyrd Music House (540 Penn St NE), spanning multiple music genres and celebrating the District’s vibrant local music scene. Each local artist brings electrifying performances in their unique style and energy, speaking to audiences through the universal language of music.

Spring 2024 acts include modern blues quartet **Moonshine Society (March 6)**, soulful tenor **James Murphy (April 3)**, powerhouse vocalist **Roz White** accompanied by a four-piece band **(May 8)**, and R&B, jazz, and D.C. culture band **The Blacc Print Experience (June 5)**.

“We are thrilled to bring together a lineup of exceptional local artists for the Mars Arts D.C. Concert Series at Songbyrd,” **Washington Performing Arts Supervising Producer Eric E. Richardson** said. “Roz White's powerful portrayal in *Tina - The Tina Turner Musical* has captivated audiences nationwide for nearly two years. Moonshine Society and James Murphy have graced stages near and far with their incredible talents. The Blacc Print Experience, a burgeoning staple in the Go-Go scene, continues to thrive, and we are delighted to have them on the sought-after stage at Songbyrd.”

Doors at Songbyrd Music House open at 7:00 p.m., with music starting at 8:00 p.m. Register for free tickets at <https://songbyrddc.com/events/>.

THE ARTISTS



[Moonshine Society](#) (March 6) is a D.C.-based band led by the magnetic vocals of Jenny Langer. This powerhouse quartet unleashes a sonic storm where blues, soul, and rock collide. The band has received Wammie awards for Best Blues Band and Best Blues Album and has repeatedly been named in Top Fan Favorite Lists in Washington, D.C., and Virginia. With their electrifying energy, enchanting sound, and repertoire traversing American music's roots, Moonshine Society will captivate audiences with their soulful mastery of sound.

[James Murphy](#) (April 3) richly blends contemporary urban gospel and R&B, creating a soul-stirring sound. Once called “the brightest new talent” in gospel music, Murphy has garnered attention and acclaim for his positive message and enthusiastic performance style. His dazzling tenor voice and versatility across genres have been on full display on international stages and in performances and recordings with an impressive constellation of stars, including Patti LaBelle, Kelly Rowland, Ledisi, Coko, Byron Cage, and James Fortune. His own debut album — *So Crazy, No Boundaries* — features the Billboard-charting single, “Follow Thee.”



[Roz White](#) (May 8) is a Helen Hayes award-winning vocalist who effortlessly brings to life a repertoire of show-stopping numbers and heartfelt ballads with a four-piece band. White is well-known to national audiences from her role as the mother of a young Tina Turner in the national touring company Broadway's *Tina*, and her self-penned cabaret *Pearl Bailey... by Request* (Off-Broadway 2011). She is especially beloved in the region for her scene-stealing turns at local theatres, such as Studio Theatre,

Mosaic, and (most regularly featured) MetroStage. Her dynamic stage presence and magnetic charisma captivate, creating an evening of pure musical magic.

[The Blacc Print Experience](#) (June 5) is a talented collective of musicians who combine elements of R&B, funk, jazz, go-go, and hip-hop to create a genre-defying sound that is uniquely their

own. Audiences become immersed in a sonic tapestry that weaves together infectious grooves, powerful lyrics, and dynamic performances. Their performances resonate with diverse crowds and bring people together to celebrate the universal language of music.



ABOUT MARS ARTS D.C.

Mars Arts D.C. is Washington Performing Arts’s signature community engagement project. The product of a partnership between Washington Performing Arts, Jacqueline Badger Mars, and Mars, Incorporated, the ongoing program presents and elevates the dynamic vibrancy found in the local arts community and business economy through ever-growing artist engagement and long-term communal partnerships. In 2020, Mars Arts D.C. began an exciting new chapter in its online presence via its Mars Arts D.C.: Virtual programming. From streaming dance masterclasses led by world-renowned choreographers to premiering rooftop concerts filmed by award-winning cinematographers, Mars Arts D.C.: Virtual has allowed for a more in-depth and nuanced showcasing of D.C. talent, as well as an expanded reach to national and even international audiences

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 on the internet, 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.”

Washington Performing Arts on Social Media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonPerformingArtsSociety>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/washingtonperformingarts/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/wpasadmin>

X: <https://twitter.com/WashPerformArts>

ABOUT SONGBYRD MUSIC HOUSE

Songbyrd Music House (aka “Songbyrd”) is a 200-capacity live music venue, bar, and restaurant in D.C.’s Union Market neighborhood and member of the National Independent Venue Association (“NIVA”). Songbyrd was named Washington, D.C.’s Best New Venue in 2016 and Best Place for Dinner and Live Music by the *Washington City Paper* in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and is rapidly growing market share and building interest from music-forward Washingtonians and beyond.

In just six years at its Adams Morgan location, Songbyrd has proven itself as an incubator and launchpad for an eclectic mix of up-and-coming local and national bands looking to gain a foothold in the Washington, D.C., region. Songbyrd has hosted the likes of Khalid, Shaed, Jessie Reyez, Moonchild, Earthgang, Tyler Childers, Big Thief, Homeshake, Tank & the Bangas, Lauv, Lil Peep, Free Nationals, Rapsody, Xavier Omar, The Beths, Coast Modern, Slum Village, and Main Source, just to name a few of the artists that gave Washington, D.C., music lovers their “I saw them when” moment.

Songbyrd has been the Washington, D.C., outpost for the worldwide album listening and appreciation platform Classic Album Sundays since 2016, and has hosted artist signing events with Charli XCX, All Time Low, ODESZA, and others. Songbyrd’s regular alternative music event programming includes hip hop x kung fu film mashup series “Can I Kick It?” from the Shaolin Jazz team, renowned vintage vinyl dance party Ritmos Raros, classic R&B listening series The R&B Club and others.

The Songbyrd bar & restaurant is where music fans of all stripes can fuel up before, during or after one of our live shows or events and serves as an every-night haunt for music lovers looking for low-key fun with our jukebox, regular DJs, and other music-related events to go with a carefully selected menu of beer, wine, and cocktails.

Songbyrd works closely with its sister store Byrdland Records (located at 1264 5th Street, N.E. in the Union Market neighborhood) to fuse and align music experiences and fan opportunities for exclusive vinyl records, special in-store performances and other events and initiatives that bring artists and fans together in celebration and appreciation of our highest and most transformative art form: Music.

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