



**WASHINGTON
PERFORMING ARTS**

We make it happen

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CONTACT: Amanda Sweet
(347) 564-3371
amanda@bucklesweet.com

**Washington Performing Arts Announces
2025 MARS ARTS D.C. Lineup for
Free Concert Series at Songbyrd Music House**

The six-part series runs March-June 2025 with performances by Akua Allrich, District Coalition, Ronnette Rollins, Lonny Taylor, J. Chris and World Pride: Colors of Culture

The Mars Arts D.C. Concert Series continues to bring exciting artists to **Songbyrd Music House**, the 2023 Wammies Best Music Venue winner located in the Union Market area.

Upcoming FREE concerts at Songbyrd include: **Akua Allrich**, who pays tribute to African-American women in music with her signature blend of jazz and blues (March 5); a unique fusion concert entitled **District Coalition** (April 16); powerhouse vocalist **Ronnette Rollins** (May 7); and **Got Sol with Lonny Taylor** (June 4), and **JChris** (June 14). Additionally, at Songbyrd, JChris hosts a special World Pride celebration entitled **Colors of Culture**, celebrating the queer community across Latin America (June 28).

Doors at Songbyrd Music House open one hour before the show. Registration for free tickets is recommended due to venue capacity, register via this link <https://www.washingtonperformingarts.org/mars-arts-d-c>.

MARS ARTS D.C. CONCERT SERIES AT SONGBYRD
AKUA ALLRICH
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025 / 8:00 P.M. (doors open at 7:00 P.M.)

Registration now available

Jazz vocalist and D.C. native Akua Allrich pays tribute to African-American women in music with a blend of blues, soul, jazz, and pan-African music. Accompanied by a live band, her performance honors the legacies of the legendary artists such as Miriam Makeba and Nina Simone, and others. Allrich's electrifying presence and powerful voice promise to captivate and inspire.

MARS ARTS D.C. CONCERT SERIES AT SONGBYRD
MUSICAL JOURNEY: DISTRICT COALITION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025 / 8:00 P.M. (doors open at 7:00 P.M.)

Registration now available

Join us for Musical Journey displaying talented artists from the classical, jazz, electronic, and hip-hop genres in an innovative set presented by DC Collective, a non-profit organization dedicated to curating unforgettable moments through the fusion of music, venues, and experiences. Experience the rich textures of classical instruments, the infectious rhythms of jazz and cumbia, the atmospheric sounds of electronic music, the passion of flamenco guitar, and the powerful verses of hip-hop and soul, all interwoven into a captivating auditory experience.

MARS ARTS D.C. CONCERT SERIES AT SONGBYRD
RONNETTE ROLLINS
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025 / 8:00 P.M. (doors open at 7:00 P.M.)

Registration available in April 2025

Ronnette Rollins is known for her dynamic stage presence, vocal range, and piano skills. The musical prodigy played piano and organ and directed choirs for various churches beginning at age eight. By 11 she already was shining alongside her godmother, Gospel Music Hall of Fame inductee Shirley Ables & The Joy Gospel Singers. Ronnette has recorded and performed with gospel and inspirational legends like Yolanda Adams, Pastor Shirley Caesar, and Isaiah Thomas & Elements of Praise. Joins us for a concert that promises to be both soul-stirring and exhilarating.

MARS ARTS D.C. CONCERT SERIES AT SONGBYRD
GOT SOL WITH LONNY TAYLOR
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2025 / 8:00 P.M. (doors open at 7:00 P.M.)

Registration available in May 2025

Lonny Taylor is a brilliant D.C. singer-songwriter known for his powerful voice and poignant lyrics. His heartfelt performances and impressive piano skills have earned him a dedicated fan base. Experience a blend of R&B, soul, and rock in this final concert in our series at Songbyrd.

MARS ARTS D.C. CONCERT SERIES AT SONGBYRD

WORLD PRIDE: JCHRIS

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025 / 12 P.M. (doors open at 11:00 A.M.)

Registration available in May 2025

JChris and his band take you through Latin America with a high-energy set highlighting music by Latinas, the Latino queer community, and his own original compositions. At this performance, you'll hear a program that is inspired by JChris's queer and Brazilian and Peruvian identities. Part of the Washington Performing Arts 2024/2025 World Pride event series.

MARS ARTS D.C. CONCERT SERIES AT SONGBYRD

WORLD PRIDE: COLORS OF CULTURE

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025 / 12 P.M. (doors open at 11:00 A.M.)

Registration available in May 2025

Experience an inclusive celebration of diversity at Songbyrd. This multicultural showcase, hosted by urban Latin artist JChris, features a range of talents from the queer community across Latin America and beyond. Be part of an evening that honors the richness of our multicultural world through music, dance, and creative expression. Part of the Washington Performing Arts 2024/2025 World Pride event series at Songbyrd.

“Mars Arts DC is committed to amplifying the voices of local artists, and this concert series at Songbyrd demonstrates the vibrancy of the D.C. music scene,” stated **Eric E. Richardson, curator of the Mars Arts DC concert series**. “By offering a platform at one of the city’s most beloved venues, we’re not just hosting concerts, we’re cultivating a larger, more engaged audience while strengthening the artistic community and creating lasting connections between performers and those who appreciate their 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."

Follow 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>

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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