



WASHINGTON
PERFORMING ARTS

2025/26 SEASON



Third Coast Percussion

Salar Nader, tabla

OCTOBER 18, 2025 / 7:00 P.M.

LISNER AUDITORIUM



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PROGRAM

*This performance is approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes,
including a 15-minute intermission.*

JLIN

Please Be Still (2024)

(b. 1987)

JESSIE MONTGOMERY

Lady Justice/Black Justice, The Song (2024)

(b. 1981)

TIGRAN HAMASYAN

Sonata for Percussion (2024)

(b. 1987)

Memories from Childhood

Hymn

23 for TCP

INTERMISSION

***Tabla solo in honor of Ustad Zakir Hussain,
performed by Salar Nader***

ZAKIR HUSSAIN

Murmurs in Time (2024)

(1951-2024)

Recitation

(Untitled)

Salar Nader and Third Coast Percussion

Linger Longer: Post-Concert Discussion

Please join us for a brief post-concert discussion with the artists.

MEET THE ARTISTS



Photo by Saverio Truglia

THIRD COAST PERCUSSION

Third Coast Percussion (TCP) is Chicago's Grammy Award-winning percussion quartet and Grammy-nominated composer collective that made history as the first percussion ensemble to win the revered music award in the classical genre. To date, TCP has

garnered seven total Grammy nominations.

After marking its 20th Anniversary in 2025, TCP continues its milestone celebrations with exciting and unexpected performances worldwide that "constantly redefine the classical music experience" (*Forbes*) and "push percussion in new directions, blurring musical boundaries and beguiling new listeners" (*NPR*), with a brilliantly varied sonic palette and "dazzling rhythmic workouts" (*Pitchfork*).

Representing "one of the most enterprising and creative ensembles working today" (WFMT), the artists of Third Coast Percussion are in-demand collaborators who have worked closely with a range of artists including choreographers Twyla Tharp, Lil Buck, and Jon Boogz; composer/performers Zakir Hussain, Jessie Montgomery, and Jlin; and composers Philip Glass, Missy Mazzoli, and Danny Elfman, among many others. The ensemble has been praised for the "rare power" (*Washington Post*) of its 30+ recordings, and its "inspirational sense of fun and curiosity" (*Minnesota Star-Tribune*). Third Coast Percussion maintains a busy tour schedule, with past performances in 42 of the 50 states and Washington, D.C., plus international tour dates across four continents and 14 countries, amassing more than 300,000 audience members over two decades.

Third Coast Percussion's 2025/26 season takes the ensemble from Chicago to New York, Boston, Los Angeles, and beyond, with almost two dozen

domestic engagements. International tour dates include first performances in Serbia, Montenegro, and Latvia, in addition to engagements in Paris. This season also brings a busy schedule at home in Chicago, with performances at Northwestern University (the ensemble's alma mater), The Art Institute of Chicago, The University of Chicago, and more. The ensemble's passion for teaching and engagement will be on display in residencies at Denison University in Ohio and the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Alberta, Canada, as well as masterclasses at dozens of domestic and international tour stops.

Third Coast Percussion continues to push the boundaries of contemporary percussion performance with its ambitious and highly anticipated 2025/26 programming, which includes several new works alongside celebrated favorites from the ensemble's two decades of repertoire. New programs include *Strum, Strike, Bend*, featuring composer and violinist Jessie Montgomery; the final masterwork of acclaimed composer and tabla superstar Zakir Hussain, *Murmurs In Time*, featuring tabla artist Salar Nader; and *Time Pieces: The New Classical*, Third Coast Percussion's celebratory program featuring the ensemble's 20th anniversary commissions from Tigran Hamasyan, Jessie Montgomery, and more. Favorite programs returning this season include *PLAY!* with Clarice Assad, a powerhouse concerto in three movements for percussion quartet, vocalist, and orchestra; and *Metamorphosis*, featuring choreography by Movement Art Is (Lil Buck and Jon Boogz), as performed by Cameron Murphy and Trent Jeray.

A direct connection with the audience is at the core of Third Coast Percussion's work, whether the musicians are speaking from the stage about a new piece of music, inviting the audience to play along in a concert or educational performance, or uniting fans around the world through platforms including their popular YouTube channel, a hub for their latest music, and a robust presence on Instagram and other social platforms. The four members of Third Coast are also accomplished teachers, dedicating time each season to educational residencies, music outreach performances and programs, and school partnerships to encourage active participation by students of all ages.

The quartet's curiosity and eclectic taste have led to a series of unlikely collaborations yielding exciting new art. The artists's omnivorous musical

appetite, paired with approachable and flexible working methods, remove collaborative boundaries across cultures and disciplines. The ensemble has worked with engineers at the University of Notre Dame, architects at the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, dancers at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and musicians from traditions ranging from the mbira music of Zimbabwe's Shona people, to indie rockers and footwork producers, to some of the world's leading concert musicians. Third Coast Percussion served as ensemble-in-residence at the University of Notre Dame's DeBartolo Performing Arts Center from 2013-2018, and currently serves as ensemble in residence at Denison University.

Starting with a commission for a new work from composer Augusta Read Thomas in 2012, Third Coast Percussion has embraced the principle that commissioning new musical works can be—and should be—as collaborative as any other artistic partnership. Through extensive workshopping and close contact with composers, TCP has commissioned and premiered more than 125 new works from composers including Zakir Hussain, Jessie Montgomery, Philip Glass, Clarice Assad, Danny Elfman, Jlin, Tigran Hamasyan, Augusta Read Thomas, Devonté Hynes, Missy Mazzoli, Ivan Trevino, Tyondai Braxton, and leading early-career composers encountered through TCP's annual Currents Creative Partnership. These commissioned works have become part of the ensemble's core repertoire and seen hundreds of performances around the world. In 2023, Jlin's *Perspective*, commissioned by TCP, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

Third Coast Percussion's recordings include 21 feature albums and appearances on 14 additional collaborative releases. During the 2024/25 season, the ensemble released two new albums to great acclaim: In *Aguas da Amazonia* (Rockwell Records), named for the title work by Philip Glass, TCP captures its bespoke arrangement of Glass's composition for Twyla Tharp Dance, hailed as "an uplifting and meditative exploration of the soul" by *BBC Music Magazine*. TCP's subsequent 20th anniversary recording, *Standard Stoppages* (Cedille Records) was hailed as "not only highly listenable in itself, but also offers a new direction for an ensemble that has been around for 20 years and seems likely to be around for 20 more" (*All Music*).

Besides putting its stamp on iconic percussion works by John Cage and Steve Reich, the quartet has created first recordings of commissioned

works by Zakir Hussain, Jessie Montgomery, Philip Glass, Clarice Assad, Danny Elfman, Jlin, Tigran Hamasyan, Augusta Read Thomas, Devonté Hynes, Missy Mazzoli, and more—in addition to recordings of original Third Coast compositions. In 2017, the ensemble won the Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance for its recording of Steve Reich’s works for percussion. TCP has received five additional Grammy nominations as performers, plus their first Grammy nomination as composers in 2021. In the last decade, TCP has amassed over 5 million listeners and more than 10 million streams on Spotify.

Third Coast Percussion has always maintained strong ties to the vibrant artistic community in their hometown of Chicago, collaborating with local institutions including Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, the Uniting Voices Chicago choir, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Chicago Humanities Festival, and the Adler Planetarium. TCP has performed at the grand opening of Maggie Daley Children’s Park; conducted residencies at the University of Chicago, Northwestern University and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago; created multi-year collaborative projects with Chicago-based composers Jessie Montgomery, Clarice and Sérgio Assad, Augusta Read Thomas, Glenn Kotche, and chamber ensemble Eighth Blackbird; and taught tens-of-thousands of students through partnerships with Uniting Voices Chicago, The People’s Music School, the Chicago Park District, Rush Hour Concerts, Urban Gateways, Changing Worlds and others. The ensemble looks forward to a partnership with The Art Institute of Chicago in January 2026.

The four members of Third Coast Percussion (Sean Connors, Robert Dillon, Peter Martin, and David Skidmore) met while studying percussion music at Northwestern University with Michael Burritt and James Ross, forming Third Coast Percussion in 2005. From their base in Chicago, the four friends carefully and thoughtfully built a thriving nonprofit organization—including full-time staff, office/studio space, and a board of directors—to support their vision and facilitate their efforts to bring new works to life. Members of Third Coast also hold degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Rutgers University, the New England Conservatory, and the Yale School of Music.

Stay up-to-date and go behind-the-scenes by following Third Coast on Instagram, YouTube, TikTok @thirdcoastpercussion, Facebook (@Third Coast Percussion) and LinkedIn (linkedin.com/company/third-coast-percussion).

*Third Coast Percussion is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.



Photo by Nilesch Patel

SALAR NADER, tabla

A standout artist of his generation, tabla virtuoso Salar Nader is recognized as a global ambassador weaving South Asian arts into the musical traditions of his Afghanistan heritage. A percussionist, composer, and producer, Salar studied under

Ustad Zakir Hussain from the age of seven. He has toured widely with Stanley Clarke, Kronos Quartet, Wu Man, Miles From India; Central Asian master musicians Homayoun Sakhi and Abbas Kosimov; and legendary Indian classical musicians including Ustad Zakir Hussain, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Selva Ganesh, Alam Khan, Rahul Sharma and many others. He has performed and recorded with contemporary and electronic artists including Cheb i Sabbah, Niyaz, and Grand Tapestry.

Based in Los Angeles, Salar is committed to bringing the tabla to a wide audience. He collaborated on the Farah Yasmeen Shaikh and Noorani Dance production “The Forgotten Empress,” has appeared on soundtracks including the 2012 film *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, and scored the original stage adaptation of Khaled Hosseini’s best-selling novel *The Kite Runner*, which had a groundbreaking run on Broadway in 2022—culminating in the distinction of being the first Afghan artist to donate his instruments to the Museum of Broadway in New York City.

In 2019, he founded the Salar Nader Tabla Foundation, globally preserving Afghan cultural traditions through instruments and mentor scholarships, supported by Rhea Designs Inc. In March 2022, Salar curated “Nezam-e-Shams” at the Getty Museum, a collaboration between the Sounds of L.A. series and the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Since 2023, Salar has collaborated with the Leela Dance Collective, dedicated to kathak, a classical dance from North India.

His discography includes *Live in San Francisco Volume I* and *The Forgotten Empress*, *In the Footsteps of Babur: Musical Encounters from the Lands of the Mughals*, and his collaborations with Grand Tapestry.

Salar continues his dedication to community engagement, workshops, and cross-cultural understanding.

MEET THE COMPOSERS



Photo by Ebu Yıldız

JERRILYNN (JLIN) PATTON

Jlin has quickly become one of the most distinctive composers in America and one of the most influential women in electronic music. Jlin's thrilling, emotional, and multidimensional compositions have earned her praise as "one of the most

forward-thinking contemporary composers in any genre" (*Pitchfork*). She is a recipient of a 2023 US Artist award and a 2023 Pulitzer Prize nomination. Her mini-album *Perspective* was released to critical acclaim on Planet Mu 2023. Her much-lauded albums *Dark Energy* (2015) and *Black Origami* (2017) have appeared on "Best of" lists in *The New York Times*, *The Wire*, *LA Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Guardian*, and *Vogue*. Jlin has been commissioned by the Kronos Quartet, Third Coast Percussion, the Pathos Quartet, choreographers Wayne McGregor and Kyle Abraham, fashion designer Rick Owens, and the visual artists Nick Cave and Kevin Beasley. Her latest release *Akoma* (Planet Mu March 2024) features collaborations with Philip Glass, Björk, and Kronos Quartet.

Third Coast Percussion (TCP) has worked with Jlin on a number of projects since 2019, including the seven-movement suite *Perspective*—a finalist for the 2023 Pulitzer Prize in Music. True to the title of that work, the collaborative process that Jlin and TCP have developed involves Jlin composing an entire work electronically, sometimes using samples of TCP's instruments, which is then passed to TCP to reimagine through their own lens for live performance on percussion instruments.

PLEASE BE STILL

For Third Coast Percussion's 20th anniversary, the quartet asked Jlin to add another layer to the musical chain, by creating a new work that would be a

remix or reimagining of a work by another composer that inspires her.

"I'm always so delighted when I get to collaborate with Third Coast Percussion. When they asked me to compose a piece that was Bach-based I, of course, jumped right to it. The Bach piece I chose to derive from is 'Kyrie Eleison,' the movement from Bach's Mass In B Minor. That piece has so many rhythmic sections with endless possibilities. I've been a lover of Bach's music since I was a kid, and always found his work complicated. The percussionist in me hears Bach's keystrokes as if they were individual acoustic drums. I'm always trying to play against the rhythm, and this piece was no different."

Third Coast Percussion's album *Standard Stoppages*, released on Cedille Records in 2025, includes Jlin's *Please Be Still* as well as the works by Zakir Hussain and Tigran Hamasyan featured on this program, and music by Jessie Montgomery and Musekiwa Chingodza.

Please Be Still was commissioned by Third Coast Percussion for its 20th Anniversary, with support from Carnegie Hall, the Zell Family Foundation, the Robert and Isabelle Bass Foundation, the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation, the Julian Family Foundation, and Steph and Daniel Heffner.



Photo by Jiyang Chen

JESSIE MONTGOMERY

Jessie Montgomery is a Grammy Award-winning composer, violinist, and educator whose work interweaves classical music with elements of vernacular music, improvisation, poetry, and social consciousness, making her an acute interpreter of 21st-century

American sound and experience. Her profound works have been described as "turbulent, wildly colorful, and exploding with life," (*The Washington Post*) and are performed regularly by leading orchestras, ensembles, and soloists around the world. In June 2024, Montgomery concluded a three-year appointment as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Mead Composer-in-Residence. She was named *Performance Today's* 2025 Classical Woman of the Year.

A founding member of PUBLIQuartet and former member of the Catalyst Quartet, Montgomery is a frequent and highly engaged collaborator with performing musicians, composers, choreographers, playwrights, poets, and visual artists alike. At the heart of Montgomery's work is a deep sense of community enrichment and a desire to create opportunities for young artists and underrepresented composers to broaden audience experiences in classical music spaces.

Montgomery has been recognized with many prestigious awards and fellowships, including the Civitella Ranieri Fellowship, the Sphinx Medal of Excellence and Sphinx Virtuosi Composer-in-Residence, the Leonard Bernstein Award from the ASCAP Foundation, and Musical America's 2023 Composer of the Year.

LADY JUSTICE / BLACK JUSTICE, THE SONG

Lady Justice / Black Justice, The Song is inspired by the artwork of Ori G. Carino—a reflection on his painting *Black Justice* (2020-2022), which is a commentary on the injustices Black people continue to face at the heart of U.S. social order and politics. The subject is a Romanesque statue of Lady Justice, depicted as a Black woman, and she is painted using airbrush techniques upon several layers of silk, which are then stretched in staggered alignment across a life-sized canvas. The painting is placed in the center of the room with a light cast through it so that one can view the image on a 360-degree plane and observe the holographic effect that results from the silk layering, revealing her timelessness, and multiple hues. The image is staggering, aspirational, and technically virtuosic.

My approach was to try and interpret the painting from several angles, working in concert with Ori's natural sense of beauty and grit, drawing musical correlations with the textures, techniques employed, and emotional qualities that spoke to me in the artwork. The main melody that appears throughout (which harkens to a Brahms-inspired theme that I wrote years ago, inspired by a line in Langston Hughes' epic poem "Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz" **) serves as a thread, reflecting the changing modalities in each section. I use special effects, such as dipping tuned crotales (weighted metal discs) into bowls of water to sonically reference the tipping of scales; the drum set part holds down an omnipresent breakbeat that bends and shapes the grungier middle section; and I interpret the holographic elements using various analogue musical delay effects. As the title

suggests, this piece can be considered a companion to the painting and vice versa.

This piece represents a deep collaboration and artistic symbiosis between myself, Third Coast Percussion, and Ori. I am privileged to call them friends in music and in life.

Click the link below to view an image of the painting, and Ori's biography.

<https://www.jessiemontgomery.com/black-justice-by-ori-carino/>

[*- Passage from "Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz," by Langston Hughes (Pages 1,2)]

"...A whirl of whistles blowing

No trains or steamboats going—

Yet Lyontene's unpacking.

In the quarter of the Negros

Where the doorknob lets in lieder

More than German ever bore..."]

Lady Justice/Black Justice, The Song was commissioned by Third Coast Percussion for its 20th Anniversary, with support from the Zell Family Foundation, Carnegie Hall, Hancher Auditorium at the University of Iowa, Stanford Live, Stanford University, The Robert and Isabelle Bass Foundation, the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation, the Julian Family Foundation, Steph and Daniel Heffner, and Third Coast Percussion's New Works Fund.



Photo by Davide Monteleone

TIGRAN HAMASYAN

Tigran Hamasyan is considered one of the most remarkable and distinctive jazz-meets-rock pianists/composers of his generation. A piano virtuoso with groove power, Hamasyan seamlessly fuses potent jazz improvisation and progressive

rock with the rich folkloric music of his native Armenia. Born in Gyumri, Armenia, in 1987, his musical journey began in his childhood home, where he was exposed to a diverse array of musical influences leading to him playing piano at the age of three, performing in festivals and competitions by the time he was eleven, and winning the Montreux Jazz Festival's piano competition in 2003. He released his debut album, *World Passion*, in 2004 at the age of 17. The following year, he won the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition. Additional albums include *New Era*; *Red Hail*; *A Fable*, for which he was awarded a Victoires de la Musique (the equivalent of a Grammy Award in France); *Shadow Theater*; and *Luys i Luso*, which featured the Yerevan State Chamber Choir focusing on Armenian sacred music stretching stylistically from the 5th century to the 20th century.

His Nonesuch debut, *Mockroot* (2015), won the Echo Jazz Award for International Piano Instrumentalist of the Year; subsequent records for the label include *An Ancient Observer* (2017) the companion EP, *For Gymuri* (2018), *Revisiting the Film* (2021) and most recently *StandArt* (2022). Hamasyan was awarded the Deutscher Jazzpreis international category in Piano/Keyboards in 2021. Hamasyan has released records on France's Plus Loins, Universal France, Nonesuch, and ECM.

Hamasyan's new conceptual album *The Bird of a Thousand Voices* was released in August 2024 on Naïve/Believe—his debut with the label. Tigran composed, scored, and arranged the much-anticipated project, which is inspired by an ancient Armenian folk tale, and includes an interactive game (www.bird1000.com) and a transmedia music theater piece, which premiered at the Holland Festival in June 2024.

In addition to awards and critical acclaim, Hamasyan has built a dedicated following worldwide, as well as praise from Herbie Hancock, Brad Mehldau and the late Chick Corea.

"With startling combinations of jazz, minimalist, electronic, folk and songwriterly elements... Hamasyan and his collaborators travel musical expanses marked with heavy grooves, ethereal voices, pristine piano playing and ancient melodies. You'll hear nothing else like this" (*NPR*).

While he has built a career as a performer of his own music, Hamasyan's work has started to be available to other performers in recent years, first as sheet music of his solo piano works transcribed from his recordings, and

now in the form of new compositions written for other performers. In particular, he seems a natural choice for composing for a contemporary percussion ensemble, as his creative voice plays with extremely complex rhythmic cycles.

SONATA FOR PERCUSSION

Sonata for Percussion is very classical in some ways—it has three distinct movements (fast-slow-fast), and it is abstract music, evoking moods but not telling a specific story. Lifting dance feels, arpeggiated harmonies and ornamented melodies give an additional wink to the classical, but the vocabulary is pure Hamasyan, with the moments of hard-grooving energy or ghostly lyricism winding their way through an asymmetrical rhythmic landscape. The outer movements both explore different subdivisions of 23-beat rhythmic cycles, while the middle movement is in a (relatively) tame seven.

Working through this material—both in workshops with the composer during the creative process and in rehearsals for the premiere—was an exhilarating but humbling experience for the members of TCP, who had to work to develop the unique skill set that Tigran has built with his band, in order to fit together the rhythmic jigsaw puzzle in a way that grooves and allows the character of the musical lines to shine through.

Tigran Hamasyan's *Sonata for Percussion* was commissioned by Third Coast Percussion for its 20th Anniversary, with support from Elizabeth and Justus Schlichting, the Zell Family Foundation, the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation, the Julian Family Foundation, and Steph and Daniel Heffner.



Photo by Paul Joseph

In Memory

ZAKIR HUSSAIN, tabla

The preeminent classical tabla virtuoso of his time, Zakir Hussain was appreciated both in the field of percussion and in the music world at large as an international phenomenon, and one of the world's most esteemed and

influential musicians. The foremost disciple of his father, the legendary

Ustad Alla Rakha, Zakir was a child prodigy who began his professional career at the age of 12, accompanying India's greatest classical musicians and dancers and touring internationally with great success by the age of 18. His brilliant accompaniment, solo performance and genre-defying collaborations, including his pioneering work to develop a dialogue between North and South Indian musicians, elevated the status of his instrument both in India and globally, bringing the tabla into a new dimension of renown and appreciation.

Widely considered a chief architect of the contemporary world music movement, Zakir's contribution was unique, with many historic and groundbreaking collaborations, including Shakti, Remember Shakti, Masters of Percussion, Planet Drum and Global Drum Project with Mickey Hart, Tabla Beat Science, Sangam with Charles Lloyd and Eric Harland, Crosscurrents with Dave Holland and Chris Potter, in trio with Béla Fleck and Edgar Meyer, and, most recently, with Herbie Hancock.

As a composer, he scored music for numerous feature films, major events and productions. He composed three concertos, and his third, the first-ever concerto for tabla and orchestra, was premiered in India in September, 2015, by the Symphony Orchestra of India, premiered in Europe and the UK in 2016, and in the USA in April, 2017, by the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. A Grammy Award-winner, Zakir was the recipient of countless awards and honors, including Padma Vibhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the USA's National Heritage Fellowship, and Officier in France's Order of Arts and Letters. Voted "Best Percussionist" by both the *Downbeat* Critics' Poll and *Modern Drummer's* Reader's Poll over several years, Zakir was honored in 2018 by the Montreal Jazz Festival with their Antonio Carlos Jobim Award. Zakir received several honorary doctorates and, in 2019, became a Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow, a rare lifetime distinction afforded to only 40 artists at a time by India's reigning cultural institution. Zakir was the 2022 Kyoto Prize laureate in Arts and Philosophy, awarded by the Inamori Foundation to "those who have contributed significantly to the scientific, cultural, and spiritual betterment of mankind." Zakir became the first musician from India to receive three Grammys at one time at the 66th Annual Grammy Awards on February 4, 2024, for Best Global Music Album, Best Global Music Performance, and Best Contemporary Instrumental Album.

As an educator, he conducted many workshops and lectures each year, was in residence at Princeton University and Stanford University, and, in 2015, was appointed Regents Lecturer at UC Berkeley. His yearly workshop in the San Francisco Bay Area, which was conducted for 30 years, became a widely anticipated event for performers and serious students of tabla. He was the founder and president of Moment Records, an independent record label presenting rare live concert recordings of Indian classical music and world music. Zakir was resident artistic director at SFJAZZ from 2013 until 2016, and was honored with SFJAZZ's Lifetime Achievement Award on January 18, 2017, in recognition of his "unparalleled contribution to the world of music."

MURMURS IN TIME

Murmurs in Time represents Hussain's only composition for a classical percussion group, though his career was filled with collaborations with percussionists of all kinds, and explorations of the special bond between "fellow rhythmists." This two-movement work echoes with memories of his own personal history, and the path along which he grew into one of the world's most revered musicians.

His musical journey started from the time he was a very small child, with his father and guru, the famous tabla player Alla Rakha, singing rhythms for the young Zakir to sing back. These vocalizations of drum sounds ("bols") are an important element of the Hindustani classical music tradition. They can be a way to internalize rhythmic patterns independent of physical technique, and become virtuosic displays in their own right. In particular, a rhythmic cycle used in the second movement of *Murmurs in Time* was a pattern that Zakir learned when he was about 11 years old. He visualizes this pattern, which underlies the last section of the piece, as a series of orbits within a solar system, circling the same sun at different speeds. The move toward faster circles propels the music forward.

This collaboration involved a balance of strictly composed material and opportunities for improvisation. In his typical generosity of spirit, Hussain thought of the piece as an interaction; an opportunity for mutual learning rather than a channel for imposing his will on the other performers. "It is important that the respect is given to the artists that I'm working with, by allowing them to be able to find their own way in the piece that I'm presenting... I love to see how it comes back to me in a different costume."

Zakir worked with Third Coast Percussion as he developed *Murmurs in Time*, through a series of workshops and rehearsals throughout the course of 2024, and the five recorded this new work together in October of that year. The members of TCP were crushed to learn of Zakir’s passing just two months later, as the album was being prepared for release, and are endlessly grateful that they had the opportunity to work with this musical hero and record this work together for posterity. To continue to share this music with the world, Salar Nader, one of Zakir’s most prominent students, will join TCP for performances in 2025 and beyond.

Murmurs in Time by Zakir Hussain was commissioned by Third Coast Percussion for its 20th anniversary, with support from the Zell Family Foundation, Modlin Center for the Arts at University of Richmond, Carnegie Hall, Washington Performing Arts, the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation, the Julian Family Foundation, and Steph and Daniel Heffner.

ZAKIR HUSSAIN’S ENGAGEMENTS WITH
WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS

March 2012	MASTERS OF PERCUSSION	<i>Kennedy Center Concert Hall</i>
April 2014	MASTERS OF PERCUSSION	<i>Kennedy Center Concert Hall</i>
March 2015	CELTIC CONNECTIONS	<i>Lisner Auditorium</i>
April 2016	MASTERS OF PERCUSSION	<i>Kennedy Center Concert Hall</i>
October 2016	CLASSICAL DUO WITH NILADRI KUMAR	<i>Sixth & I</i>
May 2018	CROSSCURRENTS WITH DAVE HOLLAND, CHRIS POTTER, SHAKAR MAHADEVAN	<i>Lisner Auditorium</i>
November 2018	WITH BÉLA FLECK AND EDGAR MEYER	<i>Lisner Auditorium</i>
April 2021	MASTERS OF PERCUSSION	<i>Recorded from Strathmore</i>

April 2022	CLASSICAL TRIO WTH JAYANTHI KUMARESH AND KALA RAMNATH	<i>Sixth & I</i>
April 2023	WITH BÉLA FLECK, EDGAR MEYER, AND RAKESH CHURASIA	<i>Strathmore</i>
March 2024	CLASSICAL TRIO WITH DEBOPRIYA CHATTERJEE AND SABIR KHAN	<i>Sixth & I</i>

Linger Longer: Post-Concert Discussion

Following the performance, please stay for a brief post-concert conversation with the artists. Event is free and available to all performance ticket holders. No registration required.



SPONSORS

This event is made possible through the generous support from Lisa and Gordon Rush.

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MARS



eventsDC

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for an upcoming performance!



Photo by Lucia Migliore

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
SANTTU-MATIAS ROUVALI, music director
VÍKINGUR ÓLAFSSON, piano

Monday, October 27, 2025 / 7:30 p.m.

The Music Center at Strathmore

One of Britain's most celebrated ensembles, the Philharmonia Orchestra returns after two decades, under the baton of its electrifying music director, Santtu-Matias Rouvali, in his highly anticipated Washington Performing Arts debut.

Special thanks: Betsy & Robert Feinberg; The Law Offices of Kenneth R. Feinberg PC and Camille S. Biros



Photo by Chris Lee

MIDORI, violin
IEVA JOKUBAVICIUTE, piano

Saturday, November 15, 2025 / 7:30 p.m.

Sixth & I

Anchored by Beethoven's radiant "Spring" Sonata, hear works of Clara and Robert Schumann, Poulenc's bold contrasts, a new work written for Midori by New York-based violinist and composer Che Buford for violin and electronics, and more.

Special thanks: Betsy & Robert Feinberg, Susan S. Angell, Ellen & Michael Gold, Lynn Rhomberg.



Photo by Terry Lin

TWINCUSSION

Saturday, November 8, 2025 / 7:30 p.m.

Sixth & I

Twin-brother percussion duo Twincussion brings virtuosic flair to a program bridging Taiwanese folk tradition, Western classical, and innovative contemporary works through marimbas, wind chimes, Chinese opera gongs, and electronics.

Presented by Washington Performing Arts in partnership with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO).

TICKETS & INFORMATION: WashingtonPerformingArts.org

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, gospel music, jazz, international genres, and more.

Washington Performing Arts deeply values its partnerships with local organizations and other arts institutions. Through events online and in a myriad of performance venues and neighborhoods, Washington Performing Arts engages international visiting artists in community programs and introduces 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.

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

Our Mission

Washington Performing Arts champions the arts as a unifying force. Through collaborations with artists, educators, community leaders, and institutional partners, we bring wide-ranging artistic programs to stages, schools, and neighborhoods throughout our nation's capital and, with our virtual platform, share our work throughout the world.

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