



WASHINGTON
PERFORMING ARTS

STRATHMORE



Cécile
McLorin
Salvant

BOOK OF AYRES
WITH THE BRANDEE YOUNGER TRIO

JUNE 11, 2026 / 7:30 P.M.

MUSIC CENTER AT STRATHMORE



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Strathmore & Washington Performing Arts Present

Cécile McLorin Salvant

SULLIVAN FORTNER, *piano/harpsichord/keyboards*

EMI FERGUSON, *flute*

DUŠAN BALARIN, *theorbo/lute*

YASUSHI NAKAMURA, *bass*

KEITA OGAWA, *percussion*

BOOK OF AYRES

WITH THE BRANDEE YOUNGER TRIO

BRANDEE YOUNGER

RASHAAN CARTER, *bass*

ALLAN MEDNARD, *drums*

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 / 7:30 P.M.

MUSIC CENTER AT STRATHMORE

Washington Performing Arts's 60th Anniversary year is generously sponsored by Dr. Gary Mather† and Ms. Christina Co Mather.

Special thanks to the following lead supporters of Washington Performing Arts's mission-driven work: Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated; D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities; the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts; The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; and Events DC.

MARS



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MEET THE ARTISTS



Photo by Ebru Yildiz

CÉCILE MCLORIN SALVANT

Cécile McLorin Salvant, is a composer, singer, and visual artist. The Late Jessye Norman described Salvant as “a unique voice supported by an intelligence and full-fledged musicality, which light up every note she sings.”

Salvant has developed a passion for storytelling and finding the connections between vaudeville, blues, folk traditions from around the world, theater, jazz, and baroque music. Salvant is an eclectic curator, unearthing rarely recorded, forgotten songs with strong narratives, interesting power dynamics, unexpected twists, and humor.

Salvant won the Thelonius Monk competition in 2010. She has received Grammy Awards for Best Jazz Vocal Album for three consecutive albums, *The Window*, *Dreams and Daggers*, and *For One To Love*, and was nominated for the award in 2014 for her album *Woman Child*. In 2020, Salvant received the MacArthur Fellowship and the Doris Duke Artist Award. *Ghost Song*, Salvant’s debut for Nonesuch Records, was released in March 2022 to critical acclaim, and has gone on to receive two Grammy Nominations.

Salvant’s latest work, *Ogresse*, is a musical fable in the form of a cantata that blends genres (folk, baroque, jazz, country). Salvant wrote the story, lyrics, and music. It is arranged by Darcy James Argue for a 13-piece orchestra of multi-instrumentalists. *Ogresse*, both a biomythography and an homage to the *Erzulie* (as painted by Gerard Fortune) and Sara Baartman, explores fetishism, hunger, diaspora, cycles of appropriation, lies, othering, and ecology. It is in development to become an animated feature-length film, which Salvant will direct.



Photo by Erin Patrice O'Brien

BRANDEE YOUNGER, HARP

Brandee Younger is revolutionizing the harp's role in modern music. Over the past fifteen years, she has worked relentlessly to stretch boundaries and limitations for harpists. In 2022, she made history by becoming the first Black woman to be nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Composition. That same year, she was also nominated for an NAACP Image Award and later, the winner of the 2024 NAACP Image Award in the category of Outstanding Jazz Album for her latest album *Brand New Life*. Ever-expanding as an artist, she has worked with cultural icons including Common, Lauryn Hill, John Legend, Pharoah Sanders and Christian McBride.

STRATHMORE

26/27 season on sale now! Don't miss our co-presentations with Washington Performing Arts!

Terence Blanchard + Ravi Coltrane:
Miles Davis & John Coltrane Centennial
Sat, Nov 21

Matthew Whitaker's UPLIFT!
with Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir
Christie Dashiell, vocalist
Sat, March 6

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra
with Wynton Marsalis
Tue, May 11 & Thu, May 13

and many more at [STRATHMORE.ORG](https://www.strathmore.org)



301.581.5100 | 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, MD 20852

PROGRAM NOTES

Composer, singer, and visual artist, Cécile McLorin Salvant, is passionate about storytelling and exploring connections between vaudeville, blues, folk traditions, theater, jazz, and baroque music. An eclectic curator, unearthing rarely recorded, forgotten songs with strong narratives, power dynamics, twists, and humor.

She won the Thelonious Monk competition in 2010 and received Grammy Awards for three consecutive albums: *For One To Love, Dreams and Daggers* and *The Window*. In 2020, she received the MacArthur fellowship and Doris Duke Artist Award. Her debut and follow up Nonesuch Records projects, *Ghost Song* (2022) and *Mélusine* (2023), have also each received two Grammy nominations. Nonesuch Records released Cécile McLorin Salvant's *Oh Snap* on September 19, 2025.

In this program of curated material Cécile McLorin Salvant assembles a group of top improvising musicians from genres as disparate as early music and jazz, folk, and electronic music. Performed on synthesizers, flute, theorbo, harpsichord, and percussion, this unique blend of instruments provides a colorful backdrop for a new type of folk song. Stories from different tongues across eras and borders, blending early music and vaudeville, Sappho and folkloric material of Europe and the Americas—it's a universe that could only originate from the mind and only be delivered through the voice of one of this era's most gifted vocalists and prolific storytellers.

"Part of my practice is imagining musical family trees and learning from the influences of my influences. Growing up, I wanted to be an opera singer. Opera led me to Baroque music, which led me to early music. I had a similar path with American music. I gravitate towards forgotten songs, early or maligned instruments, and languages and performance styles on the brink of extinction. I bring this process of excavation into my own writing, blending old and new, exploring language and mythology. I have been making the unoriginal yet concerted effort to move beyond categorizing music by genre. What I am interested in is exploring, celebrating, and making fun of desire, divulging secrets, dredging up the past, looking under the rug."

- Cécile McLorin Salvant



SEE DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM'S
FIREBIRD
SEPT. 25 & 26
THE NATIONAL THEATRE

Experience the power and passion of Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH) as the company returns to Washington Performing Arts with the bold revival of *Firebird*, the company's iconic take on the classic tale of love and transformation. This DTH signature work, which premiered in Paris, is a feast for the senses, as the Russian folk tale is reimagined in a luscious Caribbean setting featuring John Taras's choreography and Stravinsky's iconic score. First conceived in 1982 by Taras, the production comes to life through the inimitable Geoffrey Holder's stunning sets and costumes, and is accompanied by music recorded by the Gateways Festival Orchestra. This exclusive D.C. engagement by Washington Performing Arts and Dance Theatre of Harlem is the latest in a 50-year history of collaboration first established in 1973.

***FIREBIRD* GROUP RESERVATIONS (10 OR MORE TICKETS)
NOW AVAILABLE.**

SINGLE TICKETS AVAILABLE ON JUNE 18.

WASHINGTONPERFORMINGARTS.ORG

ABOUT WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS

One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, Washington Performing Arts has engaged for 60 years 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 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 four 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."

EXPLORE PERFORMANCES AND MORE AT
WashingtonPerformingArts.org

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Follow Washington Performing Arts on social media for artist insights, behind-the-scenes content, music news, and more.



WashingtonPerformingArts

ABOUT STRATHMORE

Strathmore is a multidimensional, creative anchor in Montgomery County, Maryland, where everyone can connect with the arts, and artists can explore their full potential. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Strathmore is dedicated to amplifying artistic voices and curating experiences that enrich every life and shape stronger communities. While best known for world-class performances in its iconic Music Center, Strathmore also presents hundreds of accessible and affordable concerts, exhibitions, and education programs across its multi-venue campus and throughout the county. Strathmore nurtures artists through its renowned Artists in Residence Program, and Arts & Social Justice Fellowship, as well as through meaningful collaborations with student artists. It offers comprehensive, community-focused programs and provides opportunities to experience the arts from every conceivable angle.

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[Strathmore.org](https://www.strathmore.org)

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 Ms. Raleigh Wheeler
 James Beller and
 Christopher Wolf
 Paul Yarowsky and
 Kathryn Grumbach
 Sara Trautman-Yegenoglu
 and Ferit Yegenoglu
 Jessica Yergin
 Mrs. Elizabeth York and
 Mr. Arthur Rubin

† *deceased*

THE RUTH BADER GINSBURG MEMORIAL FUND

The **Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Fund** was established in 2021 to honor the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's life, legacy, and passion for music with an annual award to a distinguished artist that includes the opportunity to choose a musical talent deserving of wider recognition to be presented in a Washington Performing Arts recital in Justice Ginsburg's memory.

Anonymous (6)
Linda Fienberg and
Jeffrey Bauman
Carole and Henry Berman
Paul Schiff Berman
Jenny Bilfield and
Joel Phillip Friedman
Barbara Broidy
Mr.[†] and Mrs. Calvin Cafritz
Henry Cao
Dr. and Mrs. Abe Cherrick
Robin Rowan Clarke
Chris Conte
Frank and Sunny Cook
Robert and Jamie Craft
Ronald Dabrowski
Anthony DiResta and
Terrance Mason
Michael Dockterman
David Ellen
Susan Esserman
Mr. and Mrs. William and
Michele Farquhar
Marian and Milton Carr
Ferguson
Anne and Burton Fishman
Norma Lee[†] and
Morton Fungert[†]
Tom Gallagher and
Barbara Myers
Barbara D. Gholz
Mindy Ginsburg and
Gregg Elias
Caroline and Mark Goldzweig
Jamie Gorelick and
Richard Waldhorn
Susan R. and
Sanford D. Greenberg

Hannah Grove-Dejarnett
Sarah Haft
Jo Ann Hearld
Betsy C. Hegg
Michael Helfer and
Ricki Tigert Helfer
Hermann and Janet Helgert
Harryette and Stanley Helsel
Beth and Stephen Hess
Ms. Michelle Hoffmann
Judy Honig and Stephen Robb
Judith Richards Hope, Family
Partners Fund
Murray Horwitz and
Lisa Miller
James and Zona Hostetler
Antonia B. Ianniello and
George Chuzi
Kari L. Jaksa
Kathryn and
J. Stephen Jones, MD
Jodie Kelley and Scott Sinder
Michael J. Klarman
Ineke and Peter Kreeger/David
Lloyd Kreeger Foundation
Ms. Dina Lassow
June and Jerry[†] Libin
The Honorable Jan M. and
Elizabeth Lodal
Lucinda Low and
Daniel Magraw
Susan C. Lubick
Alfred Mamlet and
Rochelle Bobroff
Jacqueline B. Mars
Dr. Gary Mather[†] and
Ms. Christina Co Mather
KLMorris

Melanie and Larry Nussdorf
Tom Kim and John Olson
W. Stephen and Diane E. Piper
Samantha Pollack
Elizabeth Racheva and
Danail Rachev
Anne and Steven Reed
Gwen Renigar
Catherine B. Reynolds
Foundation
James E. Rocap III
Elaine Rose
James J. Sandman and
Elizabeth D. Mullin
Ami Scott
Kathleen Shurtleff
Miriam Steinberg-Egeth
Héctor J. Torres and
Jay Haddock Ortiz
Nina Totenberg and
David Reines
Rich and Kathleen Trautman
Meiyu Tsung and Curtis Chang
Mary Jo Veverka
Rebekah and Mark
Wasserman
Christie-Anne and
Jeffrey P. Weiss
Philip R. West and
Barbara Yellen
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas H.
Wheeler
Jonathan and Ruby Zhu

[†] *deceased*

As of May 28, 2026

WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS LEGACY SOCIETY

Legacy Society members appreciate the vital role that performing arts play in the community, as well as in their own lives. By remembering Washington Performing Arts in their will or estate plans, members enhance our annual fund, endowment, or donor-designated programs and help make it possible for the next generations to enjoy the same quality and diversity of presentations both on stages and in our schools and community.

Douglas Wheeler,
Honorary Chair
Stefan F. Tucker, *Chair*
Daniel L. Korengold, *Co-Chair*

Anonymous [6]
Mr. David G.† and
Mrs. Rachel Abraham
Dr.† and Mrs.†
Clement C. Alpert
Mr. and Mrs.† George A. Avery
Eve E. Bachrach
Mr. James H. Berkson†
Susan Boyd†
Ms. Jenny Bilfield and
Dr. Joel Phillip Friedman
Ms. Lorna Bridenstine†
Charlotte Anne Cameron
Samuel J. Carabetta
Sue Sloan Carlton
Dr. Mark Cinnamon
Ms. Christina Co Mather
Chieko and Douglas Cook
John W. Cook†
Mr. and Mrs. F. Robert Cook
Ms. Josephine Cooper
Amb. William and
Laryssa Courtney
James and Susan Deerin
Mrs. Luna E. Diamond†
Mr.† and Mrs. Edison W. Dick
Barbara† and
Sidney Dickstein†
Ms. Carol M. Dreher
Leatrice and Melvin Eagle
Ms. Eve Epstein†
Burton and Anne Fishman
Donald Flanders†
Mrs. Sophie P. Fleming†
Mrs. Charlotte G. Frank†
Rhona Wolfe Friedman
Tom Gallagher
Mr. Ezra Glaser†
Dr. and Mrs. Michael S. Gold
Mrs. Paula S. Goldman
Barbara W. Gordon†
June Hajjar
Jay and Robin Hammer

Mr. James M. Harkless
Susan B. Hepner
Carl D. Hobelman† and
Grace Hobelman
Ann M. Hoopes
Craig M. Hosmer and
Daryl Reinke
Charles E. Hoyt†
Josephine S. Huang, Ph.D.†
Aaron† and Alexine† Jackson
Enid Tucker Johnson
Charles† and Lois Jones
Keiko and Steven Kaplan
Victoria and Bruce Kimble
Daniel L. Korengold
Dr. Marvin C. Korengold†
Jane Mary Kwass
James and Sandra Lafond
Evelyn Lear† and
Thomas Stewart†
André O. Lewis and
Dr. Racquel Jemison
Marion Lewis†
Herbert Lindow†
Harry M.† and
Judith B.† Linowes
Wendy Luke
Noreen M. Lyday
Mrs. David Maginnes†
Chris and Mary Mahle
Lydia Micheaux Marshall
Dr. Gary D. Mather†
Joan Zeldon McAvoy
Doris McClory†
Carol Melamed
Robert I. Misbin
Glenn A. Mitchell†
Mrs. Viola Musher†
Jeffrey T. Neal
The Alessandro Niccoli
Scholarship Award
The Pola Nirenska Memorial
Award
Gerson Nordlinger†
Linda Parisi and
J.J. Finkelstein
Karen and Neale Perl

Gwen Petitjean†
Dr. W. Stephen and
Mrs. Diane Piper
Mildred Poretsky†
Betryce Prosterman†
Susan E. Roberts
Elaine R. Rose
Miriam Rose†
Linda Rosenfeld and
Fred Krosner
James J. Sandman and
Elizabeth D. Mullin
Mrs. Ann Schein†
Charlotte† and
Hubert (Hank)† Schlosberg
Marc Schlosberg and
Doreen Moreira
Zelda Segal
Jean Head Sisco†
Mr.† and Mrs. Sanford Slavin
Shirley and Albert H.† Small
Mr. Robert Smith and
Ms. Natalie Moffett Smith
Mrs. Isaac Stern
Mr. Leonard Topper
Hector Torres
Sami and Annie Totah Family
Foundation
Marilyn and Stefan F. Tucker
Reginald Van Lee
Mary Jo Veverka
Maria Voultsides and
Thomas C. Chisnell II
Frederica† and Ulric† Weil
Douglas and
Catherine Wheeler
Mr.† and Mrs.
Robert H. Winter
Washington Performing Arts
Women's Committee
Margaret S. Wu
In memory of Y. H. and T. F. Wu

† deceased
As of March 10, 2025

WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS STAFF

EXECUTIVE STAFF

President & CEO	Jenny Bilfield
President Emeritus	Douglas H. Wheeler
Executive Assistant	Audrey Witmore

ADVANCEMENT

Director of Advancement	Meiyu Tsung
Assistant Director of Advancement Resources	Carole Russo
Major Gifts Officer	Melanie Bidault
Manager of Individual Giving	Rachel Luehrs
Manager of Special Events	Sarah Frances Williams
Manager of Advancement Operations & Analytics	Reema Kattan
Advancement Coordinator	Scott Hounsou
Summer 2026 Advancement and Special Events Intern	Mikayla Decker
Summer 2026 Government and Foundation Relations Intern	Bowie Aitken

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Director of Marketing, Communications, and Creative Media	Lauren Beyea
Senior Manager, Marketing & Publications	Sadie Gronigan
Creative Media & Analytics Manager	Scott Thureen
Digital Content Manager	Tina David
Bucklesweet, Press & Media Relations	Amanda Sweet
Graphic Designer	Daniele Oliveira

PATRON SERVICES

Patron Services Manager	Chad Dexter Kinsman
Patron Services Associate	Mbissane Diagne

ARTS EDUCATION & PARTNERSHIPS

Director of Arts Education & Partnerships	Amber Pannocchia
Arts Education Program Manager	Kristen "Missy" Harts
Community and Global Programs Manager	Hannah Katz

GOSPEL MUSIC PROGRAMS

Director of Gospel Music Programs	David G. Powell
Senior Manager of Choir Operations	Kathy Brewington
Recruitment & Production Coordinator for Gospel Music Programs	Tevin Price

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Chief Financial Officer	Paul Leider
Assistant Director of HR & Operations	Bridgette Cooper
Summer 2026 Finance Intern	Miles Little

PROGRAMMING

Director of Programming	Samantha Pollack
Programming Operations Manager	Anna Rudnitsky

SPECIAL PRODUCTIONS & INITIATIVES

Mars Arts D.C. Manager	Nia A. Stephens
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RESIDENT ARTISTS

Artistic Director, Children of the Gospel Choir	Michele Fowlin
Music Director, Washington Performing Arts Gospel Choirs	Anthony "Tony" Walker
Choreographer, Washington Performing Arts Gospel Choirs	Karon Johnson
Artistic Director Emeritus, Washington Performing Arts Gospel Choirs	Stanley J. Thurston