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**WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES NEW PARTNERSHIP  
WITH BARREL HOUSE CAFE & BAR**

***Mars Arts D.C. After Hours at Barrel House Cafe & Bar Features  
Global Sounds and Local Artists in Logan Circle Neighborhood***

**Washington, D.C.** – Mars Arts D.C., Washington Performing Arts's community engagement initiative, launches a monthly music series at Barrel House Cafe & Bar spotlighting artists from across the DMV and the global traditions shaping Washington, D.C.,'s music scene. Tickets are Pay What You Can (\$5 minimum) and available in advance at [WashingtonPerformingArts.org](https://WashingtonPerformingArts.org) or on site the day of each performance. Barrel House Cafe & Bar is located at 1341 14th Street NW.

The series reflects Mars Arts D.C.'s commitment to meeting people where they are and bringing the arts into the places where people live, work, and gather. By presenting music in nontraditional spaces and neighborhood settings, Mars Arts D.C. creates opportunities for audiences to experience exceptional artists in relaxed, accessible, and unexpected environments.

"We're thrilled to welcome Barrel House Cafe & Bar into the Washington Performing Arts family and to bring live music to Logan Circle every month," said **Shruthi Mukund, Washington Performing Arts's Director of Strategic Partnerships and Special Productions**. "The best partnerships are the ones where everyone's strengths shine, and Barrel House offers exactly what Mars Arts D.C. is all about: a warm, welcoming space where neighbors already gather, and where exceptional artists from across the DMV can meet audiences right where they are."

"At Barrel House, we are redefining the neighborhood restaurant and bar. Our mission is to bridge the gap between arts, community, and entertainment, creating a space that actively nurtures local creators, and promotes inclusivity, while maintaining a sustainable, thriving

business. In a city like Washington, DC, where the need for accessible creative hubs is greater than ever, we strive to be more than a restaurant and bar. Partnering with Washington Performing Arts allows us to help fulfill our goal and become a space where art and community intersect,” said **Christopher Lynch (Co-owner of Barrel House Cafe & Bar)**.

**Lineup:**

**Wed., September 9, 2026, at 8:30 p.m. | The Experience Band and Show**

The ***Mars Arts D.C. After Hours at Barrel House Cafe & Bar*** series opens with The Experience Band and Show, founded in 2017 by trombonist Travis “TromboneKing” Gardner and known as “The People’s Band” for its start busking at Metro stations across the city. The ensemble pairs a New Orleans second-line brass sensibility with go-go, funk, and R&B. Tickets available starting September 1 at <https://www.washingtonperformingarts.org/mars-arts-d-c/barrel-house/>.

**Wed., October 14, 2026, at 8:30 p.m. | Taisha Estrada**

Born in Carolina, Puerto Rico, singer-songwriter Taisha Estrada moves between neo-soul, jazz, rock, and Latin rhythms, anchored by bilingual songwriting rooted in personal narrative. Named a 2025 NPR Tiny Desk Top Shelf artist, she released her debut album, *Nostalgia Ajena*, in 2023 and has performed at the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage, Blues Alley, and Strathmore. Tickets available at <https://www.washingtonperformingarts.org/mars-arts-d-c/barrel-house/>.

**Wed, November 11, 2026, at 8:30 p.m. | Juan Manú**

Latin-folk instrumentalist and singer-songwriter Juan Manú, originally from El Paso, Texas, and now based in Washington, D.C., draws on his Mexican heritage and Tejano culture in music that blends classical violin training with a decade of mariachi vocals, violin, and guitar. A current artist in residence at Strathmore, he uses traditional genres to lift queer voices and stories. Tickets available at <https://www.washingtonperformingarts.org/mars-arts-d-c/barrel-house/>.

**Wed, January 13, 2027, at 8:30 p.m. | EducArte**

Cavaquinho player, singer, and percussionist Pablo DeOliveira is co-founder and executive director of EducArte, a Maryland-based Brazilian performing arts presenter and arts education nonprofit. A veteran of stages including the Kennedy Center and Strathmore, and a longtime collaborator with the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, he brings the traditions of samba and choro into conversation with the D.C. music scene. Tickets available at <https://www.washingtonperformingarts.org/mars-arts-d-c/barrel-house/>.

**Wed, February 10, 2027, at 8:30 p.m. | Pranav Shikarpur**

Pranav Shikarpur performs Hindustani classical music on the bansuri, the Indian bamboo flute. He began his training at age seven under the late Pandit Venkatesh Godkhindi and continues his studies with Pandit Pravin Godkhindi, performing raga music in the gayaki ang, a style that brings the lyricism of the human voice to the flute. Tickets available at <https://www.washingtonperformingarts.org/mars-arts-d-c/barrel-house/>.

*Presented by Mars Arts D.C. in partnership with Barrel House Cafe & Bar, the series brings together music, nightlife, and community, creating a new platform for local artists in Washington, D.C.*

## **ABOUT MARS ARTS DC**

Mars Arts D.C. is Washington Performing Arts's signature community engagement initiative. The product of a partnership between Washington Performing Arts, Jacqueline Badger Mars, and Mars, Incorporated, Mars Arts D.C. carries out its mission of presenting and elevating the dynamic vibrancy found in the local arts community and business economy through ever-growing artist engagement and long-term communal partnerships. With programmatic elements highlighting the uniqueness and beauty across all eight wards of the District, Mars Arts D.C. offers distinct performance opportunities, artist residencies, signature education programs, and robust integration with the Washington Performing Arts main stage series, all for the benefit, enjoyment, and growth of both the artist community itself and the D.C. community as a whole.

## **ABOUT BARREL HOUSE CAFE & BAR**

Barrel House Cafe & Bar is a neighborhood venue located in the heart of Logan Circle at 1341 14th St. NW, Washington DC. Barrel House Cafe & Bar is a favorite local hangout serving up everything from coffee and cocktails, to live music and theatrical performances. The business is open from morning to night and has a brunch and dinner menu offering all items less than \$15.

Website: [Barrelhousedc.com](http://Barrelhousedc.com)

Instagram: @barrelhousecafeandbar

## **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, jazz, international genres, and more. We also have an ever-expanding artistic and educational presence online, 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."

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