



VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL

2025

ROBERT W. CROSS  
PERRY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



VAFEST.ORG

UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES INSIDE!

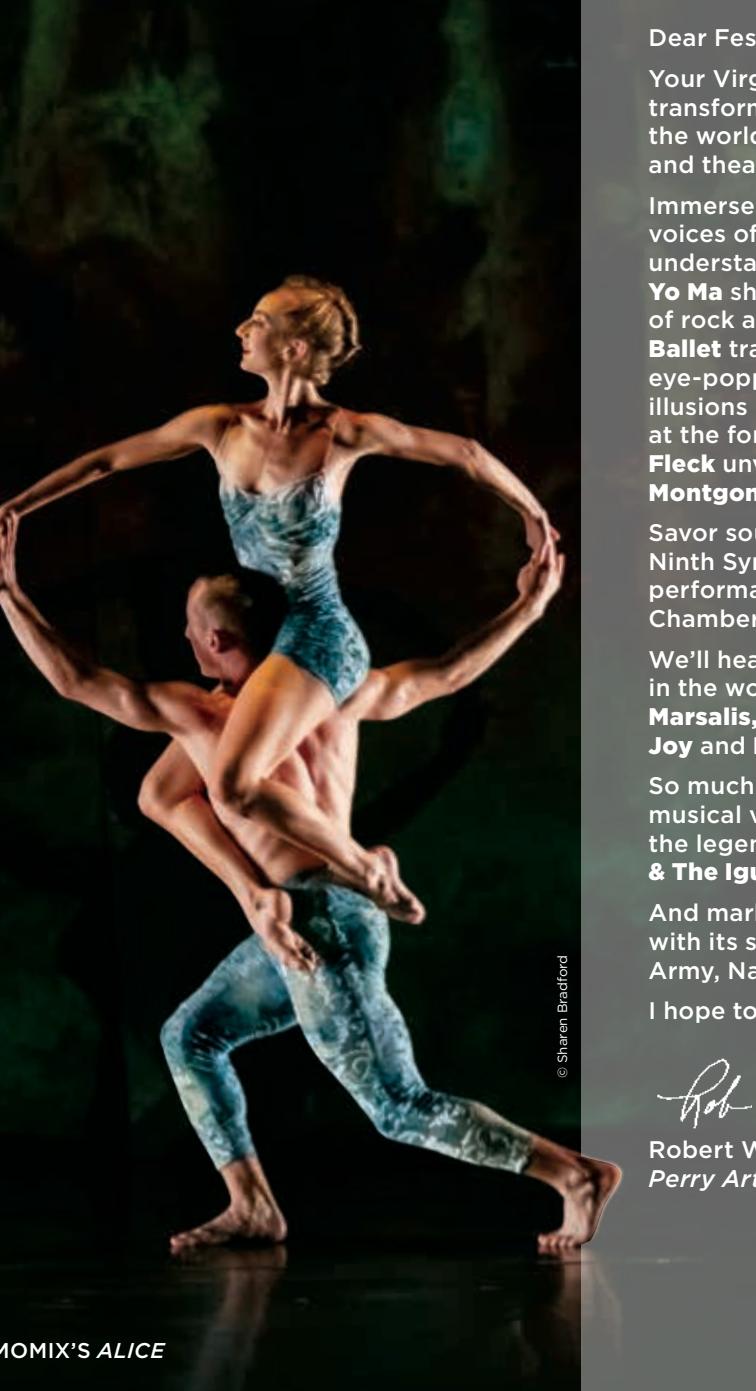
# WELCOME

WYNTON MARSALIS

## VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL

### GUIDE TO 2025 PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

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MOMIX'S ALICE

Dear Festival Friend,

Your Virginia Arts Festival is a joyous, entertaining, moving, transformative place to be this spring! In the company of some of the world's most renowned artists, we'll experience music, dance and theater as we never have before.

Immerse yourself in one of the most beloved and celebrated voices of our time, **Renée Fleming**. Imagine peace and understanding through the arts as the legendary cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** shares music and stories. Experience the raw energy of rock and the grace of ballet as Britain's **Birmingham Royal Ballet** transforms the music of Black Sabbath. Delight in the eye-popping dance of **MOMIX — ALICE**, filled with whimsy and illusions inspired by *Alice in Wonderland*. Hear from geniuses at the forefront of musical invention as banjo virtuoso **Béla Fleck** unveils his newest collaboration, and composer **Jessie Montgomery** performs her work.

Savor soul-stirring classical music, including Mahler's glorious Ninth Symphony and a compelling array of chamber music performances curated by our Connie & Marc Jacobson Director of Chamber Music, **Olga Kern**.

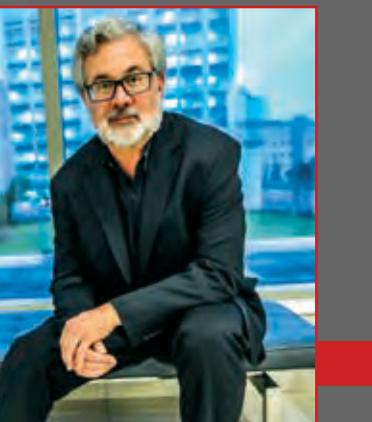
We'll hear the irresistible swinging sound of the best big band in the world, the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis**, and two of the best voices in jazz today, when **Samara Joy** and **Diana Krall** grace our stages.

So much to experience! Our Perry Pavilion is fairly bursting with musical variety, from the Puerto Rican superstars **Plena Libre** to the legendary **Louisiana Calling** featuring **Sonny Landreth Band & The Iguanas** to fan favorites **The Wood Brothers**.

And mark your calendar for our **Virginia International Tattoo**, with its spectacular celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> birthdays of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.

I hope to see you again and again this season!

Robert W. Cross  
Perry Artistic Director



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\*Discounts vary, restrictions apply, call for details.



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**VAFEST.ORG**

**Need help/have questions? Prefer to order in person?**  
Call (757) 282-2822 or (877) 741-2787  
Or visit the Virginia Arts Festival Box Office  
440 Bank Street, Norfolk, VA 23510  
Hours: Monday - Friday, 10 AM - 5 PM

**ORDER NOW FOR BEST SEATS! VAFEST.ORG OR CALL 757-282-2822**



# DANCE SERIES

Connie and Marc Jacobson  
Opening Night Celebration

This production is made possible by a  
generous gift from Joan Brock.

## MOMIX ALICE

*Inspired by Alice in Wonderland*

Curiouser and curiouser! Seamlessly blending illusion, acrobatics, magic, and whimsy, MOMIX sends audiences flying down the rabbit hole in Moses Pendleton's newest creation, *ALICE*, inspired by Lewis Carroll's classic *Alice in Wonderland*. Join this dazzling company on a mind-bending adventure, as Alice encounters the undulating Caterpillar, a lobster quadrille, frenzied White Rabbits, the mad Queen of Hearts, and other surprises.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 7:30 PM**  
CHRYSLER HALL, NORFOLK  
TICKETS START AT \$25

**FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 7:30 PM**  
FERGUSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS, NEWPORT NEWS  
TICKETS START AT \$25

(PLUS \$3.50 FACILITY FEE PER TICKET)

*This performance funded in part by the City of Newport News and the Newport News Arts Commission.*

4/2 Sponsored by  
CLARK NEXSEN

Media Sponsor: VEER Magazine

“ MOMIX’s *ALICE* fills the stage with a marvelously dizzying flow of physical activities and illusions amid expansive, artful projections. ”

Wall Street Journal

*Supported in part by the Jim & Karen Sparks Dance Residency Fund of the Virginia Arts Festival Endowment.*

*These performances are funded in part by the Friedrich Ludwig Diehn Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation.*

## BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

*Black Sabbath – The Ballet*  
with Virginia Symphony Orchestra

The raw energy of rock ... the strength and grace of ballet! Virginia Arts Festival presents the U.S. premiere of a spectacularly entertaining new work! The internationally acclaimed ballet company salutes some of Birmingham's most famous exports — Ozzy Osbourne and Black Sabbath — in this vibrant piece. With eight classic Black Sabbath hits arranged for orchestra and rock band, and a live guitarist on stage with the dancers, a pulsing light show frames the action. Experience rock — and ballet — as you never have before!

**FRIDAY, MAY 30, 7:30 PM**

**SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2 PM & 7:30 PM**

CHRYSLER HALL, NORFOLK

TICKETS START AT \$40

*Age guidance 10+*

*Contains archival voiceover that includes bleeped out swearing and conversation around the taking and using of drugs.*

Co-presented with

7 Venues

5/30 Sponsored by

TOWNE BANK

5/31 Afternoon Sponsored by

HGF

*The Helen G. Gifford Foundation*

Media Sponsor: 106.9 FM The Fox, FM 99 WNOR, and VEER Magazine

*This program is funded in part by the Friedrich Ludwig Diehn Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation.*



“ Feasts for the eye ... a compelling and immersive experience. ”

Kerrang!



# CLASSICAL MUSIC

## AN AFTERNOON WITH YO-YO MA

### *Reflections in Words and Music*

A 19-time GRAMMY® winner who has performed for nine American presidents and been presented both the National Medal of Arts and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Yo-Yo Ma has become an ambassador for humanity, championing music and the arts as a path to peace and understanding. This special performance pairs beloved repertoire with reflections on how music has shaped ideas about art, human nature, and our search for meaning.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 3 PM  
CHRYSLER HALL, NORFOLK  
TICKETS START AT \$35

*Sponsored by*  
**BANK OF AMERICA** 

*Media Sponsor: WHRO Public Media*  
Supported in part by The Fannie, Milton, and Leslie Friedman Family Foundation Classical Music Fund of the Virginia Arts Festival Endowment.



©Jason Bell



These performances are made possible by a generous gift from the Susan S. Goode Performance Fund

## MAHLER SYMPHONY NO. 9

**Virginia Symphony Orchestra**  
Eric Jacobsen, conductor

One of the most beloved symphonies in the classical repertoire, Mahler's Ninth is a profoundly emotional experience. It begins in hushed awe, harp, horns and strings beckoning, and transports the listener through wave after wave of joy and sorrow, loss and redemption. Listen and discover why Virginia Symphony Orchestra's conductor Eric Jacobsen calls it "one of the greatest accomplishments of humanity." A must for any music lover's bucket list!

**FRIDAY, MAY 9, 7:30 PM**  
**FERGUSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS, NEWPORT NEWS**

**TICKETS START AT \$25**  
(PLUS \$3.50 FACILITY FEE PER TICKET)

*This program is funded in part by the City of Newport News and the Newport News Arts Commission.*

**SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2:30 PM**  
**SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, VIRGINIA BEACH**

**TICKETS START AT \$25**  
(PLUS \$2.00 FACILITY FEE PER TICKET)

*This program is funded in part by the citizens of Virginia Beach through a grant from the Virginia Beach Arts and Humanities Commission.*

*Co-presented with*  
 **VIRGINIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
Eric Jacobsen, Music Director

*5/9 Sponsored by*  
**Daily Press**

*Media Sponsors: Virginia Media and WHRO Public Media*



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# VOCAL MUSIC



## THE TALLIS SCHOLARS

Dubbed “the rock stars of Renaissance vocal music” by *The New York Times*, this legendary ensemble has perhaps done more than any other group to put sacred vocal music of the Renaissance on music lovers’ top ten lists. Norfolk’s historic Christ & St. Luke’s Church makes the perfect setting for their beautiful sound, which summons the echoes of the past and reveals new delights in works by contemporary composers.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 7:30 PM**  
**CHRIST & ST. LUKE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORFOLK**  
**TICKETS START AT \$35**

Co-presented with  
 Christ & St. Luke's  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## AN EVENING WITH KELLI O'HARA

**Rob Fisher, music director and conductor**  
**Virginia Symphony Orchestra**

“The undisputed queen of Broadway” (*The Times*), Kelli O’Hara has enchanted audiences in such musicals as *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, *South Pacific*, and more. A gifted actress, she is possessed of a gorgeous voice as much at home on the opera stage as on Broadway — and she has also won millions of fans on television, including *The Gilded Age*. Here she joins famed Broadway music director Rob Fisher — the Festival’s Goode Family Artistic Advisor for Musical Theater and American Songbook — and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra for a spellbinding evening of song, including Broadway favorites and more. Don’t miss this performance by one of Broadway’s greatest stars!

**FRIDAY, MAY 16, 7:30 PM**  
**SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, VIRGINIA BEACH**  
**TICKETS START AT \$25**  
(PLUS \$2.00 FACILITY FEE PER TICKET)

*This program is funded in part by the citizens of Virginia Beach through a grant from the Virginia Beach Arts and Humanities Commission and the Friedrich Ludwig Diehn Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation.*



## RENÉE FLEMING, soprano

*In Recital*  
*Voice of Nature: The Anthropocene*

One of the most beloved and celebrated singers of our time, 2023 Kennedy Center Honoree and National Medal of Arts recipient Renée Fleming captivates audiences around the world with her sumptuous voice, consummate artistry, and compelling stage presence. In this breathtaking performance inspired by her GRAMMY® Award-winning album, Fleming explores humankind’s evolving relationship with nature, performing works by Handel, Björk, Fauré, Puccini, and Jerome Kern, with a beautiful projected film created for the program by National Geographic. “Nothing short of mesmerizing... the music and the stunning film enveloping listeners... engendering awe and wonder” (*The Boston Musical Intelligencer*).

**SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 3 PM**  
**HARRISON OPERA HOUSE, NORFOLK**  
**TICKETS START AT \$35**

*Media Sponsor: WHRO Public Media*

*Supported in part by The Fannie, Milton, and Leslie Friedman Family Foundation Classical Music Fund of the Virginia Arts Festival Endowment.*



©Marvin Joseph Wilder

OLGA KERN, Connie & Marc Jacobson  
Director of Chamber Music

More than 240 years after he wrote his first composition (a march for piano), Beethoven remains among the most beloved composers of all time. His mighty symphonies resound in the memory; his works for piano are beloved by artists and audiences alike; his chamber music masterworks number among the most-recorded of all composers.

Virginia Arts Festival's Connie and Marc Jacobson Director of Chamber Music, the Van Cliburn Gold Medal-awarded pianist Olga Kern, has curated a season of chamber concerts that offer enticing new ways to savor Beethoven classics, including his chamber works but also transcriptions for chamber ensemble of symphonies and more. Kern will join acclaimed chamber artists including violinist Lana Trovšek, cellist Nina Kotova and pianist János Balázs in both evening performances and morning Coffee Concerts.

OLGA KERN,  
Connie and Marc Jacobson  
Director of Chamber Music

## ZEMLINSKY QUARTET; OLGA KERN, piano

Playing with "sparkling, nimble... finely crafted elegance" (*The Strad*), this prize-winning ensemble has won top prizes in international competitions and released a library of critically acclaimed recordings. In their Virginia Arts Festival debut, Van Cliburn Gold Medal-awarded pianist Olga Kern joins the ensemble for an evening of chamber classics, including Dvořák's fiery Piano Quintet No. 2.

**PROGRAM:**

SUK Piano Meditation on an Old Czech Chorale St. Wenceslas, Op. 35a  
BEETHOVEN String Quartet No. 11 in F minor, Op. 95 "Serioso"  
DVOŘÁK Piano Quintet No. 2 in A Major, Op. 81

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 7:30 PM**  
**CONCERT HALL AT WILLIAM & MARY,**  
**WILLIAMSBURG**  
**TICKETS START AT \$35**

Co-presented with  
**THE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY**  
OF WILLIAMSBURG

Funded in part by the City of Williamsburg and the  
Williamsburg Area Arts Commission.

**THURSDAY, MAY 22, 7:30 PM**  
**ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY & JAY**  
**BARR EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK**  
**TICKETS START AT \$35**

Co-presented with  
**FELDMAN**  
Chamber Music Society



## LANA TROTOVŠEK, violin; NINA KOTOVA, cello; JÁNOS BALÁZS, piano; OLGA KERN, piano

Music lovers, take note of this dream team of expressive, virtuosic artists! "Elegant, vibrant" (*Musical Opinion*) violinist Lana Trovšek, "sensitive, elegant" (*Gramophone*) cellist Nina Kotova, and award-winning pianist János Balázs join Olga Kern in an exploration of Beethoven classics.

**PROGRAM:**

BEETHOVEN Sonata No. 5 in F Major, Op. 24 "Spring"  
BEETHOVEN Cello Sonata No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 5  
BEETHOVEN 8 Variations on a Theme by Count Waldstein  
LISZT Hungarian Rhapsody No. 10  
LISZT Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6  
LISZT Bénédiction et serment, S.396 for Four Hands  
BEETHOVEN Piano Trio in D Major, Op. 70 No. 1 "Ghost"

**FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 7:30 PM**  
**ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY & JAY BARR EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK**  
**TICKETS START AT \$35**

## BRENDON ELLIOTT, violin; BEVERLY KANE BAKER, viola; STERLING ELLIOTT, cello; WILLIAM MCPETERS, bass; DEBRA WENDELLS CROSS, flute; JACOB WILDER, horn; OLGA KERN, piano

Gifted young stars and longtime Virginia Symphony Orchestra members join Olga Kern for unforgettable performances of classical favorites including Schubert's "Trout" Quintet and others.

**PROGRAM:**  
HAYDN Piano Trio No. 39 "Gypsy"  
DOPPLER Souvenir du Rigi  
SAMAZEUILH Esquires D'Espagne - Chant Sans Parole (1914)  
GLINKA Trio Pathétique  
SCHUBERT Piano Quintet in A major, D. 667 "Trout"

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 7:30 PM**  
**ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY & JAY BARR EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK**  
**TICKETS START AT \$35**



# COFFEE CONCERT SERIES

This is chamber music as it was meant to be heard: the communion of gifted artists in an intimate, beautiful setting, among music lovers and friends. After the performance, patrons can mingle with the performers, a lovely postscript to a perfect performance experience.



ZEMLINSKY QUARTET



**OLGA KERN,**  
Connie & Marc Jacobson  
Director of Chamber Music



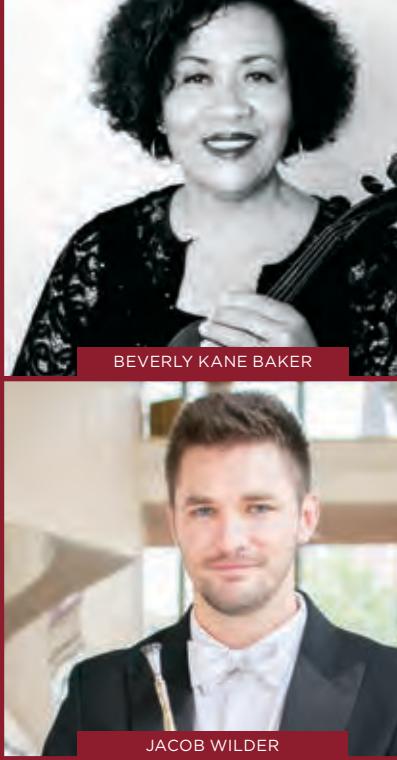
BRENDON ELLIOTT



ELIZABETH VONDERHEIDE



LANA TROVŠEK



BEVERLY KANE BAKER



STERLING ELLIOTT

## COFFEE I: ZEMLINSKY QUARTET OLGA KERN, piano

**PROGRAM:**  
BEETHOVEN String Quartet No. 11 in F minor, Op. 95 "Serioso"  
DVOŘÁK Piano Quintet No. 2 in A Major, Op. 81

**FRIDAY, MAY 23, 10:30 AM**  
**MILLER STUDIO THEATRE, SANDLER CENTER FOR THE**  
**PERFORMING ARTS, VIRGINIA BEACH**  
**TICKETS START AT \$30**  
(PLUS \$2.00 FACILITY FEE PER TICKET)

*This program is funded in part by the citizens of Virginia Beach through a grant from the Virginia Beach Arts and Humanities Commission.*

## COFFEE II: LANA TROVŠEK, violin; NINA KOTOVA, cello; JÁNOS BALÁZS, piano; OLGA KERN, piano

**PROGRAM:**  
BEETHOVEN Sonata No. 5 in F Major, Op. 24 "Spring"  
BEETHOVEN Cello Sonata No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 5  
BEETHOVEN 8 Variations on a Theme by Count Waldstein  
LISTZ Hungarian Rhapsody No. 10  
LISZT Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6  
LISZT Bénédiction et serment, S.396 for Four Hands

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 10:30 AM**  
**MILLER STUDIO THEATRE, SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, VIRGINIA BEACH**  
**TICKETS START AT \$30**  
(PLUS \$2.00 FACILITY FEE PER TICKET)

*This program is funded in part by the citizens of Virginia Beach through a grant from the Virginia Beach Arts and Humanities Commission.*

## COFFEE III: LANA TROVŠEK, violin; NINA KOTOVA, cello; OLGA KERN, piano

**PROGRAM:**  
BEETHOVEN Piano Trio in D Major, Op. 70 No. 1  
"Ghost"  
BEETHOVEN Sonata No. 5 in F Major, Op. 24  
"Spring"  
BEETHOVEN Cello Sonata No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 5

**THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 10:30 AM**  
**CONCERT HALL AT WILLIAM & MARY,**  
**WILLIAMSBURG**  
**TICKETS START AT \$30**

*Funded in part by the City of Williamsburg and the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission.*

## COFFEE IV: BRENDON ELLIOTT, violin ELIZABETH VONDERHEIDE, violin BEVERLY KANE BAKER, viola STERLING ELLIOTT, cello

**PROGRAM:**  
HANDEL/HALVORSEN Passacaglia  
BEETHOVEN String Quartet No. 4 in C Minor, Op. 18  
HAYDN String Quartet in D major, Hob. III:63, Op. 64  
No. 5 "The Lark"  
MONTGOMERY Duo for Violin and Cello

**THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 10:30 AM**  
**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PORTSMOUTH**  
**TICKETS START AT \$30**

*This program funded in part by the City of Portsmouth and the Portsmouth Museum and Fine Arts Commission.*

## COFFEE V: BRENDON ELLIOTT, violin; BEVERLY KANE BAKER, violin; STERLING ELLIOTT, cello; WILLIAM McPETERS, bass; DEBRA WENDELLS CROSS, flute; JACOB WILDER, horn; OLGA KERN, piano

**PROGRAM:**  
HAYDN Piano Trio No. 39 "Gypsy"  
DOPPLER Souvenir du Rigi  
SAMAZEUILH Esquires D'Espagne - Chant Samparle  
SCHUBERT Piano Quintet in A major, D. 67 "Trout"

**FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 10:30 AM**  
**TOWNE UNIVERSITY, SUFCOLK**  
**TICKETS START AT \$30**

*Sponsored by TOWNE BANK*



## EDGAR MEYER, double bass TESSA LARK, violin JOSHUA ROMAN, cello

String's the thing in this virtuosic evening! The only bassist ever to be awarded the Avery Fisher Prize, Edgar Meyer is known for his inspired collaborations with artists of all genres. His newest adventure includes the extraordinary classical violinist and Kentucky fiddler Tessa Lark and cellist/composer Joshua Roman, who "combines the expressive control of Casals with the creative individuality and virtuoso flair of Hendrix" (*Gramophone*).

**PROGRAM:**

BACH Sonata for Viola de Gamba in G Major, BWV 1027  
MEYER Trio 1986  
MEYER Trio 2024  
MEYER Trio 1988

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 7:30 PM**  
**CONCERT HALL AT WILLIAM & MARY, WILLIAMSBURG**  
**TICKETS START AT \$35**

Co-presented with  WILLIAM & MARY  
CHARTERED 1693

Media Sponsor: *VEER Magazine*  
Funded in part by the City of Williamsburg and the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission.

## JESSIE MONTGOMERY, violin & composer Virginia Arts Festival Chamber Players

Composer and violinist Jessie Montgomery "never fails to enthrall with her rhythmically complex, richly orchestrated, highly original pieces" (WTTW, Chicago PBS). Her music has become an engaging new part of the repertoire and drawn acclaim around the world. In the final year of her residency as the Virginia Arts Festival Composer-in-Residence, Montgomery will curate and perform in a program that includes her own chamber music and works by her contemporaries. Don't miss this opportunity to hear this important composer's engaging works!

**TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 7:30 PM**  
**ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY & JAY BARR EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK**  
**TICKETS START AT \$25, STUDENTS UNDER 25, \$10**



## LOS ANGELES GUITAR QUARTET

This dazzlingly gifted ensemble brings adventurous programs that span from Bach to bluegrass, encompassing music from across centuries and nearly every corner of the earth. "The effect is astonishing. If it's true that variety is the very spice of life, it follows that the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet is a habanero chili pepper" (*The Berkshire Edge*). They will be joined by Tidewater Guitar Orchestra members during part of the program.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 7:30 PM**  
**NORFOLK ACADEMY, NORFOLK**  
**TICKETS START AT \$35**

Co-presented with  NORFOLK and  
ACADEMY  
— 1728 — 

Sponsored by the Richard S. Glasser Family Foundation.  
Media Sponsors: *VEER Magazine* and WHRO Public Media



## ALCÉE CHRISS III, organ

For the organ aficionado, Alcée Chriss is the real deal: impeccably trained, a veteran of some of the world's great organs, rooted in the classics but adventurous in his choices of repertoire and playing "with clarity, imagination, musicality, virtuosity, and yes, personality" (*American Record Guide*). Hear this young star reveal the beauties of Christ & St. Luke's great organ in this Sunday afternoon concert.

**SUNDAY, MAY 11, 4 PM**  
**CHRIST & ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORFOLK**  
**TICKETS START AT \$25**

Co-presented with  AGO  
Tidewater Chapter  
and  Christ & St. Luke's  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## SAMARA JOY

Possessed of "a voice that seems to have a gravitational pull keeping the planets in orbit" (WGBO), this phenomenal, three-time GRAMMY®-winning young star has been called "a reincarnation of Sarah Vaughan and Ella Fitzgerald in the same body" (London Jazz News). Samara Joy's 2024 Virginia Arts Festival performance sold out — order your tickets now to guarantee your seats for this return engagement!

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 7:30 PM  
CHRYSLER HALL, NORFOLK  
TICKETS START AT \$35

Sponsored by **PRA Group**

Media Sponsors: **VEER Magazine** and  
**WHRO Public Media**

Supported in part by the Virginian-Pilot Arts of Color Fund of The Virginia Arts Festival Endowment.

“ Every so often a new vocalist blows everyone on the jazz scene away with their distinctive style, charm, and dexterity. Samara Joy is that new voice that's giving new purpose to the music. ”

*JazzTimes.com*



JUNE 6-8, 2025

The Vocal Jazz Summit brings together emerging and established artists, industry leaders, and vocal jazz fans for a unique, intensive weekend dedicated to performance, connection, and education.

©AB+DM

## JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA with WYNTON MARSALIS

*featuring Top Ensembles from the Jazz at Lincoln Center and Virginia Arts Festival HBCU Jazz Residency*

Hailed as "an immense and perfectly balanced engine" (*The Guardian*, UK), this legendary ensemble is led by nine-time GRAMMY® winner and recipient of the Pulitzer Prize and National Medal of the Arts Wynton Marsalis. The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra is the emblem of jazz for the United States and the world — and a swingin' great time for audiences.

In a unique collaboration, Jazz at Lincoln Center has joined with Virginia Arts Festival in nurturing the next generation of jazz musicians with a three-day residency that features jazz ensembles from Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The residency culminates in this special concert showcasing the top performing ensembles during the first half, followed by the illustrious Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 7:30 PM  
CHRYSLER HALL, NORFOLK  
TICKETS START AT \$28

Residency  
Sponsored by:

**Dominion Energy**  
Powering Your Every Day.™

Media Sponsor:  
**VEER Magazine** and  
**WHRO Public Media**



©Gilberto Tadday for Jazz at Lincoln Center



©Gilberto Tadday

“ In the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra we play such a diversity of music, with 10 arrangers in the band, we don't really worry about whether it's contemporary or not. ”

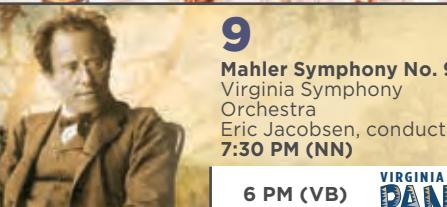
Wynton Marsalis

# 2025 CALENDAR

**NN**) Newport News | **(N**) Norfolk | **(P**) Portsmouth | **(S**) Suffolk | **(VB**) Virginia Beach | **(W**) Williamsburg

es, times, programs, prices, venues, and artists subject to change. For the enjoyment of all patrons, children under 6 will not be permitted to ticketed events, except the Virginia International Tattoo, *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Sound of Music Sing-A-Long*, *Cinderella*, Rhythm Procase, Williamsburg Live (lawn seats), and free events. Additional fees apply to ticket prices. Discounts vary, restrictions apply, call for details.

# 2025 CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>OPENING WEEK!</b>		<b>2</b> MOMIX ALICE 7:30 PM (N) 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> MOMIX ALICE 7:30 PM (NN) 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Rodgers & Hammerstein's The Sound of Music Sing-A- Long 2:30 PM (N) 
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis 7:30 PM (N) 		
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Jessie Montgomery 7:30 PM (N) 	<b>16</b> Los Angeles Guitar Quartet 7:30 PM (N) 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
			<b>24</b>  Norfolk NATO Festival Flag Raising 5 PM (N) Virginia International Tattoo 7:30 PM (N)	<b>25</b> Virginia International Tattoo 7:30 PM (N) 	<b>26</b> Norfolk NATO Festival Parade of Nations - 10 AM (N) Norfolk NATO Festival International Village - 11:30 AM (N) Virginia International Tattoo 7:30 PM (N)	<b>27</b> Virginia International Tattoo 2:30 PM (N)
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> The Tallis Scholars 7:30 PM (N) 	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> Plena Libre 7:30 PM (N) 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> John Moreland 7:30 PM (N) 	
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Edgar Meyer, double bass Tessa Lark, violin Joshua Roman, cello 7:30 PM (W) 		<b>9</b> Mahler Symphony No. 9 Virginia Symphony Orchestra Eric Jacobsen, conductor 7:30 PM (NN) 6 PM (VB)	<b>10</b> Mahler Symphony No. 9 Virginia Symphony Orchestra Eric Jacobsen, conductor 2:30 PM (VB) 10 AM (VB) 	<b>11</b> Alcée Chriss III, organ 4 PM (N) 



# OPERA



## CINDERELLA

**Alma Deutscher**, composer/conductor

Student performers from

**The Governor's School for the Arts Vocal & Instrumental Music Departments**

featuring Virginia Children's Chorus

Born in 2005, this extraordinary, multi-talented artist began composing at age six, and within just a few years had created an astonishing body of work, receiving media attention from around the globe. In this Virginia Arts Festival collaboration, Alma Deutscher will conduct student instrumentalists and vocalists from The Governor's School for the Arts in her opera *Cinderella*.

While based on the traditional fairy-tale, Deutscher has adapted the story to revolve around music. After Cinderella flees the ball, the prince will search for her not with the aid of a glass slipper, but with the beginning of a melody, which only she will know how to continue. Completed when she was just 10, *Cinderella*'s premiere received glowing reviews, including this from *Opera Today*: "A young talent's sensational burst to prominence... a once-in-a-lifetime opera-going event that had audiences standing and cheering."

**SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 7 PM**

**SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, VIRGINIA BEACH**

**TICKETS START AT \$25, STUDENTS UNDER 25, \$10**

(PLUS \$2.00 FACILITY FEE PER TICKET)

Co-presented with **gsARTS**  
The Governor's School for the Arts

*This performance is a collaboration between Virginia Arts Festival and The Governor's School for the Arts.*

*For Virginia Arts Festival, this performance is made possible in part by the citizens of Virginia Beach through the City of Virginia Beach Arts & Humanities Commission.*

*For The Governor's School for the Arts, this performance is made possible from grants by the Portsmouth Museum & Fine Arts Commission and the City of Portsmouth, by the citizens of Virginia Beach through the City of Virginia Beach Arts & Humanities Commission, the Chesapeake Fine Arts Commission, Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Helen G. Gifford Foundation, the Capital Group Charitable Foundation, and the GSA Foundation.*

# MOVIE

## RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S THE SOUND OF MUSIC SING-A-LONG

Grab your lederhosen, practice your best Maria von Trapp impression and get ready to enjoy Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music: Sing-A-Long!* Join us for a screening of the smash-hit 1965 movie musical in glorious, full-screen technicolor, complete with onscreen lyrics. Based on the amazing true story of The Trapp Family Singers, *The Sound of Music* is a cinematic landmark and winner of five Academy Awards®, including Best Picture. Starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer, the film features timeless songs by Rodgers & Hammerstein including "My Favorite Things", "Do-Re-Mi", "Edelweiss", "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" and more.

Before the film begins, you'll test your knowledge with movie trivia and learn how to participate throughout the screening using your complimentary tote bag filled with interactive surprises. You'll then enjoy the movie with your fellow attendees — costumed nuns, Maria look-alikes and von Trapp children — all singing their hearts out to the classic Rodgers & Hammerstein tunes. Costumes are not obligatory but highly recommended!

**SUNDAY, APRIL 6**

**DOORS OPEN AT 2 PM**

**PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES AND COSTUME CONTEST BEGIN AT 2:30 PM**

**FILM AT 3 PM**

**CHRYSLER HALL, NORFOLK**

**TICKETS START AT \$25**

**Media Sponsor: VEER Magazine**



Discover Norfolk's Most Exciting New Venue: Perry Pavilion!

Get ready for another thrilling season at the Virginia Arts Festival's Perry Pavilion, Norfolk's premier outdoor performance space. Loved by artists and fans alike, this vibrant, covered venue offers an unbeatable vibe with an on-site bar and an open-air atmosphere. Located in the heart of the Arts District, it's just steps from Chrysler Hall, Scope Arena, and the city's buzzing restaurant scene.

Easily accessible, with the Bank Street Garage next door and the Tide Light Rail's Monticello stop just a block away, Perry Pavilion makes every night out effortless.



## PLENA LIBRE

Distilling a heady mix of Afro-Caribbean styles and irresistible on-stage energy, this sizzling Puerto Rican band has been thrilling international audiences for nearly three decades. With mesmerizing hand drumming, raucous horns and soaring vocal harmonies, they'll have you on your feet! Discover a fan-favorite band who "can rock the house with traditional singing and drumming, then turn around and lay down a smoking, jazz-heavy, Afro-Rican jam" (*East Bay Express*).

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 7:30 PM  
PERRY PAVILION, NORFOLK  
TICKETS START AT \$35 (CABARET SEATING)



© Robley Duplex



## JOHN MORELAND, singer-songwriter

After a run of hit albums established him as a y'allternative superstar, this fiercely independent Tulsa-born singer-songwriter stopped working, turned off his cellphone, and unplugged to rest, heal and reflect. Moreland has emerged from his self-imposed silence with an "incredibly powerful and timely album" (*Americana Highways*), filled with deeply personal, moving songs that beg to be heard again and again.

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 7:30 PM  
PERRY PAVILION, NORFOLK  
TICKETS START AT \$25

Co-presented with  
  
NORTH SHORE POINT  
HOUSE CONCERTS

Media Sponsor: VEER Magazine

## BÉLA FLECK, EDMAR CASTAÑEDA and ANTONIO SÁNCHEZ TRIO

18-time GRAMMY® winner Béla Fleck — the world's premier banjo virtuoso and a celebrated musical adventurer — has both explored his instrument's complex global history and unlocked the breadth of its possibilities. For over 30 years, he has led Béla Fleck & The Flecktones, the groundbreaking quartet inspired by jazz, funk, bluegrass and beyond. He has written and performed three banjo concertos and traced the African origins of the banjo with the award-winning 2009 documentary *Throw Down Your Heart*. Collaborators include Abigail Washburn, the Brooklyn Rider String Quartet, Chris Thile, The Blind Boys of Alabama, McCoy Tyner, Zakir Hussain, Edgar Meyer, and Rakesh Chaurasia. Fleck returns to Virginia Arts Festival with his latest project, featuring acclaimed harpist Edmar Castañeda and drummer Antonio Sánchez for an innovative and dynamic fusion of sounds.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 7:30 PM  
PERRY PAVILION, NORFOLK  
TICKETS START AT \$25

Media Sponsors: VEER Magazine and WHRO Public Media

## LOUISIANA CALLING featuring THE SONNY LANDRETH BAND and THE IGUANAS

The deep-roots tag team of Cajun slide guitar phenom Sonny Landreth and legendary New Orleans Latin-American rockers The Iguanas present a mind-blowing musical trip through the scenic soundscape of the bayou. Fusing blues, Latin, classic R&B, zydeco, Cajun, Tex-Mex, and roots rock, these down-home virtuosos stir up a rich gumbo of musical styles. Louisiana's calling — here's your chance to answer.

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 7:30 PM  
PERRY PAVILION, NORFOLK  
TICKETS START AT \$25

Co-presented with  
  
NORTH SHORE POINT  
HOUSE CONCERTS

## THE WOOD BROTHERS

Hailed by NPR as “masters of soulful folk,” The Wood Brothers have cemented a reputation, among fans and critics alike, as freethinking songwriters and road warriors. Their latest studio album, *Heart is The Hero*, has won rave reviews for “songs that reflect the fears, hopes, and joys of everyday people. Their poetry is sonic as well as lyrical and will speak to you in ways you won’t anticipate” (*Rock & Blues Muse*). But as Rolling Stone attests, “there is still nothing like seeing The Wood Brothers on a stage.” Hear their latest work alongside their classics in this eagerly anticipated Festival return.

**TUESDAY, MAY 20, 7:30 PM**  
**PERRY PAVILION, NORFOLK**  
**TICKETS START AT \$25**



## SWAMP DOGG

This artist has been challenging musical genre definitions since his 1970 debut, blurring the lines between blues, soul, funk, roots rock, folk and bluegrass in tell-it-like-it-is performances that steal the show. A Portsmouth native, Swamp Dogg has inspired artists for generations with his “salty, earthy Southern-soul storytelling” (*The New York Times*) and innovative style. The artists he’s worked with include John Prine, Bon Iver, Sierra Hull, Jenny Lewis, and Vernon Reid. He’s still got what it takes to rock the house — grab your tickets for this iconic performer.

**THURSDAY, MAY 29, 7:30 PM**  
**PERRY PAVILION, NORFOLK**  
**TICKETS START AT \$25**

Co-presented with

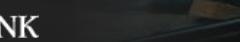


## PUNCH BROTHERS

Punch Brothers, formed in 2006, are a virtuosic quintet featuring mandolinist Chris Thile, guitarist Chris Eldridge, bassist Paul Kowert, banjoist Noam Pikelny, and violinist Brittany Haas. Known for pushing the boundaries of acoustic music, the band has garnered critical acclaim, including a GRAMMY® for Best Folk Album for *All Ashore* (2018). *The Washington Post* applauded them for taking “bluegrass to its next evolutionary stage, drawing equal inspiration from the brain and the heart.” Over the years, they’ve become pioneers in modern string music, with albums like *Antifogmatic* (2010), *Who’s Feeling Young Now* (2012) and *The Phosphorescent Blues* (2015) showcasing their genre-defying sound. *Rolling Stone* praised their work as “wild virtuosity used for more than just virtuosity,” cementing their reputation as trailblazers in contemporary acoustic music. Most Recently, Punch Brothers have been focused on their new musical variety show, “The Energy Curfew Music Hour,” with season one available on Audible and all podcasting platforms.

**TUESDAY, MAY 13, 7:30 PM**  
**SANDLER CENTER FOR THE**  
**PERFORMING ARTS, VIRGINIA BEACH**  
**TICKETS START AT \$49**  
(PLUS \$2.00 FACILITY FEE PER TICKET)

*This performance sponsored by*



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*This program is funded in part by the citizens of Virginia Beach through a grant from the Virginia Beach Arts and Humanities Commission.*



# WILLIAMSBURG LIVE



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GATES OPEN AT 5:30 PM

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# SUMMER VOCALS

## DIANA KRALL

"One of the finest jazz vocalists and pianists of her generation, creating a unique sound that combines sophisticated jazz sensibilities with a timeless elegance" (NPR), this GRAMMY®-winning star has sold more than 15 million albums worldwide; her work is so sought-after by fans, she is the only jazz singer to have eight albums debut at the top of the *Billboard* Jazz Albums chart. Savor "a voice at once cool and sultry, wielded with a rhythmic sophistication" (*The New York Times*).

SUNDAY, JULY 6, 7 PM

THE DOME, VIRGINIA BEACH  
TICKETS START AT \$59.50

Co-presented with



**LIVE NATION**



## LAUFNEY with Virginia Symphony Orchestra

Laufey returns to Virginia Arts Festival in a new partnership with Chartway Arena. The jazz singer, composer, multi-instrumentalist, and producer will be joined by the Virginia Symphony Orchestra on July 31, 2025.

"As a musician, my goal is to bring jazz and classical music to my generation," declares GRAMMY®-winning composer, singer, producer, and multi-instrumentalist Laufey. In 2022, the Icelandic-Chinese artist's trailblazing approach paid off, with a performance on *Jimmy Kimmel LIVE!* in support of her debut album *Everything I Know About Love*, sold out tours of North America, Asia, and Australia, and she was the most streamed jazz artist on Spotify.

The Los Angeles-based Laufey (pronounced lāvēy) continued her story by writing and recording *Bewitched*, her second album. Inspired by jazz greats and classical masters while possessing a point of view that could only be conveyed by a 21<sup>st</sup>-century twenty-something, *Bewitched* represents an expansion of Laufey's sonic palette. The album has gone on to break the record as the biggest debut for a jazz album on Spotify in history and earned a 2024 GRAMMY® win for "Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album."

THURSDAY, JULY 31, 7:30 PM

ODU CHARTWAY ARENA, NORFOLK  
TICKETS START AT \$69 NO DISCOUNTS

Co-presented with



© Nicole Mago

# FAMILY & OUTDOOR



## CINDERELLA

Alma Deutscher, composer/conductor  
Student performers from  
The Governor's School for the Arts Vocal &  
Instrumental Music Departments  
featuring Virginia Children's Chorus

"A young talent's sensational burst to prominence... a once-in-a-lifetime opera-going event that had audiences standing and cheering." (Opera Today).

In this Virginia Arts Festival collaboration, multi-talented composer Alma Deutscher will conduct student instrumentalists and vocalists from The Governor's School for the Arts in her opera *Cinderella*.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 7 PM**  
SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS,  
VIRGINIA BEACH

TICKETS START AT \$25, STUDENTS UNDER 25, \$10  
(PLUS \$2.00 FACILITY FEE PER TICKET)

Co-presented with **gSARTS**  
The Governor's School for the Arts

## RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S THE SOUND OF MUSIC SING-A-LONG

Grab your lederhosen, practice your best Maria Von Trapp impression and join us for a sing-along screening of Rodgers & Hammerstein's smash-hit movie musical *The Sound of Music*!

**SUNDAY, APRIL 6**  
DOORS OPEN AT 2 PM  
PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES AND COSTUME  
CONTEST BEGIN AT 2:30 PM, FILM AT 3 PM  
CHRYSLER HALL, NORFOLK  
TICKETS START AT \$25

## VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

Fun for the entire family, the 2025 Virginia International Tattoo will host an incredible international cast featuring more than 800 performers — from the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, joined by civilian and military performers from six nations. Not to be forgotten are the Massed Pipes and Drums from four nations joined by the incredible OzScot Australia Highland Dancers. The soul of the 2025 Tattoo will be an emotional and grateful Celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.

**THURSDAY - SATURDAY, APRIL 24 - 26,  
7:30 PM**  
SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2:30 PM  
SCOPE ARENA, NORFOLK  
TICKETS START AT \$25

## NORFOLK NATO FESTIVAL

Celebrate the member nations of NATO with us! Enjoy a weekend-long series of activities that celebrates the close collaboration between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the citizens of Coastal Virginia. The Norfolk NATO Festival brings together members of NATO's 32 nations, to honor the principles and values that shape the interests of the Alliance.

**FLAG RAISING**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 5 PM - 6 PM**  
SCOPE PLAZA, NORFOLK

**PARADE OF NATIONS**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 10 AM - 11:30 AM**  
DOWNTOWN NORFOLK

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 11:30 AM - 3 PM**  
TOWN POINT PARK, NORFOLK  
FREE, NO TICKETS REQUIRED

## VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL PANFEST

This annual two-day festival joins aspiring pan players and world-class artists for a celebration of Caribbean music at the Oceanfront. Free and open to the public, steel bands from across the U.S. and Caribbean engage in friendly competition throughout the day, while grooving to Leon Foster Thomas in the evening. Experience a taste of the islands through sea breeze, cuisine, and the sounds of sweet, sweet pan!

**FRIDAY, MAY 9**  
6 PM *2 Islands*  
8 PM *Leon Foster Thomas*

**SATURDAY, MAY 10**  
10 AM PANFEST ADJUDICATION &  
COMPETITION  
7 PM *LittKeys*  
8 PM AWARDS CEREMONY  
8:30 PM *Leon Foster Thomas*

**24<sup>TH</sup> STREET PARK, VIRGINIA BEACH OCEANFRONT**  
FREE, NO TICKETS REQUIRED

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## RHYTHM PROJECT SHOWCASE

Prepare to be blown away by these elementary to high school-age musicians! Virginia Arts Festival's Rhythm Project is a world percussion ensemble that serves young people throughout Hampton Roads, teaching them discipline, responsibility, and creativity as they learn to perform together on steel pans. Over the program's 28-year existence, Rhythm Project performers have opened for Gladys Knight, shared the stage with international steel pan stars, and performed at the Kennedy Center as well as the Royal Nova Scotia and Virginia International Tattoos. Bring the family and enjoy music that makes you want to move.

**SATURDAY, MAY 4, 7:30 PM**  
PERRY PAVILION, NORFOLK  
TICKETS \$15, STUDENTS UNDER 25, \$10

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## MILLER JAZZ SERIES

Great jazz lights up spring nights at the Sandler Center's intimate Miller Studio Theatre! Curated by local fan favorite bassist Jimmy Masters, the series presents some of the best artists from New York and beyond. Cabaret seating lends a club atmosphere as you savor the music.

**MILLER STUDIO THEATRE, SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, VIRGINIA BEACH**  
TICKETS START AT \$30 NO DISCOUNTS  
(PLUS \$2.00 FACILITY FEE PER TICKET)



### LENA SEIKALY, vocalist

"One of Washington's preeminent jazz singers" (*The Washington Post*), Lena Seikaly is a classically trained mezzo-soprano who can swing — and scat — with the best of them.

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 7:30 PM



### SACHAL VASANDANI, vocalist

"A bright young singer with charisma to spare" (*The New York Times*), this favorite of the New York jazz scene is as comfortable crooning as he is with vocalese, and counts among his fans Wynton Marsalis, who hails his "emotion and intellect."

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 7:30 PM

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The Festival offers education outreach to all schools at a deeply discounted rate. For some schools, \$10 per student matinee ticket is a hardship. Your corporate or individual gift (even a gift of \$10!) makes full or partial financial aid available so that these inspiring experiences are available to any student at any school, no matter what.

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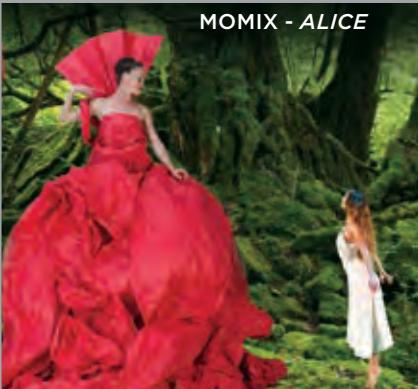
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**PUNCH  
BROTHERS**



**BÉLA FLECK, EDMAR CASTAÑEDA  
AND ANTONIO SÁNCHEZ TRIO**



**MOMIX - ALICE**



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