

VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL

MARCH - JUNE
2023

Robert W. Cross
Perry Artistic Director



ALVIN AILEY®
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VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL
TATTOO



OLGA KERN



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Dear Festival Friend,

Our 2023 Festival calendar is bursting with extraordinary performances! From the spectacular opening weekend April 14-16, featuring the acclaimed **Philadelphia Ballet** in the most beloved ballet of all time, to our eagerly anticipated **Williamsburg Live** weekend of music under the stars, June 16-18, you'll find exciting performances by artists renowned around the world.

Swan Lake kicks off a rich season of dance; then continues with the electrifying **Alvin Ailey® American Dance Theater**; **Mark Morris Dance Group** in a lively new work celebrating the music of Burt Bacharach (co-commissioned by the Festival); and the brilliant **Ballet Hispánico**, guaranteed to set your pulse racing.

For classical music lovers, the stars come out, including the legendary **Emerson String Quartet**, the acclaimed violinist **Tianwa Yang**, and the astonishing young violinist **Randall Goosby**. We're especially delighted to present a new concerto by the Grammy® Award-winning mandolin wizard **Chris Thile** (co-commissioned by the Festival and Virginia Symphony Orchestra). For chamber music fans, our Connie & Marc Jacobson Director of Chamber Music **Olga Kern** has curated a series of not-to-be-missed concerts including a bravura performance celebrating Rachmaninoff's 150th birthday.

In the **Perry Pavilion**, our newest addition to Norfolk's arts district, we'll present all kinds of musicians including banjo master **Béla Fleck**, singer-songwriters **Leyla McCalla** and **Josh Ritter**, and many more. And in venues around the region, we'll welcome stars including Motown legend **Smokey Robinson** and the great **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis**, in a special performance showcasing talented young musicians from Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

For musical theater lovers, our Goode Family Artistic Advisor for Musical Theater and American Songbook **Rob Fisher** will lead a sizzling concert version of the Tony®/Oscar®/ Grammy®-winning musical **Chicago**.

We'll present a moving Salute to Military Families in our spectacular **Virginia International Tattoo**. And at our annual summer music weekend, **Williamsburg Live**, we'll present Americana icons

The Wood Brothers, with special guest **Shovels & Rope**; five-time Grammy® winner **Keb' Mo'**; and opener **Yacht Rock Revue** with pop hitmaker **Kenny Loggins**.

I hope you will join us!



Robert W. Cross
Perry Artistic Director



©David Polsten

DIRECTORY

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**Tickets at VAFEST.ORG,
by phone at 757-282-2822,
(Toll Free 877-741-2787)
or at the Festival Box Office,
440 Bank Street, Norfolk
(Monday-Friday, 10 AM - 5 PM)**

Additional fees apply.

Groups Save! Call 757-282-2819.

PHILADELPHIA BALLET SWAN LAKE

with Virginia Symphony Orchestra

Sponsored by
 TOWNE BANK

This sleek company, as versatile as it is beautiful, has been transformed by its Artistic Director, Angel Corella — the legendary former American Ballet Theatre principal called “nothing short of perfect” by *The New York Times*. When Corella set out to stage the classic *Swan Lake* for Philadelphia Ballet, he brought decades of experience, and the result is a revelation, an experience that fully forms the characters of the prince, the spellbound “swans,” and the romance at the heart of the story. Add to that, vivid storytelling, “gorgeous costumes” and sets (*Phindie.com*) and a company of dancers drawn from the best in the ballet world, and you have an unforgettable experience, “dazzling ... and lovely to behold” (*Bachtrack.com*).

**CONNIE AND MARC JACOBSON
OPENING WEEKEND**

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 7:30 PM


SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 7:30 PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2:30 PM

CHRYSLER HALL, NORFOLK

TICKETS \$25, \$45, \$60, \$75, \$90

4/15 Sponsor:  VIRGINIA
MEDIA

4/16 Sponsor:  whro
PUBLIC MEDIA

Media Sponsors: Audacy, VEER Magazine and WAVY-TV



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©Alexander Iziliaev

DANCE SERIES


ALVIN AILEY® AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Robert Battle, Artistic Director
Matthew Rushing, Associate Artistic Director

Beloved by generations of audiences and revered by critics around the world, this legendary dance company lifts audiences to their feet with performances of classics by their founder, the Presidential Medal of Freedom-awarded Kennedy Center Honoree Alvin Ailey, and some of the most exciting contemporary choreographers of the 20th and 21st centuries. "The dancing is wonderful — assured, skillful, incredibly fast. The evening concludes, as does every performance, with Ailey's *Revelations*, from 1960, set to spirituals and gospel, a triumphant hymn to the human spirit, moving from a sense of sorrow to joy-filled life" (*The Guardian*, UK). Best advice? "Go see Ailey. It's change-your-life good" (*NBC*).

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 7:30 PM
FERGUSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS, NEWPORT NEWS

TICKETS \$25, \$39, \$49, \$59, \$69 (PLUS \$2.50 FACILITY FEE PER TICKET)

Co-presented with  **FERGUSON**
Center for the Arts

This program funded by the City of Newport News and the Newport News Arts Commission.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 7:30 PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 3 PM
CHRYSLER HALL, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$25, \$45, \$59, \$69, \$100

4/29 Sponsored by  **WILLIAMS MULLEN**
findingyes

4/30 Sponsored by  **NEW FRONT**
CORPORATION

Media Sponsor: Audacy

This program supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Friedrich Ludwig Diehn Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS
arts.gov

PROGRAM:

4/25: *For Four* • DUET • *Are You in Your Feelings?* • *Revelations*
4/28: *In a Sentimental Mood* • *Are You in Your Feelings?* • *Revelations*
4/29: *For Four* • DUET • *Survivors* • *Revelations*
4/30: *For Four* • DUET • *Survivors* • *Revelations*



Revelations. Photo by Paul Kolnik.

Jacquelin Harris. Photo by Dario Calmese.



©Paula Lobo



©Molly Bartels

BALLET HISPÁNICO

A Cinco de Mayo celebration not to be missed! This international — and internationally acclaimed — company mines the music, myths, and traditions of Spanish-speaking countries from around the world in dance that draws on the techniques of ballet, contemporary and Latin dance. “Illuminating and thrilling,” (*The Berkshire Eagle*), they “can wake up the neighborhood with a sudden, brassy shout or it can croon softly in your ear, whispering words of love” (*The Star-Ledger*).

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 7:30 PM
SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS,
VIRGINIA BEACH

TICKETS \$25, \$40, \$55 (PLUS \$2.00 FACILITY FEE PER TICKET)

Sponsored by  **CLARK NEXSEN** Media Sponsor: Audacy

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

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

THE LOOK OF LOVE

Music by Burt Bacharach

Praised as “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical” (*The New York Times*), Mark Morris has melded music from Bach to The Beatles with dance that charms and thrills audiences. In his newest work, co-commissioned by Virginia Arts Festival, Morris takes on the hits of pop icons Burt Bacharach and Hal David, partnering with pianist and composer Ethan Iverson and famed designer and author Isaac Mizrahi, who created the costumes. Be there as favorites like *Alfie*, *I Say A Little Prayer*, *I’ll Never Fall in Love Again*, and more leap to life in dance!

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 7:30 PM
SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS,
VIRGINIA BEACH
TICKETS \$25, \$37, \$49 (PLUS \$2.00 FACILITY FEE PER TICKET)

Sponsored by



Media Sponsors: VEER Magazine and WHRO Public Media

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

Co-commissioned by:
 Virginia Arts Festival/Virginia Symphony Orchestra – Lead Commissioners; The Knights; Carnegie Hall; Los Angeles Philharmonic; Boston Symphony Orchestra; National Symphony Orchestra at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Louisville Orchestra

CHRIS THILE, mandolin

Eric Jacobsen, conductor

Virginia Symphony Orchestra

MacArthur Fellow and Grammy® Award-winning mandolinist, singer, songwriter Chris Thile, who *The Guardian* calls “that rare being: an all-round musician who can settle into any style, from bluegrass to classical,” and *NPR* calls a “genre-defying musical genius,” is a founding member of the critically acclaimed bands Punch Brothers and Nickel Creek. For four years, Thile hosted public radio favorite *Live from Here with Chris Thile* (formerly known as *A Prairie Home Companion*). With his broad outlook, Thile creates a distinctly American canon and a new musical aesthetic for performers and audiences alike, giving the listener “one joyous arc, with the linear melody and vertical harmony blurring into a single web of gossamer beauty” (*New York Times*).

As described by the composer, Chris Thile, “this new piece (which I promise will have a real corker of a title by the time you hear it!) is a big ol’ narrative song cycle/mandolin concerto that tells, plays, and sings the true story of the time I attempted to impress a Starbucks executive and accidentally met Carrie Fisher as a result. It’s a DOOZY, and I’m thrilled beyond expression to perform it in collaboration with your intrepid Virginia Symphony Orchestra and Virginia Arts Festival”.

PROGRAM:

- BARBER School for Scandal
- THILE Escape from the Tuileries
- THILE Julep
- DVORAK Carnival Overture
- THILE World Premiere: Narrative Song Cycle/Mandolin Concert

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 7:30 PM

FERGUSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS, NEWPORT NEWS

TICKETS \$25, \$37, \$56, \$79, \$114 (PLUS \$2.50 FACILITY FEE PER TICKET)

This program funded by the City of Newport News and the Newport News Arts Commission.

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 7:30 PM

CHRYSLER HALL, NORFOLK

TICKETS \$25, \$37, \$56, \$79, \$114

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2:30 PM

SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, VIRGINIA BEACH

TICKETS \$25, \$37, \$56, \$79, \$114 (PLUS \$2.00 FACILITY FEE PER TICKET)

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

This production made possible through a generous gift from the Susan Goode Performance Fund.



Co-presented with



Co-commissioned by:

- Virginia Arts Festival/Virginia Symphony Orchestra - Lead Commissioners
- The Knights
- Carnegie Hall
- Los Angeles Philharmonic
- Boston Symphony Orchestra
- National Symphony Orchestra at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
- Louisville Orchestra

Media Sponsors: Audacy, VEER Magazine, and WHRO Public Media

5/20 Sponsored by



5/21 Sponsored by





JULIA BULLOCK, soprano
FIVE FREEDOM SONGS by Jessie Montgomery
 Eric Jacobsen, Conductor; Virginia Symphony Orchestra

Composer and instrumentalist Jessie Montgomery is drawing much-deserved attention from top orchestras and presenters for her “wildly colorful” music “exploding with life” (*The Washington Post*). Virginia Arts Festival audiences will remember the evocative, moving score she created for Dance Theatre of Harlem’s *Passage*, commissioned by the Festival; now the Festival is one of the co-commissioners of Montgomery’s latest work, *Five Freedom Songs*.

Conceived in collaboration with famed operatic soprano Julia Bullock, who performs it here with Montgomery, the new song cycle honors African American heritage and the tradition of the Negro spiritual, revealing historic songs’ deepest meaning and emotion in new music that takes on new importance today. “Brilliant ... a tour de force” (*Bachtrack.com*).

PROGRAM:

- MONTGOMERY Five Freedom Songs
- DVORAK/STEWART String Quartet No. 12 in F Major, Op. 96 “American”
- WALKER Lyric for String Quartet

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 7:30 PM
ATTUCKS THEATRE, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$25, \$35, STUDENTS UNDER 25, \$10
 Join us for Post-concert conversations

Co-commissioned by:
 Virginia Arts Festival/Virginia Symphony Orchestra – Lead Commissioners; The Knights; Carnegie Hall; Los Angeles Philharmonic; Boston Symphony Orchestra; National Symphony Orchestra at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Louisville Orchestra

DAVID RUSSELL, guitar

Savor “an unforgettably beautiful performance ... a picturesque range of tonal colors” (*Classical Guitar Magazine*) from this Grammy® Award-winning guitarist, hailed by critics and audiences as one of the masters of the instrument.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 7:30 PM
ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY AND JAY BARR
EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$35

Co-presented with



COLIN MacKNIGHT, organ

Discover one of the most extraordinary of the new generation of organists! Named one of the top “20 under 30” eminent young organists by *The Diapason* magazine, this gifted young player has performed at such famed venues as New York’s St. Patrick’s Cathedral and The National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Now hear him play the magnificent pipe organ at Norfolk’s Christ and St. Luke’s Episcopal Church — a beautiful setting for an unforgettable concert.

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 4 PM
CHRIST & ST. LUKE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$25

Co-presented with





OLGA KERN



DALÍ QUARTET



TIANWA YANG



STERLING ELLIOTT



DARRIN MILLING



DEBRA WENDELLS CROSS



SHERIE LAKE AGUIRRE



DAVID GARCIA



MICHAEL BYERLY

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.



LAURA LEISRING



DAVID SAVIGE



JACOB WILDER



HELEN WARGELIN



BARBARA CHAPMAN

COFFEE I: DALÍ QUARTET with OLGA KERN, piano

PROGRAM:

RACHMANINOFF String Quartet No.2
TANEYEV Piano Quintet in G minor, Op. 30

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 10:30 AM
ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY AND JAY BARR EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$25

Media Sponsor: WHRO Public Media

COFFEE II: DALÍ QUARTET

PROGRAM:

SCHUBERT String Quartet No. 10 in E-flat Major, Op. 125, No. 1, D.87
TCHAIKOVSKY String Quartet No. 1, D Major, Op. 11

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 10:30 AM
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PORTSMOUTH
TICKETS \$25

Media Sponsor: WHRO Public Media

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

COFFEE III: TIANWA YANG, violin; STERLING ELLIOTT, cello; DEBRA WENDELLS CROSS, flute; OLGA KERN, piano

PROGRAM:

RACHMANINOFF Two Morceaux de salon, Op. 6
RACHMANINOFF/HEIFETZ Daisies
RACHMANINOFF Vocalise
RACHMANINOFF Trio elegiaque No. 2 in D Minor, Op. 9
*Other works by Kreisler, Gershwin, Heifetz and Grieg to be included.

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 10:30 AM
OHEF SHOLOM TEMPLE, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$25

Media Sponsor: WHRO Public Media

COFFEE IV: TIANWA YANG, violin; STERLING ELLIOTT, cello; DEBRA WENDELLS CROSS, flute; OLGA KERN, piano

PROGRAM:

RACHMANINOFF Two Morceaux de salon, Op. 6
RACHMANINOFF/HEIFETZ Daisies
RACHMANINOFF/KREISLER Concerto No. 2 Second Movement
RACHMANINOFF Trio elegiaque No. 2 in D Minor, Op. 9
*Other works by Kreisler, Gershwin, Heifetz and Grieg to be included.

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 10:30 AM
WILLIAMSBURG LIBRARY, 515 SCOTLAND STREET, WILLIAMSBURG
TICKETS \$25

Co-presented with  Williamsburg Regional Library

This program funded in part by the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission

COFFEE V: DEBRA WENDELLS CROSS, flute; SHERIE LAKE AGUIRRE & DAVID GARCIA, oboes; MICHAEL BYERLY, clarinet; LAURA LEISRING & DAVID SAVIGE, bassoons; JACOB WILDER & HELEN WARGELIN, horns; BARBARA CHAPMAN, harp

PROGRAM:

C.P.E. Bach Hamburg Sonata in G major
Mozart Divertimento in B-flat major, No. 14, K.270
Reinecke Wind Sextet, Op. 271

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 10:30 AM
HENNAE AUDITORIUM, ART MUSEUMS OF COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG
TICKETS \$25

This program funded in part by the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission.

CELEBRATING RACHMANINOFF'S 150TH

Connie and Marc Jacobson Director of Chamber Music Olga Kern has curated an exciting chamber music season honoring the prolific composer and pianist Sergei Rachmaninoff as part of the worldwide celebration of his 150th birthday. Born into a family of musicians, Kern has direct ties to Rachmaninoff; he had accompanied her great-grandmother, an acclaimed mezzo-soprano, on performances of his romances and songs. Throughout this season, our chamber music concerts will feature Rachmaninoff's music, including fascinating transcriptions and unique instrumentation. Rediscover the genius of one of the 20th century's most beloved composers!

OLGA KERN, piano

Time and again, critics have swooned over her showmanship, the deep emotion she brings to the music, and her flawless technique — and just when you think it can't get any better, she whips out encores that draw repeated standing ovations. If you haven't yet experienced the astonishing artistry of Olga Kern, here's your chance — and if you have, chances are you're already clearing your calendar to make sure you experience it anew.

PROGRAM:

RACHMANINOFF Variations on a Theme by Corelli, Op. 42
RACHMANINOFF Piano Sonata No. 2, Op. 36
RACHMANINOFF Polka de W.R.
Various Preludes, Etude-tableaux, and Transcriptions by Rachmaninoff in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of his birth.

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2:30 PM
SANDLER CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS, VIRGINIA BEACH
TICKETS \$25, \$39, \$59

(PLUS \$2.00 FACILITY FEE PER TICKET)

Media Sponsor: Audacy

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



DALÍ QUARTET



EMERSON STRING QUARTET

© Jürgen Frank

TIANWA YANG

DARRIN MILLING

DALÍ QUARTET; OLGA KERN, piano

When this internationally renowned quartet performed with pianist Olga Kern at the 2019 Virginia Arts Festival, the *Virginia Gazette* praised their “stellar, captivating performance ... They offered a big sound and big rewards in coordinated, extremely artistic, and panoramic sounds that brought the crowd to its feet in spontaneous applause.” In 2022 they recorded an album of Brahms and Shostakovich together that drew raves for its “truly joyous ... sparkling performances” (*The Whole Note*).

PROGRAM:

RACHMANINOFF String Quartet No. 2
TCHAIKOVSKY String Quartet No. 1, D Major, Op. 11
TANEYEV Piano Quintet in G Minor, Op. 30

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 7:30 PM
NORFOLK ACADEMY, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$35, STUDENTS UNDER 25, \$10

Co-presented with **NORFOLK ACADEMY**
— 1728 —

Sponsored by Richard S. Glasser Family Foundation

EMERSON STRING QUARTET

For more than 4 decades, this legendary quartet has reigned as one of the world’s premier chamber music ensembles, inspiring awe and ovations. With more than 30 critically acclaimed recordings, and nine Grammy® Awards including two for Best Classical Album, they have earned their place in classical music royalty. Their performances are spellbinding, marked with “easy virtuosity, precise sense of ensemble, rhythmic vigor and rich polished tone” (*The Washington Post*). Hear one of the greatest classical music ensembles of all time!

PROGRAM:

BEETHOVEN String Quartet No. 8 in E Minor, Op. 59 No. 2
BEETHOVEN String Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 130 with Grosse Fuge, Op. 133

MONDAY, MAY 15, 7:30 PM
ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY AND JAY BARR EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$35

Co-presented with



TIANWA YANG, violin; **STERLING ELLIOTT**, cello;
DEBRA WENDELLS CROSS, flute;
DARRIN MILLING, trombone; **OLGA KERN**, piano

Five superb artists at the top of their form in one extraordinary evening! Van Cliburn Gold Medalist Olga Kern’s “electricity at the keyboard is palpable” (*The Washington Post*), and violinist Tianwa Yang is a “spellbinding” performer who has “brilliant, flawless technique” (*Virginia Gazette*). Hear these internationally acclaimed artists in performance together.

PROGRAM:

RACHMANINOFF Two Morceaux de salon, Op. 6
RACHMANINOFF/MILLING Vocalise
RACHMANINOFF 12 Romances, Op. 14, No. 8 & Op. 21, No. 1
RACHMANINOFF/HEIFETZ Daisies
RACHMANINOFF/RACHMANINOFF Lilacs
RACHMANINOFF Trio elegiaque No. 2 in D Minor, Op. 9
Other works by Gershwin and Grieg to be included.

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 7:30 PM
ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY AND JAY BARR EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$35



©Sasha Pedro



©Anne Hornemann

ALISA AMADOR

NPR 2022 *Tiny Desk* Concert contest winner Alisa Amador brings heartfelt, hypnotic songs that have traveled far, from her heart and soul through Latin America to whatever stage she occupies. With a sound that has been described as “a pitch-perfect rendition of my wildest dreams” (*NPR*), her soulful singing, poetically incisive lyrics, and syncopated rhythms are likely to make you cry, laugh and dance all within one set.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 7:30 PM
ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY AND JAY BARR
EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$35

CALMUS

What *can't* this internationally renowned ensemble sing? In programs that leap from the Renaissance to the Romantic periods, with side journeys into pop, folk, and jazz, “they infuse their singing with wonderful lyricism and exquisite expressiveness ... they, quite simply, bring whatever they sing to glorious life” (*Deseret Morning News*).

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 7:30 PM
CHRIST & ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
NORFOLK
TICKETS \$35

Media Sponsor: WHRO Public Media

CHICAGO THE MUSICAL IN CONCERT

Virginia Symphony Orchestra

Kander and Ebb's Timeless Musical

Rob Fisher

Music Director & Conductor

A Universal Tale of Fame, Fortune and All That Jazz

The longest-running American musical in the history of Broadway — and still drawing cheering crowds in New York — John Kander and Fred Ebb's *Chicago* won six Tony® Awards, a Grammy® for best Musical Show Album, and six Oscars® including Best Picture for the film version. And for all those years, since 1996, Rob Fisher has served as the music director for the show and its worldwide productions. Who better, then, than Fisher — Virginia Arts Festival's Goode Family Artistic Advisor for Musical Theater and American Songbook — to create this stunning performance with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and a cast of soloists drawn from the best of Broadway and beyond? Come on, babe, get your tickets for the show that rolls out thrill after thrill, with all those unforgettable anthems including *All That Jazz*, *Razzle Dazzle*, *When You're Good to Mama*, *Cell Block Tango* and more!

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 7:30 PM
CHRYSLER HALL, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$39, \$55, \$75, \$110

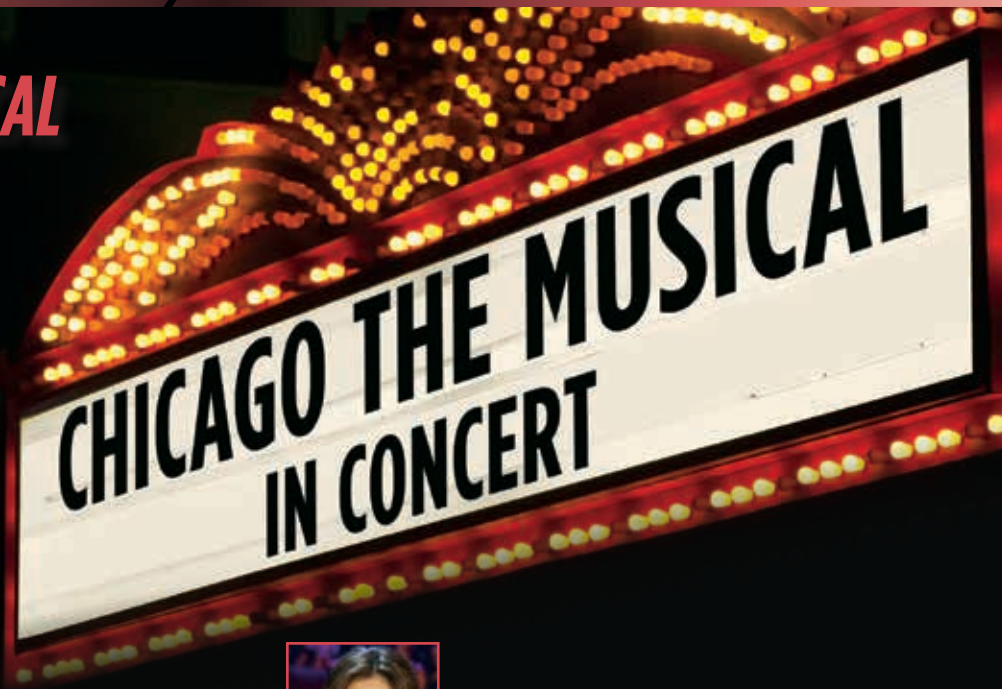
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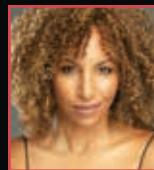
ROB FISHER — CONDUCTOR

Virginia Arts Festival's Goode Family Artistic Advisor for Musical Theater and American Songbook



BIANCA MARROQUIN

Broadway: *Chicago* (Roxie), *The Pajama Game* (Carmen), *In the Heights* (Daniela)



LANA GORDON

Broadway: *Hadestown* (Persephone), *Chicago* (Velma), *The Lion King* (Nala/Shenzie), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Soul Girl)



LEWIS CLEALE

Broadway: *The Book of Mormon*, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *Spamalot*, *Amour*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Swinging on a Star*



TARI KELLY

Broadway: *Mr. Saturday Night*, *Groundhog Day*, *Something Rotten!*, *Anything Goes*, *The Boy from Oz*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Show Boat*



MATTHEW DEMING

Broadway: *Chicago*, *The Visit* Opera: *Bel Canto*, at the Lyric Opera in Chicago



ALL THINGS EQUAL — THE LIFE & TRIALS OF RUTH BADER GINSBURG

A play by Rupert Holmes

Tony® Award-winning playwright Rupert Holmes brings the strength, tenacity, sly wit and compassion of the late Supreme Court Justice to life in this 90-minute love letter to “the notorious RBG” — from losing her mother the day before she graduated as valedictorian of her Brooklyn high school to being one of the few women at Harvard Law to fight for women’s rights before all-male courts to her tenure as a voice of reason and equality amid a splintering Supreme Court. As playwright Holmes puts it: get to know this woman who became one of this nation’s precious institutions: “Ruth ... Justice ... and the American way.”

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 7:30 PM
ATTUCKS THEATRE, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$20, \$35

Media Sponsor: VEER Magazine

A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO LUTHER VANDROSS

NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY THEATRE COMPANY

Anthony Stockard, producing artistic director

Everyone has a favorite Luther song ... what’s yours? Few artists captured audience hearts like Luther Vandross. This heartfelt “Vegas Style” love letter to Luther features the music you love and the voice of William “Smooth” Wardlaw, whom Tom Joyner calls, “the reincarnation of one of the greatest R&B crooners of all times!”

This Juneteenth event at the historic Attucks Theatre kicks off the 10th Anniversary Season of the critically acclaimed Norfolk State University Theatre Company and its award-winning director, Professor Anthony Mark Stockard.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 7:30 PM
ATTUCKS THEATRE, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$45

J. SCOTT JACKSON,
Producer and Director



©Heiko DeWees



THE 2023 VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

The heartbeat of the 2023 Virginia International Tattoo will be its incredible international cast of more than 700 performers, with bands from the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps joined by civilian and military performers from 8 nations. You will see returning favorites such as the Singapore Armed Forces Central Band and Cultural Dance Team, U.S. Marine Corps Band Quantico, and Massed Pipes and Drums from three nations. The Tattoo will also include first-time performers which are sure to become new favorites including the Central Band of the Latvian Armed Forces and The Crazy Drummers from Ukraine.

The soul of the 2023 Virginia International Tattoo will be an emotional and grateful “Tribute to Military Families”.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 7:30 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 7:30 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 7:30 PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2:30 PM

SCOPE ARENA, NORFOLK

TICKETS \$20, \$35, \$45, \$55, \$75, \$100

STUDENTS UNDER 25, 50% OFF (\$20, \$35, AND \$45 TICKETS ONLY)

NO DISCOUNTS ON \$55, \$75, OR \$100 TICKETS

TATTOO HULLABALOO

Sponsored by



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NATO FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

Enjoy a cultural sampling of music and a colorful display as military representatives from all NATO Member Nations present their international flag. Includes live music performed by the United States Fleet Forces Band.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 5 PM - 6 PM
SCOPE PLAZA, NORFOLK
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70TH ANNUAL PARADE OF NATIONS

Over 75 parade units! You'll see colorful floats representing each of the NATO Member Nations as well as U.S. and international military bands, local and visiting high school bands, drill teams, and more!

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 10 AM - 11:30 AM
DOWNTOWN NORFOLK
FREE AND OPEN TO PUBLIC

RESERVED SEATING AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT VAFEST.ORG

INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE

Experience the sights, sounds, and tastes of the NATO Member Nations and travel the village with your very own NATO Passport! Enjoy performances and free fun for all ages, plus international cuisine, beers, and wine for purchase.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 11:30 AM - 3 PM
TOWN POINT PARK, NORFOLK
FREE AND OPEN TO PUBLIC



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An Evening with
**BÉLA FLECK,
 ZAKIR HUSSAIN,
 EDGAR MEYER**
with Rakesh Chaurasia

Count them: there are 21 Grammy® Awards between banjo master Béla Fleck, virtuoso bassist Edgar Meyer and tabla (Indian hand drum) legend Zakir Hussain. These powerhouse musicians, already veteran fellow travelers on their self-created road to no-boundaries-just-great-music nirvana, join with the extraordinary Indian flutist Rakesh Chaurasia for an exhilarating musical thrill ride, mixing styles from Western classical to bluegrass to centuries-old traditional Indian music to jazz and beyond. “A total immersion in talent ... it was heaven. The audience literally begged — and cheered and shouted — for more” (*The Herald-Times*).

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 7:30 PM
PERRY PAVILION, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$25, \$45, \$59

Media Sponsors: VEER Magazine and WHRO Public Media



©Craig Hunter Ross

SMOKEY ROBINSON

This legendary singer-songwriter has penned the anthems of generations, from his early hits with The Miracles like *Shop Around* and *The Tracks of My Tears* to his solo sensations *Cruisin*, *Quiet Storm*, *Being With You* and more. The recipient of countless awards including the Grammy® Lifetime Achievement Award, Kennedy Center Honors and the National Medal of the Arts, he has been inducted into both the Rock ‘n’ Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters’ Hall of Fame. And on stage, he’s still “remarkable, phenomenal, incredible, amazing ... pick any of these adjectives and it still wouldn’t do justice to the performance of Smokey Robinson” (*Regina Leader Post*).

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 7 PM
CHRYSLER HALL, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$49.50, \$69.50, \$89.50, \$105.50, \$120.50
(NO DISCOUNTS)

Co-presented with



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MAMES BABEGENUSH

Scandinavian roots merge with the vibrant dance music of Eastern Europe in a musical mashup that proves utterly irresistible to audiences. With top players who can weave classical artistry with a jazz pulse and a driving klezmer beat, this Danish ensemble has won fans around the world. "It's impossible to listen to their exciting energy without feeling the urge to dance, move some part of one's body, or simply feel better about the world in general. The band is crisp, with top players, intriguing originals, tight arrangements, and delightful wit" (*AllAboutJazz.com*).

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 7:30 PM
PERRY PAVILION, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$25, \$35 (CABARET SEATING)

Co-presented with  

Media Sponsor: *VEER Magazine*

JOSH RITTER

Named one of the 100 Best Living Songwriters by *Paste Magazine*, Josh Ritter is a chameleon, drawing from the deep reservoir filled by predecessors like Leonard Cohen, Paul McCartney, Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan to develop a creative spring distinctly his own. Don't miss him with a full band on a spring evening.

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 7:30 PM
PERRY PAVILION, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$35, \$45, \$55

Co-presented with



Media Sponsor: *VEER Magazine*



LEYLA McCALLA

This gifted banjo player, cellist, and singer-songwriter weaves intricate stories in music that sighs and shouts. She won fame as a member of the Carolina Chocolate Drops and her collaborations with singer/songwriter/musical historian and activist Rhiannon Giddens and Our Native Daughters (joined with Giddens, Amythyst Kiah and Allison Russell). Her latest album *Break the Thermometer* is a vivid recounting of Haitian history — “magnificently transparent music [that] holds tidings of family, memory, solitude” (*The New York Times*). A concert that transports the listener ... get your tickets now.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 7:30 PM
PERRY PAVILION, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$25, \$35 (CABARET SEATING)

Co-presented with



Media Sponsor: VEER Magazine



SIERRA HULL

“Pure, angelic vocals mixed with superior musicianship and solid songwriting ... a riveting listen” (*Glide Magazine*). While still a child, Sierra Hull hit more milestones than many musicians accomplish in a lifetime: she started playing mandolin at 8, made her Grand Ole Opry debut at 10, played Carnegie Hall at 12, and got a record deal at 13. With a shelf full of awards, she has become a genre-bending artist with fans who will follow her wherever her genius takes her. Catch “one of the most imaginative and openly curious musicians in American roots music” (*Free Times*)!

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 7:30 PM
PERRY PAVILION, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$25, \$35 (CABARET SEATING)

Co-presented with



Media Sponsor: VEER Magazine



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OVER THE RHINE

Karin Bergquist's supple, soulful singing entices you into the songs of *Over the Rhine*, but then the lyrics she and husband Linford Detweiler pen slide into your head on songs like *I Want You to be My Lover* and *All I Need Is Everything*. In a few minutes, you're transported. "Over the Rhine creates true confessional masterpieces that know neither border nor boundary," (*Paste Magazine*).

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 7:30 PM
PERRY PAVILION, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$25, \$35

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BRIA SKONBERG

"I play jazz because it's the closest I can get to flying." So says this gifted young trumpeter and singer-songwriter who has taken the music world by storm. "A mature, versatile musician who sings and plays with confidence in any style she wants" (*AllAboutJazz.com*), Skonberg has won a passionate following among critics and audiences alike. Discover "the shining hope of hot jazz, on the strength of a clarion trumpet style indebted to Louis Armstrong, a smooth purr of a singing voice inspired by Anita O'Day, and the wholesome glow of youth" (*The New York Times*).

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 7:30 PM
PERRY PAVILION, NORFOLK
TICKETS \$25, \$35 (CABARET SEATING)

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 JUNE 17



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THE WOOD BROTHERS
 JUNE 16



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KED' MO'
 JUNE 18



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*Gold VIP - includes reserved Tent Seating (front), early entry, VIP restroom access, VIP Hospitality Tent Access (with food and beverages available for purchase), and WL souvenir.

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Supported by the Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance and funded in part by the City of Williamsburg and the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission.



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 Hells Gate Steel Orchestra in the evening. Experience a taste of the islands through sea breeze, cuisine, and the sounds of sweet sweet pan!

FRIDAY, MAY 12

6 PM *Jesse Chong Band*
8 PM *Hells Gate Steel Orchestra*

SATURDAY, MAY 13

10 AM PANFEST ADJUDICATION & COMPETITION
7 PM *Jonathan Scales Fourchestra*
8 PM AWARDS CEREMONY
8:30 PM *Hells Gate Steel Orchestra*

24TH STREET PARK, VIRGINIA BEACH OCEANFRONT
FREE, NO TICKETS REQUIRED

Co-presented with



HELLS GATE
STEEL ORCHESTRA



©Heiko DeWees



AT THE ILLUSIONIST'S TABLE

with Scott Silven

This festival favorite returns! Acclaimed illusionist Scott Silven hosts intimate dinners interwoven with illusion, mentalism and storytelling. Candles flicker, drinks flow, conversation stirs ... and before your eyes, mysteries materialize and dreams are revealed. Tickets are extremely limited!

TWO WEEKS!

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MAY 9-14
HILTON, THE MAIN, NORFOLK

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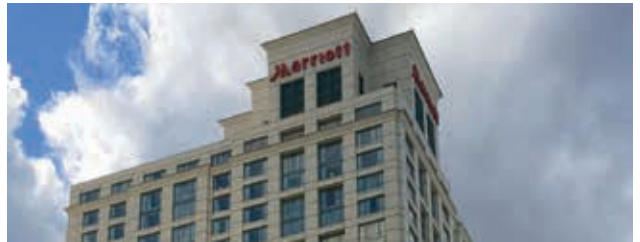
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VIRGINIA BEACH



Coastal Hotel & Suites Virginia Beach Oceanfront

Located at the mid-way point on the Virginia Beach Boardwalk in the resort area, our guests enjoy either one queen bed in the bedroom area and one queen bed overlooking the ocean or one queen bed in the bedroom area and one queen sleep sofa overlooking the ocean. Our amenities include a refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker, complimentary hot breakfast buffet, complimentary high-speed internet, and complimentary on-site parking.

2015 ATLANTIC AVENUE, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23451
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MARCH

THU. 16	7:30 PM	AQUILA THEATRE <i>PRIDE AND PREJUDICE</i> NORFOLK	P. 9
FRI. 17	7:30 PM	<i>RHYTHM LIVE!</i> NORFOLK	P. 9
SAT. 18	2:30 PM	RANDALL GOOSBY, violin ANNA HAN, piano NORFOLK	P. 9
SUN. 19	4 PM	KODO <i>ONE EARTH TOUR 2023: TSUZUMI</i> NORFOLK	P. 20

APRIL

FRI. 14	7:30 PM	PHILADELPHIA BALLET <i>SWAN LAKE</i> with Virginia Symphony Orchestra NORFOLK	P. 9
SAT. 15	7:30 PM	PHILADELPHIA BALLET <i>SWAN LAKE</i> with Virginia Symphony Orchestra NORFOLK	P. 9
SUN. 16	2:30 PM	PHILADELPHIA BALLET <i>SWAN LAKE</i> with Virginia Symphony Orchestra NORFOLK	P. 9
THU. 20	5 PM	NORFOLK NATO FESTIVAL FLAG RAISING NORFOLK	P. 40
	7:30 PM	VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO NORFOLK	P. 26-27
FRI. 21	7:30 PM	VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO NORFOLK	P. 26-27
SAT. 22	10 AM	NORFOLK NATO FESTIVAL PARADE OF NATIONS NORFOLK	P. 40
	11:30 AM	NORFOLK NATO FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE NORFOLK	P. 40
	7:30 PM	VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO NORFOLK	P. 26-27
SUN. 23	2:30 PM	VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO NORFOLK	P. 26-27
MON. 24	7:30 PM	CALMUS NORFOLK	P. 30

APRIL

TUE. 25	7:30 PM	ALVIN AILEY® AMERICAN BALLET THEATER NEWPORT NEWS	P. 22
WED. 26	7:30 PM	DAVID RUSSELL, guitar NORFOLK	P. 9
THU. 27	7:30 PM	MAMES BABEGENUSH NORFOLK	P. 22
FRI. 28	7:30 PM	ALVIN AILEY® AMERICAN BALLET THEATER NORFOLK	P. 22
SAT. 29	7:30 PM	ALVIN AILEY® AMERICAN BALLET THEATER NORFOLK	P. 22
SUN. 30	3 PM	ALVIN AILEY® AMERICAN BALLET THEATER NORFOLK	P. 22

MAY

TUE. 2	7:30 PM	<i>ALL THINGS EQUAL — THE LIFE & TRIALS OF RUTH BADER GINSBERG</i> NORFOLK	P. 36
WED. 3	7:30 PM	An Evening with BELA FLECK, ZAKIR HUSSAIN, EDGAR MEYER, with RAKESH CHAURASIA NORFOLK	P. 21
FRI. 5	7:30 PM	BALLET HISPÁNICO VIRGINIA BEACH	P. 41
SAT. 6	7:30 PM	<i>CHICAGO THE MUSICAL — IN CONCERT</i> with Virginia Symphony Orchestra NORFOLK	P. 21
SUN. 7	2:30 PM	OLGA KERN, piano NORFOLK	P. 23
	7:30 PM	JOSH RITTER & THE ROYAL CITY BAND NORFOLK	P. 41
WED. 10	10:30 AM	COFFEE CONCERT I DALÍ QUARTET OLGA KERN, piano NORFOLK	P. 21
	7:30 PM	LEYLA McCALLA NORFOLK	P. 35
THU. 11	7:30 PM	DALÍ QUARTET OLGA KERN, piano NORFOLK	P. 40
FRI. 12	10:30 AM	COFFEE CONCERT II DALÍ QUARTET PORTSMOUTH	P. 21
	6 PM	VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL PANFEST VIRGINIA BEACH	P. 39

MAY

SAT. 13	10 AM	VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL PANFEST VIRGINIA BEACH	P. 39
	7:30 PM	MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP <i>THE LOOK OF LOVE</i> VIRGINIA BEACH	P. 11
SUN. 14	4 PM	COLIN MacKNIGHT, organ NORFOLK	P. 36
MON. 15	7:30 PM	EMERSON STRING QUARTET NORFOLK	P. 24-25
THU. 18	7:30 PM	SIERRA HULL NORFOLK	P. 32-33
FRI. 19	7:30 PM	CHRIS THILE with Virginia Symphony Orchestra NEWPORT NEWS	P. 24-25
SAT. 20	7:30 PM	CHRIS THILE with Virginia Symphony Orchestra NORFOLK	P. 24-25
SUN. 21	2:30 PM	CHRIS THILE with Virginia Symphony Orchestra VIRGINIA BEACH	P. 24-25
	7:30 PM	SMOKEY ROBINSON NORFOLK	P. 39
TUE. 23	7:30 PM	TIANWA YANG, violin; STERLING ELLIOTT, cello; DEBRA WENDELLS CROSS, flute; DARRIN MILLING, trombone; OLGA KERN, piano NORFOLK	P. 31
THU. 25	10:30 AM	COFFEE CONCERT III TIANWA YANG, violin; STERLING ELLIOTT, cello; DEBRA WENDELLS CROSS, flute; OLGA KERN, piano NORFOLK	P. 18
THU. 26	10:30 AM	COFFEE CONCERT IV TIANWA YANG, violin; STERLING ELLIOTT, cello; DEBRA WENDELLS CROSS, flute; OLGA KERN, piano WILLIAMSBURG	P. 18

JUNE

WED. 7	10:30 AM	COFFEE CONCERT V DEBRA WENDELLS CROSS, flute; SHERIE LAKE AGUIRRE, oboe; DAVID GARCIA, oboe; MICHAEL BYERLY, clarinet; LAURA LEISRING, bassoon; DAVID SAVIGE, bassoon; JACOB WILDER & HELEN WARGELIN, horns; BARBARA CHAPMAN, harp WILLIAMSBURG	P. 19
THU. 8	7:30 PM	OVER THE RHINE NORFOLK	P. 28
FRI. 9	7:30 PM	BRIA SKONBERG NORFOLK	P. 8
SAT. 10	7:30 PM	ALISA AMADOR NORFOLK	P. 28
WED. 14	10:30 AM	JULIA BULLOCK <i>FIVE FREEDOM SONGS</i> by JESSIE MONTGOMERY with Virginia Symphony Orchestra NORFOLK	P. 19
			
<h3>WILLIAMSBURG LIVE!</h3> <p>JUNE 17-19, WILLIAMSBURG</p> <p>VISIT VAFEST.ORG FOR UPDATES!</p>			
FRI. 16		THE WOOD BROTHERS with special guest SHOVELS & ROPE WILLIAMSBURG	P. 42-43
SAT. 17		KENNY LOGGINS <i>THIS IS IT!</i> His Final Tour 2023 with YACHT ROCK REVUE WILLIAMSBURG	P. 42-43
	7:30 PM	A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO LUTHER VANDROSS NORFOLK	P. 28
SUN. 18		KEB' MO' WILLIAMSBURG	P. 42-43

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