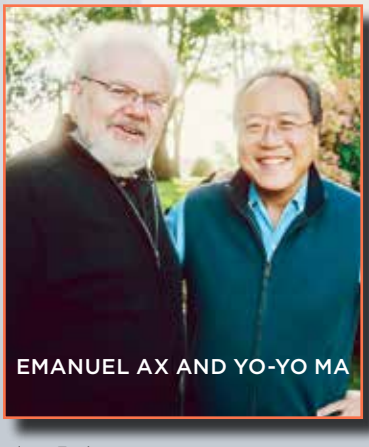
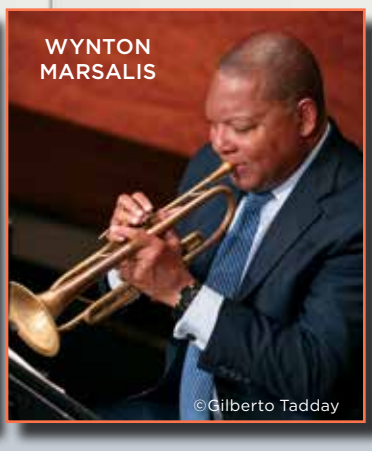
30 VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL 2027

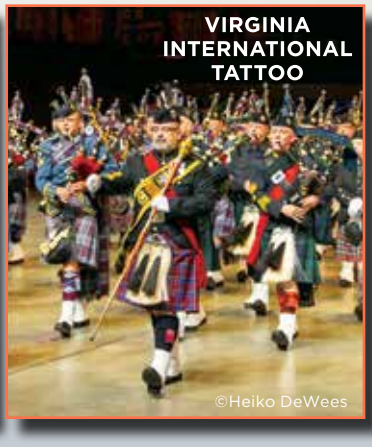
ROBERT W. CROSS / PERRY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

CELEBRATING THE POWER OF THE ARTS!

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER









©Andrew Eccles

VAFEST.ORG CHOOSE 3 OR MORE PERFORMANCES AND SAVE!

OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON!

Dear Festival Friend,

What a joy and an honor it is to invite you to join us for our 30th Anniversary Season! I am overwhelmed by memories of our three decades, and endlessly grateful for the contributions of our artist guests, our faithful audiences, our municipal hosts, our partner artistic organizations, our tireless staff and volunteers, and our donors and supporters on every level.

To mark our anniversary, we bring you a season that features old friends like **Yo-Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax, Wynton Marsalis, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** and extraordinary artists, **NoGravity Theatre, Tenebrae, Vienna Girls Choir,** and **Pink Martini** for the first time. We will showcase our Artistic Advisors — our Connie and Marc Jacobson Director of Chamber Music, Olga Kern, and our Goode Family Artistic Advisor for Musical Theater and American Songbook, Rob Fisher. We will nurture and reveal new works of opera and more. We will bring top professional artists into our classrooms with uniquely effective arts education programs. We will perform on stages and in community spaces throughout our region.

We thank you in advance for the role you will play in our celebration! We hope you will join us again and again.

ROBERT W. CROSS,
PERRY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR


©David Polston

30TH ANNIVERSARY - $30 ALL-IN TICKET

As part of our 30th season anniversary, the Festival is offering a selection of seats for all performances for $30. No extra fees, no surprises. An opportunity to experience world class music, dance, theater, and unforgettable moments that make Virginia Arts Festival special. Come celebrate with us.


NOGRAVITY THEATRE

CHOOSE 3 PERFORMANCES AND SAVE 10%...
CHOOSE 4 OR MORE PERFORMANCES AND SAVE 15%!

SAVE NOW AND SAVE LATER!

When you buy a package of 4 or more performances, any time you order additional performances during the 2027 season your 15% savings will automatically be applied!







Order online and choose your own seats!
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

Groups of 10 or more save! Call (757) 282-2819

LEGENDARY ARTISTS

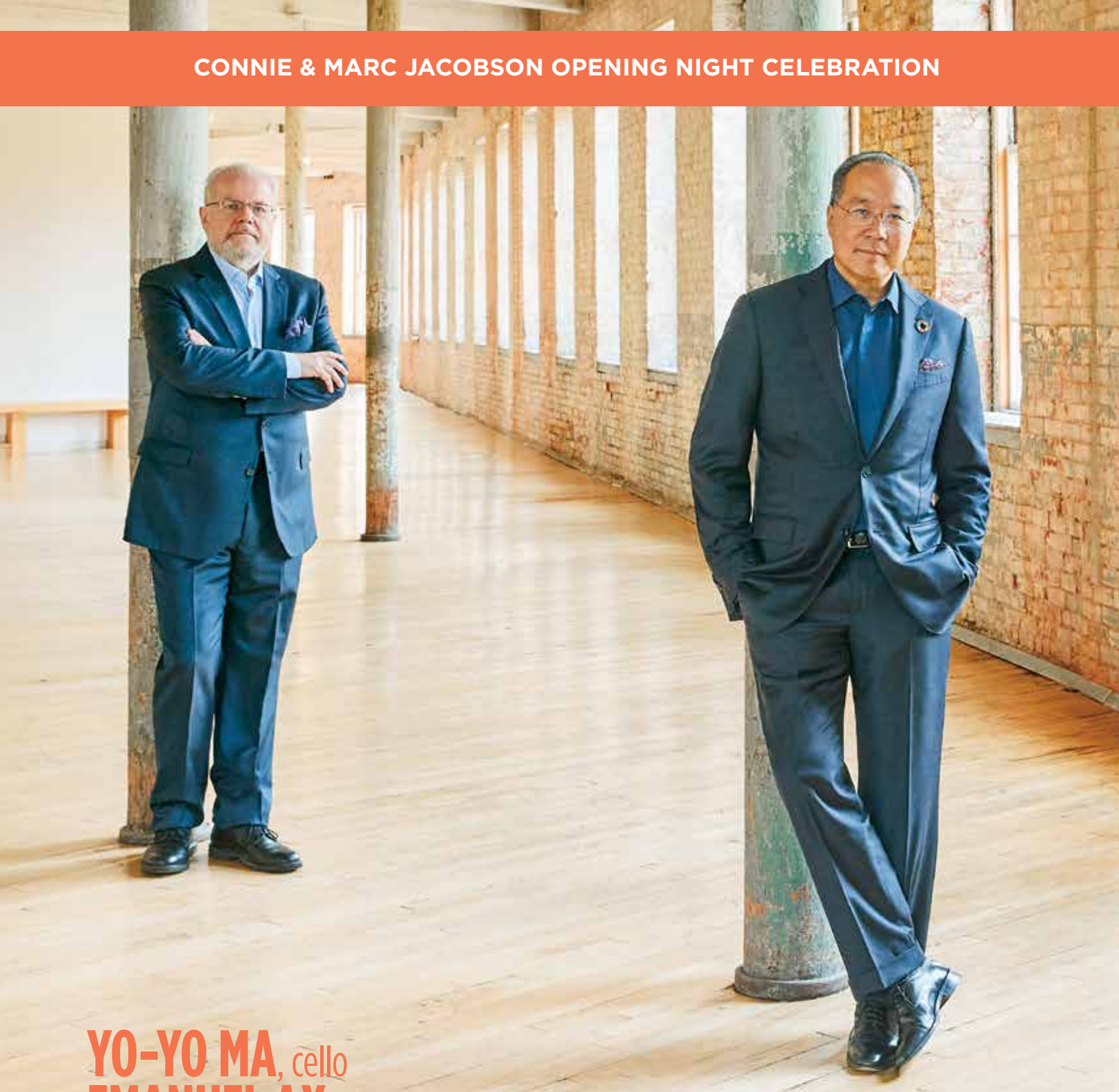

©Gilberto Tadday for Jazz at Lincoln Center

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA with WYNTON MARSALIS

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Music, the National Medal of Arts, and nine GRAMMY Awards® (so far), Wynton Marsalis has profoundly influenced American music and championed the cause of music education for generations. Through his leadership, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra has partnered with Virginia Arts Festival in a landmark education program that brings top student musicians from Historically Black Colleges and Universities to a conference and adjudicated competition that culminates in a joint performance onstage with the Orchestra. Hear the best of today and tomorrow in this year's performance as we mark Wynton Marsalis's final year as Music Director of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 7:30 PM
HARRISON OPERA HOUSE, NORFOLK


©Lawrence Sumulong



YO-YO MA, cello
EMANUEL AX, piano

Two legendary artists. One extraordinary musical kinship. Friends and musical partners for more than 40 years, Ax and Ma bring their extraordinary musical connection at a level that can only be sustained through decades of listening, dedication, and trust to Virginia Arts Festival for its 30th season opening performance. Don't miss an experience of a lifetime, defined by masterful artistry, enduring camaraderie, and the joy of discovery in every phrase. "A sense of quiet magnificence radiates from two master musicians" *(The Strad)*.

CONNIE AND MARC JACOBSON OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 7:30 PM
HARRISON OPERA HOUSE, NORFOLK

©Nigel Parry

MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY

with Virginia Symphony Orchestra

Martha Graham and her Company changed the way we see the art of dance, expanding contemporary dance's movement vocabulary and forever altering the scope of the art form, rooting works in contemporary social, political, psychological, and sexual contexts, deepening their impact and resonance. Graham's influence can be felt in many of the leading choreographers and dancers of the 20th and 21st centuries, including Merce Cunningham, Anna Sokolow, Erick Hawkins, Paul Taylor, and many others. Graham's repertoire of 181 works has also engaged noted performers such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Claire Bloom, Margot Fonteyn, Liza Minnelli, Rudolf Nureyev, Maya Plisetskaya, and Kathleen Turner. Celebrate the centennial of this great American company!

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 7:30 PM
SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, VIRGINIA BEACH

Live music is made possible by a generous gift from The Larry and Jan Goldrich Foundation.

Celebrate the 100TH ANNIVERSARY of this legendary company and its creator



© Richard Villaverde, Laurel Dalley Smith, and Lorenzo Pagano in Martha Graham's Appalachian Spring; photo by Shi Ren

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Alicia Graf Mack, Artistic Director
Matthew Rushing, Associate Artistic Director


© Andrew Eccles

"Go see Ailey. It's change-your-life good" *(NBC).* Beloved by generations of audiences and revered by critics around the world, this legendary dance company instills a sense of joy, purpose, and power in every performance. With an inspired repertoire that includes 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 company has sustained artistry at the highest level — matched only by their bedrock belief in the power of dance to lift communities and find the good that unites us. "The evening concludes, as does every performance, with Ailey's *Revelations,* a triumphant hymn to the human spirit, moving from a sense of sorrow to joy-filled life" (*The Guardian,* UK).

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 7:30 PM
CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY'S FERGUSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS, NEWPORT NEWS

Co-presented with Christopher Newport University's Ferguson Center for the Arts


© Paul Kolnik

LEAH GLENN DANCE THEATRE

Dancer, educator, and choreographer, Leah Glenn has a passion for dance that distinguishes her company's performances. Her reconstructions of major works by iconic Black choreographers and her own choreography draw from African American history and traditions, and lift and challenge performers and audiences. Glenn brings work at once rooted in history and future-facing — a fascinating, moving evening with a hometown artist hero.

This festival premiere performance includes new work, *Kitchen Table Talk,* with Glenn's partner and collaborator Steve Prince. *Kitchen Table Talk* presents a selection of drawings, prints, an installation, and dance interpretation reflecting on the conversations that occur around the kitchen table.

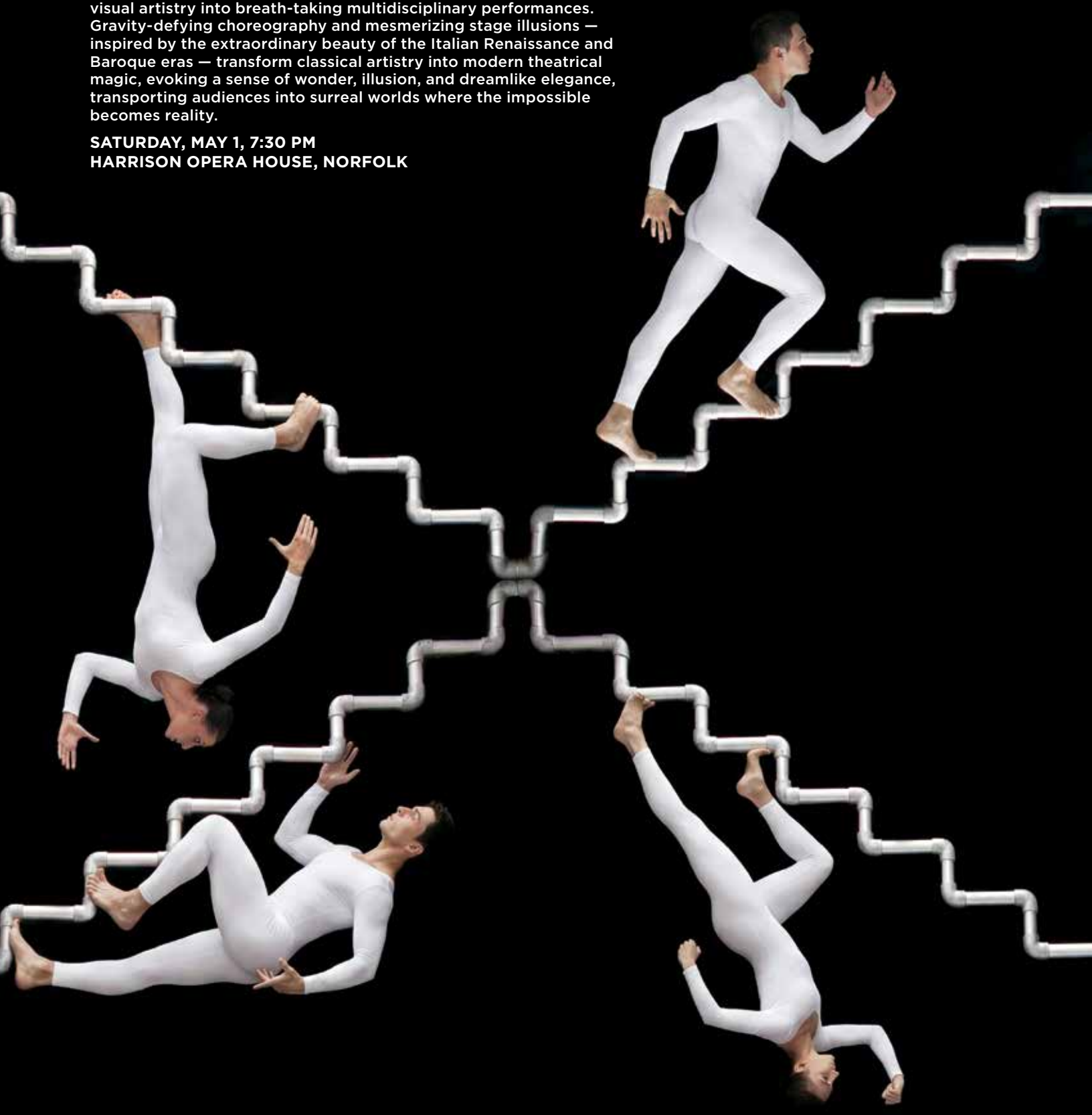
SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 3:00 PM
ATTUCKS THEATRE, NORFOLK



NOGRAVITY THEATRE

This groundbreaking Italian company blends dance, theater, and visual artistry into breath-taking multidisciplinary performances. Gravity-defying choreography and mesmerizing stage illusions — inspired by the extraordinary beauty of the Italian Renaissance and Baroque eras — transform classical artistry into modern theatrical magic, evoking a sense of wonder, illusion, and dreamlike elegance, transporting audiences into surreal worlds where the impossible becomes reality.

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 7:30 PM
HARRISON OPERA HOUSE, NORFOLK



RAVEL, JANÁČEK, AND SHAW

Illustrating Sound

Virginia Symphony Orchestra & Chorus
Eric Jacobsen, conductor
Alex Sopp, visual artist

One of the "most beautiful creations in all of French music" (Igor Stravinsky), Ravel's Second Suite from *Daphnis et Chloé* lushly depicts a love that survives against all odds. Then, by unifying visuals with sound, "beautifully nuanced" *(New York Times)* artist Alex Sopp creates a stop-motion animated film to accompany Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw's *The Mountain that Loved a Bird*. And finally, the orchestra is augmented by an enormous brass section for the invigorating Czech melodies and dance rhythms of Janáček's revolutionary *Sinfonietta*. Bravo!

PROGRAM:
MAURICE RAVEL *Daphnis et Chloé* Suite No. 2
CAROLINE SHAW *The Mountain that Loved a Bird*
LEOŠ JANÁČEK *Sinfonietta*

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 7:30 PM
SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, VIRGINIA BEACH

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 7:30 PM
CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY'S FERGUSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS, NEWPORT NEWS
Co-presented with Christopher Newport University's Ferguson Center for the Arts

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

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



REIMAGINE

Hila Plitmann, vocal
ETHEL, string quartet

WORLD PREMIERE!

Two-time GRAMMY Award®-winning vocalist Hila Plitmann and GRAMMY Award®-winning string quartet ETHEL — all extraordinary artists acclaimed for their adventurous spirit, virtuosic range, and bold imagination — commission some of today's most exciting composers and songwriters from a variety of genres for striking, unexpected song transformations. They take listeners on an ambitious, boundary-smashing excursion through classical, rock, pop, jazz, Native American, Iranian, and other styles to create a kaleidoscopic evening of song.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 3:00 PM
ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY & JAY BARR EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK

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



CHAMBER MUSIC/COFFEE CONCERTS

**Chamber music as it is meant to be heard.
Gifted musicians. Intimate settings. Fellowship.**

Olga Kern



© Jason Walker

Akropolis Reed Quintet



Dalí Quartet

© Thirty-three Photography



Brendon Elliott, violin



Emily Ondracek-Peterson, violin



Beverly Kane Baker, viola



Debra Wendells Cross, flute



Michael Byerly, clarinet



János Balázs, piano



© Brittany Florenz

Daria Podorozhnova, piano

COFFEE CONCERT I:
AKROPOLIS REED QUINTET

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 10:30 AM
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PORTSMOUTH

COFFEE CONCERTS II & III:
BRENDON ELLIOTT, violin
EMILY ONDRACEK-PETERSON, violin
BEVERLY KANE BAKER, viola
DEBRA WENDELLS CROSS, flute
MICHAEL BYERLY, clarinet
OLGA KERN, piano

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 10:30 AM
PEEBLES THEATRE, CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY'S FERGUSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS, NEWPORT NEWS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 10:30 AM
MILLER STUDIO THEATRE, SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, VIRGINIA BEACH

COFFEE CONCERT IV:
DALÍ QUARTET
OLGA KERN, piano

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 10:30 AM
THE AMERICAN THEATRE, HAMPTON

COFFEE CONCERT V:
PIANOPALOOZA
János Balázs, Olga Kern, and Daria Podorozhnova

FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 10:30 AM
TOWNE UNIVERSITY, SUFFOLK

After the performance, patrons can mingle with the performers, a lovely postscript to a perfect concert experience.

CLASSICAL/CHAMBER MUSIC

Our Connie & Marc Jacobson Director of Chamber Music, the Van Cliburn Gold Medalist pianist Olga Kern, has assembled irresistible programs that match world-renowned artists with chamber classics — a veritable who's who of great music.

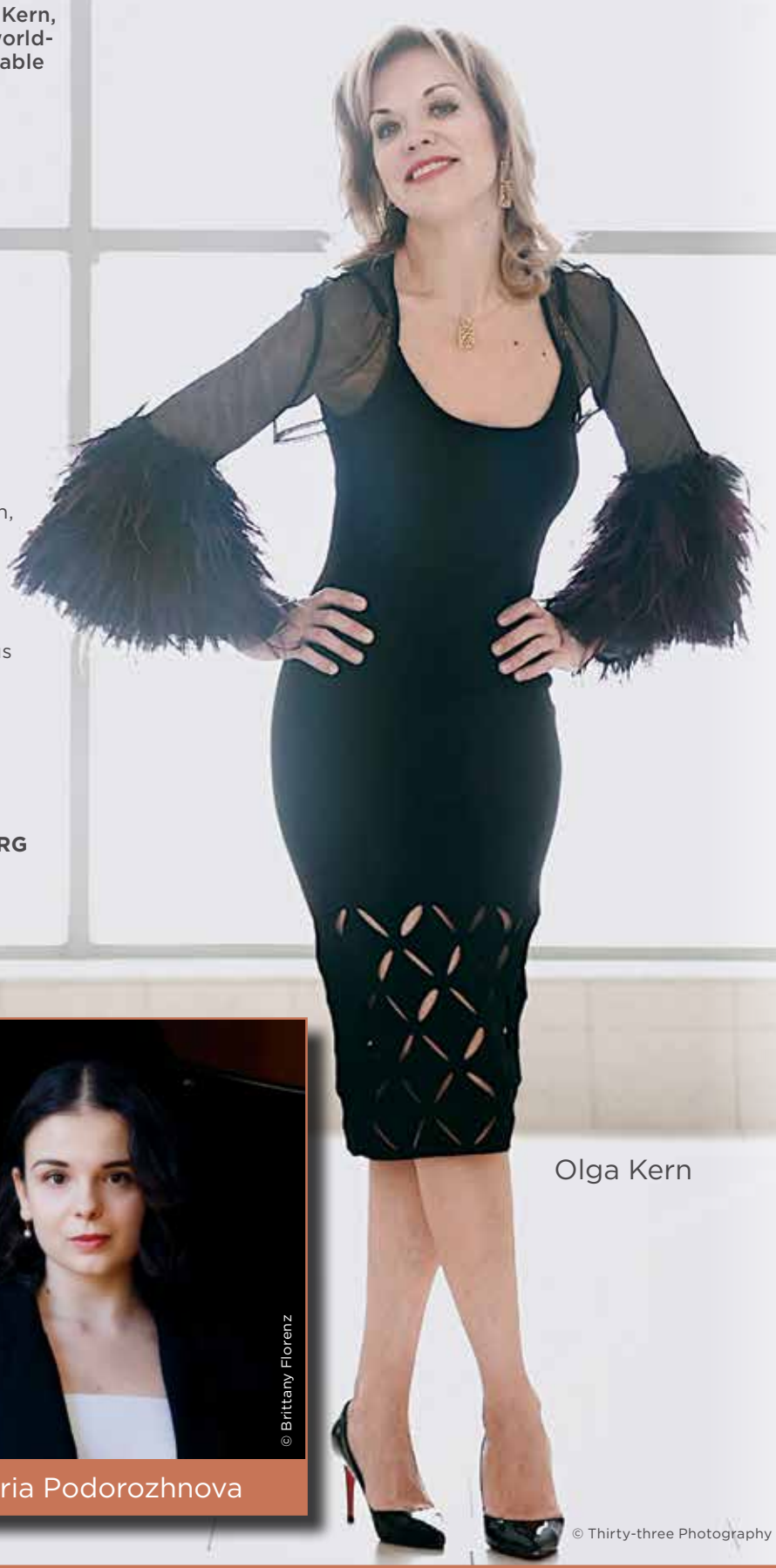
PIANOPALOOZA

Olga Kern, János Balázs, and Daria Podorozhnova

Tremendously, uniquely gifted pianists on one stage, in a thrilling exhibit of artistry! Winner of the Gold Medal at the legendary Van Cliburn Piano Competition, Olga Kern brings passion and steely technique. A superstar in Hungary, János Balázs is a spellbinding performer capable of sheer delicacy and bold attack. Second Prize-winner of the Olga Kern International Piano Competition, the amazing young pianist Daria Podorozhnova, though still a student at the prestigious Manhattan School of Music, has already collected a shelf full of awards. Grab your tickets now!

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 7:30 PM
ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY AND JAY BARR EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 7:30 PM
WILLIAM & MARY CONCERT HALL, WILLIAMSBURG



Olga Kern

© Thirty-three Photography



János Balázs

© Brittany Florenz

Daria Podorozhnova



DALÍ QUARTET OLGA KERN, piano

If you've experienced this electrifying partnership in past Festival performances, you're likely already reaching for your calendar — and if you haven't you're going to want to ink in this date. Acclaimed pianist Olga Kern lends power and passion to this extraordinary ensemble's already enormous gifts: "What a wonderful coupling here from the massively talented pianist Olga Kern and the Dalí Quartet... a fabulous performance" *(Fanfare Magazine).*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 7:30 PM
ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY AND JAY BARR EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK

DALÍ QUARTET

The acclaimed Dalí String Quartet, named *Chamber Music America's* 2024 Ensemble of the Year, returns to Virginia Arts Festival in 2027, bringing its celebrated blend of classical tradition and Latin American musical heritage to Virginia audiences. Renowned for placing Latin American quartet repertoire alongside the Classical and Romantic canon, the quartet's "Classical Roots, Latin Soul" programming has captivated audiences across the U.S., Canada, and South America.

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 7:30 PM
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PORTSMOUTH

TENTHING

Formed in 2007 by Norwegian trumpeter Tine Thing Helseth as a fun collaboration between friends, this ten-piece, all-female brass ensemble has firmly established itself on the international scene. With dazzlingly inventive orchestrations and staging, the ensemble surprises and delights at every turn. “Five stars. Great music, great players, and great fun to boot” *(Bachtrack).*

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 7:30 PM
SAMUEL C. JOHNSON THEATER AT NORFOLK ACADEMY, NORFOLK

Co-presented with Norfolk Academy



VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL CHAMBER PLAYERS

Brendon Elliott, violin; Emily Ondracek-Peterson, violin; Beverly Kane Baker, viola; Debra Wendells Cross, flute; Michael Byerly, clarinet; Olga Kern, piano

In this spring evening’s performance, Virginia Arts Festival Chamber Players bring chamber music to life. Chamber music is music at its most intimate: a conversation among a small group of exceptional musicians, where every note, gesture, and musical exchange can be heard and felt. It invites audiences close to the artists for an experience that is personal, immediate, and deeply connected.

MONDAY, MAY 10, 7:30 PM
ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY AND JAY BARR EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK



Brendon Elliott, violin | Emily Ondracek-Peterson, violin | Beverly Kane Baker, viola | Debra Wendells Cross, flute | Michael Byerly, clarinet | Olga Kern, piano

ISABELLE DEMERS, organ

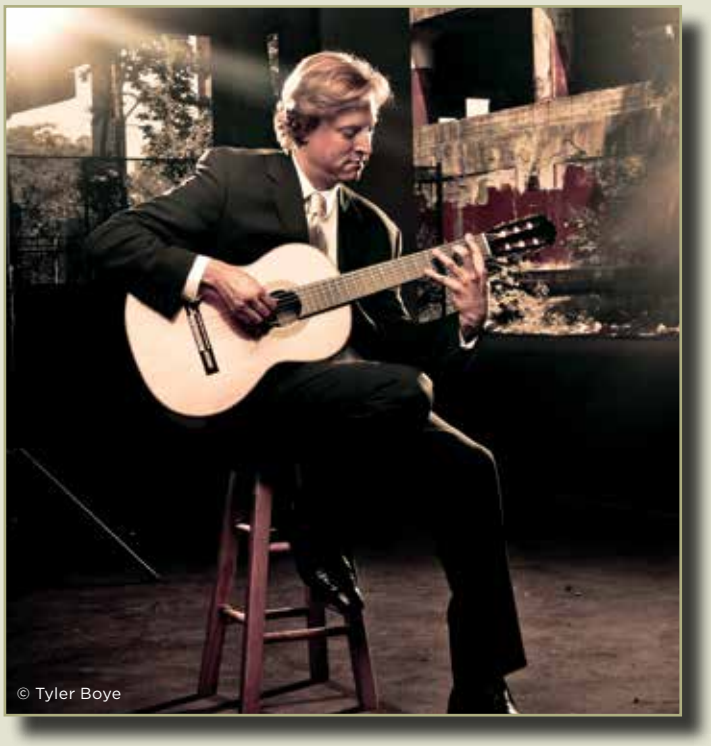


"There is no shortage of organists who make their instruments roar; and while her power was never in question, Demers made the instrument sing" (Classical Source.com). That's just one example of the critical acclaim for this extraordinary Canadian organist; her performances at the major organ conventions create what has been called "Demers fever." It's hard to imagine a lovelier setting for this artist's gifts than Norfolk's historic Christ & St. Luke's Church — make your plans to be there for this must-hear recital.

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 4:00 PM
CHRIST & ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORFOLK

Co-presented with The Tidewater Chapter of The American Guild of Organists and Christ & St. Luke's Episcopal Church

JASON VIEAUX, guitar



"Virtuosic, flamboyant, dashing," *(The New York Times),* Jason Vieaux commands the stage whether he's making solo magic or fronting a vast orchestra. "Perhaps the most precise and soulful classical guitarist of his generation" (NPR), he presents as relaxed and easygoing, but the music that emerges from this artist's fingers is instantly affecting, raising the listener's pulse and drawing you into every note. Don't miss this intimate evening with "one of America's premier guitarists" *(Forth Worth Star-Telegram)!*

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 7:30 PM
ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY & JAY BARR EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK

Co-presented with Tidewater Classical Guitar

TENEBRAE

The Journey: 25 Years

With a sound described as "phenomenal" *(The Times)* and "devastatingly beautiful" *(Gramophone Magazine),* this award-winning choir is one of the world's leading vocal ensembles, renowned for its passion and precision. "This is not just choral art at the highest level, but a kind of musical miracle" *(Hamburger Abendblatt).* Celebrating its 25th anniversary season, Tenebrae brings a program that reflects the choir's triumphs, including selections from best-loved recordings and new works from its composition competition.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 7:30 PM
ST. BEDE CATHOLIC CHURCH, WILLIAMSBURG

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 7:30 PM
CHRIST & ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORFOLK

Co-presented with Christ & St. Luke's Episcopal Church



VIRGINIA CHORALE

Path of Miracles

Charles Woodward, Artistic Director

As the Camino de Santiago celebrates a Holy Year in 2027, the Virginia Chorale performs Joby Talbot's *Path of Miracles,* a musical journey along the Camino (Way of St. James), the centuries-old pilgrimage route across northern Spain. Semi-staged and sung a cappella, *Path of Miracles* has been hailed worldwide as a "thrilling piece of theatre," a "spine-tingling choral tour de force," and "an evocative odyssey."

This special program is co-produced with Virginia Chorale in the breathtakingly restored Basilica of Saint Mary, in honor of Chuck Woodward as he celebrates his final season as Artistic Director.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 4:00 PM
THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, NORFOLK



FESTIVAL DEBUT!

VIENNA GIRLS CHOIR

A New Voice

Join the excitement surrounding the first U.S. tour of this extraordinary choir! Emerging from Vienna's long choral tradition, the Vienna Girls Choir continues the Vienna Boys Choir's legacy of excellence with a distinct voice and vision of its own. Founded in 2004 with just a handful of singers, the ensemble has since flourished into a full-fledged choir of 26 girls between the ages of 10 and 14. Their angelic sound enhances a rich repertoire of music spanning centuries.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 7:30 PM
SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, VIRGINIA BEACH

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 7:30 PM
ST. BEDE CATHOLIC CHURCH, WILLIAMSBURG



© Lukas Beck

EDMONIA

An opera in two acts by Bill Banfield
Illuminating the courageous life of 19th-century sculptor Edmonia Lewis
Commissioned by Toni Morrison
featuring student performers from
The Governor's School for the Arts Vocal & Instrumental Music Departments
Stephen Coxe, conductor
Shelly Milam-Ratliff, stage director

"My art will stand tall, tall as justice is true." Edmonia Lewis' life is a remarkable American story of a college girl who overcomes near insurmountable barriers to attain an international reputation as a sculptor. Undaunted by tremendous obstacles in her path as a Black and Native American (Ojibwe) woman in the 19th century, she rose to celebrity and acclaim. The dramatic success of Lewis' career is perhaps only surpassed by the astounding drama of her life. She was accused of attempted murder by poisoning, befriended by Frederick Douglass, boldly traveled abroad as a single, Black female, and gained the respect of the art world. Lewis' art was tragically forgotten for generations until a sculpture was uncovered by a gardener in the overgrown brush of a public park. Now her works are on view in the Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and more. Don't miss this rich, modern opera that embraces a sophisticated story, grand theater, and popular and classical musical styles — a musical adventure you'll long remember.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 7:00 PM PRE-PERFORMANCE TALK IN GALLERY, 7:30 PM PERFORMANCE
SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 3:00 PM PRE-PERFORMANCE TALK IN GALLERY, 3:30 PM PERFORMANCE
ATTUCKS THEATRE, NORFOLK

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



BILL BANFIELD

WILL LIVERMAN, baritone
ADAM TURNER, piano

Called "a voice for this historic moment" *(The Washington Post),* GRAMMY Award®-winning baritone and composer Will Liverman has been described as "a gifted chameleon of a singing actor who disappears into his roles" *(Opera Magazine),* with a "beaming, high baritone that easily asserts" *(LA Times).* This Governor's School for the Arts alumnus has performed to acclaim with the Metropolitan Opera, major orchestras, and at festivals and performing arts centers around the world. Liverman is joined by Virginia Opera's longtime Artistic Director & Chief Conductor Adam Turner, a distinguished pianist and sought-after collaborator celebrated for his versatility, musical insight, and artistry in partnership.

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 7:30 PM
ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY & JAY BARR EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK


WILL LIVERMAN
© Jaclyn Simpson


ADAM TURNER
© Tina Krohn



SAMARA JOY

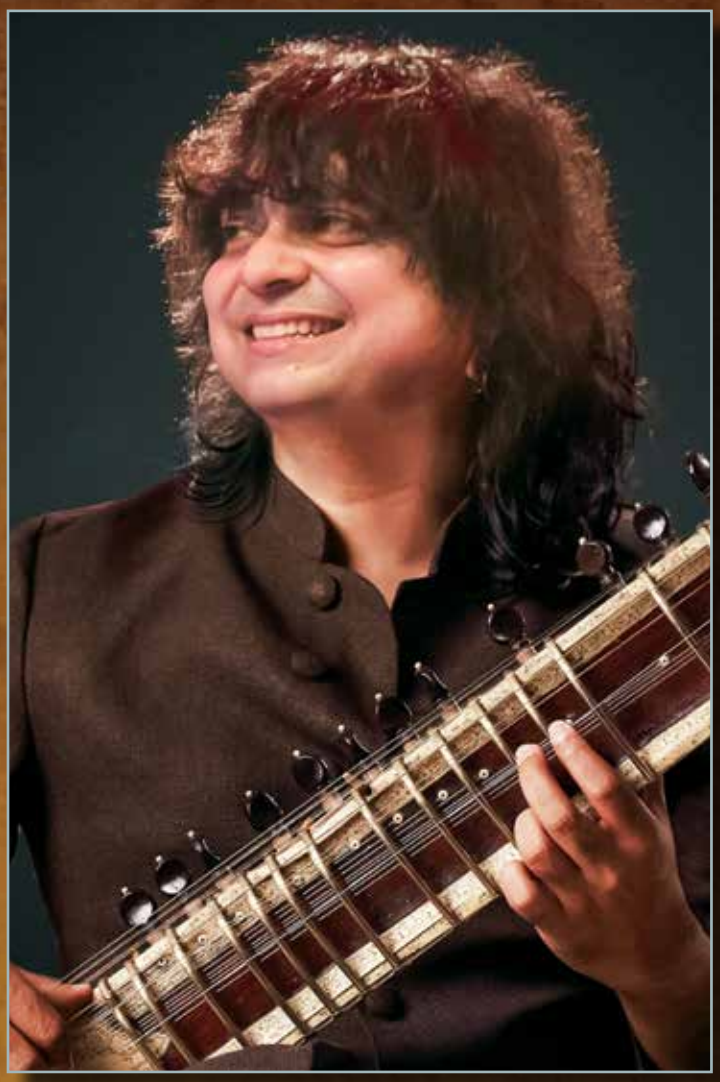
A six-time GRAMMY Award®-winner at just 27, this phenomenal young star has the maturity and the inimitable style of a true icon. Once called "a reincarnation of Sarah Vaughan and Ella Fitzgerald in the same body" *(London Jazz News),* now she's honored for her own unique sound, "a voice that seems to have a gravitational pull keeping the planets in orbit" *(WGBO).* Every time Samara plays the Festival she sells out — so make sure to get your tickets early!

FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 7:30 PM
HARRISON OPERA HOUSE, NORFOLK

> "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*

GRAMMY® Winner
4 years in a row
2023 - 2026

©AB+DM



NILADRI KUMAAR, sitar

The Space Between the Notes

This fifth-generation sitarist started learning the instrument at the tender age of four and gave his first public performance at age six. His music reflects his brilliance and the training that comes of centuries of tradition with a streak of the revolutionary. His performances can sound like meditative classics or rock anthems, and his easy demeanor charms audiences. "His quest to make classical music more accessible... has led to a revolution in sound" *(Serenade Magazine).*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 7:30 PM
UNIVERSITY THEATRE AT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY, NORFOLK

Co-presented with Old Dominion University

ATTUCKS JAZZ CLUB

VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL

Good news, jazz fans, the Attucks Jazz Club is back! Hear some of the most entertaining jazz artists performing today, in an intimate space where every table is close to the stage, and the bar is always open. Featuring the John Toomey Trio with a different guest artist every performance, the Attucks Jazz Club is the place to be on select Saturday nights.

ATTUCKS THEATRE, NORFOLK

Co-presented with SevenVenues

GABRIELA ALLEMANA
vocalist

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026, 7:30 PM

SHERMAN IRBY
saxophone

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2027, 7:30 PM

JASON PALMER
trumpet

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2027, 7:30 PM

TOM BECKHAM
vibraphone

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2027, 7:30 PM

VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

AMERICA'S INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TATTOO

2027 VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

Celebrating our 30th Anniversary!

For 30 years, the Virginia International Tattoo has captivated an audience of more than 1,000,000 with a spectacular and inspirational display of music, military precision and pageantry. A traditional military ceremony, the first ever "Tattoo" in the United States was ordered by Virginian George Washington. Virginia International Tattoo is now the proud standard-bearer of the Tattoo tradition in the United States. Our Tattoo includes aspects of General Washington's original military ceremonies as well as modern concert aesthetics, but it is so much more. It is an experience that brings out the very best in people. When we Tattoo together, we share the exquisite beauty of music and dance and international culture; we honor the extraordinary service, sacrifice and courage of the men and women who serve in our military; we recognize exceptional friendships and alliances among nations; and we celebrate the hard-won freedom that allows all of these things. In 2027, we proudly celebrate our 30th anniversary with our greatest ever Tattoo, featuring military bands and artists from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Italy, New Zealand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the U.S. Join us!

THIS TATTOO IS CERTAIN TO LEAVE ITS MARK ON YOU! GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 7:30 PM
FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 7:30 PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2:30 PM
SCOPE ARENA, NORFOLK

Presented in cooperation with North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Norfolk NATO Festival

Co-presented with The Hixon Family

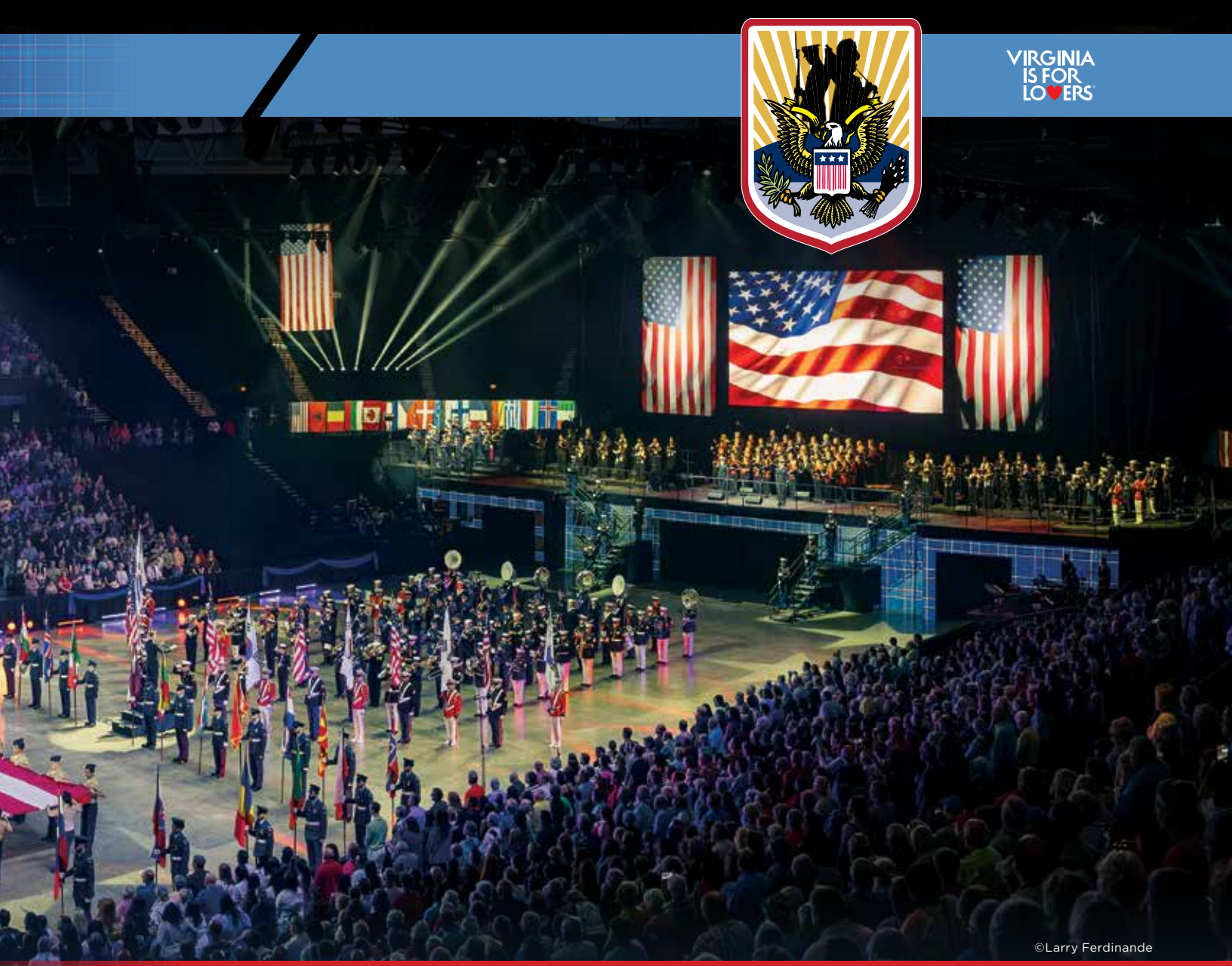
THE "TATTOO" TRADITION

The centuries-old tradition of Tattoo originated as a signal from drummers instructing Dutch innkeepers near military garrisons to "Doe den Tap-too" or "turn off the tap." Hearing the call "Tap-too," soldiers would return to their barracks for an evening roll call. The ensuing parade of soldiers evolved into a military marching band performance now known worldwide as "Tattoo."


©Heiko DeWees


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HUNDREDS OF PERFORMERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

*Subject to changes and additions







AMERICAN SONGBOOK

ROB FISHER, Goode Family Artistic Advisor for Musical Theater and American Songbook



BEWITCHED, BOTHERED, AND BEWILDERED: THE MUSIC OF RODGERS AND HART

Rob Fisher, piano and music director

Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart gave Broadway unforgettable musicals and blessed popular music with some of its most romantic and witty songs. Acclaimed Broadway music director Rob Fisher (the Festival's Goode Family Artistic Advisor for Musical Theater and American Songbook) has a deep connection with this music: as the founding music director for New York City Center's *Encores!* series, he conducted *Pal Joey, The Boys from Syracuse, Babes in Arms,* and *On Your Toes.* This beguiling concert features Fisher at the piano with a snappy quartet and Broadway singers, leaving you utterly "bewitched, bothered, and bewildered!"

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 7:30 PM
ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY & JAY BARR EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK



PINK MARTINI

Featuring vocalists Storm Large and Jimmie Herrod

"Pink Martini is a rollicking around-the-world musical adventure... if the United Nations had a house band in 1962, hopefully we'd be that band." That's how Pink Martini founder and bandleader Thomas Lauderdale describes this beloved group. More a phenomenon than a mere ensemble, Pink Martini's dozen musicians have performed songs in 25 languages on concert stages on six continents, including the Cannes Film Festival, the Hollywood Bowl, the Boston Pops, the Kennedy Center, the Royal Albert Hall in London, and more. They've got a star on the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame and a spot in the hearts of millions of fans — and if that includes yours you'd be wise to snag your tickets now for this beloved band!

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 7:30 PM
HILTON NORFOLK THE MAIN, NORFOLK

CABARET

Virginia Stage Company

Book by Joe Masteroff
Based on the play by John Van Druten
Stories by Christopher Isherwood
Music by John Kander/Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Welcome to Weimar Berlin. Inside the underground Kit Kat Club, the Emcee promises a night of music, laughter, and decadence. But outside the club's doors, a darker reality is taking hold. Featuring such unforgettable songs as "Willkommen," "Maybe This Time," and the title number "Cabaret," this Tony Award®–winning musical is by turns dazzling, provocative, and deeply moving.

APRIL 14 - MAY 2
THE WELLS THEATRE, NORFOLK

Co-presented with

VSC VIRGINIA STAGE COMPANY AT THE WELLS THEATRE



NORFOLK THEATRE FESTIVAL

SCOTT SILVEN

The Lost Things

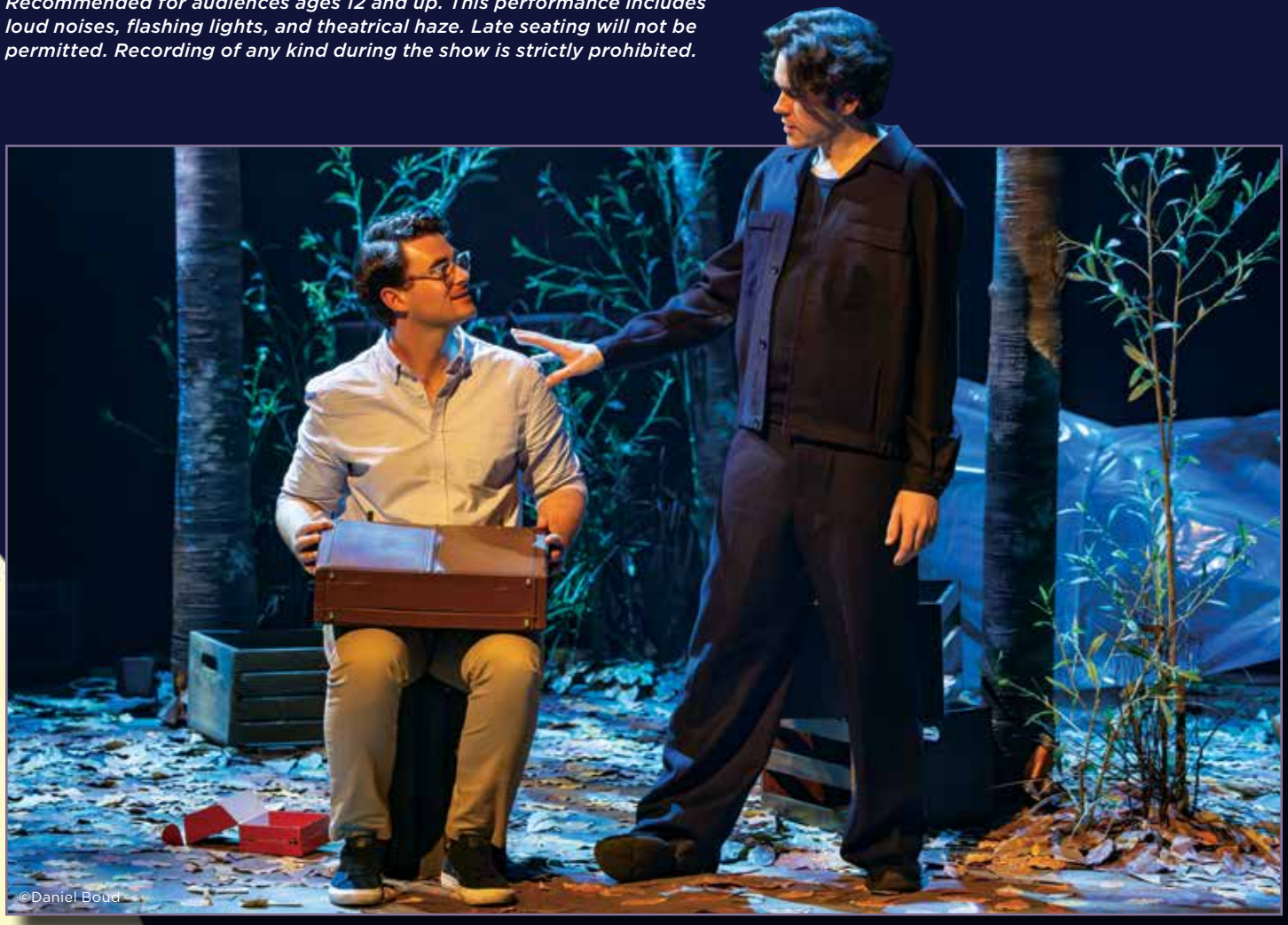
NORFOLK THEATRE FESTIVAL

A sellout smash in multiple Festival seasons with *At the Illusionist's Table,* international sensation Scott Silven returns with *The Lost Things.* Lost moments, chance encounters, and forgotten memories are brought vividly to life through a theatrical work that blends mind-bending illusions and mentalism that will leave you speechless. In this unforgettable theatrical experience, you won't just watch the impossible unfold — you'll become part of it, as Silven blurs the line between audience and performer and redefines what live magic can be.

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2:00 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 8, 7:30 PM
THE WELLS THEATRE, NORFOLK

The Lost Things *is co-commissioned by Sydney Opera House, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at Illinois and Seattle Theatre Group, Virginia Arts Festival, Opening Nights at Florida State University, Ann Arbor Summer Festival, Arizona Arts Live, ASU Gammage, Charleston Gaillard Center, Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts, Marion Cultural and Civic Center, Midland Center for the Arts, Modlin Center for the Arts, Performing Arts Houston, Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University, Texas Performing Arts, Stanford Live, and the Wharton Center for Performing Arts.*

Recommended for audiences ages 12 and up. This performance includes loud noises, flashing lights, and theatrical haze. Late seating will not be permitted. Recording of any kind during the show is strictly prohibited.

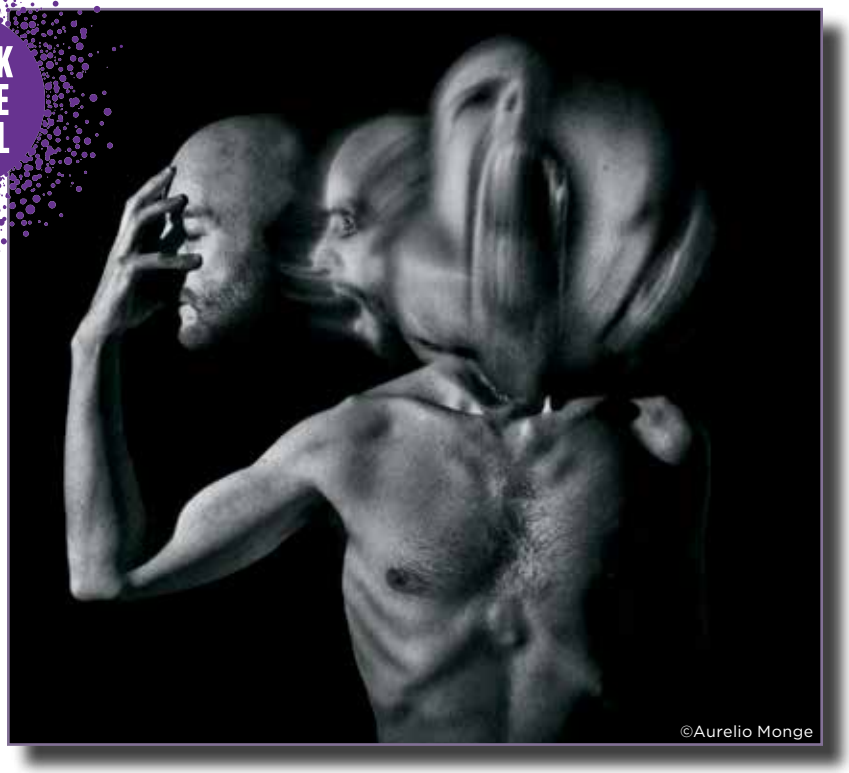


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DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE

Aquila Theatre

NORFOLK THEATRE FESTIVAL



Aquila Theatre brings a compelling new adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's timeless tale! Unable to quell his darkest desires, Dr. Henry Jekyll becomes convinced he can separate the good and evil within. But his attempts unleash a terrifying double life through the creation of Edward Hyde. What begins as a daring experiment spirals into a desperate struggle, as each battles for control. With Aquila's signature style — bold physicality, top-notch actors, and inventive staging — this gripping theatrical adaptation takes a deep dive into the human psyche and the battles born out of darkness.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 7:30 PM
ATTUCKS THEATRE, NORFOLK

VICTORIA MELODY

Trouble, Struggle, Bubble and Squeak

Edinburgh Fringe favorite Victoria Melody returns to Virginia Arts Festival after her successful wildly witty tale *Major Tom.*

Who really shapes history? While spending weekends with a historical re-enactment society, award-winning theatre maker and "Fringe legend" *(Time Out)* Victoria Melody uncovered the story of a group of 17th-century radicals called The Diggers — and began a quest to find the Diggers of today. Blending storytelling and stand-up, this wildly entertaining show celebrates the ordinary people still making history.

Rated ★★★★★ *Edinburgh Festivals Magazine*

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 7:30 PM
SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 3:00 PM
ROBIN HIXON THEATER, CLAY & JAY BARR EDUCATION CENTER, NORFOLK



SAVE THE DATE!

PERRY PAVILION

Stay tuned for the complete lineup of 30th anniversary season artists slated to perform in the Festival's Perry Pavilion. This welcoming outdoor space is in the heart of Norfolk's arts district, just steps from easy parking, great restaurants and more.



HAMPTON

As part of our 30th season celebration, the Festival is thrilled to announce we are expanding to the beautiful city of Hampton. Stay tuned as we announce performances at The American Theatre, the Virginia Peninsula Community College's Dr. Mary J. Christian Theatre, and the spectacular campus of Hampton University.



YORKTOWN BLUEGRASS & BEYOND

Mark your calendar for the first ever Yorktown Bluegrass & Beyond Festival, featuring a lively roster of artists who honor the genre's revolutionary roots and evolutionary adventures. At historic Yorktown's Riverfront Landing, enjoy great music, great food and wines and fabulous finds in this fun, history-rich area.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 15-16
RIVERWALK LANDING, YORKTOWN



WILLIAMSBURG LIVE

With its historic setting, eclectic roster of legendary artists, and starlit summer vibe, the Virginia Arts Festival's Williamsburg Live has become a destination for fans from around the world. With foodie finds, regional wines and beers, and hundreds of years of history just steps from your concert seat, Williamsburg Live is a must-do for summer!

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 25-27
LAWN OF THE ART MUSEUMS OF COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG



Seán Heely's
CELTIC CHRISTMAS

Gather family and friends for a spirited celebration of holiday traditions from the Celtic world, weaving together the warmth of the season with the rich musical heritage of Ireland, Scotland, and beyond. Led by award-winning fiddler and vocalist Seán Heely, this festive performance features a vibrant ensemble of musicians and dancers who bring to life ancient carols, lively jigs and reels, and soulful ballads that capture the magic and mystery of a Celtic Yuletide.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2026, 3:00 PM
HARRISON OPERA HOUSE, NORFOLK





VIENNA BOYS CHOIR

Christmas in Vienna

"The angelic voices of this most famous vocal group are ageless" *(The Salt Lake Tribune).* The impeccably trained young singers of the famed Vienna Boys Choir sustain a musical tradition that dates back to the 15th century, an unbroken chain of artistry that resonates with current audiences as it has for centuries. "Their voices soared and sparkled … [and] delivered their musical message of peace: music unites; it does not divide" *(Colorado Springs Gazette).*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2026, 7:30 PM
SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, VIRGINIA BEACH

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2026, 7:30 PM
ST. BEDE CATHOLIC CHURCH, WILLIAMSBURG

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2026, 7:30 PM
RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST, RICHMOND

Wiener Sängerknaben
Seit 1498

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2027 CALENDAR

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

PRE-SEASON PERFORMANCES

SEÁN HEELY'S *Celtic Christmas*
SUN | DEC 13 | 3:00 PM (N)

VIENNA BOYS CHOIR *Christmas in Vienna*
TUE | DEC 15 | 7:30 PM (VB), WED | DEC 16 | 7:30 PM (W), and THU | DEC 17 | 7:30 PM (R)

Attucks Jazz Club Series: **SHERMAN IRBY**, saxophone
SAT | JAN 16 | 7:30 PM (N)

Attucks Jazz Club Series: **JASON PALMER**, trumpet
SAT | FEB 6 | 7:30 PM (N)

RHYTHM LIVE!
FRI | FEB 12 | 7:30 PM (N)

TENEBRAE *The Journey: 25 Years*
WED | MAR 3 | 7:30 PM (W) and THU | MAR 4 | 7:30 PM (N)

Attucks Jazz Club Series: **TOM BECKHAM**, vibraphone
SAT | MAR 13 | 7:30 PM (N)

EDMONIA
SAT | MAR 20 | 7:00 PM (N) and SUN | MAR 21 | 3:00 PM (N)

PINK MARTINI
MON | MAR 22 | 7:30 PM (N)

MARCH



YO-YO MA and **EMANUEL AX**
WED | MAR 31 | 7:30 PM (N)
Connie and Marc Jacobson Opening Night Celebration

APRIL



JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA with **WYNTON MARSALIS**
SAT | APR 3 | 7:30 PM (N)



TENTHING
TUE | APRIL 6 | 7:30 PM (N)



NILADRI KUMAAR, sitar
The Space Between the Notes
WED | APR 7 | 7:30 PM (N)



JASON VIEAUX, guitar
THU | APR 8 | 7:30 PM (N)



DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE
Aquila Theatre
FRI | APR 9 | 7:30 PM (N)



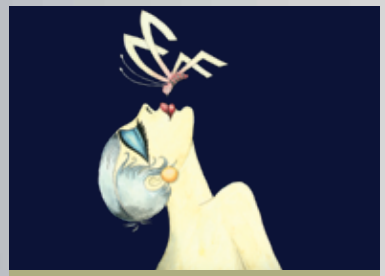
LEAH GLENN DANCE THEATRE
SUN | APR 11 | 3:00 PM (N)



AKROPOLIS REED QUINTET
TUE | APR 13 | 10:30 AM (P)



VIENNA GIRLS CHOIR
A New Voice
TUE | APR 13 | 7:30 PM (VB)
WED | APR 14 | 7:30 PM (W)



CABARET
Virginia Stage Company
APR 14 - MAY 2 (N)



RAVEL, JANÁČEK, AND SHAW
Illustrating Sound
Virginia Symphony Orchestra & Chorus
Eric Jacobsen, conductor
Alex Sopp, visual artist
FRI | APR 16 | 7:30 PM (VB)
SAT | APR 17 | 7:30 PM (NN)



REIMAGINE
Hila Plitmann, vocal
ETHEL, string quartet
SUN | APR 18 | 3:00 PM (N)



VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO
THU | APR 22 | 7:30 PM (N)
FRI | APR 23 | 7:30 PM (N)
SAT | APR 24 | 7:30 PM (N)
SUN | APR 25 | 2:30 PM (N)



NORFOLK NATO FESTIVAL
THU | APR 22 | 5:00 PM (N)
SAT | APR 24 | 11:00 AM (N)



ALVIN AILEY DANCE THEATER
TUE | APRIL 27 | 7:30 PM (NN)
WED | APRIL 28 | 7:30 PM (NN)

MAY



NOGRAVITY THEATRE
SAT | MAY 1 | 7:30 PM (N)



SCOTT SILVEN
The Lost Things
FRI | MAY 7 | 7:30 PM (N)
SAT | MAY 8 | 2:00 PM (N)
SAT | MAY 8 | 7:30 PM (N)



MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY
with Virginia Symphony Orchestra
SAT | MAY 8 | 7:30 PM (VB)



ISABELLE DEMERS, organ
SUN | MAY 9 | 4:00 PM (N)



OLGA KERN, piano
VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL CHAMBER PLAYERS
MON | MAY 10 | 7:30 PM (N)
TUE | MAY 11 | 10:30 AM (NN)
WED | MAY 12 | 10:30 AM (VB)





WILL LIVERMAN, baritone
ADAM TURNER, piano
TUE | MAY 18 | 7:30 PM (N)



BEWITCHED, BOTHERED, AND BEWILDERED: THE MUSIC OF RODGERS AND HART
Rob Fisher, piano and music director
FRI | MAY 21 | 7:30 PM (N)



DALÍ QUARTET
OLGA KERN, piano
WED | MAY 26 | 7:30 PM (N)
THU | MAY 27 | 7:30 PM (P)
FRI | MAY 28 | 10:30 AM (H)

JUNE



VICTORIA MELODY
Trouble, Struggle, Bubble and Squeak
FRI | JUN 4 | 7:30 PM (N)
SAT | JUN 5 | 7:30 PM (N)
SUN | JUN 6 | 3:00 PM (N)



SAMARA JOY
FRI | JUN 11 | 7:30 PM (N)

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Please support our mission and make a donation today. Help the performing arts reach everyone in our community. Make a gift!



PIANOPALOOZA
Olga Kern, János Balázs, and Daria Podorozhnova
TUE | JUN 15 | 7:30 PM (N)
WED | JUN 16 | 7:30 PM (W)
FRI | JUN 18 | 10:30 AM (S)



VIRGINIA CHORALE
SUN | JUN 20 | 4:00 PM (N)



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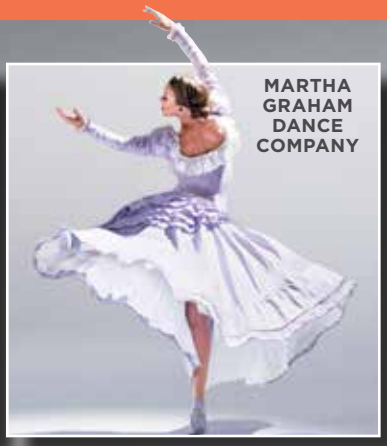
Dates, times, programs, prices, venues, and artists are subject to change. Fees and taxes vary. For the enjoyment of all patrons, children under 6 will not be permitted to attend ticketed events unless otherwise noted, with exceptions to include the Virginia International Tattoo, Williamsburg Live (lawn seats), and free events. Additional fees apply to ticket prices. Discounts vary; restrictions may apply; call for details.

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