Professional Touring Artist Series 2024/2025

the CenterStage

www.restoncommunitycenter.com



"To everything, there is a season. Turn, turn, turn."

Truer words have never been spoken. They were originally found in the Bible (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8) and taken almost verbatim by Leonard Cohen in 1958 to write his famous song entitled "Turn, turn, turn." The great Judy Collins performed a wonderful version on her 1963 album.

Yes, it is that time of year again when we turn our attention to the sensational artists who will delight us at the CenterStage.

And yes, this year we do indeed have the great Judy Collins coming to Reston. In the five-plus decades of her career, her luminescent presence shines brightly as new generations bask in the glow of her iconic 55-album body of work. I wanted, specifically, to present her as RCC celebrates its 45-year history and to bid a fond farewell to Executive Director Leila Gordon who retires after a remarkable 41-year career. I can think of no better voice and music to commemorate these milestones than those of Judy Collins. The Professional Touring Artist Series has featured artists who were on their way to greatness as well as artists whose bodies of work were already well loved and established. Throughout the years that Leila directed the Arts and Culture teams at RCC, they created lasting relationships in all corners of the local arts world and beyond to connect to one another and the people of Reston. The arts and cultural proposition for RCC was to center the idea of "building community" by using the arts as an indispensable tool. It's a practice and model that has stood the test of time beautifully.

In addition to great performances by Judy Collins, we will see some favorites from Leila's tenure as the presenter for the CenterStage. Of course, Lúnasa will be back with their Irish tunes and shenanigans, and the Reduced Shakespeare Company will present "The Complete History of America (abridged) Election Edition" just in time to anticipate the upcoming election with a smile. Both groups have become as close as family to us all. Audiences will also savor visits from two other past crowd-pleasers. Author Sarah Vowell, who wrote "Lafayette and the Somewhat United States," will bring us fresh reflections on the current state of politics. The extraordinary Nejla Yatkin will return with a haunting new performance.

Serving all of Reston through the arts drives the variety and diversity in the Professional Touring Artist Series. Young people will enjoy the hapless "Milo the Magnificent" and "Paige in Full: A B-Girl's Visual Mixtape," and the joyous music of Hot Peas 'n Butter. The screening of "Hava Nagila" will be followed by dance instruction and bagels – helping us feel the celebratory nature of that song. We will be transfixed by the sublime combination of music and poetry by Lara Downes and Rita Dove. The warm baritone of Curtis Bannister will pull us deeply into art songs and other forms he illuminates. We will explore other cultures with Firoozeh Dumas, Alash, the Yumi Kurosawa Trio and Jeremy Dutcher. The entire panoply of artistic excellence this season will enrich our lives.

Don't miss these great shows – they are all waiting for you at the CenterStage in the 2024 – 2025 season!

Paul Douglas Michnewicz Director of Arts & Culture

The DATA



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	NATIONAL HERITAGE AWARD FELLOWS THE ZUNI OLLI MAIDENS September 21	6 – 7
	"MILO THE MAGNIFICENT" September 29	8 – 9
	REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY'S "THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (ABRID October 5	9GED)" 10 – 11
BALDWIN 100 EXTE	JAMES BALDWIN ABROAD October 21	12 – 13
	SARAH VOWELL AUTHOR October 23	14 – 15
	CURTIS BANNISTER PRESENTS "JANTELAGEN" WITH PIANIST MARK MARKHA November 6	M 16 – 17
	NEJLA YATKIN "THE OTHER WITCH" November 23	18 – 19
	JUDY COLLINS SINGER/SONGWRITER November 30 & December 1	20 – 21
Home Handler H	"HAVA NAGILA (THE MOVIE)" January 5	22 – 23
	ANGELA RYE RESTON DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHD CELEBRATION KEYNOTE ADDRESS January 19	AY 24 – 25

	127 10
*PAIGE IN FULL: A B-GIRL'S VISUAL MIXTAPE 28 – 29 February 16	
LARA DOWNES AND RITA DOVE "TOMORROW I MAY BE FAR AWAY" 30 – 31 February 22	
32 – 33 March 2	
ALASH TUVAN THROAT SINGERS 34 – 35 March 8	
YUMI KUROSAWA TRIO 36 – 37 March 15	
HOT PEAS 'N BUTTER 38 – 39 March 30	
JEREMY DUTCHER THE "MOTEWOLONUWOK" TOUR 40 – 41 April 5	
42 – 43 May 31	
TOM GOSS SINGER/SONGWRITER 44 – 45 June 7	

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AT THE

National Heritage Award Fellows: The Zuni Olli Maidens reston town center

The Zuni Olli Maidens are a venerated dance troupe from Zuni Pueblo in western New Mexico who are equally well-known for singing, drumming and their trademark dance balancing pottery on their heads. These treasured artists, along with many others, will perform at the Reston Multicultural Festival. These programs are supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, Virginia Humanities, Virginia Department of Education and other protectors of cultural gems. Come join us!

Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com/MCF to learn more.





The Zuni Olli Maidens.



Members of Northern Virginia's Fundacion Socio Cultural Diablada Boliviana perform the Diablada dance in elaborate costumes.

"It is clear why Alex and Olmsted have the Henson Foundation's support – their work is a delight that pushed the boundaries of the art."

– Sarah Lyall, The New York Times

Alex and Olmsted's "Milo the Magnificent" is a highly engaging puppet show about an aspiring magician. This wordless comedy, inspired by turn of the century vaudeville entertainers, is as highly physical as it is charming. Using stunningly innovative puppetry, Milo presents a variety of magic tricks which don't always go as planned. Great for all ages!

September 29 3:00 p.m.

\$5 Reston/\$10 Non-Reston

Sunday

Magnificent"

REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY'S

"The Complete History of America (abridged)"

10

"A pure delight from start to finish... inspired madness!"

– Broadway World

Newly updated for the 2024 election, the Reduced Shakespeare Company returns with 600 years of history in 6,000 seconds! "The Complete History of America (abridged): Election Edition" provides the requisite historical context guaranteed to confuse any voter and make you the life of your next party – whatever party!

From Valley Forge to Fake News, yea verily from Manifest Destiny to Mar-a-Lago, from Alexander Hamilton the patriot to "Hamilton" the musical, the three cultural guerillas of the Reduced Shakespeare Company take you on a ninety-minute rollercoaster ride through the glorious quagmire that is American history.

History is normally re-written by the winners... but now it's the RSC's turn. Warning: If electoral dysfunction lasts longer than 248 years, please consult your constitution. In the spirit of Shakespeare's comedies, RSC shows contain comic depictions of violence, mild innuendo, bawdy language and the occasional rude word. All children (and parents) are different, so we've chosen to rate our shows PG-13: Pretty Good If You're Thirteen.

Saturday

October 5

3:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

\$25 Reston/\$35 Non-Reston

James Baldwin Abroad Free film screening AND TALK BACK

BALDWIN BALDWIN 100 EHEUSE As part of the Washington West Film Festival and the Baldwin100 Celebration, this evening includes three short films featuring James Baldwin and his keen observations about America.

"James Baldwin: From Another Place" (1973) was shot in Istanbul and finds the author discussing his work, sexuality and complex feelings about the United States.

"Meeting the Man: James Baldwin in Paris" (1970)

This short film has been preserved by the Yale Film Archive with support from the National Film Preservation Foundation. Returning to Paris, James Baldwin discusses the contradictory manners in which revolutions (French, Colonial, Black American) are portrayed and discussed.

"Baldwin's N*****" (1968) James Baldwin and comedian Dick Gregory speak to a group of radical West Indian students in London about everything from the state of the civil rights movement to the perils of false consciousness.

Stay afterward to hear a lively discussion of the films with George Mason Distinguished University Professor Dr. Keith S. Clark.



Sarah Vowell

"Vowell's rollicking, sly humor is the perfect spoonful of sugar to down with her intensive research and historical insight."

- Huffington Post

Sarah Vowell is a New York Times bestselling author of seven nonfiction books on American history and culture. By examining the connections between the American past and present, she offers personal, often humorous accounts of American history as well as current events and politics. Her book, "Lafayette in the Somewhat United States," explores both the ideas and the battles of the American Revolution, especially the patriot founders' alliance with France as personified by the teenage volunteer in George Washington's army, the Marquis de Lafayette.



"Bannister's strikingly sensuous body language throughout this production is as seductive as his voice."

– Herald <u>Journal</u>

Curtis Bannister, the 2021 Actors Equity Association Roger Sturtevant Award recipient, and nominee for a 2021 Drama League Award, presents a program encompassing the Swedish cultural concept of Jantelagen, which translates to a focus on collective unity and humility over praise of the individual. Curtis performs a program including songs from the American Songbook, American pop and R&B songs, classical art songs and musical theatre. Recent credits include his debut in Bernstein's "Candide" featured in the film, "Maestro," opposite Bradley Cooper and Carey Mulligan; concert appearances with Heather Headley; and his debut in Bernstein's "MASS," which was presented in the Kennedy Center's 50th Anniversary season.



Curtis Bannister

presents "Jantelagen

GETTHE OTHER WITCH^{\$\$} CHOREOGRAPHED AND PERFORMED BY NEJLA YATKIN

"Dance Magazine names Miss Yatkin in 'Top 25 to Watch' and it's easy to see why: she is a fierce and supple performer."

- The New York Times

"The Other Witch" is a multi-media and multi-lingual dance performance featuring elements of contemporary dance, dance ritual, text, sound and music. The solo is a haunting visual experience that alludes to the untamable aspects of nature. Yatkin draws inspiration from Mary Wigman's 1914 "Hexentanz" but creates a new interpretation.

Described by The New York Times as "a magician, telling tales and creating worlds" and "a fierce and supple performer," Chicagobased choreographer Nejla Yatkin travels the globe inspiring empathic connections between people and their environments.





"You could argue Collins has earned that 'legend' distinction as much by interpreting and inspiring songs as she has by writing or singing them..."

- Edmonton Journal

Judy Collins has long inspired audiences with sublime vocals, boldly vulnerable songwriting, personal life triumphs and a firm commitment to social activism. In the 1960s, she evoked both the idealism and steely determination of a generation united against social and environmental injustices. Her luminescent presence shines brightly as new generations bask in the glow of her iconic 55-album body of work and take inspiration from her career.





This exuberant film is a documentary romp through the history, mystery and meaning of the great Jewish standard. Featuring interviews with interpreters like Harry Belafonte, Leonard Nimoy, Connie Francis, Glen Campbell, Regina Spektor and more, the film follows the ubiquitous party song on its fascinating journey from the shtetls of Eastern Europe to the cul-de-sacs of America.

High on fun and entertainment, "Hava Nagila (The Movie)" is also surprisingly profound, tapping into universal themes about the importance of joy, the power of music and the resilient spirit of a people.

Dance the "Hava Nagila" afterward with guided instruction by Siggi Saadia. Light nosh will accompany the dancing.

"Buoyant! The filmmakers mix the playful and serious."

- The New York Times

HARRY BELAFONTE CONNIE FRANCIS GLEN CAMPBELL THE **KLEZMATICS** REGINA SPEKTOR THE SONG YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW THE STORY YOU WON'T BELIEVE. OVIE NIGHT OPENING NIGHT TANANT A STANDARY JEANNY JIMENEZ POSTER DESIGN BY CANYON DESIGN GROU

> January 5 11:00 a.m. \$5 Reston/\$10 Non-Reston



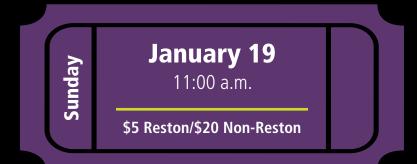
RESTON DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION KEYNOTE ADDRESS

"Her willingness to speak up for us has engaged us all in ways we never thought we'd be engaged before."

Representative Maxine Waters

Angela Rye, award-winning host, social justice advocate, lawyer, commentator and self-described "empowermenteur," embodies what it means to be a "bringer of truth." Recognized for her honest, refreshing commentary and social justice advocacy by prominent civil rights organizations such as National Urban League, NAACP and National Action Network, she has been featured in publications including The New York Times, Vanity Fair, Essence, The Washington Post, Glamour, and Ebony.

Working at the intersection of purpose, justice, and integrity, Angela is an effective leader who creates opportunities and opens doors for her peers and the next generation. She is also a partner of Charlamagne Tha God and Executive Producer Chris Morrow on iHeartMedia's new political podcast network, Reasoned Choice Media. Rye co-hosts its flagship podcast called "Native Land Pod," with Andrew Gillum and Tiffany D. Cross, where they digest and discuss the consequential 2024 election, the cable news industry, and much more.



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Firoozeh Dumas

"Remarkable... In the end, what sticks with the reader is an exuberant immigrant embrace of America."

- San Francisco Chronicle

Firoozeh Dumas' books "Funny in Farsi," "Laughing Without an Accent," and "It Ain't So Awful, Falafel," have explored her personal immigrant experience and are hailed as gateways to many conversations and insights about our shared humanity, immigration, language, family and identity. She was a finalist for the prestigious Thurber Prize for American Humor, which she lost to Jon Stewart. She is the only Middle Easterner ever to be considered for this honor. Firoozeh has traveled the world reminding us that our commonalities far outweigh our differences.

February 83:00 p.m.\$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston

"Paige in Full: A B-Cirl's Visual Mixtape"

28

Named: "Top Theatre Worker You Should Know."

- by American Theatre Magazine

Paige Hernandez returns to our stage to bring us a visual mixtape that blends poetry, dance, visual arts and music to tell the tale of a multicultural girl growing up in Baltimore, Maryland. The production explores how a young woman's identity is shaped by her ethnicity and popular culture, telling a personal, yet universal, story through the lens of hip-hop.

> **February 16** 3:00 p.m.

Sunday

\$10 Reston/\$15 Non-Reston

Lara Downes and Rita Dove: "Tomorrow I May Be Far Away"

Hailed for her "luscious, moody and dreamy" playing by The New York Times, pianist Lara Downes is equally celebrated as a musical innovator and cultural investigator. In this collaboration with Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Rita Dove, she presents a kaleidoscopic evening of music and poetry inspired by myriad stories of migration and transformation.

This production is directed by Mindy Cooper and the projection design is by Ian Wallace.





Photo Courtesy of Lara Downes

Photo Courtesy of Rita Dove

"A trailblazing pianist who combines exquisite musicality with an acute awareness of how an artist can make a positive and lasting social impact."



"The best Irish band on the planet."

– Irish Echo

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Named for an ancient Celtic harvest festival honoring the Irish god Lugh, patron of the arts, Lúnasa is a gathering of some of the top musical talents in Ireland. Their collaboration has made Lúnasa the greatest Irish group of the decade.

Sunday

March 2 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

\$25 Reston/\$35 Non-Reston



"There are plenty of recordings of Tuvan throat singing out there, but they can't compare to witnessing such sonic magic in real time."

-The Washington Post

Alash are masters of traditional Tuvan instruments as well as the ancient art of throat singing, a remarkable technique of singing multiple pitches at the same time. Believing that traditional music must constantly evolve, the musicians subtly infuse their songs with western elements, creating their own unique style that is fresh and new, yet true to their Tuvan musical heritage.

> March 8 8:00 p.m.

\$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston

Saturday



"This is chamber music of a very high order."

- All Music

Yumi Kurosawa was born and raised in a traditional Japanese music environment, taking up the koto from a young age and rising quickly to the upper echelons of her craft. Ever since she was a teenager, however, she has surrounded herself with contemporary music by Western composers, integrating their melodies and phrasings into her solo koto performances.

Yumi is joined by violinist Naho Parrini and percussionist Yousif Sheronick. Their program features exhilarating new compositions from Yumi alongside striking reinterpretations of favorites from her oeuvre, highlighting the shared affinity between these seemingly disparate instruments. The trio form allows Yumi to expand her solo compositions into dynamic and multi-faceted performances that encompass a wide range of expressions and dimensions.

Saturday

March 15 8:00 p.m.

\$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston

Photo by Gail Hadani

Hot Peas 'n Butter

Hot Peas 'n Butter is an award-winning, multicultural family music band that wows thousands of young audiences across the nation every year with their highly energetic and interactive musical style. With their eight award-winning albums and numerous music videos (some of which have been featured on Nick Jr. and Nickelodeon TV), Hot Peas 'n Butter has made friends everywhere.

Named for the playground game they played as kids, Hot Peas 'n Butter incorporates many languages in their performances – English, Spanish, French, Korean and Hebrew to name just a few! Hot Peas 'n Butter mixes a tasty combination of traditional Latin music, Afro-Caribbean rhythms, jazz, bluegrass, country and rock, bringing fans of all ages to their feet.



"Hot and mellow multicultural groove."

- Los Angeles Times



Jeremy Dutcher The "motewolonuwok" tour

"There is no one making music like this."

- NPR music

Jeremy Dutcher is a Two-Spirit song carrier, composer, activist, ethnomusicologist and classically trained vocalist from Canada. Five years after rising to international acclaim with his seminal, awardwinning album "Wolastoqiyik Lintuwakonawa," Dutcher returns to the stage with a new band and pivotal new music. On the tour for the "Motewolonuwok" album, Dutcher invites audiences to be transformed by music that is more personal and intimate than ever and that pushes the boundaries of his unique sonic landscape.

This musical journey is rooted in an ancestor quote: "Tan qiniw iyuwok wasis kpomawsuwinuwok, 'tankeyutomon-oc kihtahkomikomon," which means "as long as there is a child among our people, we will protect the land."

Saturday

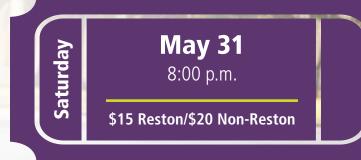
April 5 8:00 p.m.

\$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston

OkCello

In Okorie's own words: "After years of putting my cello down and picking it back up, after years of deciding that the cello wasn't financially practical, after years of thinking that my other voices were my native ones, I realized that the cello was the oldest, the most central and the most sacred part of me. I resolved never, ever, to deny it again."

Okorie Johnson is an American cellist/songwriter who performs under the moniker, OkCello. His artistry integrates cello performance, live sound looping, improvisation and storytelling – all culminating in original compositions that collide classical with jazz, EDM, reggae and funk. OkCello is inspired by the exploration of African diasporic melodies and narratives, and their intersection with people's perceptions and assumptions about the classical and European nature of the cello.

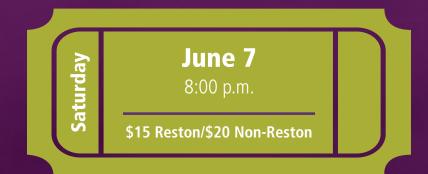






- The Huffington Post

A prolific writer and performer, Goss has released seven albums, made dozens of music videos, and played thousands of shows across the U.S., Canada and Europe to a growing group of dedicated fans. Tom's songs have been heard on ABC, HBO, Disney+, Here TV and Univision, and his inventive music videos have been viewed more than 20 million times. He enjoys a particularly strong following in the LGBTQI+ community – singing about disillusionment, desire and hope in an intimate yet relatable way. Tom Goss has shared a stage with performers as diverse as Andy Grammer, Martha Wash, Taylor Dayne, Adrianne Gonzalez, Matt Alber and Catie Curtis.





ONLINE:

www.restoncommunitycenter.com

Available until one hour before a performance and requires payment of a processing fee.

BY MAIL:

Return a Ticket Order Form to RCC's Box Office 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191.

IN PERSON:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Saturday: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and two hours prior to curtain time.

PHONE:

703-476-4500, Press '3' • TTY 711 Please provide the following information when you call:

- Your name with the correct spelling as it appears on your credit card.
- Your best telephone number to call you back.
- The performance title, date and curtain time you wish to attend.
- The number of tickets you wish to order and whether they are Reston/Non-Reston.
- Your credit card number, its expiration date and the security code.
- The billing address of your credit card including zip code.
- Your email address so that we may send a confirmation as well as your barcoded e-tickets to you.

FAX:

Fax Ticket Order Form to 703-476-2488.

DISCLAIMER:

To prevent the unauthorized resale of tickets to high-demand events, the CenterStage Box Office will limit purchases (online or in-person) to a maximum of four tickets per purchaser for the following performances:

JUDY COLLINS (BOTH PERFORMANCES) ANGELA RYE (MLK KEYNOTE)

Reston-based organizations or clubs wishing to make a group sale purchase should contact the Box Office Manager, Kaitlyne Jones, at 703-390-6188 or via email at Kaitlyne.Jones@fairfaxcounty.gov. Please note: there are no discounts for group sales; ticket prices are already heavily subsidized.

Photo of Jeremy Dutcher by Kirk Lisaj





2310 Colts Neck Road Reston, Virginia 20191

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