Reston Community Center

2025/2026 Professional Touring Artists Series



THE LEILA
GORDON
THEATRE

2025/2026 Season at a Glance

Broadway on the Square "Broadway's Bad Boys" September 5, 6 and 7 7:30 p.m.

Viet Thanh Nguyen, Author Saturday, September 27 3:00 p.m.

Screening of "American Bombing" with Producer Mahrya MacIntire Monday, October 13 7:30 p.m.

Nobuntu Wednesday, October 29 8:00 p.m.

Aparna Nancherla, Comedian Kenice Mobley, Opener Saturday, November 8 8:00 p.m.

American Patchwork Quartet Sunday, November 16 3:00 p.m.

"Marooned! A Space Comedy" Sunday, November 23 3:00 p.m. | General Audience

Lúnasa A Solstice Celebration Sunday, December 7 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

"Navidad Flamenca"
Presented by Furia Flamenca
Saturday, December 20
8:00 p.m.

Akua Allrich Presents "New Moon Rising" Sunday, January 18 3:00 p.m. Reston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Keynote Speaker Dr. Eddie Glaude Monday, January 19 11:00 a.m.

Happenstance Theater Presents
"Preposterous!"
Sunday, February 8
3:00 p.m. | General Audience

This Land: An Evening with Lara Downes and Judy Collins Saturday, February 14 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 15 3:00 p.m.

"Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round" Screening & Talk-Back with Ilana Trachtman Wednesday, February 18 7:30 p.m.

Reduced Shakespeare Company's "All The Great Books (abridged)" Sunday, February 22 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble Saturday, February 28 8:00 p.m.

"Different Ships, Same Boat" Saturday, March 7 8:00 p.m.

"Seasons of the Witch: Honoring Women & The Stories They Inspire" Sunday, April 19 3:00 p.m.

Murray Hill, Comedian Saturday, May 30 8:00 p.m. When I turned 21, my Aunt Jackie made me a massive king-sized quilt. It must have taken her months. I thanked her profusely, though I couldn't help but think, "What am I supposed to do with this? I sleep in a single bed." Still, I tucked it safely away, cherishing it as an extraordinary gesture of love.

Years later, I unfolded it and took a good look. Hundreds of oddly shaped, patterned patches – some beautiful, some funny, some somber – harmoniously stitched together into something both comforting and unexpectedly elegant.

That quilt reminds me of our Professional Touring Artists Series. I like to think of it as a living, breathing patchwork that brings beauty, warmth and meaning to Reston.

We open the season with Viet Thanh Nguyen, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "The Sympathizer," followed by a celebration of the new season in The Leila Gordon Theatre.

One of our featured artists is American Patchwork Quartet, who weave timeless American folk songs with jazz, country, West African rhythms and East Asian flourishes, creating an intricate and resilient musical tapestry.

Some acts bring pure joy and laughter. The Reduced Shakespeare Company returns with "All the Great Books (abridged)." Comedians Aparna Nancherla and Murray Hill will leave us in stitches. "Marooned! A Space Comedy" and Happenstance Theater's "Preposterous!" are whimsical, imaginative and hilarious.

Adding depth and reflection to our series, Judy Collins and Lara Downes will share the stage for a special program marking the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Performing solo and together, they'll reflect on their experiences as two generations of extraordinary American women in music. We're also co-commissioning a new piano piece with Lincoln Center to be performed by Lara Downes.

Navidad Flamenca will ignite the season with holiday traditions from Puerto Rico and Spain. Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble will bring powerful choreography and storytelling. Zimbabwe's Nobuntu will mesmerize with their sublime harmonies and rising opera star Mandy Brown will explore themes of feminine power in "Seasons of the Witch."

RCC's signature event, the Reston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration, features keynote speaker and esteemed scholar Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr., author of "We Are the Leaders We Have Been Looking For," a compelling call to action for justice and democracy. The weekend also includes unforgettable music from the phenomenal Akua Allrich.

And that's just the beginning! There's so much more to discover – don't miss a single piece of the patchwork.



Paul Douglas Michnewicz
RCC's Director of Arts & Culture

SEP 5 6 7

Broadway on the Square "Broadway's Bad Boys"

Friday, September 5, 2025 Saturday, September 6, 2025 Sunday, September 7, 2025

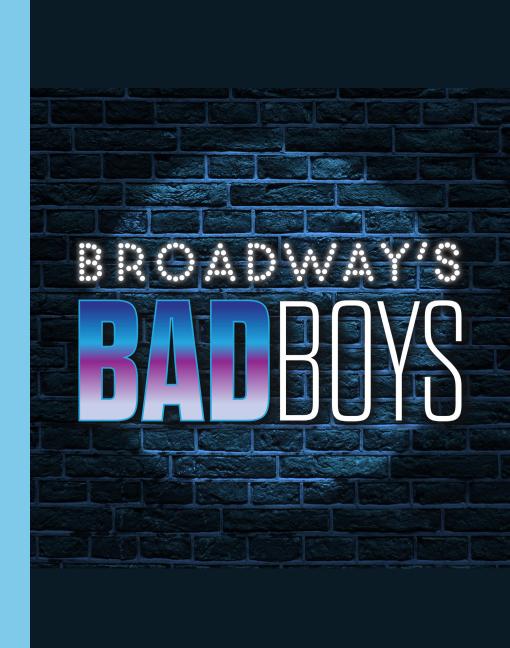
7:30 p.m. | General Audience Reston Town Square Park

FREE

GENERAL AUDIENCE

Admit it! The villains get all the best songs. "Broadway's Bad Boys" lets you enjoy characters like The Phantom from "The Phantom of the Opera," the Beast from "Beauty and the Beast" and a bit of Harold Hill in between. The show features Broadway stars Chris Sieber, Julius Thomas III and Sam Gravitte. You will hear popular songs from classic Broadway shows and newer musicals, performance by a skilled cast of Broadway professionals with a strong trio of musicians.

Presented by Reston Community Center and Reston Town Center Association.





Viet Thanh Nguyen

Saturday September 27, 2025 3:00 p.m.

\$40 R \$60 NR

Viet Thanh Nguyen's writing is bold, elegant and fiercely honest. His remarkable debut novel, "The Sympathizer," won the Pulitzer Prize, was a Dayton Literary Peace Prize winner and made the finalist list for the PEN/Faulkner award.

Viet and his family came to the United States as refugees during the Vietnam War in 1975. The New York Times says that his novel "fills a void ... giving voice to the previously voiceless while it compels the rest of us to look at the events of forty years ago in a new light." His voice is refreshing and powerful as he urges readers to examine the legacy of that tumultuous time and its aftermath from a new perspective. Copies of his books will be available for purchase and the author will be signing them.

Celebrate the opening of the 2025/2026 Professional Touring Artists Series with a reception in the Community Room after the show. Light fare will be served.





Screening of

"An American Bombing: The Road to April 19th"

with Producer Mahrya MacIntire

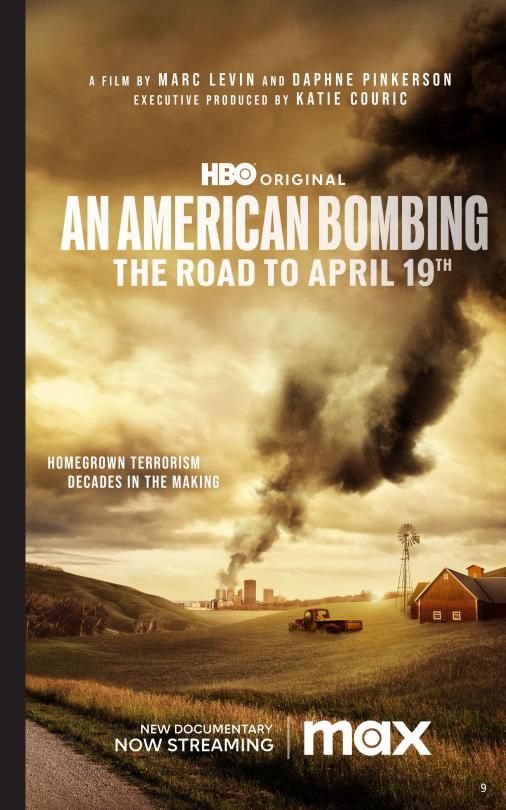
Monday October 13, 2025 7:30 p.m.

\$5 R

\$10 NR



On April 19, 1995, the Oklahoma City bombing became the deadliest act of homegrown terrorism against the government in U.S. history. "An American Bombing: The Road to April 19th" examines the details of that day, the experiences of the people there, the hunt for the perpetrators, the pivotal moments of the trial and its effects still felt today.





Nobuntu

Wednesday October 29, 2025

8:00 p.m.

\$15 R

\$20 NR

Nobuntu, the female a cappella quartet from Zimbabwe, has drawn international acclaim for its inventive performances that range from traditional Zimbabwean songs to Afro Jazz to Gospel. The ensemble's concerts are performed with pure voices, augmented by minimalistic percussion, traditional instruments such as the Mbira (thumb piano) and organic, authentic dance movements.

NOV 8

Aparna Nancherla

COMEDIAN

Saturday November 8, 2025 8:00 p.m.

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\$20 NR

Aparna Nancherla, celebrated for her dry, existential and absurd humor, currently appears on CBS's "After Midnight" and Hulu's "The Drop." She has a half-hour special in Netflix's "The Standups" Season 2. Recognized by Rolling Stone as one of "The 50 Funniest People Right Now," she released her debut album, "Just Putting It Out There," in 2016 and has appeared on "Late Night with Stephen Colbert" and "Two Dope Queens." Catch her HBO comedy special this fall; then see her live in Reston with all-new material.

Her book, "Unreliable Narrator: Me, Myself, and Impostor Syndrome," will also be available for signing.

Opening for Aparna is Kenice Mobley, a standup comedian and filmmaker from Brooklyn, who recently debuted on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon."





"APQ creates music to unify and lift up diverse voices."



American Patchwork Quartet

Sunday November 16, 20253:00 p.m.

\$15 R

\$20 NR

American Patchwork Quartet (APQ), led by Grammy-winning guitarist/vocalist Clay Ross, binds timeless American folk songs with jazz sophistication, country twang, West African hypnotics and East Asian ornamentation. APQ's sound is a masterful confluence of tradition and innovation, transcending culture, politics and ideology.

APQ resonates as a symbol of unity in diversity. It stands testament to the notion that, from a collage of varied backgrounds, a coherent and beautiful whole can be fashioned. Mirroring America's cultural mosaic, APQ stitches together a story that's both intricate and resilient. The fabric of their music neither feigns tolerance nor presents an overly-embellished image of unity. Instead, each carefully chosen piece dives deep into America's patchwork soul and shares the joys, sorrows and unwavering hope of a nation crafted by shared dreams and diverse histories.



"Marooned! A Space Comedy"

Sunday November 23, 2025 3:00 p.m. | General Audience

\$15 R \$20 NR

An astronaut traveling 87,000 light years into space crash-lands on an uncharted planet where she must resort to emergency measures to seek rescue. From the award-winning team of Alex and Olmsted, "Marooned! A Space Comedy" is a show where elegant puppetry design meets joyful, meaningful storytelling. Live performance, shadow puppetry and marionettes shine to delightful effect in a production that is "achingly beautiful..." (Maryland Theatre Guide).

This Jim Henson Foundation grant-awarded show is puppetry life support of the best kind, at just the right moment.



"The best Irish band on the planet"



Lúnasa

"An Irish Solstice Celebration with special guest singer Dave Curley"

Sunday December 7, 2025

3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

\$25 R

\$35 NR

Named for an ancient Celtic harvest festival in honor of the Irish god Lugh, patron of the arts, Lúnasa is indeed a gathering of some of the top musical talents in Ireland. Its members have helped form the backbone of some of the greatest Irish groups of the decade.

DEC 20

"Navidad Flamenca"

Presented by Furia Flamenca

Saturday December 20, 2025 8:00 p.m.

\$20 R

\$30 NR

Come celebrate the Holidays with us! Let's create a new tradition by celebrating the Spanish and Puerto Rican way. "Navidad Flamenca" is a delightful program that will take you on a journey of some of the most festive holiday traditions as celebrated in Spain and Puerto Rico. The show was conceived by Estela Vélez de Paredez, Artistic Director of the company, who grew up in Puerto Rico and experienced the unique celebrations of the holidays on the island and the parallels to the Spanish traditions.

Enjoy an evening of joyous and mesmerizing Spanish holiday music and song (villancicos) alongside thrilling flamenco dancing — and even a Puerto Rican "parranda" (caroling/party) or two.







A Musical Celebration of Growth, Resilience and New Beginnings

Sunday January 18, 20263:00 p.m.

\$15 R \$20 NR

Jazz vocalist Akua Allrich, a native of Washington, D.C., has established herself as a remarkably talented musician with a passionate stage presence. With skill and charisma, this vocalist, composer and teacher has carved out a niche for her distinctive musical expression, captivating audiences in and around the nation's capital with sold-out performances.



JAN 19

Reston
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Birthday Celebration
Keynote Address Presented by
Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr.

Monday January 19, 2026 11:00 a.m.

\$5 R

\$20 NR

Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr. is a prominent scholar known for his impact as an author, political commentator and passionate educator. He explores the complexities of the American experience, particularly through the lens of race and democracy.

"Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul" and "In a Shade of Blue: Pragmatism and the Politics of Black America," examine the struggles within Black communities and the broader societal challenges of racial issues. "Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own," reflects on Baldwin's insights and their relevance today.

Glaude inspires thought and dialogue around race, identity and democratic responsibility, advancing our understanding of these critical issues.





Happenstance Theater "Preposterous!"

Sunday **February 8, 2026**

3:00 p.m. | General Audience

\$15 R

\$20 NR

Celebrating their 20th year, we are happy to bring Happenstance Theater back to Reston.

Their newest work, "Preposterous!" is a sophisticated, family-friendly, pocketsized clown circus in which charming vintage clowns play circus animals, sing as human calliopes, do the classic circus mirror routine with a twist, invent several ridiculous "entrees," perform live music and execute a very satisfying slowmotion number involving a pie!

Fun for all ages.

FEB 14 15

This Land: An Evening with Lara Downes & Judy Collins

Saturday February 14, 2026

8:00 p.m.

\$60 NR

Sunday February 15, 2026

3:00 p.m.

\$40 R

\$60 NR

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary with pianist Lara Downes and folk legend Judy Collins in an inspiring evening of music and conversation, exploring the diverse voices and stories that shape our nation.

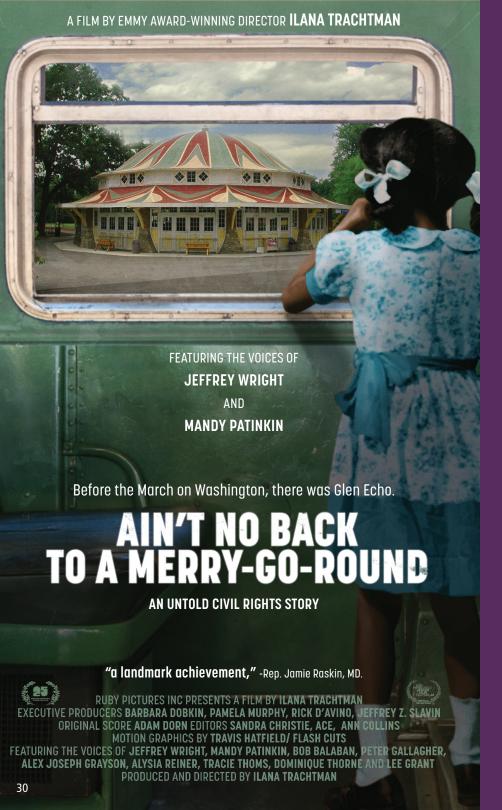
Judy, with Lara on piano, will perform beloved hits. Lara will also preview "Life" by composer Valerie Coleman, co-commissioned by RCC to honor The Leila Gordon Theatre's renaming ahead of its July 1, 2026 premiere at Lincoln Center.

"This Land" is not just a concert. Through their performances and dialogue, these artists will create an evening of celebration and reflection, fostering empathy and connection as we recognize our shared history.



"This is a one-of-a-kind event which should not be missed." – Paul Michnewicz





FEB 18

"Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round"

Screening & Talk-Back with Ilana Trachtman

Wednesday February 18, 2026

7:30 p.m.

FREE

Five Howard students broke barriers in the summer of 1960 by riding the whites-only carousel at Glen Echo Amusement Park. Their protest sparked an unprecedented alliance with the local white community, drawing national attention, union support and eventually producing ten 1961 Freedom Riders, including Stokely Carmichael, and a Supreme Court case.

"Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round," directed by Emmy winner Ilana Trachtman, brings this untold story to life with never-before-seen footage and voices by Jeffrey Wright, Mandy Patinkin, Bob Balaban, Lee Grant, Peter Gallagher, Dominique Thorne, Alysia Reiner and Tracie Thoms.

Stay afterward for a discussion with director Ilana Trachtman.

FEB 22

Reduced Shakespeare Company's "All The Great Books (abridged)"

Sunday February 22, 20263:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

\$25 R \$35 NR

Little Dickens. Short Longfellow. Reduced Proust. All the Great Books. Less is More. The literary canon explodes as the RSC unleashes a comic outrage on an unsuspecting public.

The Bad Boys of Abridgment take you on a 98-minute ride through the world's great books. Buckle up as they zip through everything you skipped in school.

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 rate our shows PG-13: Pretty Good If You're Thirteen.

"English class meets Monty Python"

The Washington Post



"Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble,

"Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, a troupe of extraordinarily talented contemporary dancers who are powerful, fast, razor-sharp, and exciting to watch."

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble

Saturday February 28, 2026

8:00 p.m.

\$20 R

\$30 NR

The internationally renowned Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, rooted for over 50 years in African American traditions and the modern dance legacy, bring both the iconic and the innovative to the stage.

The power, passion and beauty of this ensemble will elevate your spirit and heal your heart!



"Different Ships, Same Boat"

Saturday March 7, 2026

8:00 p.m.

\$15 R

\$20 NR

"Different Ships, Same Boat" is a stirring exploration of the joys, tensions and complexities of who we are and who we aspire to be, both to ourselves and to one another.

With a podcast-like narration that ranges from humorous to poignant to poetic, performers Regie Gibson and Guy Mendilow introduce each chapter, presenting moving, real-world stories — from WWII Hungary to contemporary small town USA — set against an evocative musical score.

"...a unique and beautiful approach to understanding perspectives beyond your own, something we need so badly in the world right now."

> Laura Conrad Mandel Executive Director, Jewish Arts Collaborative







Mandy Brown, soprano Tatiana Loisha, accompanist

Sunday April 19, 2026 3:00 p.m.

> \$20 NR \$15 R

"Seasons of the Witch" is a wickedly good time exploring stereotypes of the witch and reconciling these fantastical fabrications with who these women truly were: unique individuals, healers and wise women.

Featuring songs in various languages, poetry and newly commissioned works by Irish composer Fiona Linnane, it's a spellbinding experience.

After the show, sample the herbalist kitchen and discover the magic of nature.





Murray Hill

Saturday, May 30, 2026 8:00 p.m.

\$15 R \$20 NR

Murray Hill, a celebrated New York City entertainer, is known for his comedic storytelling and high-energy performances. Starring as Fred Rococo in HBO's acclaimed series "Somebody Somewhere," Murray has won several awards, including a Peabody and AFI. Murray has appeared in "Drag Me to Dinner" (Hulu), "Life & Beth," "Welcome to Flatch" and the upcoming film "Jackpot."

In 2025, he will release his memoir "Showbiz! My Life as a Middle-Aged Man" with Simon & Schuster's Gallery Books. He served as a special guest correspondent for ABC News during "Pride Across America." NBC News recognized him as one of the 30 most influential drag performers today.

Murray received the New York Voices commission from Joe's Pub at The Public Theater, where he presented his one-man show "About to Break." His holiday show "A Murray Little Christmas" has sold out at Joe's Pub for a decade.



GORDON THEATRE

The dedication of The Leila Gordon Theatre marks a defining moment in Reston Community Center's legacy, symbolizing both deep gratitude and enduring vision. This naming honor recognizes an individual whose contributions have profoundly shaped RCC's identity as a cornerstone for arts, culture and community connection in Reston and beyond.

For over four decades, Leila Gordon's leadership elevated RCC from a local facility to a dynamic and inclusive cultural institution that champions creativity, fosters belonging and reflects the values of the diverse community it serves. Her visionary stewardship ensured that the arts remained accessible, vibrant and central to Reston's civic life.

This recognition serves not only as a tribute to an extraordinary leader but also as a guiding light for the future. It affirms RCC's commitment to honoring its past while continuing to innovate, engage and inspire through the transformative power of the arts.

Also recognized during the dedication event was Linda Ifert, RCC's longtime Technical Director. Linda's expertise, artistry and quiet leadership behind the scenes ensured the success of countless performances and productions. Her work supported generations of artists and audiences alike and her legacy lives on in the professional excellence and care that define every production at RCC.











42 43

MOVIES THAT MOVE The Leila Gordon Theatre at **RCC Hunters Woods • FREE** Experience captivating films as you are transported to imagined worlds from the comfort of The Leila Gordon Theatre.

"MY OCTOPUS TEACHER" Monday, September 15 10:00 a.m.

A moving story of connection beyond barriers, brought to life with stunning cinematography. (2020, PG)

"SOUND OF METAL" Monday, October 6 10:00 a.m.

Amid relentless gigs, punk drummer Ruben faces sudden hearing loss, threatening his music and his future. (2019, R)

"HAMILTON" **Special Election Day Screenings** Tuesday, November 4 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Enjoy the groundbreaking Broadway hit "Hamilton," captured live with the original cast. (2020, R)

"NO OTHER LAND" Wednesday, November 12 7:30 p.m.

In this Academy Award-winning documentary, Palestinian activist Basel Adra teams up with Israeli journalist Yuval to document the destruction of Masafer Yatta. (2024, Not Rated, 18+)

"THE SOUND OF MUSIC" SING-ALONG

Wednesday, November 19 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate 60 years of this iconic film – sing along and relive the magic! (1965, PG)

"THE HOLDOVERS" Monday, December 1 10:00 a.m.

A grumpy instructor bonds with a troubled student and grieving cook during Christmas break. (2023, R)

For more information about Movies That Move, contact Paul Michnewicz, RCC's Director of Arts and Culture, at 703-390-6167.

How To Purchase Tickets

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 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.
- The best telephone number to reach you.
- 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 RCC Box Office will limit purchases (online or in-person) to a maximum of four tickets per purchaser for the following performances:

LARA DOWNES & JUDY COLLINS

(BOTH PERFORMANCES)

DR. EDDIE GLAUDE JR. (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.





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