

Professional Touring Artist Series

2023/2024



the CenterStage

www.restoncommunitycenter.com



2023/2024

PROFESSIONAL TOURING ARTIST SEASON AT A GLANCE



National Heritage Award Fellows

Mandy Patinkin and Kathryn Grody

A Screening of "We Feed People"

Nefesh Mountain

Negin Farsad

RSC's "The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged)"

Dan & Claudia Zanes

MLK Keynote Rev. William Barber

Kwame Alexander

Robin Spielberg "Moonlight & Love Songs"

"Soul to Soul"

Lúnasa

V (formerly Eve Ensler)

Shenandoah Conservatory and Friends

Mr. Vaudeville

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble

Trout Fishing in America

Okaidja Afroso "Jaku Mumor"

Jen Kober

September 23

September 30

October 16

October 18

November 19

December 16

January 14

January 15

February 4

February 10

February 18

February 25

March 3

March 16

March 23

March 27

April 6

April 24

June 1

The discussion that comes after the show is what I enjoy most about attending plays, concerts and author talks. What did we like? What did we not fully understand? What moved us? What made us laugh? In these discussions, everyone has a right to their own opinion, but everyone also is engaged with the opinion of others. I've been accused of being overly opinionated, but I can tell you with all honesty that I am very open to persuasion when it comes to how people experience art and what it tells them.

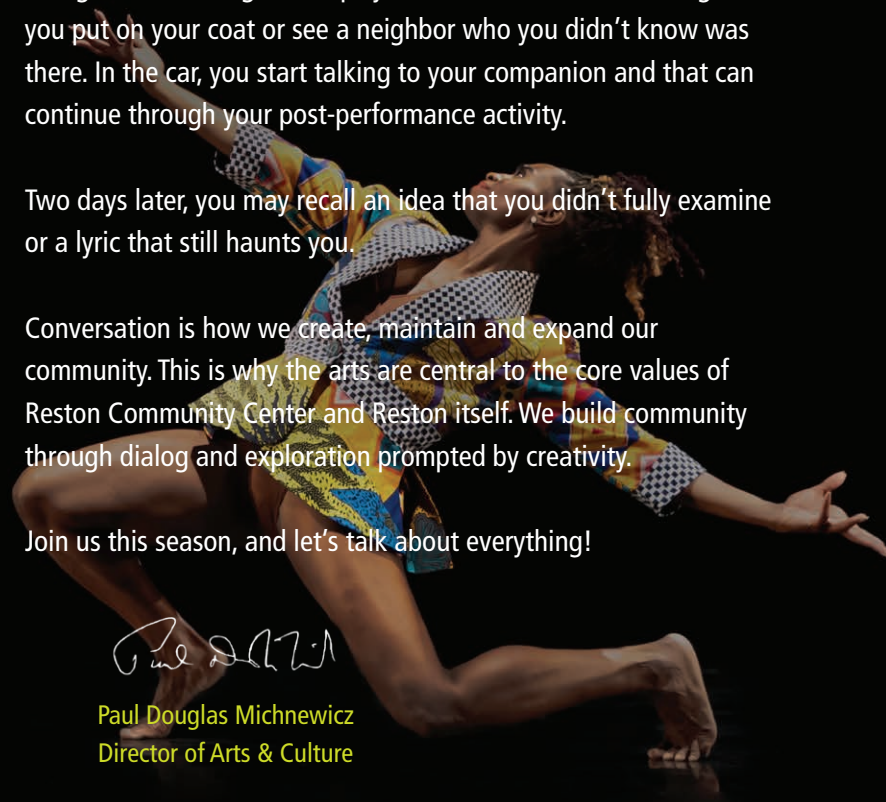
The dialogue starts during the show when your companion laughs or sighs, gasps or cries. The conversation continues when you clap loudly or just politely. And it goes with you as you get up from your seat and walk up the aisle. And then, finally, when you are released from the spell and enter the lobby, you begin to process your thoughts and feelings. Perhaps you have a word with a stranger as you put on your coat or see a neighbor who you didn't know was there. In the car, you start talking to your companion and that can continue through your post-performance activity.

Two days later, you may recall an idea that you didn't fully examine or a lyric that still haunts you.

Conversation is how we create, maintain and expand our community. This is why the arts are central to the core values of Reston Community Center and Reston itself. We build community through dialog and exploration prompted by creativity.

Join us this season, and let's talk about everything!

Paul Douglas Michnewicz
Director of Arts & Culture



National Heritage Award Fellows

**AT THE RESTON
MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL**

RESTON TOWN CENTER

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) National Heritage Fellowships are the nation's highest honor in folk and traditional arts. Come to the annual Reston Multicultural Festival where you will see these renowned artists alongside other heritage fellows, local talent and so much more!

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

Saturday

September 23

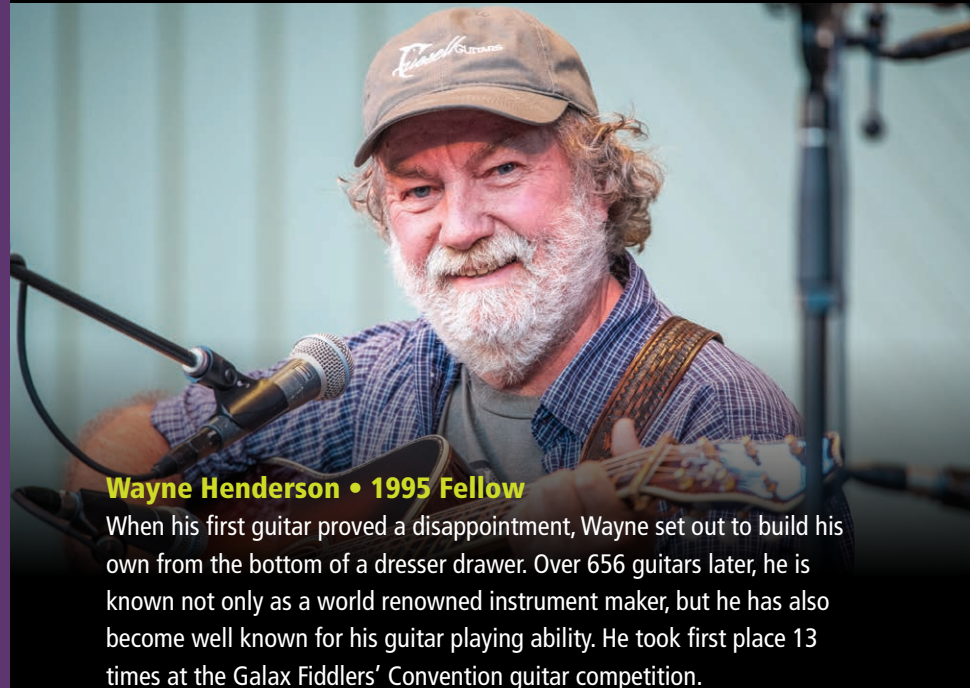
11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

FREE • All Ages • Rain or Shine



The Legendary Ingramettes • 2023 Fellow

Formed by evangelist Maggie Ingram, they are a celebrated gospel group from Richmond, Va., known as the city's "First Family of Gospel." They have performed alongside renowned artists and continue to inspire with their spirited performances, even after Maggie's passing, under the leadership of her daughter Almeta Ingram-Miller.



Wayne Henderson • 1995 Fellow

When his first guitar proved a disappointment, Wayne set out to build his own from the bottom of a dresser drawer. Over 656 guitars later, he is known not only as a world renowned instrument maker, but he has also become well known for his guitar playing ability. He took first place 13 times at the Galax Fiddlers' Convention guitar competition.

A CONVERSATION WITH Mandy Patinkin and Kathryn Grody

"Charming, irreverent ..."

— Sarah Lyall, *The New York Times*

He's a star of TV, stage and film. She's an award-winning actress and writer. Together on social media Mandy Patinkin and Kathryn Grody shared hilarious nuggets of their "uninterrupted togetherness," thoughts on marriage and hundreds of other topics, entertaining millions during the COVID shutdown. Now they are hitting the road with "A Conversation with Mandy Patinkin and Kathryn Grody," a live in-person visit full of family stories, professional anecdotes and glimpses into their 40-plus years of *mostly* marital bliss.

To prevent the unauthorized resale of tickets to this high-demand event, the CenterStage Box Office will limit purchases (online or in-person) to a maximum of four tickets per purchaser.

Saturday

September 30

3:00 p.m. • 8:00 p.m.

\$40 Reston/\$60 Non-Reston

SCREENING OF
“We Feed People”
WITH PRODUCER NATE MOOK

“We Feed People,” from Oscar-winning director Ron Howard, spotlights renowned chef José Andrés and his nonprofit World Central Kitchen’s incredible mission evolution over 12 years. The film follows them from being a scrappy group of grassroots volunteers to becoming one of the most highly regarded humanitarian aid organizations in the world relief sector.

This screening will be followed by a discussion with one of the executive producers, Restonian Nathan Mook.

Part of the Washington West Film Festival.

Recommended that children under 16 be accompanied by an adult.

Monday

October 16

7:30 p.m.

\$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston

“... a technically polished and emotionally stirring close-up view of celebrity chef José Andrés and his nonprofit World Central Kitchen.”

– Variety



Nefesh Mountain

JEWISH/BLEUGRASS BAND

"Refreshingly eclectic."

— Rolling Stone Magazine



Nefesh Mountain has been hailed as one of today's boundary-pushing groups in American roots music. The band performances have been called "a master class in string music" by Rolling Stone, and "arguably some of the best bluegrass ever made" by American Songwriter. It embodies the wild natures and unbridled free spirits of its members, bridging compositional prowess and prolific songwriting with deft and exciting instrumental jams. Their music continues to forge new paths, combining elements of everything from Americana and Appalachian bluegrass to Celtic folk and Eastern European melodies with messages of inclusivity, diversity and hope for our ever-changing world.

Wednesday

October 18

8:00 p.m.

\$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston

Negin Farsad

COMEDIAN

"A master humorist who is equal parts academic and amusing."

—Austin Chronicle

Farsad is a regular panelist for NPR's weekly current events program "Wait Wait Don't Tell Me" and Neil deGrasse Tyson's "Star Talk." In her feature film, "The Muslims Are Coming!," she took a group of Muslim-American comedians on the road in Middle America to do shows, meet the locals and counter Islamophobia through jokes. The film features Jon Stewart, Lewis Black, Janeane Garofolo, David Cross and Rachel Maddow among other luminaries, and won a humanitarian award from the Arab American Institute. Farsad's first book, "How to Make White People Laugh," was called "frank and hilarious" by Salon.

Copies of her book will be on sale for the author to sign.

Recommended that children under 16 be accompanied by an adult.

Sunday

November 19

7:00 p.m.

\$20 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston



Photo Courtesy of Negin Farsad



REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY'S

"The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged)"

"These brilliant clowns take us on an irreverent, but heartwarming trip through the holidays guaranteed to step on more than a few sacred cows and "mistel-toes."

— San Diego Magazine

The fruitcakes of the Reduced Shakespeare Company take you on an irreverent yet heartwarming trip through the holidays in "The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged)." It's festive, funny physical family fun as these Three Wise Guys send up and celebrate your favorite winter holiday traditions. The only holiday show you'll ever need to see!

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

December 16

3:00 p.m. • 8:00 p.m.

\$25 Reston/\$35 Non-Reston

Dan & Claudia Zanes

MUSIC FOR ALL AGES

Grammy Award-winner Dan Zanes, and Haitian American jazz vocalist Claudia Zanes, perform a mix of old and new songs from near and far in a style that's been called "All-Ages Social Music." In other words, when they perform, it's a party! The music is homespun, joyful, sophisticated and artful. Claudia is a board-certified Music Therapist. Her background has given the pair additional ways to make meaningful community connections and reach a diverse audience.

"True children's music but executed with such sweet (and un-gooey!) humor, casual multiculturalism and shambling groove that you can call it your own."

— *The New York Times*

Sunday

January 14

2:00 p.m.

\$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston

Photo by Anna Zanes

Rev. William J. Barber

RESTON

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND COMMUNITY LUNCH



**"William Barber is the closest person we
have to Martin Luther King Jr. in our midst."**

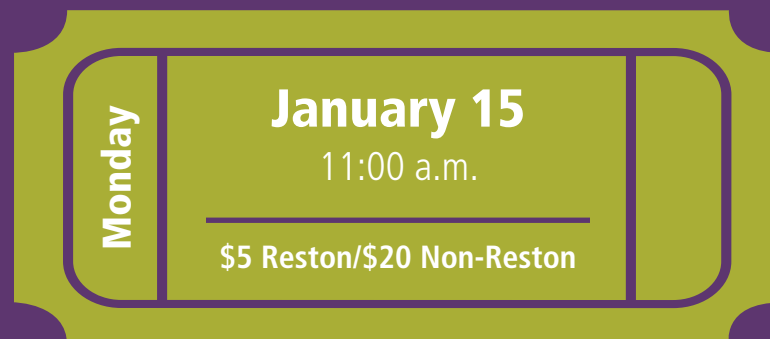
— Dr. Cornel West

The Rev. William J. Barber II is the President of Repairers of the Breach and co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign. He has pastored Greenleaf Christian Church since 1993 and is a Professor at Yale Divinity School. Dr. Barber is a civil rights advocate and champion of various movements, including workers' rights and women's rights. He gained national attention with the Moral Monday protests in North Carolina in 2013 and co-anchored the relaunch of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival in 2018.

Copies of his book will be on sale for the author to sign.

Recommended that children under 16 be accompanied by an adult.

To prevent the unauthorized resale of tickets to this high-demand event, the CenterStage Box Office will limit purchases (online or in-person) to a maximum of four tickets per purchaser.



Kwame Alexander

CHILDREN'S AUTHOR AND POET

Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator, producer and New York Times bestselling author of 38 books. A regular contributor to NPR's "Morning Edition," Kwame is the recipient of numerous awards, including The Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award, The Coretta Scott King Author Honor, three NAACP Image Award Nominations and the 2017 Inaugural Pat Conroy Legacy Award. In 2018, he opened the Barbara E. Alexander Memorial Library and Health Clinic in Ghana, as a part of LEAP for Ghana, an international literacy program he co-founded. The Kennedy Center commissioned a 2023 national tour of "Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Boogie: Starring Indigo Blume" — a musical based on his two beloved books. He is the writer and executive producer of "The Crossover" television series, based on his Newbery Medal-winning novel of the same name, available on the Disney Channel and Disney+.

Copies of his books will be on sale for the author to sign.

Sunday

February 4

3:00 p.m.

\$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston

"Alexander is an accomplished writer, decorated with the top awards given to authors of literature for young people."

— *The New York Times*



Photo by Alexander Harlin Miller Photography

Robin Spielberg

"MOONLIGHT & LOVE SONGS"



"As a popular pianist, Spielberg has one of the best sets of hands going."

— All-Music Guide



Romance is in the air! Enjoy an evening of heartwarming tales and beautiful music performed by one of America's favorite pianists, Robin Spielberg. Whether playing American classics from film and Broadway, or her original works inspired by love, nature and history, Robin's neo-classical piano stylings, coupled with her ability to connect with audiences, always inspire and make us laugh. A Steinway Artist, Robin is a Billboard-charting artist with 24 albums, including "Heal of the Hand," "With a Song in My Heart" and "Love Story."

Saturday

February 10

8:00 p.m.

\$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston

“Soul to Soul”

YIDDISH AND AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC

The Jewish and African American people arrived in America by different paths. But the parallels in their histories as oppressed minorities brought them together in the struggle for equal rights. The exciting celebration of two cultures' commonalities is the essence of “Soul to Soul” which brings together African American and Yiddish American experiences in a deeply stirring musical presentation. Starring Lisa Fishman, Cantor Magda Fishman, Elmore James, Zalmen Mlotek, and Tony Perry, with Brian Glassman on bass, Dmitri Slepovitch on clarinet and saxophone, and Matt Temkin on percussion. “Soul to Soul” has been performed for enthusiastic audiences from coast to coast.

Sunday

February 18

3:00 p.m.

\$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston

“(An) electrifying and emotionally
captivating theatrical concert ...”

— *Broadway World*



Photo Courtesy of “Soul to Soul”

Lúnasa

IRISH MUSIC

"Anybody who listens can't help but find them contagious."

— BILLBOARD

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.

Sunday

February 25

3:00 p.m. • 7:00 p.m.

\$25 Reston/\$35 Non-Reston

V

(FORMERLY EVE ENSLER)

AUTHOR AND PLAYWRIGHT

V (formerly Eve Ensler) is a Tony Award-winning playwright, activist and author known for "The Vagina Monologues." The play has been performed in 140 countries and is recognized as one of the most important plays of the past 25 years. V has also worked on films like HBO's "The Vagina Monologues," the Sundance Film Festival-winning documentary "What I Want My Words to Do to You," and served as a consultant for "Mad Max: Fury Road." V is a co-founder of the City of Joy, a transformative center for women survivors of violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and featured in the Netflix documentary "City of Joy."

Copies of her books will be on sale for the author to sign.

Recommended that children under 16 be accompanied by an adult.

Sunday

March 3

3:00 p.m.

\$20 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston

"Reckoning ... exhorts readers to confront the worst and ugliest, pleads for progress and peace, and provokes admiration for its resilient, activist author. V shall overcome, someday."

— The New York Times

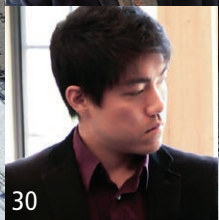


Shenandoah Conservatory and Friends

"SLAVIC DREAMS"

**"Needless to say, Akemi Takayama was
brilliant. Absolutely brilliant."**

— *The Virginia Gazette*



Violinist Akemi Takayama, a long-time friend of the CenterStage, with her musical colleagues from Shenandoah Conservatory and the Audubon Quartet, performs a concert celebrating their history and great music. Performers include Akemi Takayama (violin), Ellen Jewett (violin), Michael Stepniak (viola), Julian Schwarz (cello) and Ryo Yanagitani (piano). The afternoon's music includes Dvorak's Piano Quintet No. 2 in A Major, Op. 81 and Borodin's String Quartet No. 2 in D Major.

Saturday

March 16

3:00 p.m.

\$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston

Mr. Vaudeville

FAMILY COMEDY

Once again, Buddy Silver, self-proclaimed “Mr. Vaudeville,” finds himself in a predicament of theatrical confusion. Buddy has arrived at the CenterStage Motion Picture and Vaudeville House to host a vaudeville show that was to take place after the viewing of a film. When the film breaks, they call on Buddy to fill the gap. But he is the only one there. The acts he had lined up were not due to arrive until later. What does he do? What can he do? The show must go on! After all, he’s Mr. Vaudeville! He’ll just have to do it all by himself ... that is unless he can get a little help from the audience. It’s fun for the whole family in this hilarious afternoon of magic, mayhem and classic vaudeville comedy.

Saturday

March 23

2:00 p.m.

\$5 Reston/\$10 Non-Reston

“It was fantastic. We had eight adults and two kids in our group; everyone agreed he did such a great job with the whole production. A fun, fun time!”

— Joan Rose, Reston Resident



Photos Courtesy of Mark Brutsché

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble

CONTEMPORARY DANCE

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

– Triangle Arts & Entertainment



The internationally renowned Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, rooted for more than 50 years in African American traditions and modern dance legacy, brings 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!

Wednesday

March 27

8:00 p.m.

\$25 Reston/\$35 Non-Reston

Trout Fishing in America

FAMILY-FRIENDLY MUSIC

Trout Fishing in America is the longstanding, four-time GRAMMY-nominated musical partnership of Keith Grimwood and Ezra Idlet. A willingness to at once make fun of our most annoying daily habits, then to touch our hearts with tender and passionate images of family life, is what makes the connection between Trout Fishing in America and its audiences so compelling and poignant.

Catch a sneak peek performance at Founder's Day at Lake Anne Plaza earlier in the day.

Saturday

April 6

8:00 p.m.

\$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston

"... the Lennon and McCartney of
kids' music."

— National Public Radio



Photo by Don House

Okaidja Afroso

"JAKU MUMOR"

THE ANCESTRAL SPIRIT OF GHANA

"One of the undeniable highlights of the evening was the live music ... His voice, guitar, and percussion instruments blended into a landscape that was transcendent."

— LA Dance Review

Okaidja Afroso ushers in a fresh breeze of musical flavors from the shores of Ghana's Gulf of Guinea, drawing from the ecological knowledge of the indigenous Ga-Dangme fishermen, the power of nature-based rituals, and the connections that his ancestors had to the elements, particularly to the ocean. With his new project "Jaku Mumor," Okaidja's distinctive musical style extends ancestral traditions and creates a contemporary African oral tradition by combining percussion, guitar, dance and native language vocals.



Wednesday

April 24

8:00 p.m.

\$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston

Jen Kober

COMEDIAN

WITH JEFFREY JAY

Jen Kober is the winner of NPR's Snap Judgement Comedic Performance of the Year for her Girl Scout Cookie story, which went viral upon its release. She can be seen on Disney+ in "The Mandalorian" and "Diary of a Future President," on HBO's "Hacks," Showtime's "Black Monday" and "American Horror Story," and Netflix's "Dead to Me" and RuPaul's "AJ and the Queen." Jeffrey Jay is a transgender comedian who was featured in The Advocate as one of "The Top 7 Transgender Comedians" and "7 LGBT Comics You Shouldn't Have Missed." He has been seen on the CW morning show "The Eye Opener," and as a finalist in "The Funniest Comic in Texas."

Recommended that children under 16 be accompanied by an adult.

Catch a sneak peek performance at the Reston Pride Festival at Lake Anne Plaza earlier in the day.

Saturday

June 1

8:00 p.m.

\$20 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston

"Comedian Jen Kober is brassy, smart, ...
and she will put you in your place."

— Laist.com



Photo Courtesy of Jen Kober

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'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:

MANDY PATINKIN AND KATHRYN GRODY

REV. WILLIAM J. BARBER

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

Photo of Okaidja Afrosu by Lisa Monet Photography





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