



SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA NEWS RELEASE



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Spoleto Festival USA Announces 2016 Program

40th Season of America's Premier Performing Arts Festival Takes Place May 27 – June 12 in Charleston, South Carolina

Highlights of the 2016 Festival:

First Spoleto Festival USA production of opera ***Porgy and Bess***, directed by David Herskovits with visual design by artist Jonathan Green, featuring Alyson Cambridge and Lester Lynch in the title roles, conducted by Stefan Asbury

World premiere of ***Grace Notes: Reflections for Now*** directed by visual artist **Carrie Mae Weems** featuring music, spoken word, and video projections reflecting on grace and democracy

World premiere of "African romance" ***Afram ou La Belle Swita*** by Charleston-born composer Edmund Thornton Jenkins with stage direction by David Herskovits and performed by cast members from *Porgy and Bess*

US premiere of opera ***The Little Match Girl*** by contemporary German composer Helmut Lachenmann, co-directed by Mark Down and Phelim McDermott, featuring sopranos Heather Buck and Yuko Kakuta, and conducted by John Kennedy

US premiere of comic baroque opera ***La Double Coquette*** by Antoine Dauvergne with revisions by contemporary composer Gérard Pesson performed by early music specialists Ensemble Amarillis

US premiere of a new production of Oscar Wilde's ***The Importance of Being Earnest*** by Dublin's Gate Theatre, directed by Patrick Mason

US premiere of ***Golem*** by innovative theater company 1927

40th-Season Celebration Concert featuring the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra, Westminster Choir, artists from the Bank of America Chamber Music series and Wells Fargo Jazz series, and special guests to be held in the newly renovated Charleston Gaillard Center conducted by former Festival Music Director Steven Sloane

Bank of America Chamber Music series led by Geoff Nuttall to feature the St. Lawrence String Quartet in residence for the duration of the Festival and works by 2016 composer-in-residence Osvaldo Golijov

The **Westminster Choir**, **Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra**, and members of the **Charleston Symphony Orchestra Chorus** to perform Beethoven's Mass in C Major and Choral Fantasy in the new Charleston Gaillard Center conducted by Joe Miller

Members of the **Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra** to perform a 40th-anniversary performance of Steve Reich's *Music for 18 Musicians*, a chamber orchestra program, and Music in Time concerts in addition to performing in *Porgy and Bess*, *The Little Match Girl*, and two Charleston Gaillard Center concerts

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company returns to the Festival, and the **Aakash Odedra Company** (UK), **L.A. Dance Project**, Sadler's Wells's *Havana Rakatan*, and choreographer Amy O'Neal's hip hop work *Opposing Forces* make their Spoleto Festival USA debuts in the 2016 dance series

Randy Weston African Rhythms Sextet and **René Marie** to perform Wells Fargo Jazz series concerts in the Charleston Gaillard Center; jazz series also features singer **Cécile McLorin Salvant**, pianist **Jason Moran** and his **Fats Waller Dance Party**, and **The Freddy Cole Quartet**

Cuban culture celebrated with performances of *Havana Rakatan* showcasing Cuban dance, and Wells Fargo jazz series concerts by **Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra** and the **Bohemian Trio** featuring saxophonist Yosvany Terry

Special Festival-eve and opening-night concerts by bluegrass luminaries **Old Crow Medicine Show** in the College of Charleston Cistern Yard on May 26 and 27

Three critically acclaimed theater productions *Ada/Ava*, *The Gambler's Guide to Dying*, and *Every Brilliant Thing* to be performed in Charleston following international festival appearances

City-wide activities planned around *Porgy and Bess* to celebrate the production's origins and history in Charleston including daily walking tours throughout the Festival

Wells Fargo Festival Finale held at Middleton Place to feature eight-piece soul band **Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats** on June 12

January 3, 2016 (CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA)—Festival General Director Nigel Redden has announced the program for the 40th annual Spoleto Festival USA, taking place May 27 through June 12, 2016 in Charleston, South Carolina. The 2016 Festival features over

150 performances and events held in 13 venues, including the Festival's return to the Charleston Gaillard Center that re-opened in October after an extensive three-year renovation.

"For Spoleto Festival USA's 40th year, we wanted to make the program extraordinary," says Redden. "Producing our first *Porgy and Bess*—a work based on Charleston-born DuBose Heyward's novel, set in Charleston, and about Charleston's people—was a celebratory choice. It is especially appropriate that this opera will be our first performance in the spectacular new Charleston Gaillard Center. A 1970 production of *Porgy and Bess* staged in the then-new Gaillard Auditorium is a long-remembered civic event representing unity, pride, and artistic achievement that we hope to emulate. Beyond *Porgy and Bess*, there is a celebratory feeling throughout the entire program that features the signature Spoleto Festival USA blend of new works and young artists alongside established international visionaries encompassing opera, music, dance, and theater. I hope people will find many reasons to be part of this landmark 40th year."

June 2016 will be a time of celebration for the Festival, and it will also be a time of reflection and remembrance for the city of Charleston. June 17—five days after the Festival ends—will mark the first anniversary of the murder of nine people at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church on Calhoun Street. Several performances will acknowledge the event and commemorate the victims. This includes the world premiere of a multi-media project conceived and directed by acclaimed visual artist **Carrie Mae Weems** called ***Grace Notes: Reflections for Now*** curated by Harvard professor **Sarah Lewis**. Originally conceived as a gift for President Obama, *Grace Notes* will be a provocative performance of music, song, text, spoken word, and video projection. The project poses the question "what is the role of grace in the pursuit of democracy?" and was inspired, in part, by President Obama singing "Amazing Grace" during his eulogy for Reverend Clementa Pinckney. Weems's project gathers a stellar group of artists including composers and musicians **James Newton**, **Geri Allen**, and **Craig Harris**, along with poet **Aja Monet**, writer **Carl Hancock Rux**, and singers **Alicia Hall Moran**, **Imani Uzuri**, and **Esai Davis**. *Grace Notes* will be performed Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5 in the College of Charleston Sottile Theatre. A concert by jazz singer **René Marie** in the Charleston Gaillard Center on Sunday, May 29 will also acknowledge the tragedy featuring a Spoleto Festival USA-commissioned song "Be the Change" inspired by the community's response and show of unity.

"Spoleto Festival USA ends just days before the first anniversary of the Emanuel AME Church murders and several artists felt compelled to reflect upon the event and on the times we live in,"

says Redden. “As a Festival that has proudly called Charleston home for 40 years, we wanted to provide an outlet for these reactions to demonstrate how art can help people to heal as well as provide an important voice in times when it can be difficult to find words.”

Full details of the 2016 program and an event calendar follow. Tickets go on sale to the general public on Thursday, January 14 at 10:00am by phone 843.579.3100 and online at spoletousa.org. A donor pre-sale begins January 5; details can be found online and in the ticket-purchasing information below.

2016 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

OPERA

Porgy and Bess

Charleston-born writer DuBose Heyward’s inspiration for Catfish Row will be brought to life on the new Martha and John M. Rivers Performance Hall stage, just blocks from the historical Cabbage Row in this world premiere production of ***Porgy and Bess*** by **George Gershwin, DuBose and Dorothy Heyward, and Ira Gershwin**. **David Herskovits**, artistic director of New York’s Target Margin Theater, and whose 1998 production of *Mamba’s Daughters* by DuBose and Dorothy Heyward won an OBIE award and sold out at Spoleto Festival USA in 1999, returns to direct this landmark production. Visual Designer **Jonathan Green**, an internationally acclaimed visual artist, will take audiences on a journey from the streets of the Charleston they know to a Charleston that reveals the roots, strength, and character of South Carolina’s Gullah community, a community in which Green himself grew up and one that inspired George Gershwin when he began composing the opera at Folly Beach in 1934. Noted for his “ravishing, rolling baritone with power to spare” (*Opera News*), **Lester Lynch** plays Porgy; soprano **Alyson Cambridge**, whose performances are “radiant, vocally assured, dramatically subtle and compelling, and artistically imaginative” (*The Washington Post*), makes her role debut as Bess. Conductor **Stefan Asbury** leads members of the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra and members of the Charlotte-based Johnson C. Smith University Concert Choir in this celebration of Charleston and its people. There will be six performances of *Porgy and Bess* on May 27, 30, June 1, 3, 8, and 12.

Presented to the community by Wells Fargo Private Bank.

Additional support for *Porgy and Bess* is generously provided by The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation, The DuBose and Dorothy Heyward Memorial Fund, The Albert Sottile Foundation, The Samuel Freeman Charitable Trust, and The Brand Foundation of New York, Inc.

During the Festival, ***Porgy and Bess*-themed walking tours** of downtown Charleston will be offered daily. Many of the city's arts and historical organizations will present events related to *Porgy and Bess* including lecture series presented by the **College of Charleston Libraries** and the **College of Charleston Avery Research Center**. **The Charleston Museum** will present special exhibitions and programs, including displaying the piano Gershwin used at Folly Beach when composing the opera. Details of ancillary events can be found at spoletousa.org. Events and additional details will be added as confirmed.

The Little Match Girl

The well-known Hans Christian Andersen tale of the little match girl depicts a poor girl on a snowy street, lighting matches for a few seconds of fleeting warmth in her final hour. In his opera, German composer **Helmut Lachenmann** explores the girl's last moments as she gazes into the flames. Co-Directed by **Phelim McDermott** (The Metropolitan Opera's *Satyagraha* and *The Enchanted Island*) of award-winning improvised theater makers Improbable, and **Mark Down** of master-puppeteers Blind Summit Theatre, this US premiere will feature 106 members of the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra elevated on a platform and encircling the audience to perform the evocative score, full of clicks, crackles, knocks, and hisses, under the baton of Resident Conductor and Director of Orchestral Activities **John Kennedy**. Featuring sopranos **Heather Buck** and **Yuko Kakuta**, *The Little Match Girl* departs from traditional performance techniques in order to create a frigid atmosphere—a nearly meteorological effect—both animating the match girl's world and contemplating the coldness of a society that would let a child freeze. “The sounds are extraordinary, and the dramatic intensity they generate hard to pin down, yet totally absorbing” (*The Guardian*).

Helmut Lachenmann, who marked his 80th birthday in 2015, will attend the US premiere performance on May 29, and will speak at a Music In Time concert on Friday, May 27.

La Double Coquette

Spoleto Festival USA will present the US premiere of this charming revision of **Antoine Dauvergne's** 1753 opéra comique, *La Coquette trompée* in which contemporary French composer **Gérard Pesson's** 32 additions and **Pierre Alferi's** cheeky new libretto seamlessly

complement the original score. A story about a good-looking, double-crossing cross-dresser who sets out to win her lover back from a young seductress, *La Double Coquette* is directed by **Fanny de Chaillé** with spectacular costumes designed by Golden Lion Award-winning French visual artist **Annette Messager**. Celebrated period musicians **Ensemble Amarillis** will perform the opera on the Dock Street Theatre stage with sopranos **Isabelle Poulenard** and **Mailys de Villoutreys**, and baritone **Robert Getchell**.

La Double Coquette is a Spoleto Festival USA co-production with the Festival d'Automne in Paris; the Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles; Festival Le French May / Hong Kong; Festival de Sablé; Metz en Scenes - Arsenal; Théâtre Impérial de Compiègne; KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen; and Peak Performances @ Montclair State University.

THEATER

Dublin's **Gate Theatre** makes its 10th appearance at Spoleto Festival USA with a new production of Oscar Wilde's comic masterpiece, *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Wilde's joyous social satire chronicles the escapades of dashing men-about-town—the irrepressible Algernon Moncrieff and the mannerly John Worthing—and their courtship of the ladies Gwendolen Fairfax and Cecily Cardew. Matters are hilariously complicated by the gallants' deceptions and the interference of Gwendolen's formidable mother, Lady Bracknell. Boasting what the company's Artistic Director Michael Colgan calls “a dream cast,” this new production is directed by Patrick Mason and will be performed in the Dock Street Theatre.

Hailed as “a Frankenstein for the 21st century” (*The Times*, London) **Golem** is the newest creation from innovative UK-based company **1927**. Written and directed by Suzanne Andrade, *Golem* is loosely based on the Jewish folklore myth about a man who fashions a creature out of clay to work for him, but is an original story told via 1927's characteristic blend of live performance and stunning sets brought to life through film, animation, and claymation designed by Paul Barritt. *Golem* follows the company's successful productions—and sold-out Spoleto Festival USA shows—*The Animals and Children Took to the Streets* (2012) and *Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea* (2008).

Two one-man shows that touch upon themes of death and loss while making you laugh come to Spoleto Festival USA following successful runs at the Edinburgh and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals. In *Every Brilliant Thing*, a man looks back at a list he began as a child to help his depressed mother rediscover joy—a list of “every brilliant thing” worth living for. Performed by

Jonny Donahoe and directed by George Perrin as part of the **American Express Woolfe Street Series**, the play has been described as “a piece that demonstrates why life is worth living—you’ll leave feeling elated” (*The Scotsman*). Meanwhile, in **A Gambler’s Guide to Dying**, writer and performer Gary McNair recounts the story of his garrulous gambling grandfather whose winning bet on the 1966 World Cup final made him his fortune and forged a family legend. When diagnosed with cancer, his grandfather decided to bet all of his accumulated gambling winnings on living to see the year 2000. Awarded *The Scotsman’s* Fringe First award for new writing at the 2015 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, *A Gambler’s Guide to Dying* has been described as “. . . a beautifully written, deceptively simple, warmly comic piece that accumulates layers of meaning through the act of storytelling itself” (*The Guardian*).

Death also casts a shadow over **Ada/Ava** by Chicago-based **Manual Cinema** and directed by Drew Dir. Using shadow puppets, *Ada/Ava* is the story of twin sisters who have lived their whole lives together until, suddenly, Ava dies. When a traveling carnival comes to town, Ada visits a mirror maze that sends her on a journey across the thresholds of life and death. Featuring three musicians performing an original score live and more than 300 flat paper and acetate puppets manipulated by five puppeteers, and set within a New England gothic landscape, *Ada/Ava* is described by *The New York Times* as “. . . an unclassifiable story of spectral beauty. . .”

DANCE

Two contemporary American companies, a rising star of the UK dance scene, an innovative hip-hop collective, and an internationally acclaimed Cuban show from London’s Sadler’s Wells Theatre make up the 2016 dance series. The performances encompass a “who’s who” of contemporary choreography, including two works by award-winning Belgian choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui.

On opening weekend, the **Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company** returns to Spoleto Festival USA with *Play and Play: An Evening of Movement and Music* featuring an octet of musicians from the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra performing live music by Mendelssohn, Mozart, and Beethoven. The program features Jones’s award-winning “D-Man in the Waters”, “Spent Days Out Yonder”, and “Continuous Replay”, highlighting the exhilaration of musicians and dancers working together. These performances will be held in the College of Charleston Sottile Theatre.

Britain's **Aakash Odedra Company** makes its Spoleto Festival USA debut with *Rising*, a program of four solo works performed by Odedra, who is trained in the Indian dance styles of Kathak and Bharata Natyam. A testament to the esteem in which he is held, *Rising* features works choreographed especially for him by three of the world's finest choreographers—Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Akram Khan, and Russell Maliphant—performed alongside a work of Odedra's own in the intimate Emmett Robinson Theater at the College of Charleston.

L.A. Dance Project makes its Spoleto Festival USA debut in the Charleston Gaillard Center with a program of three works. New York City Ballet soloist and Resident Choreographer Justin Peck's *Murder Ballades* is based on the American folk tradition of songs about crime. Bright and athletic on the surface, dark undertones slowly creep through, augmented by a score by Bryce Dessner (The National) and visuals by artist Sterling Ruby. In *Harbor Me* by award-winning Belgian choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, a trio of dancers explores the role of the harbor as a place of shelter, offering protection, but also as a border that can turn you away. *Hearts & Arrows* by L.A. Dance Project founder, Paris Opera Ballet director of dance, and former New York City Ballet principal Benjamin Millepied, is set to Philip Glass's String Quartet no. 3 and sees eight dancers move through numerous patterns where "everything is unexpected, and everything feels serendipitously right" (*The New York Times*).

Breakdancing, live beats, and hip hop collide in ***Opposing Forces*** created by Seattle-based choreographer, dancer, and educator Amy O'Neal. Five world-class B-Boys—Alfredo "Free" Vergara Jr., Brysen "Just Be" Angeles, Fever One, Michael O'Neal Jr., and Mozes Lateef Saleem—use their distinctive physical language to examine the value systems of race and gender within the environments of battling, commercial dance, contemporary performance, and rap culture performed to an original score by Waylon Dungan, also known as WD4D.

The dance series exuberantly concludes in the Charleston Gaillard Center with ***Havana Rakatan***, which brings salsa, mambo, jazz, bolero, son, cha-cha-cha, and rumba together for a dazzling display of Cuban passion. Exploring the country's rich history through dance, Cuban choreographer Nilda Guerra's whirlwind of movement is underpinned by the loose, syncopated rhythms of Cuba's well-known eight-piece son band Turquino performing live on stage. *Havana Rakatan* made its hugely successful debut in London, where *Time Out London* proclaimed it "rip-roaring entertainment." The show subsequently completed four successful West End runs and has toured the world as one of Sadler's Wells's most successful productions.

The 2016 Dance Series is sponsored by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina.

Additional support for the 2016 dance series is provide by The Harkness Foundation for Dance.

Master classes will be held during the festival with Aakash Odedra, Amy O'Neal, and Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company's Janet Wong. Information on participating can be found at spoletousa.org.

MUSIC

40th-Season Celebration Concert

The full Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra, the Westminster Choir, musicians from the Bank of America Chamber Music and Wells Fargo Jazz series, as well as other friends—more than 140 strong—come together to celebrate 40 years of music making in the new Martha and John M. Rivers Performance Hall on Saturday, May 28. Opening with the overture to Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades*—the Festival's inaugural opera in 1977—the program includes works by composer and Festival Founder Gian Carlo Menotti; Haydn's *Sinfonia Concertante*, performed by Chamber Music Director Geoff Nuttall and series musicians; selections from choral and operatic performances by the Westminster Choir; and the premiere of *Blessing the Boats*—a new work by Resident Conductor and Director of Orchestral Activities John Kennedy, as well as a few surprises. Former Festival Music Director **Steven Sloane** conducts, and Mayor emeritus **Joseph P. Riley**, whose enthusiasm for Spoleto Festival USA helped make it a reality in Charleston, narrates this four-decade celebration.

Choral Fantasy

In another show of musical force, the Westminster Choir, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra Chorus, and the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra will combine to present Beethoven's Mass in C Major and Choral Fantasy, as well as Olivier Messiaen's *Couleurs de la Cité Celeste* for piano, winds, and percussion in the Charleston Gaillard Center on Tuesday, June 4, showcasing the acoustics of the renovated hall. Pianist **Lori Sims** will be featured in the latter two works. The Beethoven works emerged from his "heroic" period, a time when he strayed from classical convention, heading instead toward the lows and highs of struggle and celebration. In the Choral Fantasy, many hear early sketches of the melody made famous in Beethoven's ninth symphony—full of hope, fraternity, and joy. This concert will be conducted by Director for Choral Activities **Joe Miller**.

Always in great demand, the **Westminster Choir Concerts** in the Cathedral Church of St. Luke and St. Paul's feature a program titled Angel Band. The choir will perform Poulenc's *Messe en Sol Majeur*, Debussy's *Trois chansons de Charles d'Orléans*; and Brahms's colorful vocal quartet *An Die Heimat*, along with traditional favorites conducted by **Joe Miller**, the Festival's director for choral activities.

The **Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra** is comprised of young professional musicians selected anew each year through national auditions and led by the Festival's Resident Conductor and Director of Orchestral Activities **John Kennedy**. The orchestra performs in many capacities, including opera, symphonic, choral, chamber, and contemporary concerts. In addition to the 40th-Season Celebration Concert and Choral Fantasy concerts in the Charleston Gaillard Center, members of the orchestra will perform two programs. The first celebrates the 40th anniversary of Steve Reich's *Music for 18 Musicians* in Memminger Auditorium on Friday, June 3. A landmark work of the 20th century, this work helped to define the minimalist movement with its revolutionary style. The second concert will feature a chamber orchestra ensemble conducted by **Norman Huynh**, assistant conductor for the Portland Symphony Orchestra, to demonstrate the youthful virtuosity of the Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra members and featuring Alberto Ginastera's *Variaciones concertantes*—an expressive work with improvisatory character that features every instrument as a soloist. This concert will be performed in St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on Monday, June 6.

Ninety years after the composer's untimely death, Spoletto Festival USA proudly presents the world premiere of "African romance" ***Afram ou La Belle Swita*** by Charleston-born **Edmund Thornton Jenkins**. Edmund was the seventh son of Reverend Daniel Jenkins, who, born a slave, founded the Jenkins Orphanage on King Street; the world-renowned Jenkins Orphanage Band accompanied every Broadway performance of Dorothy and DuBose Heyward's *Porgy*, the play on which *Porgy and Bess* was based. Edmund was the Ross Scholar at London's Royal Academy of Music, winning awards in performance and composition before his premature death in Paris at age 32. Jenkins's last composition, *Afram ou La Belle Swita* travels from Africa to the American South, encountering a prince and princess, a lounge lizard, banjos under the moonlight, and possum hunts; he intended this work to be performed by the likes of Florence Mills, the winsome "Queen of Happiness" from the Harlem Renaissance and a member of his coterie of friends. Reconstructed in what is believed to be its first performance, *Afram* is a

cabaret revue with songs, fox trots, and such evocations of Charleston as “Underneath the Palmettos and Pines.” It will be performed as part of the **American Express Woolfe Street Series** by cast members of *Porgy and Bess* and special guest performer pianist **Tuffus Zimbabwe** with stage direction by **David Herskovits**.

John Kennedy’s **Music in Time** series features five concerts that explore contemporary music. **Helmut Lachenmann in Conversation** on Friday, May 27 at the Simons Center Recital Hall gives people the opportunity to hear German composer **Helmut Lachenmann**, whose opera *The Little Match Girl* receives its US premiere at the Festival, talk about his philosophies of musical and social engagement. Also on the program will be Lachenmann’s 2008 song cycle *Got Lost*—a deconstruction of text and sound in which music reflects upon itself in, as he says, “a constantly changing field of sound, reverberation, and movement.” *Got Lost* will be performed by soprano **Yuko Kakuta** and pianist **Stephen Drury**. **Ein Kinderspiel and Spoletudes** on Saturday, June 4 is a playful program featuring Lachenmann’s *Ein Kinderspiel (Child’s Play)* for solo piano, played by **Renate Rohlfing**. Virtuoso musical portraits for musicians who have had a long association with Spoleto Festival USA will be revealed in the premiere of John Kennedy’s *Spoletudes*. And with his new *Verpflichtet II*, Gleb Kanasevich—a young composer and member of the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra—creates a tapestry of chamber orchestra dialogue, complete with abstract references to Kanye West and an amplified milkshake. The third Music In Time concert in the Simons Center **Serynade With An Automated Sunrise** on Tuesday, June 7 continues the celebration of Helmut Lachenmann featuring his piano solo *Serynade* played by **Stephen Drury** and closes with Oscar Bettison’s 2014 work for small ensemble, *An Automated Sunrise (for Joseph Cornell)*. The Music In Times series also includes two evening concerts presented as part of the **American Express Woolfe Street Series**. **Ancient Voices of Children** on Wednesday, June 1 is named for George Crumb’s song cycle on texts by Federico García Lorca, considered a contemporary-music classic. The performance features soprano **Heather Buck** with pianist **Stephen Drury** and members of the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra. Sharing the program is Pierre Boulez’s haunting *Dialogue de l’ombre double (Dialogue of the Double Shadow)* for clarinet and spatial electronics, performed by **Gleb Kanasevich**. A second Woolfe Street Playhouse concert on Thursday, June 2 called **A Maze (With Grace)** is named for Thomas Albert’s ode to memory in which the hymn “Amazing Grace” is unfolded note by note. Other new works on the program include Hong-Da Chin’s *...the clock is ticking...* and Richard Reed Parry’s *Music for Heart and Breath* performed by members of the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra.

Outside the classical realm, the Festival offers special Festival-eve and opening-night performances by energetic six-piece bluegrass band **Old Crow Medicine Show** in the College of Charleston Cistern Yard May 26 and 27. Inducted as members of the Grand Ole Opry in 2013 and two-time Grammy-Award winners, Old Crow Medicine Show has won the enthusiastic support of every kind of bluegrass lover since its discovery by folk icon Doc Watson 15 years ago; members Ketch & Critter and friends performed an exciting show at the Festival in 2012.

BANK OF AMERICA CHAMBER MUSIC

Under the direction of violinist Geoff Nuttall, The Charles E. and Andrea L. Volpe Director for Chamber Music, the **Bank of America Chamber Music** series features 33 concerts of 11 programs performed twice daily in the historic Dock Street Theatre. To celebrate Spoleto Festival USA's 40th season, the **St. Lawrence String Quartet** will be in residence for the duration of the Festival, also joined by pianists **Stephen Prutsman** and **Inon Barnatan**, cellist **Alisa Weilerstein**, violinist **Benjamin Beilman**, oboist **James Austin Smith**, baritone **Tyler Duncan**, and many others. Violinist **Pamela Frank** will make her Festival debut, and **Oswaldo Golijov** returns to the series as composer in residence. The full program will be announced in April. Known for its party-like atmosphere and ingenious programming, the series is heard beyond Dock Street Theatre, being broadcast nationally and internationally via the popular Chamber Music from Spoleto Festival USA radio series produced by South Carolina Public Radio.

WELLS FARGO JAZZ

The 2016 program for the Wells Fargo Jazz series illustrates the Festival's mission to present acclaimed masters alongside rising stars with a stellar array of artists encompassing the rich history of American jazz and, this season, exploring the Afro-Cuban music tradition.

Over opening weekend, May 27 and 28, **Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra** will bring their eclectic sound to the College of Charleston Cistern Yard. The winner of multiple Grammy awards, pianist and composer Arturo O'Farrill inherited a powerful legacy from his father, the legendary Cuban composer and bandleader Chico O'Farrill. Born in Mexico and raised in New York City, he was also deeply influenced by experimental jazz. O'Farrill's 18-piece Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra embodies the promise of a lasting bond between Cuba and the United States, invigorated this year by a changed political context—a decision affirmed in

O’Farrill’s latest CD title, *Cuba: The Conversation Continues* that has been nominated for a Grammy Award.

Equally drawn to the idea that a blend of traditions would speak to the true voice of the Americas, Cuban musician **Yosvany Terry** (saxophone and chékere), and his musical friends **Orlando Alonso** (piano) and **Yves Dharamraj** (cello) formed the **Bohemian Trio** in 2013. Together, they intertwine earthy, Afro-Cuban rhythms with sweeping classical melodies, jazz improvisation, and the celebration of Latin dance. The trio will perform six concerts in the Simons Center Recital Hall May 28, May 30, and May 31.

Audiences are invited to find out more about Cuban music and the historic bond between the US and Cuba at a special conversation called “**The Conversation Continues: The US, Cuba, and Jazz**” with musicians **Arturo O’Farrill** and **Yosvany Terry**, and *The Wall Street Journal* jazz critic **Larry Blumenfeld** on May 29.

The Wells Fargo Jazz series continues with two stellar performers and their esteemed ensembles in the new Martha and John M. Rivers Performance Hall in the Charleston Gaillard Center. On Sunday, May 29 Festival favorite **René Marie**, known for her vocal vibrancy and self-possessed boldness, presents her signature blend of jazz, soul, blues, folk, and gospel with her five-piece band featuring Charleston’s own Quentin Baxter on percussion. On Thursday, June 2 it will be **Randy Weston African Rhythms Sextet’s** turn to take to the Gaillard stage, showcasing the mastery of a pianist and composer who, at almost 90-years old, has lived through much of the music’s history and helped author jazz’s story. Named a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master in 2001, Weston is credited with exemplifying a uniquely American art form. Throughout his career, in formats ranging from solo piano to jazz orchestra, Weston has delved more deeply and with more profound insight than any other musician into jazz’s African roots.

Cécile McLorin Salvant returns to the Festival on Friday, June 3 for the first time since her exceptional 2012 debut performing in the Cistern Yard. An artist who has been turning heads since she won the Thelonious Monk International Vocal Jazz Competition in 2010, Salvant brings to the Festival the fruits and success of the last several years, marked by theatrical portrayals, fresh interpretations, and a handful of original compositions—heard on her 2015 Grammy Award-nominated album, *For One to Love*.

Pianist **Jason Moran** has made a career—and earned a MacArthur “genius” fellowship—out of digging into storied histories and breaking new ground, whether performing with one of his acclaimed ensembles, leading The Kennedy Center’s jazz program as artistic director, or crafting ingenious new projects. With his **Fats Waller Dance Party** that takes over the Cistern Yard on Saturday, June 4, Moran—who has lived in Harlem for 20 years—celebrates a sound forged in that neighborhood nearly a century ago. Performing in a spectacular papier-mâché mask of Waller’s head and fronting a raucous band, Moran deconstructs and reimagines Waller’s swinging songbook.

The Wells Fargo Jazz series concludes with a series of intimate performances by **The Freddy Cole Quartet**, June 8 – 11. One of the most respected lyrical storytellers in jazz today, Cole was raised in an exceptionally musical family in Chicago, growing up in a home that saw visitors like Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Lionel Hampton. He and his three older brothers—Nat King Cole among them—were all musicians taught by their mother; Freddy continued his music education at The Juilliard School and the New England Conservatory of Music before developing a vast repertoire and flourishing career in Manhattan bistros. Cole now performs with a quartet including bassist Elias Bailey, percussionist Quentin Baxter, and featuring guitarist Randy Napoleon, and has moved into the front ranks of America’s homegrown art form.

The popular **Wells Fargo Festival Finale** brings the 40th season to a close at Middleton Place, a historic plantation and gardens located 14 miles from downtown Charleston. The day includes gourmet picnic fare, a beer garden, and regional bands playing throughout the afternoon. The Festival will conclude with a concert by eight-piece band **Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats** that blends soul and rock and roll and has been hailed as “one of rock’s best new acts” by *Rolling Stone*. The Festival will conclude—as it has done for 40 years—with a spectacular fireworks display.

BEHIND THE GARDEN GATE

After its sold-out success in the past three seasons, the Festival will again collaborate with the Charleston Horticultural Society and The Garden Conservancy to present **Behind the Garden Gate**—self-guided tours through 16 of Charleston’s beautiful private gardens, many of which have never been open to the public.

CONVERSATIONS WITH

The Festival continues its **Conversations With** discussion series—interviews with Festival artists conducted by Emmy Award-winning CBS News correspondent Martha Teichner. This season, the series will feature: Director David Herskovits and Visual Designer Jonathan Green talking about *Porgy and Bess*; Co-Directors Mark Down and Phelim McDermott on *The Little Match Girl*; Visual artist and Director Carrie Mae Weems talking about *Grace Notes: Reflections for Now*; and Music Director Duane Davis and artist Tuffus Zimbabwe talking about *Afram ou La Belle Swita*. The *Porgy and Bess* conversation will take place at the Emmett Robinson Theatre at the College of Charleston. The others will take place at the Charleston Library Society.

HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS

Tickets will go on sale to the general public on **Thursday, January 14 at 10:00am** online and by phone 843.579.3100.

For contributors of \$100 or more, Spoleto Festival USA is offering a donor pre-sale January 5 – 13, providing exclusive access to tickets and premium seating for the 2016 season. Access is based on giving levels; more information on the donor pre-sale and how to donate can be found at spoletousa.org.

On-site box office operations will again be located at the Charleston Visitor Center at 375 Meeting Street beginning Monday, March 14. Additionally, Spoleto Festival USA tickets will be available from the Charleston Gaillard Center beginning Monday, May 2.

The Festival offers subscription packages to the Bank of America Chamber Music series. Subscribers choose from three packages—one including all 11 programs, one for six programs, and one for five programs. Subscribers have access to premium seats in a consistent location for every performance. Other benefits include special exchange privileges and early program announcements. To purchase a subscription, contact the patron services manager at 843.720.1114.

Go Spoleto! accommodation and ticket packages are available in partnership with four premium Charleston hotels. For more information, visit spoletousa.org/gospoleto.

Festival gift certificates can be purchased in any amount and used towards performance tickets, merchandise such as Festival posters, or towards a charitable contribution to Spoleto Festival USA. To purchase gift certificates, order online at spoletousa.org or by phone at 843.579.3100.

Spoleto Festival USA is made possible in part through funds from the Spoleto Festival USA Endowment, generously supported by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America.

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2016 EVENT CALENDAR May 26–June 12

Bold=opening performance

26 MAY: THURSDAY

8:00pm The Importance of Being Earnest (preview) DST

9:00pm Old Crow Medicine Show CIS

27 MAY: FRIDAY

12:00pm Opening Ceremonies OPN

1:00pm Chamber I DST

5:00pm Ada/Ava ROB

5:00pm Helmut Lachenmann in Conversation REC

7:00pm Porgy and Bess CGC

7:30pm Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company SOT

8:00pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST

9:00pm Old Crow Medicine Show CIS

28 MAY: SATURDAY

10:00am Behind the Garden Gate (self-guided tours until 4:00pm)

11:00am Chamber I DST

1:00pm Ada/Ava ROB

1:00pm Chamber I DST
3:00pm Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company SOT
3:00pm Conv | Mark Down and Phelim McDermott CLS
5:00pm Bohemian Trio REC
6:00pm Ada/Ava ROB
7:00pm 40th-Season Celebration Concert CGC
7:00pm Bohemian Trio REC
8:30pm 40th-Season Soirée
8:30pm La Double Coquette DST
9:00pm Arturo O’Farrill CIS

29 MAY: SUNDAY

11:00am Chamber II DST
1:00pm Ada/Ava ROB
1:00pm Chamber II DST
3:00pm Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company SOT
3:00pm Conv | Jonathan Green and David Herskovits ROB
3:30pm La Double Coquette DST
5:00pm **The Conversation Continued REC**
7:00pm Ada/Ava ROB
7:00pm René Marie CGC
7:30pm The Little Match Girl MEM
8:30pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST
9:00pm Arturo O’Farrill CIS

30 MAY: MONDAY

11:00am Chamber II DST
1:00pm Chamber III DST
3:00pm Ada/Ava ROB
3:30pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST
5:00pm Bohemian Trio REC
5:00pm Westminster Choir Concert CTL
7:00pm Ada/Ava ROB
7:00pm Bohemian Trio REC
7:30pm Porgy and Bess CGC
8:00pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST

31 MAY: TUESDAY

11:00am Chamber III DST
1:00pm Chamber III DST
5:00pm Bohemian Trio REC
7:00pm Bohemian Trio REC
7:00pm The Little Match Girl MEM
8:00pm La Double Coquette DST

1 JUNE: WEDNESDAY

11:00am Chamber IV DST
1:00pm Chamber IV DST
6:00pm Aakash Odedra Company ROB
7:00pm Porgy and Bess CGC
8:00pm La Double Coquette DST
9:00pm Ancient Voices of Children WSP

2 JUNE: THURSDAY

11:00am Chamber IV DST
1:00pm Chamber V DST

6:00pm Aakash Odedra Company ROB
7:00pm The Little Match Girl MEM
7:00pm Randy Weston CGC
7:30pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST
9:00pm A Maze (With Grace) WSP

3 JUNE: FRIDAY

11:00am Chamber V DST
1:00pm Chamber V DST
5:00pm Westminster Choir Concert CTL
6:00pm Aakash Odedra Company ROB
7:00pm Porgy and Bess CGC
7:30pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST
8:00pm Music for 18 Musicians MEM
9:00pm Cécile McLorin Salvant CIS

4 JUNE: SATURDAY

10:00am Behind the Garden Gate (self-guided tours until 4:00pm)
11:00am Chamber VI DST
1:00pm Chamber VI DST
2:00pm The Little Match Girl MEM
3:30pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST
5:00pm Aakash Odedra Company ROB
5:00pm Ein Kinderspiel and Spoletudes REC
7:00pm Grace Notes SOT
8:00pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST
8:00pm L.A. Dance Project CGC
9:00pm Afram ou La Belle Swita WSP
9:00pm Jason Moran CIS

5 JUNE: SUNDAY

11:00am Chamber VI DST
1:00pm Chamber VII DST
1:00pm L.A. Dance Project CGC
3:00pm Conv | Carrie Mae Weems CLS
5:00pm Aakash Odedra Company ROB
5:00pm Afram ou La Belle Swita WSP
7:00pm L.A. Dance Project CGC
7:30pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST
8:00pm Grace Notes SOT

6 JUNE: MONDAY

11:00am Chamber VII DST
1:00pm Chamber VII DST
3:00pm Conv | Duane Davis CLS
5:00pm Chamber Orchestra Concert STM
7:00pm Afram ou La Belle Swita WSP

7 JUNE: TUESDAY

11:00am Chamber VIII DST
1:00pm Chamber VIII DST
5:00pm Serynade with an Automated Sunrise REC
6:00pm A Gambler's Guide to Dying ROB
7:30pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST
8:00pm Choral Fantasy CGC

8 JUNE: WEDNESDAY

11:00am Chamber VIII DST

1:00pm Chamber IX DST

3:30pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST

5:00pm The Freddy Cole Quartet REC

6:00pm A Gambler's Guide to Dying ROB

6:00pm Opposing Forces MEM

7:00pm The Freddy Cole Quartet REC

7:00pm Porgy and Bess CGC

8:00pm Every Brilliant Thing WSP

8:00pm Golem SOT

8:00pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST

9 JUNE: THURSDAY

11:00am Chamber IX DST

1:00pm Chamber IX DST

5:00pm The Freddy Cole Quartet REC

6:00pm Every Brilliant Thing WSP

6:00pm Opposing Forces MEM

7:00pm The Freddy Cole Quartet REC

7:30pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST

8:00pm A Gambler's Guide to Dying ROB

8:00pm Golem SOT

8:00pm Havana Rakatan CGC

10 JUNE: FRIDAY

11:00am Chamber X DST

1:00pm Chamber X DST

5:00pm The Freddy Cole Quartet REC

6:00pm A Gambler's Guide to Dying ROB

6:00pm Opposing Forces MEM

7:00pm The Freddy Cole Quartet REC

7:30pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST

8:00pm Golem SOT

8:30pm Havana Rakatan CGC

9:00pm Every Brilliant Thing WSP

11 JUNE: SATURDAY

11:00am Chamber X DST

1:00pm A Gambler's Guide to Dying ROB

1:00pm Chamber XI DST

2:00pm Golem SOT

2:00pm Havana Rakatan CGC

3:30pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST

5:00pm Every Brilliant Thing WSP

5:00pm The Freddy Cole Quartet REC

5:00pm Opposing Forces MEM

7:00pm The Freddy Cole Quartet REC

7:00pm Havana Rakatan CGC

8:00pm Golem SOT

8:00pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST

12 JUNE: SUNDAY

11:00am Chamber XI DST

1:00pm Chamber XI DST

1:00pm Opposing Forces MEM

2:00pm Golem SOT
2:00pm Porgy and Bess CGC
3:30pm The Importance of Being Earnest DST
3:30pm Festival Finale MID

VENUES

CGC	Charleston Gaillard Center, 95 Calhoun St.
CIS	College of Charleston Cistern Yard, 66 George St.
CLS	Charleston Library Society, 164 King St.
CTL	Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul, 126 Coming St.
CVC	Charleston Visitor Center/Spoletto Festival USA Box Office, 375 Meeting St.
DST	Dock Street Theatre, 135 Church St.
GIB	Gibbes Museum of Art, 135 Meeting St.
MEM	Memminger Auditorium, 56 Beaufain St.
MID	Middleton Place, 4300 Ashley River Rd.
OPN	Opening Ceremonies, City Hall, 80 Broad St.
REC	Simons Center Recital Hall at College of Charleston, 54 St. Philip St.
ROB	Emmett Robinson Theatre at College of Charleston, 54 St. Philip St.
SOT	College of Charleston Sottile Theatre, 44 George St.
STM	St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 405 King St.
WSP	Woolfe Street Playhouse, 34 Woolfe St.

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