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Note: Images are available in the [online media gallery](#).

SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA

2019

PRESS RELEASE

Announcing the 2019 Spoleto ETC Outreach and Education Endeavors

“Engaging the Community” through in-school workshops, Spoleto’s Open Stage Door program, children’s concerts, free discussion series, and more

April 29, 2019 (Charleston, South Carolina) — Spoleto Festival USA has announced its schedule of community engagement, with a focus on education, surrounding the 2019 season. Through **Spoleto ETC (Engaging the Community)**, the Festival arm that connects Spoleto artists and Charleston residents, the Festival aims to build audiences of the future, encourage artistic learning, and provide unique experiences for all members of the community. Through three distinct avenues—tailored **education programs** for students in area schools and institutions; discussion series and **partnerships with area organizations**; and investment in the **professional advancement** of young artists—Spoleto ETC works to serve the city it has called home for more than four decades. “From my personal experience, I know that an introduction to the performing arts at a young age can certainly be life-changing,” says Festival General Director Nigel Redden. “My love of opera began while I was in high school, and I actually began my work with Spoleto as a *studente assistante*—an apprentice—at the Italian Festival of Two Worlds. Opportunities like that can be crucial, and Spoleto Festival USA is proud to offer outlets for children, young professionals, and members of the general public of any age to engage with its international artists.”

The initiatives of Spoleto ETC are generously supported by private donors, foundations, and corporations. The Chamber Music in-school workshops are made possible by Carol H. Fishman, in memory of Leo Fishman. Spoleto’s education outreach is made possible by The Samuel Freeman Charitable Trust. The jazz workshops at Charleston Jazz Academy are made possible by the Holland Family Charitable Fund. And the Festival’s ongoing partnership with Meeting Street Academy is made possible by Sherman Capital Markets, LLC.

The 2019 Spoleto ETC endeavors are outlined below. Some events are open to members of the press; please contact the press office if you wish to attend.

Education Outreach

Artists in Schools

Featuring Bank of America Chamber Music Director Geoff Nuttall and other musicians from the series, the Festival provides student-tailored workshops for third-through-fifth-grade students.

When: Tuesday, May 21, 10:00am to 10:45pm

Where: Sanders-Clyde Creative Arts School

Details: Festival artists—Geoff Nuttall, Pedja Muzijevec, Chris Costanza, Owen Dalby, Tara Helen O'Connor, Daniel Phillips, and Doug Balliett—will instruct a music class and perform for students. These students will travel to Dock Street Theatre on Wednesday, May 22, for a student chamber music concert.

When: Tuesday, May 21, 12:15 to 12:45pm, 1:00pm to 1:30pm, and 1:45pm to 2:15pm

Where: Memminger Elementary

Details: Festival artists—Geoff Nuttall, Pedja Muzijevec, Christopher Costanza, Owen Dalby, Tara Helen O'Connor, Daniel Phillips, and Doug Balliett—will instruct three music classes and perform for students. These students will travel to Dock Street Theatre on Wednesday, May 22, for a student chamber music concert.

Students in Theaters

Students who meet and work with Spoleto artists in their classrooms are invited to attend Festival performances featuring the artists with whom they worked. Additionally, the Festival has an ongoing partnership with Meeting Street Academy, through which its students visit a rehearsal or interactive event with Spoleto artists.

When: Wednesday, May 22, 9:30am to 10:30am

Where: Dock Street Theatre

Details: Students from Memminger Elementary and Sanders-Clyde Creative Arts School will be bused to Dock Street Theatre for a special chamber music concert tailored to the group. Geoff Nuttall, along with Anthony Roth Costanzo, Pedja Muzijevec, Christopher Costanza, Owen Dalby, Tara Helen O'Connor, Daniel Phillips, and Doug Balliett, will perform for students and provide

commentary in between selections. The students will also have a chance to experience various instruments up-close with the Festival’s mobile “instrument petting zoo.”

When: Tuesday, May 28, time to be confirmed

Where: Emmett Robinson Theatre

Details: Third-through-fifth-grade students from Meeting Street Academy will attend a creative learning workshop with theater company 1927. Drawing on 1927’s unique combination of illustration, Claymation, animation, storytelling, and music, the company offers invigorating and participatory activities for young people that encourage them to share their own stories through various media. During the Festival, 1927 is presenting *Roots*, a world-premiere production that delves into rarely told folktales from around the globe..

Collaborative Partners

Each season, Spoleto deploys a number of artists and administrators to work with student-focused organizations outside of schools, such as the Charleston Symphony Youth Orchestra or College of Charleston’s arts management program.

When: Tuesday, May 28, 1:00pm

Where: Charleston Jazz Academy

Details: Pianist David Virelles will lead a workshop for students of the Charleston Jazz Academy.

When: Wednesday, May 29, 6:00pm

Where: Charleston Jazz Academy

Details: Drummer Terri Lyne Carrington will lead a workshop for students of the Charleston Jazz Academy.

When: Beginning May 13

Where: College of Charleston

Details: The Festival will continue its partnership with the College of Charleston’s Maymester program, offering an interdisciplinary survey of the performing arts during Spoleto. The semester-long class begins Monday, May 13, and features eight guest speakers from the Festival including General Director Nigel Redden and Director of Artistic Planning Nicole Taney. In past semesters, the class featured such lecturers as Director of Chamber Music Geoff Nuttall, Resident Conductor and Director of Orchestral Activities John Kennedy, and artists from Shakespeare’s Globe. Students in the class are invited to attend Festival performances, including the Bank of America Chamber Music concert on May 29 at 11:00am. Prior to this concert,

Director Geoff Nuttall will speak to the students in the Wadsworth Room at 10:30am.

Community Outreach

Open Stage Door

For more than 10 years, Spoleto Festival USA has provided complimentary tickets—often more than 800 each season—to a variety of community-based and nonprofit organizations in the greater Charleston area through its Open Stage Door program. To participate, organizations are invited to request complimentary tickets by submitting a brief application describing their services. The Festival is accepting applications for 2019 Open Stage Door participants. In past seasons, organizations that have attended Festival performances for free include the Senior Companion Program of Charleston, Jenkins Institute for Children, We Are Family, Haven Family Development Center, and Ansonborough House, among others. Details and the Open Stage Door application can be found at spoletousa.org.

Azure Concert

In 2016, pianist Stephen Prutsman organized the first Spoleto Festival USA Azure Performance. The concerts, designed specifically for individuals with Autism and their families, were established by Prutsman (also the founder of nonprofit Autism Fun Bay Area) in 2012 to provide a concert environment that is open to and engaging for all—what Prustman calls a “shush-free” experience.

When: Saturday, May 25, 9:30am to 10:15am

Where: Dock Street Theatre

Details: Stephen Prutsman and Geoff Nuttall will lead the 2019 Azure Concert. This concert is free for families and/or caregivers, though seats must be reserved in advance. Families interested in attending should contact Sara Bennett at sbennett@spoletousa.org.

Salon Series

This free discussion series aims to illuminate elements of the upcoming season, offering fascinating behind-the-scenes perspectives from various creative personnel in the weeks before the Festival. In 2019, all three salons take place at Spoleto Festival USA offices, 14 George Street. Reservations can be made online at spoletousa.org or by calling 843.579.3100.

When: Tuesday, April 30, 5:30pm

Details: Spoleto Festival USA has been instrumental in the preservation of some of Charleston’s most well-known theaters and buildings—and has also been a catalyst for creating new performing arts spaces throughout the city. In this discussion, Festival General Director

Nigel Redden addresses how Spoleto has impacted the physical and cultural landscape of Charleston.

When: Tuesday, May 7, 5:30pm

Details: For Spoleto's 2019 production of *Salome*, directors Patrice Caurier and Moshe Leiser are creating a brand-new version of the 1905 opera, set in modern times. With a joint career spanning more than 30 years, *Salome* is Caurier and Leiser's ninth Festival production; this discussion will examine how time has influenced their career in storytelling.

When: Tuesday, May 14, 5:30pm

Details: This discussion introduces soprano Melanie Henley Heyn, who will be singing the title role in *Salome*. Born in a small town in Northeastern Pennsylvania, Henley Heyn studied at Manhattan School of Music, University of Southern California, and the Konservatorium Wien (now the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna) in Austria. Though she has sung professionally in orchestral and vocal concerts around the globe, performing as Salome at Spoleto will be her full-length opera debut.

Artist Talks

Discussions during the Festival include the popular Conversations With series, in which Emmy Award-winning CBS News correspondent Martha Teichner interviews Festival artists about their work, and Jazz Talks, in which *Wall Street Journal* jazz writer Larry Blumenfeld interviews musicians from the Wells Fargo Jazz series. Artist Talks are free and open to the public; seats can be reserved online at spoletousa.org or by calling 843.579.3100.

Conversations With

- **Festival Director of Choral Activities Joe Miller and *Path of Miracles* director John La**

Bouchardière: Saturday, May 25, 3:00pm; Charleston Library Society

- **Company members from 1927:** Monday, May 27, 5:00pm; Emmett Robinson Theatre at College of Charleston

- **Bill T. Jones:** Friday, May 31, 5:00pm; Memminger Auditorium

- **Company members from 600 HIGHWAYMEN:** Wednesday, June 5, 5:00pm; Charleston Library Society

Jazz Talks

History, Mystery, and Modernism: David Virelles discusses his immersion in the traditions of his native Cuba, his experiences in New York City's Jazz Scene, and how these two cultures combine in his music. Tuesday, May 28, 7:00pm; Simons Center Recital Hall at College of

Charleston

The Legacy of Geri Allen: Grammy-winning drummer and bandleader speaks about her decades of experience working with pianist Geri Allen. Thursday, May 30, 3:30pm; Simons Center Recital Hall at College of Charleston

Master Classes

Spoletto offers master classes with members from dance companies featured on the Festival's program. Classes are generally geared toward students at an intermediate or advanced level and are advertised within the local dance community. In 2019, all master classes will be held at the Cato Center for the Arts at College of Charleston.

- **Guillaume Gabriel of Compagnie Hervé Koubi:** Saturday, May 25, 11:00am
- **Huiwang Zhang of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company:** Monday, May 27, 11:00am
- **Company members of Caracalla Dance Theatre:** Saturday, June 8, 11:00am

Professional Advancement

Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra

One of the country's most prestigious ensembles for young professional musicians, the Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra is the Festival's resident ensemble and accompanies each season's opera selections and symphonic concerts. The ensemble—more than 90 musicians in 2019—is assembled anew each year through nationwide auditions; each artist is selected by the Festival's Resident Conductor and Director Orchestral Activities John Kennedy. Smaller ensembles participate in choral, chamber, and contemporary music performances, and the Orchestra works closely with as well as guest conductors and composers. This year, the Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra will play Strauss's 1905 operatic masterpiece, *Salome*, as well as selections from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* orchestral suites and Shostakovich's fifth symphony. Other season highlights include Fanny Mendelssohn's Overture in C, Stravinsky's "Dumbarton Oaks" Concerto in E-flat, and three film scores by Michael Gordon in a program titled City Symphonies. Learn more [here](#).

Westminster Choir

Comprising students at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, Westminster Choir has been the chorus in residence at Spoletto Festival USA since 1977. Led by the Festival's Director of Choral Activities Joe Miller, this exceptional ensemble prepares during its academic year then travels to spend four weeks living in Charleston each spring. The singers perform in various concert settings and as opera choruses. In 2019, they perform Joby Talbot's *Path of Miracles*, Bach's *St. John Passion*, and in two repertory concerts at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

Apprenticeship Program

This short-term internship opportunity during the Festival season allows college-age students to acquire hands-on experience under the guidance of professional arts administrators and technicians in producing an international arts festival. Apprenticeships in artist services, box office, development, finance/accounting, media relations, orchestra personnel management, orchestra operations and production are available each season. In 2019, the Festival will employ 55 apprentices from such diverse institutions as Appalachian State University, Carnegie Mellon University, Florida State University, Ithaca College, University of Massachusetts, University of Michigan, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Syracuse University, University of South Carolina, and Yale University.

Spoletto Festival USA

Founded in 1977, Spoleto Festival USA is an annual 17-day performing arts festival in Charleston, SC, that presents leading artists in classical and popular music, opera, jazz, dance, and theater. The 2019 season takes place May 24 to June 9 in various locations on the downtown peninsula, including the historic Dock Street Theatre and the Charleston Gaillard Center. Spoleto Festival USA is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

Artistic Leadership

Nigel Redden, Spoleto Festival USA General Director | [Bio](#)

John Kennedy, Resident Conductor and Director of Orchestral Activities | [Bio](#)

Joe Miller, Director of Choral Activities | [Bio](#)

Geoff Nuttall, The Charles E. and Andrea L. Volpe Director of Chamber Music | [Bio](#)

Venues

Dock Street Theatre | 135 Church St.

Charleston Gaillard Center | 95 Calhoun St.

Memminger Auditorium | 56 Beaufain St.

Woolfe Street Playhouse | 34 Woolfe St.

Emmett Robinson Theatre at College of Charleston | 54 St. Philip St.

Simons Center Recital Hall at College of Charleston | 54 St. Philip St.

College of Charleston Cistern Yard | 66 George St.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church | 405 King St.

Riverfront Park | 1061 Everglades Ave., North Charleston

Charleston Library Society | 164 King St.

City Hall | 80 Broad St.

Tickets

Tickets are on sale to the general public beginning January 16 at 10:00am online at spoletousa.org and by phone at 843.579.3100.

In-person box office operations will be located at Charleston Gaillard Center beginning April 30.

Tickets may be purchased Monday through Sunday, 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Go Spoleto! hotel-and-ticket packages are available in partnership with eight Charleston hotels:

Ansonborough Inn, The Beach Club at Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina, Belmond Charleston Place, The Dewberry, Francis Marion Hotel, Hyatt House Charleston-Historic District, Hyatt Place Charleston-Historic District, and The Vendue. Guests can book a room with one of the Festival hotel partners and receive a code to purchase a range of specially priced performance tickets. 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 charitable contributions to Spoleto Festival USA. To purchase gift certificates, order online at spoletousa.org or by phone at 843.579.3100.

Images

A selection of high resolution images can be found in Spoleto Festival USA's [online gallery](#).

For more information, visit the [press room](#).