

# SPOLETO



FESTIVAL USA

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**May 24 - June 9**

Charleston, South Carolina

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## Beyond the Stage

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Dear friends,

**If there is any hope to be gleaned from a world that is seemingly spinning out of control, it is in the fortitude of human expression. How can we aspire? How can we persevere? How can we build bridges across social and cultural divides?**

When I lived in Berlin, I was part of a project charged with surmounting these challenges. The Barenboim-Said Akademie brought Arab and Israeli musicians to live and work together under the same roof. They left their passports at the door, and breathed the same freeing oxygen—music.

It may seem naive to think that answers to the above questions could be found in a string quartet, a troupe of acrobats, or even a raucous cabaret, but the combination of highly honed technique, the perfection of form, and the incalculable emotional power of the performing arts allows us to feel something. Art is the connective tissue of our society; it is the antidote to the cacophonous digital echo chamber. It is through art that we can examine our origins and our founding myths. For 17 heady days and nights this spring, Charleston will stand still and the world will stop spinning.

Join a pair of star-crossed lovers as they dance on and beyond the Gaillard stage accompanied by the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra performing Prokofiev's riveting score for *Romeo and Juliet*. Experience *Ruinous Gods*, a world premiere opera by Layale Chaker and Lisa Schlesinger that explores the wrenching despair of displacement through the eyes of a young refugee girl. Travel back and forth in time in Denis O'Hare and Lisa Petersen's world premiere play, *The Song of Rome*, based on Virgil's *Aeneid* and portending the folly of national mythology.

Come to *Dark Noon* and witness our nation's founding—scrutinized, bloodied, and gritty—in the North American premiere interpretation by a South African theater troupe. Listen to the singular Yo-Yo Ma reflect musically and meditatively on the Bach Cello Suites, interpretative work that has informed and been formed by his life and travels. Join us in the Cistern, night after night, with Jason Isbell, Trombone Shorty, Pedrito Martinez, Terri-Lynne Carrington and Diane Reeves, Old Crow Medicine Show, and more—much more—as we romp, sing, and rock the night away.

I invite you to breathe that same freeing oxygen that those students in Berlin breathe, examine our origins, and remember all that brings us together, rather than divides us.

Very best,

Mena Mark Hanna  
General Director & CEO



## WORLD PREMIERE

# Ruinous Gods

Music by Layale Chaker

Libretto by Lisa Schlesinger

Direction and Dramaturgy by Omar Abi Azar  
and Maya Zbib

Conducted by Kamna Gupta

Scenic Design by Joelle Aoun

Costume Design by Sarah Letierrier

Lighting Design by James Ingalls

## Featuring

Leroy Davis, *Blue Dove/Dr. Undertow*

Taylor-Alexis Dupont, *Hannah*

Teryn Kuzma, *H'ala*

Sharmay Musacchio, *Swift*

Sarah Shafer, *Sophia*

Karim Sulayman, *Crow*

Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra and Chorus

## College of Charleston

### Sottile Theatre

Friday, May 24 · 7:00pm

Monday, May 27 · 2:00pm

Wednesday, May 29 · 7:00pm

Saturday, June 1 · 2:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 45 minutes

Tickets start at \$40

Major lead support provided by Doris Duke Foundation.

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. The commissioning of Layale Chaker for *Ruinous Gods* received funding from OPERA America's Opera Grants for Women Composers program supported by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation. Opera programming is endowed by the Arthur and Holly Magill Foundation.

Co-produced and co-commissioned by Spoletto Festival USA, Opera Wuppertal, and Nederlandse Reisopera.

Loosely based on the Greek myth of Demeter and Persephone, *Ruinous Gods* explores the psychological toll experienced by displaced refugee children. This vital world premiere opera follows a desperate mother's attempts to revive her 12-year-old daughter who has fallen into a non-responsive sleep triggered by trauma. The child's journey through an underworld-inspired dreamscape forms the backdrop for a groundbreaking score that weaves Arabic Maqam and Western classical music traditions with diverse Middle Eastern influences, jazz, and improvisation. At turns painful, humorous, and hopeful, *Ruinous Gods* urges crucial conversations about how governments and societies treat migrant families.



## Conversations With

Saturday, May 25 · 3:30pm

Host and CBS News correspondent Martha Teichner interviews the *Ruinous Gods* creative team at the College of Charleston Sottile Theatre.

# Romeo & Juliet

## L.A. Dance Project

Choreographed by Benjamin Millepied  
 Composed by Sergei Prokofiev  
 Conducted by Timothy Myers  
 Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra

From acclaimed choreographer Benjamin Millepied comes a bold, multidisciplinary reenvisioning of Shakespeare's tragedy with Prokofiev's lush score. Set in a modern metropolis, the titular duo are recast as diverse young adults: rotating between male/female, male/male, and female/female pairings. The fast-paced drama unfolds both on and beyond the Gaillard stage through live video, a state-of-the-art projection system, and accompaniment by the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra under the baton of Orchestra Music Director Timothy Myers. Hailed by *The New Yorker* as "startling, dazzling, and wrenching in equal measure," *Romeo and Juliet* offers a riveting treatise on the recklessness of young love.

## Charleston Gaillard Center Martha and John M. Rivers Performance Hall

Saturday, May 25 · 2:00pm and 7:00pm  
 Sunday, May 26 · 2:00pm and 7:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes  
 Tickets start at \$30

Sponsored by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina



"dazzling to the eyes...  
 wrenchingly expressive"

THE NEW YORKER



# Apricity

## Casus Creations

Australia-based contemporary circus company Casus Creations probes the transformative power of human connection in their mesmerizing stage show *Apricity*. Inspired by the image of winter sun breaking through the cold, this captivating multidisciplinary production combines aerial apparatuses, cutting-edge acrobatics, evocative music, and humorous snatches to create a compelling reflection of our collective resilience. Both visually affecting and emotionally uplifting, *Apricity* serves as an exhilarating reminder of the light, warmth, and possibility that can be found even amidst our darkest days.

### Festival Hall

Thursday, June 6 · 7:00pm

Friday, June 7 · 8:00pm

Saturday, June 8 · 8:00pm

Sunday, June 9 · 2:00pm and 5:00pm

Approximately 1 hour

Tickets start at \$30

“illuminates the power of human connection in times of darkness.”

BROADWAY WORLD



## WORLD PREMIERE

A Homer's Coat Production

# The Song of Rome

Written by Denis O'Hare and Lisa Peterson

Directed by Lisa Peterson

Produced by Octopus Theatricals and Spoleto Festival USA

"Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it," but who is allowed to tell the story? And what motivates the narrative? In a companion piece to their acclaimed play *An Iliad* (presented at last year's Festival to wildly enthusiastic response), co-creators Denis O'Hare and Lisa Peterson now delve into Virgil's *Aeneid* to explore the fall of the democratic republic in ancient Rome. In modern language, the play toggles between past and present, illuminating power dynamics that feel as real and resonant today as two millenniums ago. What truths do the classics hold, and what has been obscured?

**Dock Street Theatre**

Saturday, May 25 · 7:00pm

Sunday, May 26 · 4:00pm

Monday, May 27 · 7:00pm

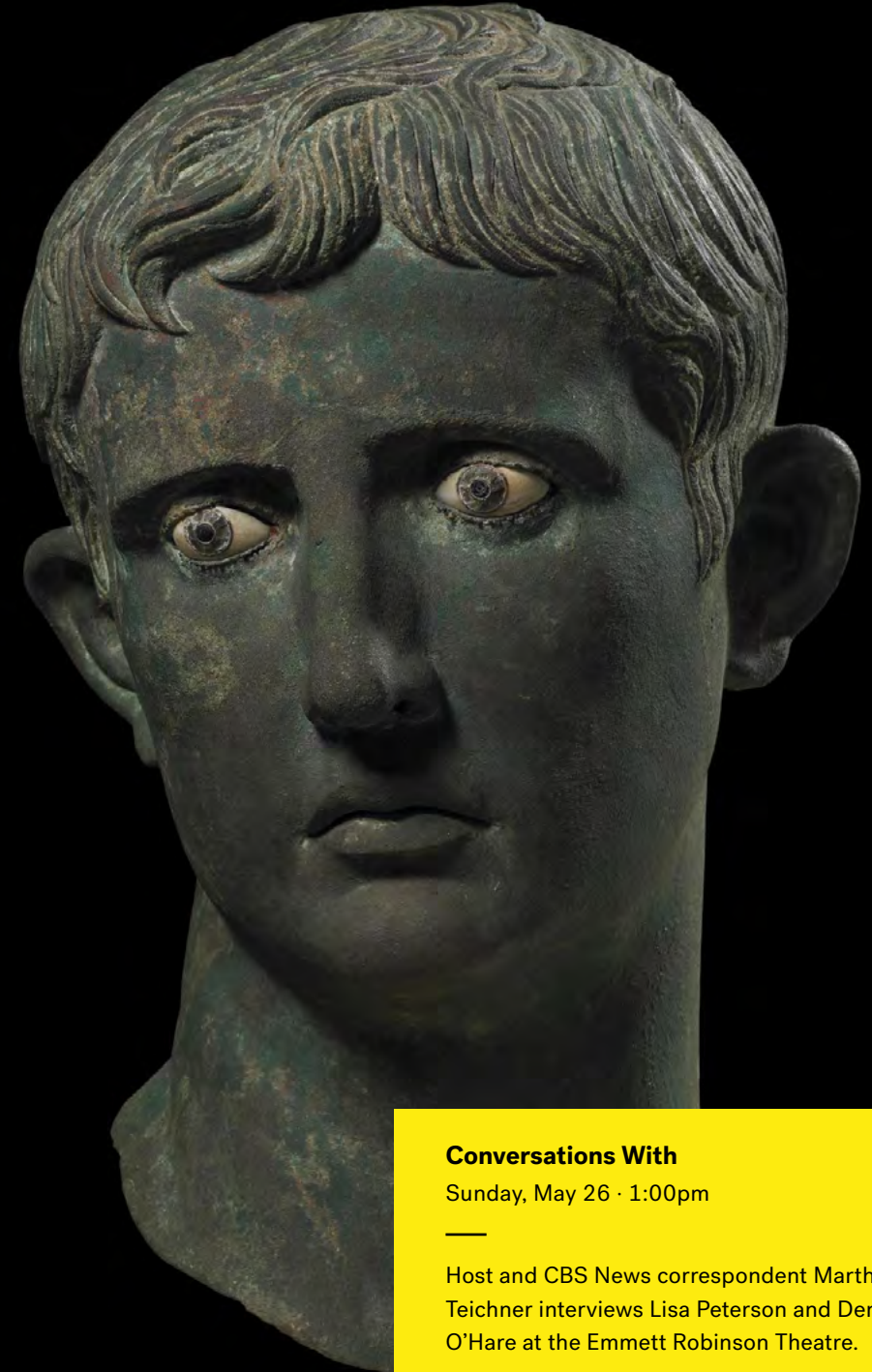
Friday, May 31 · 8:00pm

Saturday, June 1 · 7:00pm

Sunday, June 2 · 4:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 45 minutes

Tickets start at \$45

*Generous lead support provided by Jan Serr & John Shannon.**Developed with support from ArtsEmerson at Kassel Well / Emerson College, the Netherlands.***Conversations With**

Sunday, May 26 · 1:00pm

Host and CBS News correspondent Martha Teichner interviews Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare at the Emmett Robinson Theatre.



## Layale Chaker + Sarafand

Layale Chaker, *violin*  
Jake Charkey, *cello*  
Sam Minaie, *bass*  
Phillip Golub, *piano*  
John Hadfield, *drums*

### College of Charleston Emmett Robinson Theatre

Program I — *Inner Rhyme*  
Monday, May 27 · 5:00pm  
Tuesday, May 28 · 5:00pm

Program II — *Radio Afloat*  
Monday, May 27 · 7:00pm  
Tuesday, May 28 · 7:00pm

Approximately 1 hour  
Tickets start at \$39

Born in Paris and raised in Lebanon, composer and violinist Layale Chaker has been speaking multiple languages—linguistically and musically—since her youth. The 2020-22 Jerome Hill Fellow challenges stereotypes about Arabic music with her unique sonic style: a beguiling blend of classical contemporary music, jazz, Arabic maqam scales, and improvisation. The composer of the opera *Ruinous Gods* (p.4)—which makes its world premiere at Spoleto this season—Chaker and her ensemble, Sarafand, take center stage for four performances of two different programs.

Sponsored by Wells Fargo

**WELLS FARGO**

Additional support provided by the Oliver S. and Jennie R. Donaldson Foundation.

## Pedrito Martinez: Echoes of Africa

Pedrito Martinez, *percussion, vocals*  
Sebastian Natal, *bass*  
Isaac Delgado, Jr., *keyboards*  
Manuel Marquez, *percussion*  
Jose “Xito” Lovell, *trombone*

Lauded by *The New York Times* as “an incomparable performer...and as close as Afro Cuban music gets to a superstar” percussionist, singer, and dancer Pedrito Martinez is widely regarded as the world’s first-call rumbero. Martinez has shared the stage with artists such as Paul Simon, Bruce Springsteen, Wynton Marsalis, and Sting; recorded four solo albums; appeared on over 100 others, and earned seven “Jazz Percussionist of the Year” nods from the Jazz Journalists Association. His last appearance at Spoleto concluded with a packed Cistern Yard audience on their feet. Now, the Grammy Award-nominated conguero and batá drum master returns with an expanded band, vocalists, and dancers for a performance featuring a mix of Afro-Cuban rhythms and cutting-edge dance music.

### College of Charleston Cistern Yard

Friday, June 7 · 9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes  
Tickets start at \$29

Sponsored by Wells Fargo

**WELLS FARGO**

Additional support provided by the Oliver S. and Jennie R. Donaldson Foundation.

Programming at the College of Charleston Cistern Yard is kindly endowed by Carlos, Lisa, and Blake Evans.



“a masterly and  
individualistic interpreter  
of Afro-Cuban rhythms.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL

### Jazz Talk

Friday, June 7 · 2:00pm

Jazz curator and writer Larry Blumenfeld interviews Pedrito Martinez at the Emmett Robinson Theatre.



## Sasha Velour's The Big Reveal Live Show!

Internationally celebrated drag performer Sasha Velour offers a personal and historical perspective on the art form in her sought-after spectacle *The Big Reveal Live Show!* Winner of the Emmy Award-winning ninth season of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, Velour showcases her "highly researched and intellectual approach" (*USA Today*) in an immersive experience composed of classic drag, intimate storytelling, live art, and video experimentation. Featuring diverse musical selections ranging from Britney Spears to Stephen Sondheim to Stevie Wonder, *The Big Reveal Live Show!* elevates drag to "an entirely new level of performance art" (*Yahoo Entertainment*).

**Charleston Gaillard Center  
Martha and John M. Rivers Performance Hall**

Thursday, June 6 · 8:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes

Tickets start at \$35

"Velour has elevated  
the art form"

USA TODAY



## Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue

Multi-instrumentalist, band leader, author, philanthropist, and international icon Trombone Shorty preserves and propels the musical traditions of Tremé as “the face of New Orleans music” (*The Washington Post*). The Grammy Award winner’s extensive list of accomplishments includes touring with Lenny Kravitz; sharing the stage with a diverse array of talents from the Foo Fighters, to Bruno Mars, to Ringo Starr, to Green Day; and performing at vaunted venues such as the White House and blockbuster events including the NBA All-Star Game and Coachella. The seven-time *OffBeat* Artist of the Year leads his legendary ensemble, Orleans Avenue, in a high-octane performance that blends New Orleans jazz with rock, funk, and hip-hop influences.

### College of Charleston Cistern Yard

Monday, May 27 · 9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes

Tickets start at \$29

*Programming at the College of Charleston Cistern Yard is kindly endowed by Carlos, Lisa, and Blake Evans.*

U.S. PREMIERE

## Dark Noon

Hailed by the *British Theatre Guide* as “a truly staggering, relentless theatre experience,” *Dark Noon* offers an outsider’s perspective on American history. Framed through the lens of a fictional film production, seven South African actors embody traditional American archetypes—cowboys, Indians, prospectors, missionaries, and more—all intent on subduing both the land and one another. The nation’s 300-year path from lawlessness to civilization is mirrored by the show’s ever-evolving stage, which transitions from barren desert to bustling town as the narrative unfolds. Replete with searing themes of violence, genocide, and oppression, the Reumert Award-winning show presents an unflinching glimpse of how the West was *really* won.

### Festival Hall

Friday, May 31 · 7:00pm

Saturday, June 1 · 8:00pm

Sunday, June 2 · 1:00pm and 7:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 45 minutes

Tickets start at \$49



★★★★★

“Extraordinary outsider  
vision of American history”

THE GUARDIAN



### Conversations With

Saturday, June 1 · 3:00pm

Host and CBS News correspondent Martha Teichner interviews members of the *Dark Noon* production at Festival Hall.

# Terri Lyne Carrington New Standards with Special Guest Dianne Reeves

Terri Lyne Carrington, *drums*

Kris Davis, *piano*

Matthew Stevens, *guitar*

Linda May Han Oh, *bass*

Etienne Charles, *trumpet*

## Special Guest

Dianne Reeves, *vocals*

“[Carrington] is the personification of Black Girl Magic.”

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Terri Lyne Carrington, *drums*

## Jazz Talk

Monday, May 27 · 2:00pm

Jazz curator and writer Larry Blumenfeld interviews Terri Lyne Carrington at the Emmett Robinson Theatre.

Renowned drummer Terri Lyne Carrington and acclaimed vocalist Dianne Reeves unite. Inspired by Carrington’s Grammy Award-winning 2022 album *New Standards*, Carrington and Reeves perform a rich selection of works by female jazz composers that span eras, geographical borders, and genres — from blues to bebop and beyond. Energized by the remarkable talents of multiple Grammy winners and NEA Jazz Masters Carrington and Reeves, *New Standards* is a sensational celebration of the accomplishments of women in jazz.

## College of Charleston Cistern Yard

Sunday, May 26 · 9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes

Tickets start at \$25

Sponsored by Wells Fargo

## WELLS FARGO

Additional support provided by the Oliver S. and Jennie R. Donaldson Foundation.

Programming at the College of Charleston Cistern Yard is kindly endowed by Carlos, Lisa, and Blake Evans.

“One of the great voices in jazz”

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Dianne Reeves, *vocals*



“a perfect medley of  
music and show.”

BROADWAY WORLD

## John Cameron Mitchell and Amber Martin in: Cassette Roulette

Created & Performed by Amber Martin & John Cameron Mitchell

Produced by ArKtype / Thomas O. Kriegsmann

Lighting by Jojo Franjoine

Costumes by Erik Bergrin

Video by Michael Zumbrun

Music Direction by Justin Craig

Tony Award-winner John Cameron Mitchell and internationally renowned cabaret star Amber Martin share the stage in a capricious showcase of songs, stories, and characters. Guided by audience-spun roulette wheels, Mitchell and Martin perform an eclectic selection of musical numbers that span David Bowie, Reba McEntire, and Fleetwood Mac to original songs by Martin and tunes from *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. Featuring live projections, pitch-perfect vocals, and a house band led by Grammy Award-nominated music director Justin Craig, *Cassette Roulette* is “unscripted, genuine, and pure genius” (*Broadway World*).

### Festival Hall

Saturday, May 25 · 9:00pm

Sunday, May 26 · 6:00pm and 9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 40 minutes

Tickets start at \$55

Rev up for *Roulette* with pre-show refreshments available at our bar.

Doors open early.

# Yo-Yo Ma

In June 2023, Yo-Yo Ma played the final notes of Bach's Cello Suites in Nairobi. They marked the end of a five-year, six-continent journey, a search for answers to the question that has in many ways defined his career: what is culture's role in society? Along the way, he met artists, scientists, and community leaders imagining and building a better future. He also encountered a global pandemic and mounting human and environmental crises, welcomed new grandchildren, and began a project to explore our connections to nature.

As we continue to navigate an ever-changing world, Yo-Yo brings his artistry and perspective to the Spoleto audience, inviting them to contemplate the great questions of life and art: What has brought us here? And where will we choose to go next?

**Charleston Gaillard Center  
Martha and John M. Rivers Performance Hall**

Thursday, May 30 · 7:30pm

Approximately 2 hours

Tickets start at \$75

“When we enlarge our view of the world, we deepen our understanding of our lives.”

YO-YO MA



Timothy Myers, *Music Director*

### **Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra**

Considered one of the most prestigious ensembles for early-career professional musicians, the Festival Orchestra is assembled each year through a competitive audition process. This year marks conductor Timothy Myers' debut as Music Director of the Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra.



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## Mahler's Fifth

### **World Premiere Cello Concerto by Nathalie Joachim**

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Gustav Mahler's epic symphony, divided into five rich, wildly distinct movements, is a titanic work, virtually unmatched in expressive intensity. Continuing Spoletto's commitment to commissioning new music, the concert also features a world premiere concerto by Grammy-nominated flutist, singer, and composer, Nathalie Joachim, performed by a "cellist of power and grace" (*The Guardian*), guest soloist Seth Parker Woods.

### **Charleston Gaillard Center Martha and John M. Rivers Performance Hall**

Saturday, June 1 · 7:30pm

Approximately 2 hours  
Tickets start at \$38



Seth Parker Woods, *cello*

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## Beethoven's Third

### **Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 1**

### **Reena Esmail's *Testament***

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Beethoven's stirring Symphony No. 3, "Heroic," marked a decisive turn from the Classical to Romantic period, truly groundbreaking in both form and approach. This ambitious program also features Shostakovich's sparkling Piano Concerto No. 1, performed by internationally celebrated pianist (and Festival favorite) Inon Barnatan, and Reena Esmail's *Testament* (from *Vishwas*), which showcases the dexterous weaving of Indian and Western classical music we can expect from this year's chamber music composer-in-residence.

### **Charleston Gaillard Center Martha and John M. Rivers Performance Hall**

Wednesday, June 5 · 7:30pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes  
Tickets start at \$38



Inon Barnatan, *piano*

# Bank of America Chamber Music

With repertoire spanning the canon to contemporary works, this beloved series is unparalleled in ambition and depth. Under the inspired curation of new Director of Chamber Music **Paul Wiancko**, globally renowned chamber musicians present 11 ingenious programs rich in revelry and fellowship. Paul's inaugural season welcomes composer-in-residence Reena Esmail, along with an array of talented first-timers and Festival favorites ready to rock the Dock.

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes  
Tickets start at \$40

Sponsored by Bank of America

**BANK OF AMERICA** 

Paul Wiancko is an acclaimed composer and cellist, and a member of internationally-celebrated Kronos Quartet and the distinctive Owls quartet. Wiancko regularly appears on the world's foremost stages and has collaborated with artists like Max Richter, Chick Corea, Norah Jones, and Arcade Fire. This season marks Wiancko's first as the Charles E. and Andrea L. Volpe Director of Chamber Music at Spoleto Festival USA.

"Chamber Music is simple. It's about friends making music and it's about enjoying that music together."

PAUL WIANCKO

## Conversations With

Tuesday, June 4 · 3:00pm

Host and CBS News correspondent Martha Teichner interviews Paul Wiancko at the Dock Street Theatre.

## Dock Street Theatre

### Program I

Friday, May 24 · 1:00pm  
Saturday May 25 · 11:00am and 1:00pm

### Program II

Sunday, May 26 · 11:00am and 1:00pm  
Monday, May 27 · 11:00am

### Program III

Monday, May 27 · 1:00pm  
Tuesday, May 28 · 11:00am and 1:00pm

### Program IV

Wednesday, May 29 · 11:00am and 1:00pm  
Thursday, May 30 · 11:00am

### Program V

Thursday, May 30 · 1:00pm  
Friday, May 31 · 11:00am and 1:00pm

### Program VI

Saturday, June 1 · 11:00am and 1:00pm  
Sunday, June 2 · 11:00am

### Program VII

Sunday, June 2 · 1:00pm  
Monday, June 3 · 11:00am and 1:00pm

### Program VIII

Tuesday, June 4 · 11:00am and 1:00pm  
Wednesday, June 5 · 11:00am

### Program IX

Wednesday, June 5 · 1:00pm  
Thursday, June 6 · 11:00am and 1:00pm

### Program X

Friday, June 7 · 11:00am and 1:00pm  
Saturday, June 8 · 11:00am

### Program XI

Saturday, June 8 · 1:00pm  
Sunday, June 9 · 11:00am and 1:00pm



## Charles Lloyd Sky Quartet

Charles Lloyd, *saxophone, flute*  
 Jason Moran, *piano*  
 Larry Grenadier, *bass*  
 Brian Blade, *drums, percussion*

More than five decades after being named *DownBeat's* 1967 Jazz Artist of the Year, saxophonist, flutist, and composer Charles Lloyd received that very same honor in 2023, affirming his vital presence in music. One of the first jazz artists to sell a million copies of a recording, Lloyd celebrates his 86th birthday with the release of *The Sky Will Still Be There Tomorrow*—one of his most significant recordings to date. The NEA Jazz Master and legendary bandleader returns to Spoleto at the helm of a remarkable ensemble, including pianist and Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jazz, Jason Moran, bassist Larry Grenadier, and drummer Brian Blade.

### College of Charleston Sottile Theatre

Friday, May 31 · 7:30pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes  
 Tickets start at \$29

Sponsored by Wells Fargo

**WELLS FARGO**

Additional support provided by the Oliver S. and Jennie R. Donaldson Foundation.

“Lloyd remains a man  
 of the moment.”

DOWNBEAT



## Elisa Harkins: Wampus / DSWJSJJ

Native American visual artist and composer Elisa Harkins conceived *Wampus / DSWJSJJ* as an act of Indigenous Futurism, combining disco and Indigenous language in an effort to preserve and celebrate disappearing languages through active use. Co-presented with the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at College of Charleston, this innovative performance features Harkins singing in a combination of Cherokee, English, and Muscogee (Creek) and moving rhythmically to electronic dance tracks inspired by Indigenous music. Both dreamy and intense, this piece effortlessly fuses primitive and modern, timeless and of this time.

### College of Charleston

#### Emmett Robinson Theatre

Monday, June 3 · 6:00pm  
 Tuesday, June 4 · 6:00pm

Approximately 1 hour  
 Tickets start at \$30

*Elisa Harkins: Teach Me a Song* is on view April 5 – July 20, at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art.





## Spoletto Festival USA Chorus: The Heart Starts Singing

Conducted by Joe Miller

The Spoleto Festival USA Chorus celebrates its third season with a highly anticipated performance at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. Composed of gifted vocal fellows from across the nation, the 2024 ensemble presents a diverse program of sacred and secular works spanning classical and contemporary featuring music by Spoleto Chamber series composer-in-residence Reena Esmail, Russian masterworks, and Ugis Praulins' epic *Laudibus in Sanctis*. Director of Choral Activities Joe Miller helms a captivating concert brimming with rich sonorities and subtle nuances.

### St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Thursday, June 6 · 5:30pm  
Friday, June 7 · 5:30pm

Approximately 1 hour  
Tickets start at \$45

## Spoletto Festival USA Chorus + Orchestra: The Creation

Conducted by Joe Miller

The Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra and Chorus unite for a jubilant production of Joseph Haydn's 1798 oratorio *The Creation*. The three-act masterwork chronicles the biblical creation narrative from emptiness to Eden, entwining Haydn's exultant score with a vivid libretto drawn from Genesis, Psalms, and John Milton's *Paradise Lost*—in a riveting journey from chaos to order.

### Charleston Gaillard Center Martha and John M. Rivers Performance Hall

Monday, June 3 · 7:30pm

Approximately 2 hours  
Tickets start at \$40

## Aoife O'Donovan

A century after winning the right to vote, how much has really changed for American women? That question lies at the heart of Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Aoife O'Donovan's upcoming album *All My Friends*, set for release this March. Inspired by the letters and speeches of suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt, the album ponders the nation's evolution amidst a lush soundscape featuring brass, orchestra, girls' choir, and O'Donovan's own mysterious and compelling voice. The 2022 Folk Alliance

International Song of the Year winner, who was last seen at Spoleto in 2019 performing with her acclaimed trio, *I'm With Her*, is joined by members of the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra for a musical event 100 years in the making.

### College of Charleston Sottile Theatre

Friday, June 7 · 7:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes  
Tickets start at \$39

“rooted in folk tradition but  
full of musical surprises.”

THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Amos Lee

Praised by NPR for his “soulful voice and evocative lyrics,” singer-songwriter Amos Lee plumbs a deep wellspring of personal experiences to craft profoundly universal songs. Lee's evocative albums—which include his Gold-certified debut and the *Billboard* 200-topping *Mission Bell*—explore hope, loss, morality, connection, and renewal amidst a rich sonic mélange of folk, rock, and soul influences. Lee steps into the spotlight for a solo acoustic show featuring hits such as “Windows are Rolled Down,” “Worry No More,” and “Shout Out Loud.”

### College of Charleston Cistern Yard

Tuesday, May 28 · 8:45pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes  
Tickets start at \$29

*Programming at the College of Charleston Cistern Yard is kindly endowed by Carlos, Lisa, and Blake Evans.*

“Amos Lee will  
transport you.”

NPR





Chris Potter, saxophone



Matt White, trumpet



Quentin Baxter, drums

## Lowcountry: South Carolina Music in the Gullah Tradition

Matt White, trumpet  
Quentin Baxter, drums

### Special Guest

Chris Potter, saxophone

### College of Charleston Cistern Yard

Sunday, June 2 · 9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes  
Tickets start at \$25

Praise house melodies meet modern jazz in an unforgettable celebration of Gullah history and musical heritage. The star-studded performance—helmed by trumpeter, composer, and Guggenheim Fellow Matt White—unites 20-plus South Carolinian artists including Grammy Award-winning drummer Quentin Baxter and renowned saxophonist Chris Potter. Featuring a full jazz band, a string section, three Gullah elders, and a narrator, *Lowcountry* forms a prismatic view of the vibrant Gullah culture.

Sponsored by Wells Fargo

## WELLS FARGO

Additional support provided by the Oliver S. and Jennie R. Donaldson Foundation

Programming at the College of Charleston Cistern Yard is kindly endowed by Carlos, Lisa, and Blake Evans.

## Watchhouse

Torchbearers of contemporary folk, Watchhouse is the evolution of Andrew Marlin and Emily Frantz, previously known as Mandolin Orange. The North Carolina duo reinvented themselves in 2021 by releasing their self-titled debut album, which includes standout tracks “Better Way” and “Upside Down.” Topping Billboard’s Bluegrass Albums Chart at #1, *Watchhouse* represents the duo’s “best work to date,” (*American Songwriter*)— a bold and poetic artistic reinvention that imbues their Appalachian-steeped folk with ambient drone, gauzy soul

horns, and experimental texture. A band at the regenerative edges of subtly experimental folk-rock, Watchhouse is one to watch.

### College of Charleston Cistern Yard

Wednesday, June 5 · 9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes  
Tickets start at \$29

Programming at the College of Charleston Cistern Yard is kindly endowed by Carlos, Lisa, and Blake Evans.



“Pristine acoustic picking collides with hazy, dream-like psychedelia”

ROLLING STONE

# The Ugly Duckling

## Lightwire Theater

Talk about a 'glow-up': Hans Christian Andersen's timeless tale "The Ugly Duckling" illuminates the Robinson in a spellbinding production from *America's Got Talent* semifinalists Lightwire Theater. The classic story unfolds in a vibrant, family-friendly production featuring handmade electroluminescent costumes, poignant choreography, and creative use of music ranging from classical to pop. With dazzling visuals and enduring themes of belonging and self-discovery, *The Ugly Duckling* is a feast for both the eyes and the soul.

### College of Charleston Emmett Robinson Theatre

Saturday, June 1 · 12:00pm, 2:30pm, and 5:30pm  
 Sunday, June 2 · 12:00pm, 2:30pm, and 5:30pm

Approximately 1 hour  
 Tickets start at \$35

"An eye-popping display of storytelling that's like nothing else you've ever seen"

BROADWAY WORLD



## Old Crow Medicine Show

Beloved for their old-time string sound and “raucous, warm-hearted performances” (*The New York Times*), Old Crow Medicine Show is universally acknowledged as one of the pioneers and preeminent voices of the American roots revival. The six-piece band earned the 2013 Trailblazer Award from the Americana Music Association, won two Grammy Awards, and introduced the world to “Wagon Wheel”—one of the top-five country singles of all time. The Grand Ole Opry inductees are celebrating their 25th anniversary with the release of their Grammy Award-nominated album, *Jubilee*.

### College of Charleston Cistern Yard

Friday, May 24 · 9:00pm

Saturday, May 25 · 9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes

Tickets start at \$29

*Programming at the College of Charleston Cistern Yard is kindly endowed by Carlos, Lisa, and Blake Evans.*

“the nation’s foremost  
old-time string band”

THE NEW YORK TIMES





“an astonishingly intimate  
and stirring performance”

THE NEW YORK TIMES

## El Arte Del Bolero

Miguel Zenón, *alto saxophone*  
Luis Perdomo, *piano*

Cue romance. In 2021, Puerto Rican saxophonist and MacArthur Fellow Miguel Zenón and acclaimed Venezuelan pianist Luis Perdomo reimagined beloved boleros as sensuous jazz ballads in their critically acclaimed album *El Arte Del Bolero*. Three years later, Zenón and Perdomo share their Grammy Award-nominated, two-album project in five intimate engagements. Irresistibly seductive, *El Arte Del Bolero* delivers “alluring, forward-thinking performances” (*Latin Jazz Network*) while honoring a timeless Latin American musical tradition.

### College of Charleston Emmett Robinson Theatre

Thursday, June 6 · 5:00pm and 7:00pm

Friday, June 7 · 5:00pm

Saturday, June 8 · 5:00pm and 7:00pm

Approximately 1 hour

Tickets start at \$39

Sponsored by Wells Fargo

**WELLS FARGO**

Additional support provided by the Oliver S.  
and Jennie R. Donaldson Foundation.

## Jason Isbell

Critically acclaimed for his raw emotional honesty, singer, guitarist, and actor Jason Isbell has steadily earned his place as one of music’s greatest performing songwriters. The four-time Grammy Award winner and rock and roll icon celebrated a remarkable year in 2023, starring in Martin Scorsese’s *Killers of the Flower Moon*, releasing his ninth studio album, *Weathervanes*, and adding three more Grammy Award nominations to his growing list of accolades. In an intimate acoustic show, Isbell lights up the Cistern Yard with “brutally beautiful” (*Rolling Stone*) songs such as “Cover Me Up,” “If We Were Vampires,” “King of Oklahoma,” and “Cast Iron Skillet.”

### College of Charleston Cistern Yard

Saturday, June 8 · 9:00pm

Sunday, June 9 · 9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 45 minutes

Tickets start at \$45

Programming at the College of Charleston Cistern Yard  
is kindly endowed by Carlos, Lisa, and Blake Evans.

“one of the great working  
lyricists and consummate  
touring acts”

LOS ANGELES TIMES

## Your gift brings art to life.

### Your contribution will enable us to:

- produce new and relevant works that facilitate meaningful exchanges and create social change
- promote greater artistic understanding and appreciation through rich conversations, programming, and community outreach efforts
- jumpstart the careers of emerging artists and ignite the imaginations of future artists and arts lovers
- support our community of artists and producers and create a place of belonging for our entire community and so much more!



Make your gift online at [spoletousa.org/support](https://spoletousa.org/support).

Thank you for being a part of the Spoleto community!

### Save the Date!

#### Opening Gala

Thursday, May 23 · 6:00pm

Kick off the 2024 Festival in high style at Spoleto's Opening Gala—your chance to mix and mingle with some of this season's extraordinary talent. Enjoy cocktails, a seated dinner, and unique performances by Festival artists at the kind of party only Spoleto could throw. Limited capacity.

More information and ticket details coming soon!

## Thank you!

We would like to express deep and profound gratitude to the Spoleto Festival USA Board of Directors and all the supporters who make the Festival's mission possible. Recognized below are institutional contributors who have made early commitments to the 2024 season, including generous support from:

### The Wayne and Alicia Gregory Family Foundation



South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism

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# 2024 Event Calendar

MAY		
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>24 MAY</b> <b>TRADITIONS</b> 11:00AM Opening Ceremony <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 1:00-2:15PM Program I P29 <b>OPERA</b> 7:00-8:45PM Ruinous Gods P4 <b>FRONT ROW</b> 9:00-10:30PM Old Crow Medicine Show P40	<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>25 MAY</b> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 11:00AM-12:15PM Program I P29 1:00-2:15PM Program I P29 <b>DANCE</b> 2:00-3:15PM Romeo & Juliet P6 7:00-8:15PM Romeo & Juliet P6 <b>THEATER</b> 7:00-8:45PM The Song of Rome P10 9:00-10:40PM Cassette Roulette P22 <b>FRONT ROW</b> 9:00-10:30PM Old Crow Medicine Show P40 <b>ARTIST TALKS</b> 3:30-4:30PM Conversations With Ruinous Gods P4	<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>26 MAY</b> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 11:00AM-12:15PM Program II P29 1:00-2:15PM Program II P29 <b>DANCE</b> 2:00-3:15PM Romeo & Juliet P6 7:00-8:15PM Romeo & Juliet P6 <b>THEATER</b> 4:00-5:45PM The Song of Rome P11 6:00-7:40PM Cassette Roulette P22 9:00-10:40PM Cassette Roulette P22 <b>JAZZ</b> 9:00-10:15PM Carrington / Reeves P20 <b>ARTIST TALKS</b> 1:00-2:00PM Conversations With Denis O'Hare & Lisa Peterson P22
MAY		
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>31 MAY</b> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 11:00AM-12:15PM Program V P29 1:00-2:15PM Program V P29 <b>THEATER</b> 7:00-8:45PM Dark Noon P18 8:00-9:45PM The Song of Rome P10 <b>JAZZ</b> 7:30-9:00PM Charles Lloyd Quartet P30	<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>01 JUNE</b> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 11:00AM-12:15PM Program VI P29 1:00-2:15PM Program VI P29 <b>OPERA</b> 2:00-3:45PM Ruinous Gods P4 <b>THEATER</b> 12:00-1:00PM The Ugly Duckling P38 2:30-3:30PM The Ugly Duckling P38 5:30-6:30PM The Ugly Duckling P38 7:00-8:45PM The Song of Rome P10 8:00-9:45PM Dark Noon P18 <b>MUSIC</b> 7:30-9:30PM Orchestra: Mahler 5 P26 <b>ARTIST TALKS</b> 3:00-4:00PM Conversations With Dark Noon P18	<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>02 JUNE</b> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 11:00AM-12:15PM Program VI P29 1:00-2:15PM Program VII P29 <b>THEATER</b> 12:00-1:00PM The Ugly Duckling P38 1:00-2:45PM Dark Noon P18 2:30-3:30PM The Ugly Duckling P38 4:00-5:45PM The Song of Rome P10 5:30-6:30PM The Ugly Duckling P38 7:00-8:45PM Dark Noon P18 <b>JAZZ</b> 9:00-10:30PM Lowcountry P36
JUNE		
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>07 JUNE</b> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 11:00AM-12:15PM Program X P29 1:00-2:15PM Program X P29 <b>PHYSICAL THEATER</b> 8:00-9:00PM Apricity P8 <b>MUSIC</b> 5:30-6:30PM Spoleto Festival USA Chorus P32 <b>JAZZ</b> 5:00-6:00PM El Arte Del Bolero P42 9:00-10:15PM Pedrito Martinez P13 <b>FRONT ROW</b> 7:00-8:15PM Aoife O'Donovan P34 <b>ARTIST TALKS</b> 2:00-3:00PM Jazz Talk: Pedrito Martinez P13	<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>08 JUNE</b> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 11:00AM-12:15PM Program X P29 1:00-2:15PM Program XI P29 <b>PHYSICAL THEATER</b> 8:00-9:00PM Apricity P8 <b>JAZZ</b> 5:00-6:00PM El Arte Del Bolero P42 7:00-8:00PM El Arte Del Bolero P42 <b>FRONT ROW</b> 9:00-10:45PM Jason Isbell P43	<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>09 JUNE</b> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 11:00AM-12:15PM Program XI P29 1:00-2:15PM Program XI P29 <b>PHYSICAL THEATER</b> 2:00-3:00PM Apricity P8 5:00-6:00PM Apricity P8 <b>FRONT ROW</b> 9:00-10:45PM Jason Isbell P43

MAY			
<b>MONDAY</b> <b>27 MAY</b> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 11:00AM-12:15PM Program II P29 1:00-2:15PM Program III P29 <b>OPERA</b> 2:00-3:45PM Ruinous Gods P4 <b>THEATER</b> 7:00-8:45PM The Song of Rome P10 <b>JAZZ</b> 5:00-6:00PM Layale Chaker & Sarafand P12 7:00-8:00PM Layale Chaker & Sarafand P12 <b>FRONT ROW</b> 8:45-10:15PM Amos Lee P35 <b>ARTIST TALKS</b> 2:00-3:00PM Jazz Talk: Terri Lyne Carrington P20	<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>28 MAY</b> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 11:00AM-12:15PM Program III P29 1:00-2:15PM Program III P29 <b>JAZZ</b> 5:00-6:00PM Layale Chaker & Sarafand P12 7:00-8:00PM Layale Chaker & Sarafand P12	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>29 MAY</b> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 11:00AM-12:15PM Program IV P29 1:00-2:15PM Program IV P29 <b>OPERA</b> 7:00-8:45PM Ruinous Gods P4	<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>30 MAY</b> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 11:00AM-12:15PM Program IV P29 1:00-2:15PM Program V P29 <b>MUSIC</b> 7:30-9:30PM Yo-Yo Ma P24
JUNE			
<b>MONDAY</b> <b>03 JUNE</b> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 11:00AM-12:15PM Program VII P29 1:00-2:15PM Program VII P29 <b>MUSIC</b> 6:00-7:00PM Elisa Harkins P31 7:30-9:30PM The Creation P33	<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>04 JUNE</b> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 11:00AM-12:15PM Program VIII P29 1:00-2:15PM Program VIII P29 <b>MUSIC</b> 6:00-7:00PM Elisa Harkins P31 <b>ARTIST TALKS</b> 3:00-4:00PM Conversations With Paul Wiancko P32	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>05 JUNE</b> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 11:00AM-12:15PM Program VIII P29 1:00-2:15PM Program IX P29 <b>MUSIC</b> 7:30-9:30PM Orchestra: Beethoven 3 P26 <b>FRONT ROW</b> 9:00-10:30PM Watchhouse P37	<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>06 JUNE</b> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC</b> 11:00AM-12:15PM Program IX P29 1:00-2:15PM Program IX P29 <b>THEATER</b> 8:00-9:30PM Sasha Velour P14 <b>PHYSICAL THEATER</b> 7:00-8:00PM Apricity P8 <b>MUSIC</b> 5:30-6:30PM Spoleto Festival USA Chorus P32 <b>JAZZ</b> 5:00-6:00PM El Arte Del Bolero P42 7:00-8:00PM El Arte Del Bolero P42



## How to Buy Tickets

### Online

Beginning January 26, visit [spoletousa.org](http://spoletousa.org).

### By Phone

Beginning January 26, call 843.579.3100.

Customer service hours are Monday–Friday, 10:00am–4:00pm (ET); daily beginning May 20.


### In Person

Daily beginning May 20, 10:00am–4:00pm (ET) at the Spoleto Festival USA Ticket Kiosk at Charleston Visitor Center, 375 Meeting Street.

Gift certificates and group discounts available. Visit [spoletousa.org](http://spoletousa.org) to learn more.

### Connect with Us

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 Please call the box office at 843.579.3100 or visit [spoletousa.org](http://spoletousa.org) to purchase accessible seating.

### Ticket Purchase Policy

Ticket purchases are subject to the Festival's Ticket Purchase Policy. **Please visit [spoletousa.org/ticket-policy](http://spoletousa.org/ticket-policy) to read the full policy.**

- All sales are final. No refunds.
- All performance prices, dates, times, venues, and artists are subject to change.
- Single ticket buyers may exchange tickets for a \$5 fee per performance before May 15. Certain exceptions apply for qualifying donors or chamber music series subscribers. See [spoletousa.org/membership](http://spoletousa.org/membership) for details.

- Tickets may be donated as a tax-deductible contribution up to 1-hour prior to performance.
- All audience members, regardless of age, must have a ticket to attend Festival performances. Appropriateness of content is at the discretion of parents/guardians.
- A \$5.00 processing fee and a \$4.00 facility fee will be applied to each ticket to help defray ticketing costs.
- Tickets will be e-mailed to customers as print-at-home tickets or downloaded as mobile tickets. Patrons may request for their tickets to be mailed or held at will call for a \$5 handling fee per order.
- Spoleto Festival USA does not guarantee the authenticity of tickets purchased from third parties. Tickets purchased from a source other than Spoleto Festival USA may not be honored.

### Security at Spoleto Festival USA Events

Spoleto Festival USA has implemented enhanced security protocols at all venues. **Please visit [spoletousa.org/security](http://spoletousa.org/security) to review the full safety and security policy.**

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## Explore Charleston

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