

ARTIFACTS

Nicole Mitchell, Flute and Electric Flute

Tomeka Reid, Cello

Mike Reed, Drums

**Simons Center Recital Hall at
College of Charleston**

May 26, 7:00pm; May 27, 5:00pm and 7:00pm;
May 28, 5:00pm and 7:00pm; May 29, 7:00pm

1 hour | Performed without an intermission

About the Artists



NICOLE M. MITCHELL (flute) is an award-winning creative flutist, composer, bandleader, and educator. Having emerged from Chicago's innovative music scene in the late 1990s, Mitchell's music celebrates contemporary African-American culture. She is the founder of Black Earth Ensemble, a multi-

generational and gender-balanced group that is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2018. Black Earth Ensemble's *Mandorla Awakening* was highlighted as the no. 1 jazz album of 2017 by *The New York Times*. Mitchell composes for contemporary ensembles of varied instrumentation and size. She is a 2018 recipient of the Champion of New Music Award from the American Composers Forum, and she has been repeatedly awarded by *DownBeat* magazine's Critics Poll and the Jazz Journalists Association as Top Flutist of the Year from 2010 – 17. The former first woman president of Chicago's Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM), Mitchell celebrates endless possibility by "creating visionary worlds through music that bridge the familiar with the unknown."



MIKE REED (drums) is a musician, composer, bandleader, and arts presenter based in Chicago; he also leads or co-leads several working bands, all rooted deeply in jazz and improvised music. In addition, he's the current programming chair of the Chicago Jazz Festival, and the owner and director of the acclaimed performing arts venue Constellation. His long-running

post-bop quartet People, Places & Things has collaborated with guest musicians like Ira Sullivan, Julian Priester, Art

Hoyle, Craig Taborn, and Matthew Shipp. Reed also leads an improvisation-heavy quintet called Loose Assembly, as well as the expansive octet Living by Lanterns. In addition to forging ongoing collaborative relationships with first-wave Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM) figures, like the legendary reedist Roscoe Mitchell and trumpeter Wadada Leo Smith, Reed remains a lynchpin in his native city, working as a key member of vibraphonist Jason Adasiewicz's trio Sun Rooms, as well as the octet led by bassist Jason Roebke.



TOMEKA REID (cello) was recently described as a "new jazz power source" by *The New York Times*, and has emerged as one of the most original, versatile, and curious musicians and composers in Chicago's bustling jazz and improvised-music community over the last decade. Her distinctive melodic sensibility, usually braided to a strong sense of groove,

has been featured in many distinguished ensembles over the years. Reid has been a key member of ensembles led by legendary reedists including Anthony Braxton and Roscoe Mitchell, as well as a younger generation of visionaries, including flutist Nicole Mitchell, singer Dee Alexander, and drummer Mike Reed. Reid released her debut recording as a bandleader in 2015, with the eponymous recording by the Tomeka Reid Quartet, a lively yet charged debut album that is a vibrant showcase not only for the cellist's improvisational acumen, but also her knack for dynamic arrangements and her compositional ability.

Sponsored by Wells Fargo.

These performances are 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.

Music critic Larry Blumenfeld hosts a Jazz Talk with the members of Artifacts at 5:00pm on Tuesday, May 29, at Simons Center Recital Hall at College of Charleston, 54 St. Philip St.