

Jessie Bagley, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
843.720.1136, office | jbagley@spoletousa.org
Jenny Ouellette, Public Relations Manager
843.720.1137, office | jouellette@spoletousa.org

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

SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA

2019

43rd SEASON AT A GLANCE

May 24 – June 9, 2019 | Charleston, South Carolina

Opera

New production: Richard Strauss's *Salome*

Music Theater

Path of Miracles

Music

Prokofiev and Shostakovich | *St. John Passion* | City Symphonies | Westminster Choir Concerts |
Bank of America Chamber Music | Music in Time | Classical Showcase |
Wells Fargo Festival Finale featuring Curtis Harding

Wells Fargo Jazz

Esperanza Spalding | Geri Allen Tribute Quintet | David Virelles | Carla Bley |
Dafnis Prieto Big Band | Mark Turner and Ethan Iverson

First Citizens Bank Front Row

I'm With Her | Punch Brothers

Theater

1927 world premiere: *Roots* | world premiere: *Letter to a Friend in Gaza* | Shakespeare's Globe |
Pay No Attention to the Girl | *The Fever* | US premiere: *What Girls Are Made Of*

Dance

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company | Caracalla Dance Theatre | Compagnie Hervé Koubi

Physical Theater

Circa

Artist Talks and Master Classes

Tickets | spoletousa.org or 843.579.3100

Donor pre-sale begins January 7 | **Available to the general public** beginning January 16, at 10:00am

Call center hours: Monday through Saturday, 10:00am to 6:00pm

In-person ticket sales at the Charleston Gaillard Center open April 30

Opera

Salome

A new vision from directors **Patrice Caurier and Moshe Leiser**, Richard Strauss's 1905 masterpiece is drawn from a biblical story and based on the Oscar Wilde play of the same name. Dramatic soprano **Melanie Henley Heyn** stars in the title role across from tenor **Paul Groves**, who sings as Salome's stepfather Herod. Conductor **Steven Sloane** leads the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra. (May 24, 30, June 2, and 5; Charleston Gaillard Center)

Music Theater

Path of Miracles

Westminster Choir sings British composer **Joby Talbot's** 2005 a cappella exploration of the Camino de Santiago, the ancient—yet still traversed today—pilgrimage across Northern Spain. Director **John La Bouchardière** stages the work's four movements. (May 27 and 31; Charleston Gaillard Center)

Music

Prokofiev and Shostakovich

Led by **Evan Rogister**, the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra presents the works of two 20th-century Russian masters: selections from **Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* orchestral suites (nos. 1 and 2)** and **Shostakovich's fifth symphony**. (June 1; Charleston Gaillard Center)

St. John Passion

The **Westminster Choir**, Charleston Symphony Orchestra Chorus, and Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra perform **Johann Sebastian Bach's** first Passion, based on the Gospel of John. Festival Director of Choral Activities Joe Miller conducts. (June 4; Charleston Gaillard Center)

Bank of America Chamber Music

Director and host **Geoff Nuttall** celebrates his 10th season at the helm of this landmark series. Eleven programs (each performed three times) are announced in full in April 2019; teasers include Copeland's *Appalachian Spring*, Schubert's famous octet, and a world premiere work from **composer-in-residence Paul Wiancko**. Featured performers include Anthony Roth Costanzo (countertenor); James Austin Smith (oboe); Inon Barnatan, Pedja Muzijevic, and Stephen Prutsman (piano); Tara Helen O'Connor (flute); Amy Harman (bassoon), David Byrd-Marrow (French horn); Paul Holmes Morton (lute and theorbo); and the St. Lawrence String Quartet. (May 24 – June 9; Dock Street Theatre)

Music in Time: The Living Earth Show

Two performances from this San Francisco-based duo—electric guitarist **Travis Andrews** and percussionist **Andy Meyerson**—open the Music in Time series. On the program are works by composers who were born in, immigrated to, or utilize musical traditions from United States, including Sahba Aminikia, Raven Chacon, and Sarah Hennies. (May 25; Woolfe Street Playhouse)

Music in Time: Rebellion in Greenery

Members of the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra are featured on a program of chamber and solo works including **Britta Bryström's *Rebellion in Greenery*** and a new composition by pianist **Stephen Prutsman** for string quartet and soundtrack. (May 26; Woolfe Street Playhouse)

Music in Time: Stay on It

Minimalist pioneer **Julius Eastman's *Stay On It*** (1973) frames this program, which also includes **Steve Reich's *Pulse*** (2015) and ***Runner*** (2016). (May 31; Simons Center Recital Hall at College of Charleston)

Music in Time: in vain

Georg Friedrich Haas's 2000 work ***in vain*** was created in part as a protest to the rise of the far right in Austria's 1999 elections. As members of the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra perform, the lights onstage and in the house fade to complete darkness. (June 3; Simons Center Recital Hall at College of Charleston)

City Symphonies

Three 30-minute works by frequent collaborators **Bill Morrison** (filmmaker) and **Michael Gordon** (composer) are presented for the first time in trilogy; Gordon's score is played live by the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra, led by Festival Resident Conductor and Director of Orchestral Activities John Kennedy. Each film captures the aura of three American cities: *Gotham* for New York, *Dystopia* for Los Angeles, and *El Sol Caliente* for Miami. (May 26; Memminger Auditorium)

Classical Showcase

Conductor Michelle Rofrano leads members of the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra; the concert pairs classical and neo-classical selections, including **Fanny Mendelssohn's *Overture in C*** and **Igor Stravinsky's "Dumbarton Oaks" Concerto in E-flat**, as well as work that would have been performed in 1736, when the first incarnation of the Dock Street Theatre was built. (May 28; Dock Street Theatre)

Westminster Choir Concerts

The chorus in residence at Spoleto Festival USA since 1977, the ensemble—led by Festival Director of Choral Activities **Joe Miller**—the program includes selections by **Claudio Monteverdi**, **Stephen Leek**, and **Ēriks Ešenvalds**. (June 1 and 7; St. Matthew's Lutheran Church)

Wells Fargo Festival Finale featuring Curtis Harding

Held for the first time at Riverfront Park with grounds overlooking the Cooper River, the Festival Finale features singer-songwriter, drummer, and guitarist **Curtis Harding**, an Atlanta-based artist known for a signature style that blends soul, R&B, pop, rock, and gospel. (June 9; Riverfront Park)

First Citizens Bank Front Row

Punch Brothers

Mandolinist **Chris Thile**, guitarist **Chris Eldridge**, bassist **Paul Kowert**, banjoist **Noam Pikelny**, and violinist **Gabe Witcher** mark the bluegrass quintet's third Festival appearance with their signature virtuosity and progressive vision. (May 26; College of Charleston Cistern Yard)

I'm With Her

This acoustic folk trio—**Sara Watkins**, **Sarah Jarosz**, and **Aoife O'Donovan**—are known for their camaraderie and superlative string-instrument and vocal harmonies. (June 1; College of Charleston Cistern Yard)

Wells Fargo Jazz

Esperanza Spalding

The bassist and vocalist described as “the 21st century’s jazz genius” by NPR brings two nights of her innovative compositions to open the Wells Fargo Jazz series. (May 24 and 25; College of Charleston Cistern Yard)

Geri Allen Tribute Quintet

“Feed the Fire,” one of Geri Allen’s beloved compositions, sets the theme for a celebratory concert honoring the life and legacy of the late American jazz pianist. The ensemble features five esteemed artists who worked with Allen: drummer **Terri Lyne Carrington**, saxophonist **Ravi Coltrane**, pianist **Craig Taborn**, bassist **Robert Hurst**, and tap dancer **Maurice Chestnut**. (May 30; College of Charleston Cistern Yard)

David Virelles

Now based in New York, this 35-year-old Cuban pianist fuses elements of Afro-Cuban folkloric traditions with modern American jazz. Virelles gives three solo concerts, then is joined by master percussionist **Román Díaz**, an essential source of Afro-Cuban rhythms, ritual, and chants. (May 25 – 28; Simons Center Recital Hall at College of Charleston)

Carla Bley – Trios

Carla Bley's prolific career as a composer, bandleader, and pianist spans more than 60 years; the NEA Jazz Master is joined by longtime collaborators **Steve Swallow** (bass) and **Andy Sheppard** (saxophone) for her Spoleto debut. (May 31; College of Charleston Cistern Yard)

Dafnis Prieto Big Band

Cuban percussionist **Dafnis Prieto**, a Grammy nominee and MacArthur Fellow, leads this bold ensemble of 17 of the world's top Afro-Cuban musicians. (May 29; Charleston Gaillard Center)

Mark Turner and Ethan Iverson

Following the release of their album *Temporary Kings*, this tenor saxophone (Turner) and piano (Iverson) duo synthesize many styles of jazz within a chamber-like atmosphere, conjuring an intimate musical dialogue grounded their own wide-ranging experiences. (June 5 – 8; Simons Center Recital Hall at College of Charleston)

Dance**Compagnie Hervé Koubi**

Thirteen male dancers perform a powerful mix of breakdancing, acrobatics, capoeira, and contemporary dance in French choreographer **Hervé Koubi**'s *What the Day Owes to the Night*, a piece inspired, in part, by Koubi's discovery of his Algerian heritage. (May 25 and 26; Charleston Gaillard Center)

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company

Choreographer Bill T. Jones presents *Analogy Trilogy*—a marathon of three unique works that weave dance, storytelling, music, and text. Inspired by W. G. Sebald's 1992 collection of narratives, *The Emigrants*, Jones explores the individuals in his own life, comparing their personal accounts of trauma and perseverance. (May 28 – June 1; Memminger Auditorium)

Caracalla Dance Theater

One Thousand and One Nights, a **US premiere** from this acclaimed Lebanese contemporary dance company, sets stories from the age-old text to a blend of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, Ravel's *Bolero*, and traditional Arabic orchestrations. More than 40 performers make up the spectacular production. (June 7 – 9; Charleston Gaillard Center)

Theater

Shakespeare's Globe

Eight actors from the renowned London-based company offer a rotation of *Twelfth Night*, *The Comedy of Errors*, and *Pericles*, as well as unpredictable and historically inspired “audience choice” shows, in which ticket-holders collectively choose one of the three plays before the curtain rises. (May 24 – 27, May 29 – June 2, June 4 – 9; Dock Street Theatre)

Letter to a Friend in Gaza

In this **world-premiere** multimedia performance from Israeli filmmaker **Amos Gitai**, four actors—two Palestinian and two Israeli—address the foundations of the conflict at the Israel-Gaza border. (May 30 – June 2; Emmett Robinson Theatre at College of Charleston)

Roots

This **world premiere** from English theater company **1927** unearths a series of rarely told folktales from disparate corners of the globe. The company's signature handcrafted animation and storytelling are fused with a live score involving Peruvian prayer boxes, donkey jaws, violins, and musical saws. (May 24 – 28; Emmett Robinson Theatre at College of Charleston)

What Girls Are Made Of

A **US premiere**, this autobiographical work brings **Cora Bissett**'s teenage diaries to life, recounting the years she performed as the lead singer in 1992 indie rock band Darlingheart and toured with such bands as Radiohead and Blur. (June 1 – 10; Memminger Auditorium)

Pay No Attention to the Girl

Brooklyn's **Target Margin Theater** brings this *New York Times* Critic's Pick. Directed by **David Herskovits**, this inventive work is drawn from various translations of *One Thousand and One Nights* as the company's five actors portray multiple roles. (May 29 – June 1; Woolfe Street Playhouse)

The Fever

The artists of New York-based, Obie Award-winning company **600 HIGHWAYMEN** are known for their experimental approach to theater, constructing events that seek to create intimacy among a group of strangers. This 2017 work, performed in complete collaboration with the audience, explores the limits of individual and collective responsibility. (June 4 – 8; Woolfe Street Playhouse)

Physical Theater

Circa

In *What Will Have Been*, three acrobats from this Australian troupe blur the lines between circus, dance, and theater. The work, created by Yaron Lifschitz, is set to a score fusing Bach and electronica and played onstage by a violinist. (June 4 – 9; Emmett Robinson Theatre at College of Charleston)

Artist Talks and Master Classes

Conversations With

CBS News correspondent Martha Teichner hosts interviews and discussions with Festival artists: choreographer Bill T. Jones (May 31), members of 1927 (May 27), Festival Director of Choral Activities Joe Miller (May 25), and members of 600 HIGHWAYMEN (June 5).

Jazz Talks

Wall Street Journal jazz critic Larry Blumenfeld interviews musicians of the Wells Fargo Jazz series: David Virelles (May 28) and Terri Lyne Carrington (May 30).

Master Classes

Three classes are led by members of Compagnie Hervé Koubi (May 25), Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company (May 27), and Caracalla Dance Theatre (June 8).

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 | [Read bio](#)

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

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

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

Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra

Assembled anew each year through nationwide auditions, the Festival's resident ensemble (more than 90 musicians in 2019) accompanies each season's opera selections and symphonic concerts. Smaller ensembles participate in choral, chamber, and contemporary music performances. The Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra works closely with Resident Conductor and Director of Orchestral Activities John Kennedy as well as guest conductors and composers. Learn more [here](#).

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.

Images

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

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