

## SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA

2021

PRESS RELEASE

**Spoletto announces a landmark 45th season, May 28 to June 13, with a return to in-person music, theater, and dance performances**  
Plus a pre-season virtual gala celebrating outgoing general director Nigel Redden on May 22, and two interactive productions created specifically for remote audiences  
Tickets on sale April 13 at 10:00am ET | [spoletousa.org](http://spoletousa.org) or 843.579.3100

---

### Season highlights:

A special Charleston edition of Jason Moran and Alicia Hall Moran's *Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration*

*The Woman in Black*, reconfigured for an eerie outdoor staging

Stars align: A mixed bill from American Ballet Theatre and New York City Ballet dancers

A tribute to Black banjoist Danny Barker and his unparalleled contributions to New Orleans jazz

Chamber Music at the historic Dock Street Theatre, featuring four world premieres from Osvaldo Golijov, composer-in-residence Jessica Meyer, and Siegfried Thiele

The construction of two new outdoor venues

Spoletto at Home: Works from 600 HIGHWAYMEN and Scott Silven

---

**April 5, 2021 (Charleston, South Carolina)**—General Director Nigel Redden announced the full program for the 45th season of Spoleto Festival USA, taking place May 28 to June 13 in four venues across Charleston, South Carolina. The season encompasses more than 70 in-person music, dance, and theater performances on stages outdoors and in the historic Dock Street Theatre, as well as two interactive virtual works created specifically for remote audiences. This announcement follows months of considered planning for the health and well-being of artists, staff, and audience members, conducted in accordance with local and national health guidelines as well as recommendations from a team of healthcare professionals at the Medical University of South Carolina. The Festival is operating with an overall capacity that is just 25 percent of a typical season.

“In many ways, this season will be quite different—not least because of the reduced number of performances and seats as a result of physical distancing,” says Redden, noting that one of the great

disappointments was the second postponement of *Omar*, the Festival’s world premiere opera by Rhiannon Giddens, now slated to open the 2022 Festival. “Still, despite the constraints and challenges, this season will be remembered for its moments of immense beauty. I want each audience member to have an unforgettable, magical experience—the kind that can only come from seeing live performance.”

To accommodate an in-person season with an audience, Festival organizers are constructing two outdoor stages for use in addition to the stage at the College of Charleston Cistern Yard. On the grounds of what once was a train depot built in the 1840s, the Charleston Visitor Center Bus Shed will host 16 performances of *The Woman in Black*. This staging of Susan Hill’s ghost story was adapted by Stephen Mallatratt, directed by Robin Herford, and was mounted in New York City’s McKittrick Hotel in early 2020. At Spoleto, each performance of *The Woman in Black* will begin at 8:30pm; the space is in use by CARTA (Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority) every day until 5:00pm and will be transformed into a performance venue each evening.

The second new outdoor venue is being constructed at Rivers Green at College of Charleston—a large open lawn behind the college’s Nathan Addlestone Library—and will support three distinct dance programs. Caleb Teicher & Company will headline the 2021 dance series, which also includes Ephrat Asherie Dance and the program *Ballet Under the Stars*, performed by American Ballet Theatre and New York City Ballet’s Isabella Boylston, Adrian Danchig-Waring, Joseph Gordon, Unity Phelan, and Calvin Royal III.

The College of Charleston Cistern Yard will again house the Festival’s Wells Fargo Jazz and First Citizens Bank Front Row series. Highlighting the 2021 Wells Fargo Jazz is a special Charleston edition of *Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration*. Produced by Jason Moran and Alicia Hall Moran, *Two Wings* combines music and storytelling to examine stories from The Great Migration, a period from 1910 – 1970, when roughly six million Black families fled racial violence in the South and traveled to points North and West. First presented at Carnegie Hall in 2018, each staging of *Two Wings* is created to reflect the presenting location. Joining the Morans onstage will be Imani Winds and filmmaker Julie Dash. The Wells Fargo Jazz series also includes concerts from The Cookers and Preservation Hall Jazz Band. On May 29, eight New Orleans jazz all-stars, including Grammy Award winner Catherine Russell, will collaborate for an evening celebrating banjoist, guitarist, singer, and writer Danny Barker.

A keystone of Spoleto Festival USA, twice-daily chamber music concerts will continue in 2021. Geoff Nuttall, Festival Director of Chamber Music, will again host these 45-minute concerts inside the historic Dock Street Theatre. Punctuating this year’s programming will be four world premieres, including two from 2021 composer-in-residence Jessica Meyer: a string quartet for the St. Lawrence

String Quartet inspired by 18th-century pirate Anne Bonny (program II) and a solo work for violinist Livia Sohn titled “From Our Ashes” (program III). Cellist Alisa Weilerstein will premiere a new work by Osvaldo Golijov, written for Weilerstein (program VII) and performed alongside Inon Barnatan. And on program IX, oboist James Austin Smith will play the premiere of Siegfried Thiele’s “Ballade für Oboe,” which was written for Smith after he met the German composer in Leipzig this past fall. The season will also include Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s Nonet in F minor and Paul Wiancko’s “American Haiku” for Viola and Cello, as well as new arrangements of Max Bruch’s Concerto for Clarinet, Viola, and Orchestra, op. 88, and Tchaikovsky’s Variations on a Rococo Theme, op. 33, featuring Weilerstein.

For those unable to attend in person, select movements from all 11 programs will be videotaped and shared throughout the Festival via email and on social media platforms. The concerts will also be recorded and broadcast on South Carolina Public Radio. Listeners can tune into “Sonatas and Soundscapes,” weekdays beginning Friday, June 4, at 11:00am ET—on air or at [southcarolinapublicradio.org](http://southcarolinapublicradio.org)—to hear high-quality concert recordings plus interviews with artists from Spoleto’s 2021 series.

The First Citizens Bank Front Row series continues this season with three bluegrass ensembles, each playing two evening concerts at the College of Charleston Cistern Yard. Kicking off the series is singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist Sarah Jarosz, followed by Steep Canyon Rangers and The Wood Brothers.

The 2021 season also marks a change of guard as it will be Redden’s final as general director; after 35 years with Spoleto Festival USA, he will step down from his post in October. To mark his lasting impression, Spoleto is hosting a livestreamed, virtual gala on May 22, featuring pre-recorded performances and messages from friends and artists whose careers Redden has impacted, including Laurie Anderson, Ayodele Casel, Rhiannon Giddens, and Bill T. Jones. Countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo will emcee the event, live from New York City. The event is free to stream and will be available to watch through June 13. Donations from the event will support the Nigel Redden Emerging Artist Fund, which has been created in Redden’s honor and earmarked for use by his successor to bolster programming efforts.

The 2021 program is outlined below and can be found on [spoletousa.org](http://spoletousa.org). Performance tickets become available to the general public beginning Tuesday, April 13, at 10:00am ET by phone at 843.579.3100 or online at [spoletousa.org](http://spoletousa.org).

## 2021 Program Details

### | Theater

*The Woman in Black*

#### ***The Woman in Black***

Story by Susan Hill

Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt

Directed by Robin Herford

Charleston Visitor Center Bus Shed

May 28 – 30, June 1 – 8, 9 – 13

*Approximately 1 hour, 45 minutes*

Playwright Stephen Mallatratt first adapted Susan Hill's novel *The Woman in Black* in 1987, as commissioned by director Robin Herford for a holiday production for Alan Ayckbourn's Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough. Since then, Herford's gripping production—a brilliantly successful study in atmosphere, illusion, and controlled horror—has become one of the longest running plays in the West End, running since 1989. It has also completed 12 UK tours; Pemberley Productions is responsible for bringing the West End production on tour in the US with an American company of actors and crew. Herford directed this version of *The Woman in Black* recently at the McKittrick Hotel in New York City, where it received an Off-Broadway Alliance award for Best Revival before closing April 2020.

This production stars Peter Bradley as Arthur Kipps and Nick Owen as The Actor.

Learn more: [thewomaninblack.com](http://thewomaninblack.com)

### | Spoleto at Home – Theater

*A Thousand Ways (Part One): A Phone Call | The Journey*

#### ***A Thousand Ways (Part One): A Phone Call***

By 600 HIGHWAYMEN

Written and created by Abigail Browde and Michael Silverstone

Executive producer: Thomas O. Kriegsmann / ArKtype

Line producer: Cynthia J. Tong

Dramaturg and project design by Andrew Kircher

Sound design by Stanley Mathabane

Virtual event | telephone

June 3 – 7

*Approximately 1 hour*

From Obie Award-winning theater company 600 HIGHWAYMEN, *A Thousand Ways* is a three part-performance about communion, distance, and reconnection—a quietly radical response to our new world. Each distinct installment presents a new chance at making contact with a stranger; it’s a chance at being heard and a brave moment to show up. During Spoleto, 600 HIGHWAYMEN presents *Part One: A Phone Call*, in which two audience members—strangers to one another—follow a carefully set of directives. Over the course of the journey, a portrait emerges through fleeting moments of exposure and the simple sound of an unheard voice.

Since 2009, 600 HIGHWAYMEN (Abigail Browde and Michael Silverstone) have been making live art that, through a variety of radical approaches, illuminates the inherent poignancy of people coming together. The work exists at the intersection of theater, dance, contemporary performance, and civic encounter. Though the processes are varied, each project revolves around the same curiosity: what occurs in the live encounter between people.

600 HIGHWAYMEN has been called the “the standard-bearers of contemporary theater-making” by *Le Monde*, and “one of New York’s best nontraditional theater companies” by *The New Yorker*. They have received commissions from The Public Theater, Temple Contemporary, Salzburg Festival, and Festival Theaterformen. They are recipients of an Obie Award and Switzerland’s ZKB Patronize Prize, and nominees for Austria’s Nestroy Prize, the prestigious Alpert Award, and a Bessie Award. In 2016, Browde and Silverstone were named artist fellows by the New York Foundation for the Arts.

*A Thousand Ways* was commissioned by The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi, Stanford Live at Stanford University, Festival Theaterformen, and The Public Theater, and was originally commissioned and co-conceived by Temple Contemporary at Temple University. *Part One: A Phone Call* was developed in partnership with On the Boards production and technical teams. Original support for the production was provided by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, Philadelphia.

Learn more: [600highwaymen.org](http://600highwaymen.org)

## ***The Journey***

Created and performed by Scott Silven

Virtual event | computer

June 8 – 13

*Approximately 1 hour*

Scott Silven is an acclaimed illusionist, mentalist, and performance artist, pushing the boundaries of his craft by creating stylish, smart, and uniquely immersive performances on stage and screen. His work has been described as “a marvel” (*The New York Times*), “mesmerizing” (*Town and Country*), “truly astonishing” (*The Daily Beast*), and theatre that “wows everyone” (*The New Yorker*). Following two major sell-out runs in New York and an extensive tour on the international stage—including headline engagements with Melbourne International Arts Festival, Sydney Festival, Stanford Live, Luminato Festival, Seattle Theater Group, and Krannert Center for The Performing Arts—Silven now introduces his latest experience: *The Journey*.

This virtual event continues Silven’s theatrical objectives, not only in orchestrating an awe-inspiring experience but in creating a production that leads his audiences to a place that suggests untold possibilities, a place that challenges perceptions, a place that allows them to look at the world, and themselves, in an extraordinary way. In the work, Silven invites the audience on a journey from their homes to his in rural Scotland. In telling a long-forgotten story, Silven reveals the mysteries of one’s own mind, and unlocks the secrets within his homeland through extraordinary illusions and feats of imagination. To experience *The Journey*, each participant will need a computer or an Apple iPad with a stable Internet connection and camera. Headphones with a built-in microphone are also required.

Learn more: [scottsilven.com](http://scottsilven.com)

## | Dance

Caleb Teicher & Company | Ballet Under the Stars | Ephrat Asherie Dance

### **Caleb Teicher & Company**

*Bzzzzz* and *Meet Ella*

Choreography by Caleb Teicher

Rivers Green at College of Charleston

May 28 – June 2

*Approximately 1 hour*

Caleb Teicher & Company, founded in 2015 by acclaimed dancer/choreographer **Caleb Teicher**, serves as a creative incubator for new dance works of varying aesthetics, creative approaches, and performative styles. The company seeks to expand the capacity of America's rich music and dance traditions through innovative choreography, performance, and contextualization. Utilizing tap dance, vernacular jazz, Lindy hop, and a mix of other American dance styles, the company's work reflects a collective conscience within modern American culture.

Teicher began their career as a founding member of Michelle Dorrance's Dorrance Dance while also freelancing in the worlds of contemporary dance—with The Chase Brock Experience and The Bang Group—Lindy Hop, and musical theater. As a solo performer, Teicher has collaborated with diverse musical talents including beatboxer Chris Celiz, pianist/composer Conrad Tao, the National Symphony Orchestra, and indie-rock musicians Ben Folds and Regina Spektor. Teicher performed at Spoleto with Dorrance Dance in 2014 and has received commissions from such institutions as The Joyce Theater, New York City Center, Works & Process at the Guggenheim, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and Lincoln Center Out of Doors, among others. Teicher is the recipient of two Bessie Awards, a 2019 Harkness Promise Award, a 2019 NEFA National Dance Project Production Grant, and the 2020 Gross Family Prize.

At Spoleto, Caleb Teicher & Company presents two works: *Bzzzzz*, in which seven tap dancers and a beatboxer—Chris Celiz—explore the relationship between two forms of building and breaking pattern; and *Meet Ella*, a soft-shoe duet set to the musical catalogue of Ella Fitzgerald. In the work, Teicher and partner Nathan Bugh utilize jazz dance forms to glide towards, cut against, and trade with the music.

Learn more: [calebteicher.net](http://calebteicher.net)

## **Ballet Under the Stars**

Rivers Green at College of Charleston

June 4 – 7

*Approximately 1 hour*

New York Choreographic Institute director and New York City Ballet principal dancer Adrian Danchig-Waring organized this special program, gathering five top dancers from American Ballet Theatre (ABT) and New York City Ballet (NYCB). In pairings to be revealed, Danchig-Waring is joined by Isabella

Boylston (ABT principal), Joseph Gordon (NYCB principal), Unity Phelan (NYCB soloist), and Calvin Royal III (ABT principal), for a mixed bill featuring excerpts from George Balanchine's *Apollo* and *Diamonds*, the duet from Lar Lubovitch's *Concerto Six-Twenty-Two*, and Christopher Wheeldon's *This Bitter Earth*.

### **Ephrat Asherie Dance**

*Odeon*

Choreography by Ephrat Asherie

Musical direction by Ehud Asherie

Rivers Green at College of Charleston

June 9 – June 13

*Approximately 1 hour*

*Odeon*, an original dance work for seven dancers and four musicians, is the second collaboration between sister and brother team Ephrat (choreographer) and Ehud Asherie (music director). Set to the music of Brazilian composer Ernesto Nazareth, known for mixing early 20th-century romantic music with samba and other popular Afro-Brazilian rhythms, this work takes a hybrid approach to movement. *Odeon* delves into what happens when you bring together the extended family of street and club dances—including breaking, hip hop, house and vogue—remix them, pick them apart, and challenge them to inhabit unfamiliar spatial and choreographic contexts. *Odeon* premiered in 2018 at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.

Rooted in African American and Latinx street and social dances, Ephrat Asherie Dance (EAD) is dedicated to revealing the inherent complexities of these forms. It explores the expansive narrative qualities of various street and club styles including breaking, hip hop, house, and vogue as a means to tell stories, develop innovative imagery, and find new modes of expression. The company is named for its artistic director, Ephrat “Bounce” Asherie, an award-winning New York City-based b-girl, dancer, and choreographer. Asherie is a regular guest artist with Dorrance Dance and has worked and collaborated with Doug Elkins, Rennie Harris, Bill Irwin, David Parsons, Gus Solomons Jr., and Buddha Stretch, among others. Asherie has been on faculty at Wesleyan University and set pieces for students at Smith College, SUNY Brockport, Alvin Ailey Dance Center, University of Texas Rio Grande, Old Dominion University and teaches at Broadway Dance Center. Asherie is a co-founding member of the all-female house dance collective, MAWU.

Learn more: [ephratasheriedance.com](http://ephratasheriedance.com)



## | Music

### Chamber Music

#### **Chamber Music**

Directed and Hosted by Geoff Nuttall

Dock Street Theatre

May 28 – June 13

*Approximately 45 minutes*

Eleven programs—each performed three times—feature bright contemporary compositions and canonic treasures. The Charles E. and Andrea L. Volpe Director of Chamber Music Geoff Nuttall organizes and hosts each concert, punctuating them with his “boundless enthusiasm” as he “functions as both gifted musical partner and ebullient emcee” (*Limelight*). Nuttall’s St. Lawrence String Quartet will be featured early in the season, performing a Haydn string quartet on program I and in a world premiere “She Sailed the Savage Seas,” by Jessica Meyer, the 2021 composer in residence (program II). A violist, composer, and educator, Meyer’s work has been commissioned by such notable institutions as Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, The Juilliard School, and National Sawdust. Meyer will perform her work “Source of Joy” for viola and loop pedal on program I, and on program IV, Meyer, and Paul Wiancko will play her work, “But Not Until.” On program II, violinist Livia Sohn will debut a second Meyer premiere: “From Our Ashes,” a work for solo violin.

Two additional exciting world premieres are slated for the 2021 season. On program VII, cellist Alisa Weilerstein and pianist Inon Barnatan will perform the world premiere of “Milonga,” written specifically for Weilerstein by composer Osvaldo Golijov (a Spoleto composer-in-residence in 2016). And on program IX, oboist James Austin Smith will play the world premiere of “Ballade für Oboe,” written by Siegfried Thiele.

Other notable works on the 11 programs include Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s Nonet in F minor, Paul Wiancko’s “American Haiku” for Viola and Cello, Schubert’s String Quartet in C major, and Beethoven’s Septet in E flat Major. Each concert in 2021 will be 45 minutes in length. The 11 programs can be found [here](#).

For those unable to attend in person, select movements from all 11 programs will be videotaped and shared throughout the Festival via email and on social media platforms. The concerts will also be

recorded and broadcast on South Carolina Public Radio. Listeners can tune into “Sonatas and Soundscapes,” weekdays beginning Friday, June 4, at 11:00am ET—on air or at southcarolinapublicradio.org—to hear high-quality concert recordings plus interviews with artists from Spoleto’s 2021 series.

## | Wells Fargo Jazz

Preservation Hall Jazz Band | A New Orleans Jazz Celebration | The Cookers | Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration

### **Preservation Hall Jazz Band**

Ben Jaffe, bass, tuba, percussion

Charlie Gabriel, saxophone, clarinet

Clint Maedgen, saxophone, percussion

Ronell Johnson, trombone

Walter Harris, drums

Kyle Roussel, piano

Branden Lewis, trumpet

College of Charleston Cistern Yard

May 28

*Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes*

Preservation Hall Jazz Band (PHJB) has held the torch of New Orleans music aloft for more than 50 years, all the while carrying it enthusiastically forward as a reminder that the history it was founded to preserve is a vibrantly living history. The band’s newest album, *So It Is* (2017), is the septet’s second release featuring all-new original music, penned largely by leader Ben Jaffe and 84-year-old saxophonist Charlie Gabriel in collaboration with the entire band. Longtime members Jaffe, Gabriel, Clint Maedgen, and Ronell Johnson have more recently been joined by Walter Harris, Branden Lewis, and Kyle Roussel, and the new blood has hastened the group’s journey into new musical territory. Reinvigorated by the post-Katrina rebuilding of their beloved home city, the band is redefining what New Orleans music means today.

For those wary that a band with the rich history of the PHJB is tackling new material, Jaffe is quick to point out that the Preservation Hall—which his parents, Allan and Sandra Jaffe, founded in 1961—was never meant to be a museum. At its beginnings, the band broke racial boundaries to present the legends of New Orleans music, living links to the origins of jazz. Today, with a band whose ages range nearly 60 years, the mission remains the same: to pass on the traditions while continually revitalizing it with fresh ideas.

Learn more: [preservationhalljazzband.com](http://preservationhalljazzband.com)

## **A New Orleans Jazz Celebration**

A tribute to the life and music of Danny Barker

Michael White, clarinet and music director

Catherine Russell, featured vocals

Shannon Powell, drums, tambourine, vocals

David Torkanowsky, piano

Don Vappie, banjo and vocals

Gregory Stafford, trumpet and vocals

Jeffery Miller, trombone

Kerry Lewis, bass and tuba

College of Charleston Cistern Yard

May 29

*Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes*

Born in New Orleans in 1909, banjo and guitar player Danny Barker left for New York City in 1930 and played and recorded with a wider range of jazz musicians than any other musician of the idiom, before or since. These included Jellyroll Morton, Cab Calloway, Charlie Parker, Coleman Hawkins, and Wynton Marsalis.

Barker returned to New Orleans in 1965 and, a few years later, recruited young musicians from the community to assemble the Fairview Baptist Church Brass Band. (Many of these young musicians would, in turn, grow up to be important contributors to New Orleans music.) And in the 1970s, Barker was largely responsible for a resurgence in the New Orleans brass band tradition.

Celebrating Barker’s life and achievements, this concert features musical director and clarinetist Dr. Michael White and renowned vocalist Catherine Russell, with some of New Orleans finest musicians including Shannon Powell, Jeffery Miller, Greg Stafford, David Torkanowsky, and Kerry Lewis.

## **The Cookers**

Billy Harper, tenor saxophone

Eddie Henderson, trumpet

George Cables, piano

Cecil McBee, bass

Billy Hart, drums

Donald Harrison, alto saxophone

David Weiss, trumpet

College of Charleston Cistern Yard

June 5

*Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes*

This all-star septet summons a mid-1960s’ jazz spirit with a potent collection of expansive post-bop originals—all marked by the killer instincts and pyrotechnic playing of the heaviest hitters on the scene today. Billy Harper, Cecil McBee, George Cables, Eddie Henderson, and Billy Hart came up in the ’60s—playing with the likes of Herbie Hancock, Sonny Rollins, Charles Lloyd, and Keith Jarrett. By contrast, David Weiss and Donald Harrison, the youngest members of The Cookers, are from a more recent generation. (Combined, the group has over 250 years of experience in the jazz world and has been a part of over 1,000 recordings.) Yet each artist has also spent time leading his own series of groups as well, and each has a keenly individual sound.

Since this version of the band was solidified in 2007, the group has performed at such venues around the world as the Newport Jazz Festival, New Orleans Jazz Fest, Vancouver Jazz Festival, Umbria Jazz Festival, and Dizzy’s Club Coca Cola, among many others. After more than 10 years together, The Cookers, who “embody the serious-as-death commitment that it took to thrive on the New York scene some four decades ago” (*The Boston Globe*), released their fifth album, *The Call of the Wild and Peaceful Heart*.

Learn more: [thecookersmusic.com](http://thecookersmusic.com)

## **Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration**

Produced by Jason Moran and Alicia Hall Moran

Jason Moran, piano

Alicia Hall Moran, mezzo-soprano

Julie Dash, filmmaker/writer

Imani Winds Woodwind Quintet

Wycliffe Gordon, trombone

Curtis Stewart, violin

College of Charleston Cistern Yard

June 11

*Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes*

Jason Moran and Alicia Hall Moran first presented *Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration* at Carnegie Hall in March 2019, followed by engagements at The Kennedy Center, The Elb in Hamburg, and Symphony Center at Orchestra Hall in Chicago. The program explores the Great Migration, the 60-year era marking the passage of six million African Americans from the rural South to northern cities and beyond. The Morans draw on their own family lore and stories—both harrowing and inspired—of this historic movement with music from rhythm and blues to gospel, classical to Broadway, work songs to rock, and more. The program is adapted for each performance location; at Spoleto, the concert will feature woodwinds ensemble Imani Winds, and filmmaker/writer Julie Dash, trombonist Wycliffe Gordon, and violinist Curtis Stewart.

Praised by *The New York Times* for her “imaginative recontextualization of classical singing,” mezzo-soprano and composer Alicia Hall Moran is a trained vocalist whose productions include *Black Wall Street* (2016), inspired by the Wall Street career of her father and the Tulsa race riot of 1921. Alicia made her Broadway debut in the Tony-winning revival of *The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess* before starring as Bess in the celebrated 20-city American tour. She has been commissioned by such institutions as MoMA, The Kitchen, and Art Public / Art Basel Miami; collaborators include Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, guitarist Bill Frisell, the band Harriet Tubman, and visual artist Carrie Mae Weems—with whom she performed at Spoleto Festival USA in 2016.

Jazz pianist, composer, and visual artist Jason Moran was born in Houston in 1975 and earned a degree from the Manhattan School of Music. He has been awarded fellowships from the MacArthur Foundation, United States Artists, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and Ford Foundation. Moran has produced 15 albums and composed scores for Ava DuVernay’s films *Selma* and *13th* as well as Ta-Nehisi Coates’s stage version of *Between the World and Me*. His historical piece about Fats Waller, *Fats Waller Dance Party*,

was performed at Spoleto Festival USA in 2016. Moran is currently the artistic director of Jazz at the Kennedy Center, programs concerts for Park Avenue Armory, and teaches at New England Conservatory.

Learn more: [twowingsmigration.com](http://twowingsmigration.com).

## | First Citizens Bank Front Row

Sarah Jarosz | The Wood Brothers | Steep Canyon Rangers

### **Sarah Jarosz**

College of Charleston Cistern Yard

May 30, 31

*Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes*

With her captivating voice and richly detailed songwriting, Sarah Jarosz has emerged as one of the most compelling musicians of her generation. A four-time Grammy Award-winner at the age of 29, the Texas native started singing as a young girl and became an accomplished multi-instrumentalist by her early teens. After releasing her full-length debut *Song Up in Her Head* at 18-years-old, she went on to deliver such critically lauded albums as *Follow Me Down*, *Build Me Up from Bones*, and 2016's *Undercurrent*, in addition to joining forces with Sara Watkins and Aoife O'Donovan to form the acclaimed Grammy winning folk trio I'm With Her. Jarosz released her newest album *World On the Ground* in 2020, which received a Grammy Award for Best Americana Album.

Jarosz first performed at Spoleto Festival USA during the 2011 season alongside violinist Alex Hargreaves and cellist Nathaniel Smith. She returned to the College of Charleston Cistern Yard in 2019 with the folk trio I'm With Her. The 2021 season will be Jarosz's third Festival appearance.

Learn more: [sarahjarosz.com](http://sarahjarosz.com)

### **Steep Canyon Rangers**

College of Charleston Cistern Yard

June 3, 4

*Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes*

Since Steep Canyon Rangers came together in 2000, the Asheville, North Carolina, Grammy Award winners have developed a remarkable catalogue of original music that links them to the past while also demonstrating their ambitious intent to bring string-based music into contemporary relevance. Comprising Woody Platt (guitar), Graham Sharp (banjo), Mike Guggino (mandolin), Nicky Sanders (fiddle), Mike Ashworth (drums), and Barrett Smith (bass), the musicians are also frequent collaborators of renowned banjoist and comedian Steve Martin. Steep Canyon Rangers released three albums in 2020, most recently *Arm in Arm*, which the music magazine *No Depression* writes, “captures the North Carolina group’s innovative spirit, weaving in jazz, gospel, folk, and even rock phrases, creating an intimate and intricate sound that challenges, cajoles, and comforts.” One of the most recognizable modern names in bluegrass, Steep Canyon Rangers tour extensively and are often compared to predecessors The Band, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and the modern Zac Brown Band.

Learn more: [steepcanyon.com](http://steepcanyon.com)

## **The Wood Brothers**

College of Charleston Cistern Yard

June 8, 9

*Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes*

Dubbed “masters of soulful folk” by *Paste*, The Wood Brothers formed after brothers Chris and Oliver Wood pursued separate musical careers for 15 years—Chris (bass) was one-third of famed contemporary jazz trio Medeski Martin & Wood, while Oliver (guitar) toured with Tinsley Ellis before releasing a half-dozen albums with his band King Johnson. Drummer Jano Rix joined the group in the early days, and the band released its first album in 2006. January 2020 marked the release of their eighth studio album, *Kingdom in My Mind*, the Grammy-nominated trio’s most spontaneous and experimental collection yet. On June 8 and 9, the band makes its Spoleto debut at the College of Charleston Cistern Yard for an evening blending bluegrass, Americana, folk, jazz, country, and rock.

Learn more: [paradigmagency.com/music/artists/the-wood-brothers](http://paradigmagency.com/music/artists/the-wood-brothers)

## | Garden Tours

### **Behind the Garden Gate**

For the eighth year, Spoleto Festival USA collaborates with the Charleston Horticultural Society and The Garden Conservancy’s National Open Days Program to open some of Charleston’s lushest private

sanctuaries for self-guided tours. Each Saturday tour (May 29 and June 5) features six private gardens, promising two full days of discovery and wonder in these artfully cultivated spaces. Tours are self-guided from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Participants must wear masks and practice social distancing. Garden descriptions and more information can be found at [gardenconservancy.org/open-days/charleston](https://gardenconservancy.org/open-days/charleston).

## | Artist Talks

Conversations With

### **Conversations With**

Emmy Award-winning CBS News correspondent Martha Teichner hosts the following virtual discussions. Each discussion is free to view but will require registration to receive a viewing link. The conversations will be presented on YouTube Live.

Nigel Redden, May 30, 5:00pm

Scott Silven, June 7, 3:00pm

Alisa Weilerstein, June 10, 3:00pm

---

## How to Buy Tickets

**Tickets to the 2021 season are available** online at [spoletousa.org](https://spoletousa.org) and by phone at 843.579.3100 beginning April 13.

**For contributors to Spoleto Festival USA**, a donor pre-sale starts April 5. Access is based on contribution level; more information about the donor pre-sale and how to donate can be found at [spoletousa.org](https://spoletousa.org).

**Go Spoleto! hotel-and-ticket packages** are available in partnership with seven Charleston hotels: Ansonborough Inn, Charleston Place, Charleston Marriott, Francis Marion Hotel, Emeline, Palmer's Pinckney Inn, and Zero George. Guests can book a room with one of the Festival hotel partners and receive a \$50 ticket certificate to purchase performance tickets. The certificates expire June 14, 2021. For more information, visit [spoletousa.org/gospoleto](https://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](http://spoletousa.org) or by phone at 843.579.3100.

## Spoleto 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 2021 season takes place May 28 to June 13 in various locations on the downtown peninsula. Spoleto Festival USA is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

Download the [Spoleto Festival USA press kit](#).

### Venues

College of Charleston Cistern Yard | 66 George St.

Dock Street Theatre | 135 Church St.

Rivers Green at College of Charleston | 205 Calhoun St.

Charleston Visitor Center Bus Shed | 375 Meeting St.

### Images

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

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

### Spoleto Festival USA Funders

Spoleto Festival USA is generously supported by Wells Fargo; BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina; First Citizens Bank; South State; Bloomberg Philanthropies; BMW Manufacturing Co.; The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation; South Arts; and Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation. The 2021 season is made possible in part by the City of Charleston; South Carolina Arts Commission, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts; and the National Endowment for the Arts. Spoleto ETC is made possible in part by Carol H. Fishman, in memory of Leo Fishman; The Samuel Freeman Charitable Trust; and SC Humanities, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.