

26 MAY - 11 JUNE

Charleston, South Carolina



SPOLETO

FESTIVAL
USA

SPOLETOUSA.ORG

FROM OUR PARTNER

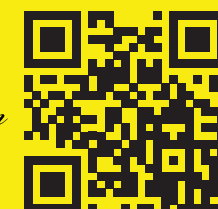
Beyond the Stage

Discover what lies beyond the stage
in America's #1 destination.
Unforgettable hospitality. A stirring
sense of place. World-class cuisine.
History loves company.


Explore Charleston

SCAN
FOR DIGITAL

Explore Charleston
VISITOR
GUIDE



This tranquil brick-lined walkway, known as Philadelphia Alley, abuts a new venue for the Festival in 2023: Queen Street Playhouse, which has hosted performances for nearly 100 years.

Dear Friends,

Each spring, more than 300 Spoleto artists transform Charleston into a global epicenter for the performing arts. Enchantment is everywhere: in the exquisite venues and in the painful beauty of this historic city. A spell is cast. We find ourselves in spirited conversations with friends and delighting in unexpected encounters with strangers. Unbridled and untethered, we are full to bursting with thoughts to share. For we are experiencing storytelling in its richest form.

This spring, we will be moved by *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller's seminal play about persecution and power—here reimagined by choreographer Helen Pickett for the Scottish Ballet (p 16)—and by Samuel Barber's *Vanessa* (p 26), a thrilling deep dive to the depths of two conflicted characters. We will watch as Tony Award winner Denis O'Hare shapeshifts into archetypes during a one-man tour-de-force adaptation of Homer's *Iliad* (p 8).

As if peering through a kaleidoscope, the juxtaposition of this rich array of disciplines sets us off-kilter. This Festival, you can see a boundary-breaking Brit transform the Cistern Yard into a high-fashion, punk-meets-disco extravaganza (p 15) and then *Omar* star Jamez McCorkle perform an Elton John-esque fever dream of a romantic song cycle amid phantasmic stagecraft (p 32). You could experience a heartbreaking, yet hopeful story of the Rwandan genocide (p 10), only to stumble afterward upon a hilariously moving revue (p 30) that revels in contrasts.

As you peruse this brochure, I invite you to imagine your next Festival experience in Charleston—a city that not only hosts this international artistic compendium, but also is integral to its character. From its iconic locales to the performers who have called it home, our Holy City plays a major role in Spoleto's 17 days.

There'll be magic in the air soon enough. I can't wait to experience it with you.

Mena Mark Hanna
General Director & CEO
Spoleto Festival USA



Celebrating Geoff Nuttall

1965–2022

Featuring the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra

AND SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDING:

Robert Spano, *conductor*

Anthony Roth Costanzo, *countertenor*

Stephen Prutsman, *piano*

Additional artists to be announced

A memorial concert

With his characteristic humor, swagger, and irreverence, Geoff Nuttall transformed Spoleto's Bank of America Chamber Music series into something akin to rock-and-roll rather than buttoned-down classical. To honor Nuttall's curatorial genius and infectious enthusiasm, some of his closest musical colleagues and special guest stars perform a concert of virtuosic debauchery—a brilliant tribute to a singular artist.

**CHARLESTON GAILLARD CENTER
MARTHA AND JOHN M. RIVERS
PERFORMANCE HALL**

Friday, May 26 · 7:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes

Tickets starting at \$60



A TOAST TO THE FUTURE

Friday, May 26

Immediately following the concert, join us for a special celebration to benefit the Geoff Nuttall Legacy Fund, a new endowment to support Geoff's vision of revolutionizing the classical canon.

Contact the Development office at 843.720.1114 to reserve both your concert and benefit ticket.

Dada Masilo

THE SACRIFICE

Choreographed by Dada Masilo
Composed by Ann Masina, Leroy Mapholo,
Tlale Makhene, Nathi Shongwe

Award-winning South African choreographer Dada Masilo drew inspiration from the complex rhythms of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* to create *The Sacrifice*, a breathtaking work for 12 dancers and four live musicians. Internationally renowned for reinventing iconic pieces from the Western canon that speak to Black identity and feminism, Masilo's latest ballet explores a contemporary view of ritual and sacrifice through a study of Tswana dance, an expressive movement form native to Botswana.

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON SOTTILE THEATRE

Thursday, June 1 · 6:30pm
Friday, June 2 · 6:00pm
Saturday, June 3 · 2:00pm
Sunday, June 4 · 5:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes
Tickets starting at \$35

The 2023 dance series is sponsored by
BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina.

This performance contains partial nudity.



A HOMER’S COAT PRODUCTION

An Iliad

Written by Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare
Based on Homer's *Iliad*, translated by Robert Fagles
Directed by Lisa Peterson
Starring Denis O'Hare

In a radical retelling of Homer's epic poem, acclaimed director Lisa Peterson and Tony Award-winning actor Denis O'Hare (*Take Me Out*) craft a work of “pure theater: shocking, glorious, primal, and deeply satisfying” (*Time Out New York*). O'Hare, who has brought powerful performances to numerous films and featured roles on TV's *The Good Wife* and *American Horror Story*, shapes this breathtaking tour de force into a sweeping account of humanity's unshakable attraction to violence, destruction, and chaos.

DOCK STREET THEATRE

Thursday, May 25 · 7:30pm (pre-Festival performance)
Saturday, May 27 · 8:00pm
Sunday, May 28 · 7:30pm
Tuesday, May 30 · 7:30pm
Wednesday, May 31 · 7:30pm
Friday, June 2 · 8:00pm
Saturday, June 3 · 8:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 45 minutes
Tickets starting at \$40

Sponsored by SouthState Bank

Produced by Octopus Theatricals



“A combination of a naturally exciting narrative and the engaged, virtuosic performance of Mr. O’Hare”
– THE NEW YORK TIMES

US PREMIERE

The Book of Life

Co-created, written, and performed
by Odile Gakire Katese

Co-created and directed by Ross Manson

Projection design by Sean Frey

Composed by Mutangana Moise

Featuring music performed by Ingoma Nshya,
The Women Drummers of Rwanda

After the unthinkable, a path forward

Based on creator Odile Gakire Katese's collected letters from survivors and perpetrators of Rwanda's 1994 genocide, *The Book of Life* leads audiences on a remarkable journey of pain, grief, acceptance, and rebirth. In this deeply moving performance about finding hope in the aftermath of tragedy, the playwright and cultural entrepreneur's story reverberates through spoken word and the rhythms of Ingoma Nshya, Rwanda's first-ever female drumming ensemble founded by Katese. In a world racked with hatred and struggle, *The Book of Life* celebrates healing after trauma and the resilience of the human spirit.

FESTIVAL HALL

Thursday, June 1 · 7:30pm

Friday, June 2 · 6:00pm

Saturday, June 3 · 2:00pm

Sunday, June 4 · 7:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes

Tickets starting at \$30

CONVERSATIONS WITH

Friday, June 2 · 2:00pm

Host and CBS News correspondent
Martha Teichner interviews
Odile Gakire Katese at Festival Hall.

Ayodele Casel

CHASING MAGIC

Created and choreographed by Ayodele Casel
Directed by Torya Beard

Her feet are just that fast. Described by *The New York Times* as “a wonder, as humanly appealing as she is superhumanly skilled,” choreographer and performer Ayodele Casel returns to Spoleto with her latest work, *Chasing Magic*. Onstage with six tap dancers and a group of live musicians including jazz virtuoso Arturo O’Farrill, Casel explores the magic of tap dance and daily life, capturing that spark of connection and creation. A celebration of gratitude, friendship, and trust, *Chasing Magic* is a joyous feast for the eyes, ears, and soul.

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON SOTTILE THEATRE

Saturday, May 27 · 7:30pm
Sunday, May 28 · 2:00pm and 6:00pm
Monday, May 29 · 2:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes
Tickets starting at \$38

The 2023 dance series is sponsored by
BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina.

“She is air — as
fresh as it comes”

- THE NEW YORK TIMES



Quentin Baxter Quintet

AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Quentin Baxter, *drums, percussion*
 Charlton Singleton, *trumpet*
 Mark Sterbank, *tenor saxophone*
 Demetrius Doctor, *piano, organ*
 Rodney Jordan, *bass*

GUEST ARTISTS:

Bobby Watson, *alto saxophone*
 Dan Wilson, *guitar*
 Gino Castillo, *congas, percussion*

In a rollicking homecoming concert, Quentin Baxter electrifies the Cistern Yard—where, as a child, he heard evening concerts from outside its wrought-iron gates. While the Grammy-winning drummer—a Spoleto veteran—has anchored other ensembles, this evening puts Baxter front and center, leading a phenomenal band through time-honored classics and his own compositions that infuse modern jazz with the Gullah and church traditions of his Charleston roots.

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON CISTERN YARD

Saturday, May 27 · 9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes
 Tickets starting at \$25

Sponsored by Wells Fargo

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



Ebony Bones

DISCO-PUNK MEETS HIGH COUTURE

Visionary artist and producer Ebony Bones defies genres, drawing “equally from the wells of both punk and funk culture” (*T Magazine*), as well as disco, Afrobeat, classical, and pop to create her own unique sound. Bones has enlisted the China Philharmonic Orchestra, the Symphony Orchestra of India, and the New London Children’s Choir to score her works and counts fashion designers Yves Saint Laurent and Alexander Wang among her collaborators. For her Spoleto debut, Bones’s high-watt stage presence illuminates the Cistern Yard, backed by the blazing Bones Orchestra.

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON CISTERN YARD

Friday, May 26 · 9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes
 Tickets starting at \$25

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

Scottish Ballet

THE CRUCIBLE

Choreographed by Helen Pickett
Composed by Peter Salem
Conducted by Jean-Claude Picard
Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra

Salem is on the brink. Its people fear the shadows in the forest, but the real monsters are much closer to home.

Returning to Spoleto after its lauded 2015 rendition of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Scottish Ballet unleashes the emotional force of Arthur Miller's masterpiece in this "blazing interpretation" (*The Observer*), choreographed by Helen Pickett and accompanied by members of the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra.

CHARLESTON GAILLARD CENTER MARTHA AND JOHN M. RIVERS PERFORMANCE HALL

Friday, June 2 · 8:00pm
Saturday, June 3 · 7:00pm
Sunday, June 4 · 2:00pm

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

The 2023 dance series is sponsored by
BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina.

This performance contains mature content.

"Sensual and arresting...storytelling
ballet at its best" - THE LIST



Nickel Creek

REUNITED AT LAST

Nickel Creek—the platinum-selling, internationally renowned trio of Chris Thile, Sara Watkins, and Sean Watkins—ushered in a new era of bluegrass infused with jazz, classical, pop, and rock for a sound all their own. As multi-Grammy-winning artists, the band has brought their progressive blend of acoustic roots, folk, and “newgrass” to a broad audience, greatly influencing the sound and trajectory of all three genres in the process. As part of their long-awaited reunion tour, the Watkins siblings and Thile—whose blistering mandolin was last heard at Spoleto with the Punch Brothers in 2019—fill the Cistern Yard for two unforgettable nights.

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON CISTERN YARD

Wednesday, May 31 · 9:00pm

Thursday, June 1 · 9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes

Tickets starting at \$25

Sponsored by First Citizens Bank

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



Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra

SPECTACULAR SYMPHONIES

Revel in the glorious sonic power of the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra during a concert series that showcases the ensemble's impeccable musicianship under the baton of three world-renowned conductors. Considered one of the most prestigious ensembles for early-career musicians, the Festival's Orchestra is assembled anew each year through international auditions that prize virtuosity, versatility, and artistry.

Program details for each of the three concerts follow.



The Rite of Spring

JOHN KENNEDY CONDUCTS STRAVINSKY AND GLASS

The city of Paris was ablaze the night Igor Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du printemps* premiered in 1913: Riots that reportedly began in the theater's aisles—visceral responses to the ballet's unconventional rhythms and modern aesthetic—poured into the streets. Yet in its 110-year history, the work has become one of the most recognizable and beloved triumphs of the 20th century. In this program, the Festival's Resident Conductor and Director of Orchestral Activities John Kennedy pairs this monumental work with a thrilling US premiere of Philip Glass's Symphony No. 14.

**CHARLESTON GAILLARD CENTER
MARTHA AND JOHN M. RIVERS
PERFORMANCE HALL**

Monday, June 5 · 7:30pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes
Tickets to the Orchestra series starting at \$25

Sponsored by United Bank

New World Symphony

MEI-ANN CHEN CONDUCTS DVOŘÁK

A composer rooted in the Czech folk tradition of his homeland, Antonin Dvořák arrived in New York in the early 1890s hungry for the “American sound.” Seeking inspiration in the music of Black and indigenous America, he soon composed his ninth symphony, an indelible work of spirit befitting the wide-open spaces of the New World and a triumph that remains among the most popular orchestral works of all time. In this concert, Maestra Mei-Ann Chen, the music director of the Chicago Sinfonietta, pairs Dvořák’s showpiece with works by American artists including Florence Price and Michael Abels.

**CHARLESTON GAILLARD CENTER
MARTHA AND JOHN M. RIVERS
PERFORMANCE HALL**

Wednesday, June 7 · 7:30pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes
Tickets to the Orchestra series starting at \$25

Sponsored by United Bank



“A major talent.”
– FINANCIAL TIMES

**CHARLESTON GAILLARD CENTER
MARTHA AND JOHN M. RIVERS
PERFORMANCE HALL**

Friday, June 9 · 7:30pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes
Tickets to the Orchestra series starting at \$25

Sponsored by United Bank

Symphonie Fantastique

JONATHON HEYWARD CONDUCTS BERLIOZ AND GRIEG

Featuring Micah McLaurin, *piano*

A Charleston son returns. Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Music Director Designate Jonathon Heyward remembers the first time he stepped onto a conductor’s rostrum: as an 8th-grader attending music class at Charleston County School of the Arts. Fast forward 17 years, and the Holy City phenom is making history as one of the youngest music directors of a major

American orchestra. In his Spoleto debut, Heyward leads the full Festival Orchestra in Hector Berlioz’s *Symphonie Fantastique*, an epic symphonic self-portrait teeming with unbridled joy and tenderness, as well as Edvard Grieg’s piano concerto, featuring sought-after soloist and fellow Charlestonian Micah McLaurin.

Alisa Amador

2022 NPR Tiny Desk Contest winner

With “a powerful voice whose tender performance commands attention and fosters connection” (NPR), Alisa Amador captivates. Her music—a synthesis of rock, jazz, funk, and alternative folk—is deeply rooted in the Latin folk and jazz she grew up with in a family of musicians. Amador’s soulful singing, poetically incisive lyrics, and syncopated rhythms will fill you with longing and leave you wanting more.

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON CISTERN YARD

Wednesday, June 7 · 9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes
Tickets starting at \$25

Sponsored by First Citizens Bank

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



Vanessa

Music by Samuel Barber

Libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti

Directed by Rodula Gaitanou

Conducted by Timothy Myers

Scenic and costume design by Cordelia Chisholm

FEATURING

Nicole Heaston, *Vanessa*

Zoie Reams, *Erika*

Edward Graves, *Anatol*

Rosalind Plowright, *Old Baroness*

Malcolm MacKenzie, *Old Doctor*

Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra and Chorus

“The finest American opera”

– THE WASHINGTON POST

Rising operatic superstar Nicole Heaston takes on the titular role in this powerful existential drama, set to one of the most beautiful scores of the 20th century. Tucked away in a countryside mansion, Vanessa has waited 20 years for the return of her lover, Anatol. When his deadringer son arrives instead, a love triangle ensues between the conniving young suitor, Vanessa, and her impressionable niece.

American composer Samuel Barber won the Pulitzer Prize for *Vanessa*’s sweepingly lyrical score, which explores the full depths of the characters’ psyches in what librettist and Spoleto’s founder Gian Carlo Menotti characterized as a universal human dilemma.

Sung in English with English supertitles.

CHARLESTON GAILLARD CENTER MARTHA AND JOHN M. RIVERS PERFORMANCE HALL

Saturday, May 27 · 7:00pm

Monday, May 29 · 7:00pm

Tuesday, June 6 · 7:00pm

Saturday, June 10 · 7:30pm

Approximately 2 hours, 15 minutes,
including an intermission
Tickets starting at \$30

Sponsored by BMW Manufacturing Co.

Opera programming is endowed by the
Arthur and Holly Magill Foundation.



Bank of America Chamber Music

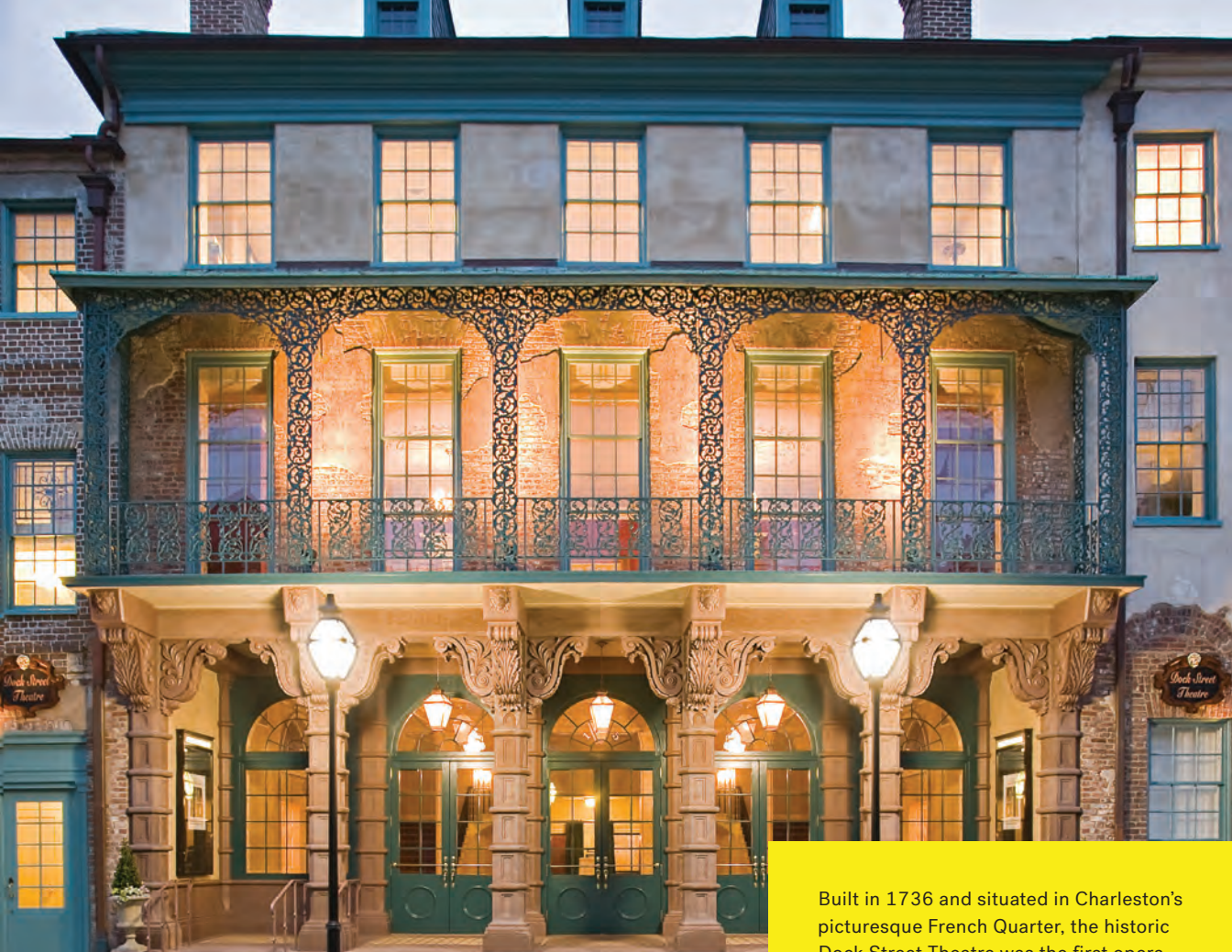
FANCIFUL MIDDAY MUSICAL TREATS

Overflowing with ebullient musicianship and camaraderie, 11 programs feature a showstopping mix of canonic gems and bright contemporary compositions. This season, hear revered returning players and welcome new faces as they perform a compendium spanning pre-17th-century pieces to 21st-century triumphs. In celebration of Spoleto’s late Director of Chamber Music Geoff Nuttall, preeminent artists, including Alisa Weilerstein,

Inon Barnatan, and Alexi Kenney, will honor their friend in the best way possible: with groundbreaking performances in a program both informed and inspired by Geoff.

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes
Tickets starting at \$50

Sponsored by Bank of America



Built in 1736 and situated in Charleston’s picturesque French Quarter, the historic Dock Street Theatre was the first opera house in the United States erected specifically for performance.

DOCK STREET THEATRE

PROGRAM I

Friday, May 26 · 1:00pm
Saturday, May 27 · 11:00am & 1:00pm

PROGRAM II

Sunday, May 28 · 11:00am & 1:00pm
Monday, May 29 · 11:00am

PROGRAM III

Monday, May 29 · 1:00pm
Tuesday, May 30 · 11:00am & 1:00pm

PROGRAM IV

Wednesday, May 31 · 11:00am & 1:00pm
Thursday, June 1 · 11:00am

PROGRAM V

Thursday, June 1 · 1:00pm
Friday, June 2 · 11:00am & 1:00pm

PROGRAM VI

Saturday, June 3 · 11:00am & 1:00pm
Sunday, June 4 · 11:00am

PROGRAM VII

Sunday, June 4 · 1:00pm
Monday, June 5 · 11:00am & 1:00pm

PROGRAM VIII

Tuesday, June 6 · 11:00am & 1:00pm
Wednesday, June 7 · 11:00am

PROGRAM IX

Wednesday, June 7 · 1:00pm
Thursday, June 8 · 11:00am & 1:00pm

PROGRAM X

Friday, June 9 · 11:00am & 1:00pm
Saturday, June 10 · 11:00am

PROGRAM XI

Saturday, June 10 · 1:00pm
Sunday, June 11 · 11:00am & 1:00pm

South Carolina Public Radio records each program for broadcast. Visit scpublicradio.org for details.

Only an Octave Apart

“A glittering, disarming, poignant, funny, occasionally fully spontaneous reminder of why theater exists” – W MAGAZINE

Exalted on “Best of” lists at *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Time*, *Only an Octave Apart* sparkles from start to finish. In this “breathtaking cabaret-fantasia” (*New York Magazine*), Justin Vivian Bond—“the greatest cabaret artist of their generation” (*The New Yorker*)—pairs with the ever-brilliant, world-class countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo for a hilarious, vulnerable, and utterly spectacular opera-meets-cabaret-meets-pop hybrid that “shatters categorical constraints” (*Broadway World*). Co-created by Zack Winokur, *Only an Octave Apart* revels in the coexistence of contrasts, celebrating the historical and the hysterical, countertenor to counterculture.

DOCK STREET THEATRE

Wednesday, June 7 · 6:00pm

Thursday, June 8 · 8:00pm

Friday, June 9 · 5:00pm

Saturday, June 10 · 4:00pm

Sunday, June 11 · 4:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes

Tickets starting at \$55



CONVERSATIONS WITH

Thursday, June 8 · 4:00pm

Host and CBS News correspondent Martha Teichner interviews Anthony Roth Costanzo and Justin Vivian Bond at the Dock Street Theatre.

A Poet's Love

“A miraculous voice... McCorkle’s tenor [is] technically flawless and consistently gorgeous”

– OPERA NEWS

Among the most romantic and tragic compositions, Robert Schumann’s *Dichterliebe* portrays one man’s phantasmic pursuit of the woman he loves. Tenor Jamez McCorkle, who dazzled in the title role of *Omar* last Festival, both sings and accompanies himself on piano in this brand-new, multilayered production featuring stunning stagecraft and projections by award-winning artist Miwa Matreyek.

CONVERSATIONS WITH

Sunday, May 28 · 3:00pm

Host and CBS News correspondent Martha Teichner interviews Jamez McCorkle at Queen Street Playhouse.

QUEEN STREET PLAYHOUSE

Friday, May 26 · 5:30pm

Saturday, May 27 · 2:00pm

Monday, May 29 · 4:00pm

Tuesday, May 30 · 7:00pm

Approximately 45 minutes

Tickets starting at \$30



Abdullah Ibrahim and Ekaya

Distinguished pianist and NEA Jazz Master Abdullah Ibrahim remains at the zenith of his career—recently releasing an acclaimed album, *Solitude*, and celebrating his 88th birthday while on a world tour. A hero to the anti-apartheid movement, Ibrahim’s first album—released under the name Dollar Brand—was censured by the South African government. Years later, he performed at Nelson Mandela’s inauguration. Join us in welcoming Ibrahim and his band Ekaya to hear a true “modern master—steeped in blues, with a classicist’s touch and poet’s sense of phrasing” (*The Wall Street Journal*).

“South Africa’s Mozart”

– NELSON MANDELA

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON CISTERN YARD

Thursday, June 8 · 9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes

Tickets starting at \$25

Sponsored by Wells Fargo

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



Spoletto Festival USA Chorus

CONDUCTED BY JOE MILLER

Density 40:1

Experience Thomas Tallis’s majestic work, *Spem in alium*, considered the greatest piece of English early music, as performed by Spoleto’s masterful 40-strong choral ensemble. This Renaissance motet begins an evening exploring choral density: each subsequent work—by contemporary composers David Lang, Caroline Shaw, and Jonathan Dove—incrementally strips vocal parts, leaving only a soloist for the final piece.

ST. MATTHEW’S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wednesday, June 7 · 5:00pm
Thursday, June 8 · 5:00pm

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



Discovered behind acoustic tiles in 2011, the exquisite Italianate murals of the Sottile Theatre have been beautifully restored.

Spoletto Festival USA Chorus + Orchestra

CONDUCTED BY JOE MILLER

Handel’s Dixit Dominus

Two iconic Baroque works frame this heavenly program, featuring 24 musicians from the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra with the full Festival Chorus. George Frideric Handel’s monumental *Dixit Dominus* pairs with Henry Purcell’s *Te Deum Laudamus and Jubilate*, one of his final religious works, a revelation in its time for the scoring of hymn to orchestral accompaniment.

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON SOTTILE THEATRE

Tuesday, May 30 · 5:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes
Tickets starting at \$50



Kris Davis Diatom Ribbons

Kris Davis, *piano, Fender Rhodes* Trevor Dunn, *bass*
DJ Val Jeanty, *turntable, electronics* Julian Lage, *guitar*
Terri Lyne Carrington, *drums*

“Powerhouse pianist”

– THE NEW YORK TIMES

Led by Grammy-nominated pianist/composer Kris Davis, this special concert is named for Davis’s 2019 breakthrough album, which was awarded “Jazz Album of the Year” by both *The New York Times* and NPR. “Bringing together wildly diverse musicians in tangled unity,” Davis often sets her improvisations to “grooves played with

prismatic nuance” (*The New York Times*) by drummer Terri Lyne Carrington—a three-time Grammy winner and NEA Jazz Master herself. Turntablist and electronic musician Val Jeanty, bassist Trevor Dunn, and guitarist Julian Lage add layers of sonic texture for a thrilling and unexpected sound.

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON CISTERN YARD

Friday, June 2 · 9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes
Tickets starting at \$25

Sponsored by Wells Fargo

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

“The most important jazz
composer of his generation”

– THE NEW YORK TIMES

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON SOTTILE THEATRE

Tuesday, June 6 · 7:30pm

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

Sponsored by Wells Fargo

Henry Threadgill Zooid

Celebrated as one of the most forward-thinking American musicians, Pulitzer Prize winner Henry Threadgill has forged a legendary career in unconventional territory—challenging bedrock ideas about jazz and exploring new approaches to composing and improvising. For this exciting Spoleto debut, Threadgill’s Zooid quintet (an unorthodox combination of reeds, acoustic guitar, cello, tuba, and drums) presents a performance at once radical, reverent, and remarkable.

JAZZ TALK

Monday, June 5 · 3:30pm

Wells Fargo Jazz advisor and *Wall Street Journal* jazz critic Larry Blumenfeld interviews Henry Threadgill at The Charleston Place.

US PREMIERE

Gravity & Other Myths

OUT OF CHAOS

An adrenaline rush from start to finish

After sold-out runs at Spoleto in 2014 and 2018, the high-octane Australian physical theater company returns, this time with the electric *Out of Chaos*—a work the troupe describes as “our boldest and most ambitious yet.” Hard-edged, explosive acrobatics collide with intimate, verbal confessions to create insight into how things—people and planets, sound and light—come together. This US premiere bounces between chaotic creation and a seemingly ordered understanding of the here and now, all the while hinting at the strange spaces in between.

FESTIVAL HALL

Wednesday, June 7 · 5:00pm

Thursday, June 8 · 7:30pm

Friday, June 9 · 8:00pm

Saturday, June 10 · 3:00pm and 6:00pm

Sunday, June 11 · 2:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes

Tickets starting at \$40

Sponsored by Sherman Financial Group

“An exposé of strength, flexibility and courage under duress” – LIMELIGHT MAGAZINE

Music in Time

DIRECTED AND HOSTED BY JOHN KENNEDY

Discover new and unexplored works

Time Keepers

Marking the 100th birthday of György Ligeti, *Poème symphonique*—his work for 100 mechanical metronomes—explores our perception of time. Liza Lim’s *Extinction Events and Dawn Chorus* follows, drawing inspiration, in part, from choral sounds of fish that populate an endangered Australian coral reef.

FESTIVAL HALL

Sunday, May 28 · 4:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes
Tickets starting at \$45

Sanctum

In her work *Sanctum*, composer/pianist Courtney Bryan (p 43) invokes the solace found within suffering. This innovative program also includes *Occam 17b*, a sonic meditation by Éliane Radigue, a largely unacknowledged trailblazer of experimental music, as well as works by inti figgis-vizueta and Sarah Hennies.

QUEEN STREET PLAYHOUSE

Wednesday, May 31 · 6:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes
Tickets starting at \$45



FESTIVAL HALL

Saturday, May 27 · 3:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes
Tickets starting at \$35

Constructed in the 1930s, this Works Progress Administration auditorium was renovated by Spoleto Festival USA in 2008 and continues to serve as one of its most versatile performance spaces.



Tell Your Story

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR LADY OF MERCY
COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND WE ARE FAMILY

Creative placemaking with purpose

Can music inform our sense of place? Time? Experience? And do those elements inform music in turn? Four Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra members seek to answer these questions with members of the Charleston community. Pairing emerging composers with

entrepreneurs, artists, and activists, the “Tell Your Story” project creates powerful sonic collages and aural memoirs—“mechanisms for professional artists to lift up voices that otherwise go unheard” (*The Post and Courier*).

“[Wilkins’s *The 7th Hand* is] this year’s most powerfully transporting jazz album” – NPR



Immanuel Wilkins Quartet

Immanuel Wilkins, *alto saxophone*

Micah Thomas, *piano*

Rick Rosato, *bass*

Kweku Sumbry, *drums*

At 25 years old, Immanuel Wilkins is already one of the most highly regarded saxophonists and composers in jazz today—his album, *The 7th Hand*, was included among the 10 Best of 2022 by the *The New York Times* and NPR’s Nate Chinen’s Favorite Music of the Year. Filled with empathy and conviction, Wilkins’s music draws inspiration from critical thought and spiritual traditions. Experience the musical wunderkind championed by eminent artists including Jason Moran as he performs with his acclaimed quartet in brilliant improvisatory synergy.

QUEEN STREET PLAYHOUSE

Wednesday, June 7 · 5:00pm

Thursday, June 8 · 5:00pm

Friday, June 9 · 5:00pm

Saturday, June 10 · 5:00pm and 9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes

Tickets starting at \$33

Sponsored by Wells Fargo

Jazz at The Playhouse

Mixing the ambiance of a historic Charleston theater with the intimacy and excitement of a big-city jazz club, these five-concert residencies present cutting-edge improvisers in their element, creating organically. From night to night, no two concerts are the same—all tell a continuing musical story.

Courtney Bryan

A New Orleans native, Courtney Bryan is “a pianist and composer of panoramic interests” (*The New York Times*), an artist shaping the future of American contemporary classical music. Bridging the sacred and the secular, Bryan’s compositions explore human emotions through sound, finding the connective tissue between jazz and traditional gospel, spirituals, and hymns. At the Queen Street Playhouse, Courtney performs solo twice, then adds in a quartet of saxophone, piano, electric bass, and drums.

QUEEN STREET PLAYHOUSE

Thursday, June 1 · 5:00pm and 7:00pm

Friday, June 2 · 7:00pm

Saturday, June 3 · 5:00pm and 7:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes

Tickets starting at \$33

Sponsored by Wells Fargo

JAZZ TALK

Saturday, June 3 · 2:00pm

Wells Fargo Jazz advisor and *Wall Street Journal* jazz critic Larry Blumenfeld interviews Courtney Bryan at Queen Street Playhouse.



Kishi Bashi with Strings

CELESTIAL SOUNDS IN THE CISTERN

One of indie-music's most in-demand violinists, multi-instrumentalist Kaoru Ishibashi (a.k.a. Kishi Bashi) has collaborated with such names as Regina Spektor, Sondre Lerche, and of Montreal. Since stepping out on his own, Bashi has “transformed into a mad pop scientist, giving life to earworms by looping together Eastern sounds, Philip Glass improvisations, and '70s prog-rock inspiration” (NPR). His latest oeuvre celebrates his cultural heritage, using Japanese refrains as compositional and textural devices while exploring themes of love and self-discovery.

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON CISTERN YARD

Saturday, June 3 · 9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes
Tickets starting at \$25

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



Wells Fargo Festival Finale featuring Tank and the Bangas

“At once soul music’s most serious social critics and magically playful weirdos”

— RELIX

A 2022 Grammy nominee for Best New Artist and the 2017 NPR Tiny Desk Contest winner, Tank and the Bangas is widely considered one of the most exciting, sonically diverse bands to crash the music scene in years. A perfect ensemble to close the Festival with a bang, their sound sits at the crossroads of jazz, hip hop, soul, and rock—with funk serving as the conduit.

For the event: Pack a picnic, gather your blankets and chairs, and head to Firefly Distillery grounds in North Charleston. Adult beverages will be sold on site; no outside alcohol will be permitted. The gates open at 5:00pm, with performances beginning at 6:00pm. A fireworks display caps off the evening.

FIREFLY DISTILLERY

Sunday, June 11 · 5:00pm

Tickets starting at \$45

Sponsored by Wells Fargo



Play Your Part in the Festival's Future

The success of our annual Festival depends on contributions from audience members like you. Support our commitment to develop exceptional programming that transforms Charleston into a global epicenter for the performing arts.

YOUR GIFT WILL:

Jumpstart the careers of emerging artists through the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra and Festival Chorus.

Provide hands-on training for early career arts-administration and production professionals.

Promote artistic insight, understanding, and appreciation through conversations and workshops.

Increase accessibility to our internationally celebrated Festival experience.

**TO MAKE A GIFT TO THE FESTIVAL,
VISIT [SPOLETOUSA.ORG/SUPPORT](https://spoletousa.org/support)
OR CALL 843.724.1192.**

Tucked in the lush campus of College of Charleston, the Cistern Yard has served as an enchanted backdrop for Spoleto Festival USA concerts since 1977.

Thank You!

We would like to express our gratitude for the dedication of our institutional and individual contributors to the performing arts community we serve. Our ability to present exciting works of the highest artistic caliber depends on their financial support. Spoleto Festival USA salutes our extraordinary supporters and invites you to join our mission.

Generous institutional contributors committed to supporting the 2023 Festival are listed below.



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26 MAY - 11 JUNE



For 17 days and nights each spring, Spoleto Festival USA fills the city’s historic theaters, churches, and outdoor spaces with performances by renowned artists as well as emerging performers in opera; theater; dance; and chamber, symphonic, choral, and jazz music. Now approaching its 47th season, Spoleto Festival USA is internationally recognized as America’s premier performing arts festival.

MORE THAN 300 ARTISTS
TRANSFORM CHARLESTON
INTO A GLOBAL EPICENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.

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25 MAY
Pre-Festival Performance
26 MAY
27 MAY
28 MAY
29 MAY
30 MAY
31 MAY
01 JUNE
02 JUNE
03 JUNE
04 JUNE
05 JUNE
06 JUNE
07 JUNE
08 JUNE
09 JUNE
10 JUNE
11 JUNE

OPERA		DANCE		
7 PM	Vanessa	P 26	7:30 PM Ayodele Casel	P 12
Imagine your Festival experience in Charleston.			2 PM Ayodele Casel	P 12
			6 PM Ayodele Casel	P 12
7 PM	Vanessa	P 26	2 PM Ayodele Casel	P 12
				
			6:30 PM Dada Masilo	P 6
			6 PM Dada Masilo	P 6
			8 PM Scottish Ballet	P 16
			2 PM Dada Masilo	P 6
			7 PM Scottish Ballet	P 16
			2 PM Scottish Ballet	P 16
			5 PM Dada Masilo	P 6
7 PM	Vanessa	P 26		
				
7:30 PM	Vanessa	P 26		
Experience the magic with us.				

MUSIC	THEATER	FRONT ROW	WELLS FARGO JAZZ
	7:30 PM An Iliad P 8		
1 PM Chamber Music I P 28 5:30 PM A Poet's Love P 32 7 PM Celebrating Geoff Nuttall P 4		9 PM Ebony Bones P 15	
11 AM Chamber Music I P 28 1 PM Chamber Music I P 28 2 PM A Poet's Love P 32 3 PM Tell Your Story P 41	8 PM An Iliad P 8		9 PM Quentin Baxter Quintet P 14
11 AM Chamber Music II P 28 1 PM Chamber Music II P 28 3 PM Conversation: Jamez McCorkle P 32 4 PM Music in Time - Time Keepers P 40	7:30 PM An Iliad P 8		
11 AM Chamber Music II P 28 1 PM Chamber Music III P 28 4 PM A Poet's Love P 32			
11 AM Chamber Music III P 28 1 PM Chamber Music III P 28 5 PM Handel's Dixit Dominus P 35 7 PM A Poet's Love P 32	7:30 PM An Iliad P 8		
11 AM Chamber Music IV P 28 1 PM Chamber Music IV P 28 6 PM Music in Time - Sanctum P 40	7:30 PM An Iliad P 8		9 PM Nickel Creek P 18
11 AM Chamber Music IV P 28 1 PM Chamber Music V P 28	7:30 PM The Book of Life P 10	9 PM Nickel Creek P 18	5 PM Courtney Bryan P 43 7 PM Courtney Bryan P 43
11 AM Chamber Music V P 28 1 PM Chamber Music V P 28	2 PM Conversation: The Book of Life P 10 6 PM The Book of Life P 10 8 PM An Iliad P 8		7 PM Courtney Bryan P 43 9 PM Kris Davis Diatom Ribbons P 36
11 AM Chamber Music VI P 28 1 PM Chamber Music VI P 28	2 PM The Book of Life P 10 8 PM An Iliad P 8	9 PM Kishi Bashi P 44	2 PM Jazz Talk: Courtney Bryan P 43 5 PM Courtney Bryan P 43 7 PM Courtney Bryan P 43
11 AM Chamber Music VI P 28 1 PM Chamber Music VII P 28	7 PM The Book of Life P 10		
11 AM Chamber Music VII P 28 1 PM Chamber Music VII P 28 7:30 PM Orchestra: The Rite of Spring P 21	Enchantment is everywhere: in the exquisite venues and in the painful beauty of this historic city.		3:30 PM Jazz Talk: Henry Threadgill P 37
11 AM Chamber Music VIII P 28 1 PM Chamber Music VIII P 28		7:30 PM Henry Threadgill P 37	
11 AM Chamber Music VIII P 28 1 PM Chamber Music IX P 28 5 PM Spoleto Festival USA Chorus P 34 7:30 PM Orchestra: New World Symphony P 22	5 PM Gravity & Other Myths P 38 6 PM Only an Octave Apart P 30	9 PM Alisa Amador P 24	5 PM Immanuel Wilkins Quartet P 42
11 AM Chamber Music IX P 28 1 PM Chamber Music IX P 28 5 PM Spoleto Festival USA Chorus P 34	4 PM Conversation: Only an Octave Apart P 30 7:30 PM Gravity & Other Myths P 38 8 PM Only an Octave Apart P 30		5 PM Immanuel Wilkins Quartet P 42 9 PM Abdullah Ibrahim and Ekaya P 33
11 AM Chamber Music X P 28 1 PM Chamber Music X P 28 7:30 PM Orchestra: Symphonie Fantastique P 23	5 PM Only an Octave Apart P 30 8 PM Gravity & Other Myths P 38		5 PM Immanuel Wilkins Quartet P 42
11 AM Chamber Music X P 28 1 PM Chamber Music XI P 28	3 PM Gravity & Other Myths P 38 4 PM Only an Octave Apart P 30 6 PM Gravity & Other Myths P 38		5 PM Immanuel Wilkins Quartet P 42 9 PM Immanuel Wilkins Quartet P 42
11 AM Chamber Music XI P 28 1 PM Chamber Music XI P 28 5 PM Finale: Tank & the Bangas P 46	2 PM Gravity & Other Myths P 38 4 PM Only an Octave Apart P 30		

How to Buy Tickets

ONLINE

Beginning January 27, visit spoletousa.org.

BY PHONE

Beginning January 27, call 843.579.3100.

IN PERSON

Beginning in May. Location, dates, and times to be announced this spring.

Gift certificates are available.

STUDENT, MILITARY, TEACHER, AND GROUP DISCOUNTS

Students and children, military personnel, and teachers receive discounts on select performances (with valid ID). Discounts may be restricted to certain seating sections. Visit spoletousa.org for information and to learn about group sales.

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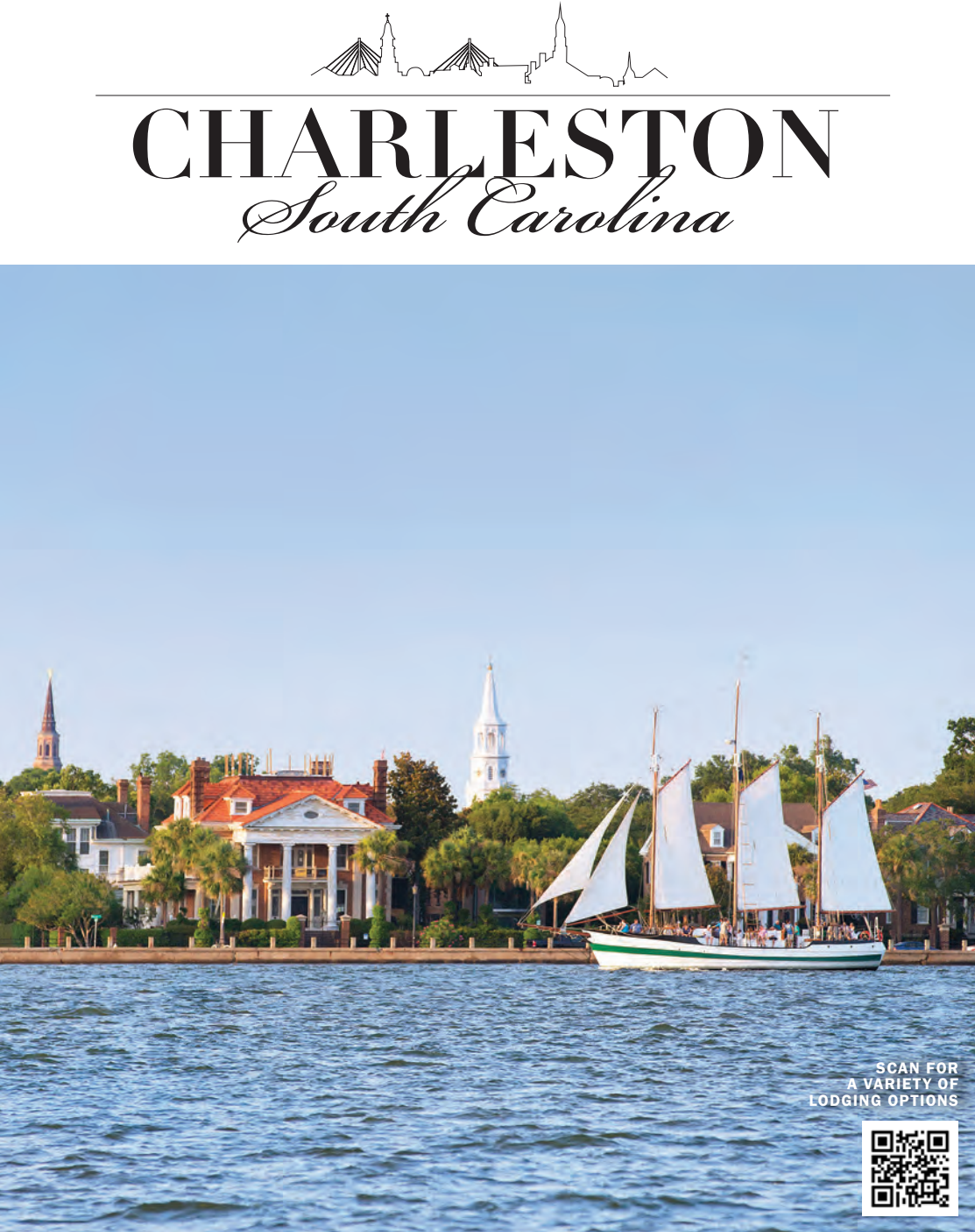


Please call the box office at 843.579.3100 or visit spoletousa.org to purchase accessible seating.

Program, artists, venues, and pricing are subject to change without notice. A \$5 processing fee and a \$3 facility fee will be applied to each ticket purchased to help cover the technology and labor costs associated. All audience members, regardless of age, must have a ticket.

All tickets will be emailed as a PDF to be printed at home or scanned from a mobile device at no additional charge. Patrons may opt to have their tickets mailed or held at will-call for a \$5 handling fee per order.

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