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.
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 Blue Shield of South Carolina.

This performance contains partial nudity.
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
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
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.
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.
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.
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.

**SPECTACULAR SYMPHONIES**

**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**

**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.
A composer rooted in the Czech folk tradition of his homeland, Antonín 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.

Symphonie Fantastique

JONATHON HEYWARD CONDUCTS BERLIOZ AND GRIEG

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.

New World Symphony

MEI-ANN CHEN CONDUCTS DVOŘÁK

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

“...an epic symphonic self-portrait...”

– FINANCIAL TIMES

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
Spoleto 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.
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

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

“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. 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.

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.
Spoleto 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

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Spoleto 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

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

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.

“Powerhouse pianist”
- THE NEW YORK TIMES

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.

Henry Threadgill Zooid
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
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

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).

**FESTIVAL HALL**
Saturday, May 27 - 3:00pm
Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes
Tickets starting at $35

**QUEEN STREET PLAYHOUSE**
Wednesday, May 31 - 6:00pm
Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes
Tickets starting at $45

Within the historic and architecturally significant Works Progress Administration auditorium, the “Tell Your Story” project explores the relationship between music and community. The project is comprised of two components: an original orchestral composition, *Sanctum*, and a community-led participatory event, *Tell Your Story*. The project is supported by Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach and We Are Family. 
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.

Jazz at The Playhouse

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.

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.

“[Wilkins's The 7th Hand is] this year’s most powerfully transporting jazz album” – NPR
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 OR CALL 843.724.1192.

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.

- Samuel Freeman Charitable Trust
- Sherman Financial Group
- County of Charleston
- Charleston GI
- Tito’s Handmade Vodka
2023 Event Calendar

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.

Imagine your Festival experience in Charleston.

Experience the magic with us.

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

SPOLETOUSA.ORG 843.579.3100
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.

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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