

SPOLETO

FESTIVAL USA



CHARLESTON
SOUTH
CAROLINA



May 22 —
June 7, 2026

SPOLETOUSA.ORG

FROM OUR PARTNER

Charleston sets the Stage

Charleston has always sung before she ever spoke. Her streets remember dreamers, her harbor remembers courage. As America marks 250 years, this city reminds us that freedom has always been an act of creation.

For nearly fifty years, Spoleto Festival USA has been Charleston's own anthem to the unbound human spirit. Each spring, the world gathers here as music pours from sanctuaries, dancers move like tides, and stories rise beneath ancient oaks and watchful steeples.

This year, Charleston and Spoleto honor the imagination that shaped a nation—and still shapes us now. Step past the stage and into Charleston's embrace. You will be moved, lifted and changed in ways that linger.



Explore *Charleston*

📷 @explorecharleston

🐦 @explorechs

SPOLETOUSA.ORG
843.579.3100



Join Us as Art Meets a Historic Moment.

In 2026, Spoleto Festival USA invites audiences into an extraordinary season shaped by a pivotal national milestone: the **250th anniversary of the United States**. As America reflects on two and a half centuries of experimentation, reinvention, and possibility, Spoleto brings together artists from around the world to explore one of the nation’s most powerful founding ideas and a fundamental human right: **freedom of expression**.

Across operas, plays, dance, jazz, and immersive performance, the Festival traces how artistic creativity has shaped — and continues to shape — our understanding of **community and democracy**. From George Washington secretly staging a banned play at Valley Forge, to the expressive revolutions of jazz, tap, and contemporary performance, Spoleto celebrates the role of the arts as a **catalyst for connection**.

Spoleto has always been a place where boundaries dissolve — between genres, between artist and audience, between tradition and bold new work. In a year when our nation looks backward and forward at once, the Festival renews its founding purpose: a place to gather, listen, and experience art that challenges certainty and expands possibility. This year, don’t just watch the world change — **be in the room where it happens**.

Mena
Mena Mark Hanna
General Director & CEO



How to Buy Tickets:

Tickets to all programs will be on-sale on January 30, 2026. Donors have access to an exclusive pre-sale.

Online at spoletousa.org
By Phone: (843) 579-3100

For access to exclusive offers, sign up for email updates.



Spoleto Festival USA is proud to partner with SC250 in celebration of the semiquincentennial of our country.

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The Old Maid and the Thief

Gian Carlo Menotti

SPOLETO PRODUCTION

Featuring Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra
Conducted by Music Director Timothy Myers

Step into a world of gossip and intrigue in *The Old Maid and the Thief* by Gian Carlo Menotti, the visionary founder of Spoleto Festival USA. Produced by Spoleto, this comedic one-act — composed in 1939 as a radio opera and never before performed at the Festival — is reinvented as a live broadcast with hand-crafted sound effects, inventive object work, and real-time storytelling. Campy, inventive, and delightfully mischievous, this brand-new staging celebrates Menotti's wit and theatrical flair in a vibrant homecoming to the Spoleto stage.

Dock Street Theatre

Friday, May 22

5:30pm

Monday, May 25

6:00pm

Wednesday, May 27

6:00pm

Friday, May 29

5:30pm

Approximately 1 hour

Tickets start at \$25

Menotti's wit
meets the golden
age of radio

OPERA

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Mary, Queen of Scots

Scottish Ballet

U.S. PREMIERE

Featuring Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra

The US premiere of Scottish Ballet's newest creation, *Mary, Queen of Scots*, is a sweeping dance-theater work exploring power, identity, and the reverberations of the Reformation amid Europe's dynastic conflicts—as England rises toward global supremacy. As Elizabeth I nears death, she is haunted by memories—real and imagined—of her cousin, Mary, the Queen of Scotland. A longtime Festival favorite since its American debut at Spoleto in 1986, Scottish Ballet returns with this bold new work blending history, movement, and music in a vivid reflection on ambition and legacy.

Charleston Gaillard Center Martha
and John M. Rivers Performance Hall

Thursday, May 28

7:30pm

Friday, May 29

6:00pm

Saturday, May 30

2:00pm and 8:00pm

Approximately 2 hours, 10 minutes,
including an intermission

Tickets start at \$35

CONTENT ADVISORY

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DANCE, MUSIC

A sweeping dance-
theater work exploring
power, identity, and the
reverberations of the
Reformation



George + George

By Denis O’Hare and Lisa Peterson

THEATER, COMEDY

WORLD PREMIERE

The world premiere of *George + George* brings Festival favorites Denis O’Hare—a Tony Award winner—and Lisa Peterson back to Charleston for their third Spoleto collaboration. A comedic romp through the American Revolution, this inventive new work unfolds as a lively staged reading. Set at Valley Forge in 1778, George Washington rallies his ragtag troops by staging a forbidden play—Addison’s *Cato*. Cameos from Betsy Ross, Benedict Arnold, King George III, and the Marquis de Lafayette add to the hilarity. With sharp humor and theatrical flair, *George + George* playfully reimagines the founding era and the enduring ideals of democracy.

College of Charleston Emmett
Robinson Theatre

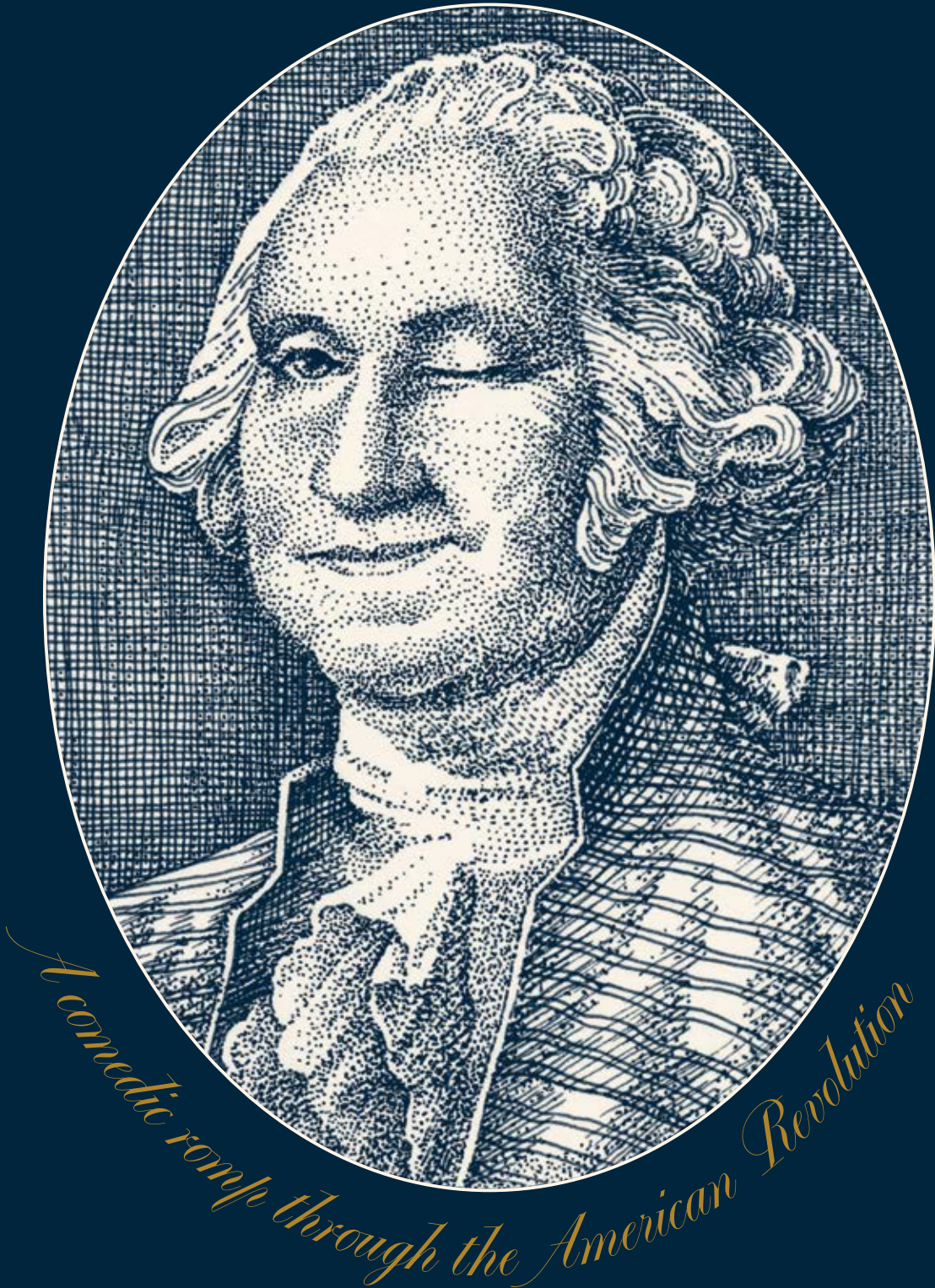
Friday, May 29
7:30pm

Saturday, May 30
5:00pm

Sunday, May 31
6:30pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes
Tickets start at \$60

Join co-creators Denis O’Hare and Lisa Peterson for a talkback immediately following each performance of *George + George*.



All the Devils Are Here

Starring Patrick Page

Dubbed “the villain of Broadway” by *Playbill*, Tony Award-nominee and GRAMMY Award-winner Patrick Page has never shied away from exploring his dark side. Now, with this tour de force show, he turns his attention to the twisted motivations and hidden humanity at the heart of Shakespeare’s greatest villains. This thrilling, biting and enlightening production illuminates the playwright’s ever-evolving conception of evil by delving into more than a dozen of his most wicked creations, ultimately delivering a masterclass on the most terrifying subject of them all: human nature.

Festival Hall

Wednesday, June 3

7:00pm

Friday, June 5

5:30pm

Saturday, June 6

3:00pm and 8:00pm

Sunday, June 7

4:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 25 minutes

Tickets start at \$60

CONTENT ADVISORY

Conversation With Patrick Page

Thursday, June 4

3:30pm

Host and CBS News correspondent Martha Teichner interviews Patrick Page at the CofC Simons Center Recital Hall.

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THEATER

**How Shakespeare
invented the Villain**



Dido and Aeneas

**Spoletto presents Opera
Queensland's production of *Dido
and Aeneas* in association with Circa**

U.S. PREMIERE

Heart-stopping acrobatics and Henry Purcell's masterful score for *Dido and Aeneas*—rich, haunting, and unforgettable—soar to new heights in a visionary collaboration with the internationally acclaimed physical theater ensemble Circa. This is opera transformed: soaring voices, awe-inspiring physical artistry, and striking design collide in a riot of color, motion, and sound. The tragic love story of Dido, Queen of Carthage, and the Trojan hero Aeneas unfolds in a world where fate, desire, and betrayal collide. Melding Purcell's timeless music with daring theatricality, this production creates a world where every note resonates, every movement thrills, and every scene captivates. Bold, contemporary, and utterly transfixing, *Dido and Aeneas* is a feast for both the ears and the eyes—an unforgettable experience of music and spectacle.

College of Charleston Sottile Theatre

Saturday, May 23

4:00pm

Tuesday, May 26

6:00pm

Thursday, May 28

6:00pm

Saturday, May 30

6:30pm

Approximately 1 hour, 10 minutes

Tickets start at \$50

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OPERA, PHYSICAL THEATER

**Soaring voices,
awe-inspiring physical
artistry, and striking
design collide**

Conversation With Circa

Wednesday, May 27

3:30pm

Host and CBS News correspondent Martha Teichner interviews Circa's creative team about the staging of *Dido & Aeneas* at the CofC Simons Center Recital Hall.

Humans 2.0

Circa

Get ready for an unforgettable adventure of movement, music, and light! Circa's *Humans 2.0* is a breathtaking blend of acrobatics and imagination—where ten incredible performers twist, balance, and soar together in ways that seem to defy gravity. With heart-pounding music and stunning lighting, this world-class circus experience celebrates what it means to be human: strong, curious, and wonderfully connected. Created by visionary director Yaron Lifschitz, *Humans 2.0* invites audiences of all ages to marvel at the power and beauty of people working—and flying—together.

College of Charleston Sottile Theatre

Sunday, May 24

4:00pm

Monday, May 25

4:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes

Tickets start at \$39

PHYSICAL THEATER, ALL AGES

**A breathtaking
blend of acrobatics
and imagination**



The Remix

Ayodele Casel

Celebrating the richness of American artistry, Ayodele Casel returns to Spoleto Festival USA with *The Remix*, a dynamic exploration of tap dance as a uniquely American art form. Named a *New York Times* Critic's Pick and featured on the *Best of Dance 2025* list, *The Remix* revisits two decades of groundbreaking work infused with the infectious energy of 1990s Hip-Hop and R&B, pairing electrifying dances with a powerhouse ensemble. Don't miss the third Spoleto appearance from this award-winning artist, choreographer, and performer redefining contemporary tap for a new generation of American storytellers through movement.

College of Charleston Sottile Theatre

Thursday, June 4

7:00pm

Friday, June 5

7:00pm

Saturday, June 6

2:00pm and 7:00pm

Sunday, June 7

2:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes

Tickets start at \$50

Sponsored by



**A dynamic exploration
of tap dance as a uniquely
American art form**

DANCE, ALL AGES

Graham 100: A Centennial Celebration

Martha Graham Dance Company

Celebrate the enduring legacy of visionary choreographer Martha Graham with a powerful program marking the company's centennial. Experience Graham's pioneering spirit in the stirring *Chronicle*, and the triumph of *Errand into the Maze*, set to music by Spoleto founder Gian Carlo Menotti. The program culminates with Jamar Roberts's *We the People*, performed to the evocative music of Rhiannon Giddens. Together, these works unite past and present in a striking fusion showcasing why Martha Graham's company continues to shape the future of dance.

Festival Hall

Friday, May 22

7:00pm

Saturday, May 23

5:30pm

Sunday, May 24

5:30pm

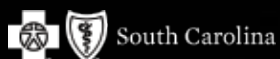
Monday, May 25

2:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes

Tickets start at \$55

Sponsored by



DANCE, ALL AGES

**Celebrating the
enduring legacy
of a visionary
choreographer**



Renée Fleming with Béla Fleck

The Fiddle and the Drum

Five-time Grammy Award-winning soprano Renée Fleming returns to the Festival that she's called her "training ground," having performed at Spoleto for several summers early in her career. In this thrilling homecoming, she joins 19-time Grammy Award-winning banjo virtuoso Béla Fleck for *The Fiddle and the Drum*, a radiant tribute to Appalachian folk traditions. Marking our nation's 250th anniversary, the program journeys through America's musical heritage, weaving the expressive beauty of Fleming's voice with Fleck's genre-defying brilliance and the support of his all-star band, My Bluegrass Heart. Through mountain songs, timeless ballads, and folk hymns, this performance celebrates the enduring spirit and strength of Appalachia.

Charleston Gaillard Center Martha and John M. Rivers Performance Hall

Saturday, May 23

8:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 20 minutes

Tickets start at \$60

Sponsored by



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RENÉE
FLEMING

MUSIC

Honoring the
enduring spirit
and strength of
Appalachia



BÉLA
FLECK

Bank of America Chamber Music

MUSIC

Charles E. and Andrea L. Volpe
Director of Chamber Music



PAUL WIANCKO

Curated and hosted by Charles E. and Andrea L. Volpe Director of Chamber Music Paul Wiancko, this cornerstone series features 11 unique programs, each performed three times—33 performances across every day of the Festival. Wiancko introduces the programs, interviews the artists, and interacts with audience members, creating a spirited, warm, and welcoming atmosphere sharing in the intimacy and magic of the music.

Dock Street Theatre
Daily at 11:00am & 1:00pm
Visit [Spoletousa.org](https://spoletousa.org) for full schedule
Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes
Tickets start at \$40

- 2026 Musicians**
- VIOLIN**
Jennifer Frautschi · Grant Houston · Yoojin Jang · Alexi Kenney · Kristin Lee · David McCarroll · Blake Pouliot · Livia Sohn
- VIOLA**
Ayane Kozasa · Melissa Reardon · Masumi Per Rostad
- CELLO**
Sterling Elliott · Arlen Hlusko · Raman Ramakrishnan · Paul Wiancko
- BASS**
Lizzie Burns
- PIANO**
Inon Barnatan · Soyeon Kate Lee · Pedja Mužijević · Amy Yang
- CLARINET**
Todd Palmer
- FLUTE**
Allison Loggins-Hull
- VOICE**
Kiera Duffy · Karim Sulayman
- HARP**
Charles Overton

2026 Suzan D. Boyd
Composer-in-Residence



ALLISON LOGGINS-HULL
Flutist and composer whose genre-defying work spans symphonic, chamber, electronic, and film music.

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Official Recording Partner



An Evening with Ken Burns

FILM, MUSIC, DISCUSSION

Honors the spirit of independence and the enduring pursuit of the principles on which America was founded

Presented by Bank of America

A luminous celebration of America's 250th year, this evening with acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns—creator of *The Civil War*, *Jazz*, and *The Vietnam War*—reflects on the struggles and ideals that shaped a nation and transformed the world. Through sweeping music, vivid imagery, and Burns's signature storytelling, *The American Revolution* reveals a war for independence and a revolution of ideas—an upheaval whose promises and contradictions still echo today. Part conversation, part concert, this narrative and musical meditation honors the spirit of independence and the enduring pursuit of the principles on which America was founded.

**College of Charleston
Sottile Theatre**

Wednesday, May 27
8:00pm

Approximately
1 hour, 30 minutes
Tickets start at \$60

Presented by
BANK OF AMERICA



Washington Crossing the Delaware. Painting by Emanuel Leutze, 1851. Credit: The Metropolitan Museum of Art

The Untold Story Behind *Porgy & Bess*

FILM, MUSIC, DISCUSSION

FREE COMMUNITY PROGRAM



Join us for a one-night-only exploration of the untold history behind *Porgy & Bess*. Featuring excerpts from Lauren Waring Douglas's forthcoming documentary *When Porgy Came Home*, live musical performances, and a panel led by WCBT-TV anchor Carolyn Murray, the evening illuminates a story of art, conflict, and redemption. Deeply tied to Charleston and Gullah culture, the opera's legacy—shaped by Jim Crow racism, community resilience, and cultural reclamation—continues to spark vital conversation today.

**Charleston Gaillard Center
Martha and John M. Rivers
Performance Hall**

Tuesday, June 2
7:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes
Tickets are free with registration.
This is a general admission event.
Six ticket limit per order.

Reuben Wright, Sr. as Porgy in the 1970 production of *Porgy and Bess*. Credit: Charles E. McKenzie

Table Read: *The Duchy*

THEATER, TABLE READ

FREE COMMUNITY PROGRAM

By Denis O'Hare and Lisa Peterson



Join co-creators Denis O'Hare and Lisa Peterson for a talkback immediately following this table read.

Spoletto Festival USA proudly presents a special table read of *The Duchy*, a bold new play by Denis O'Hare and Lisa Peterson. Set in a divided near-future America, this sharp, provocative story takes place in *The Duchy*, a neutral Las Vegas microstate where political rivals meet—and entertainment and diplomacy collide. Experience the humor, tension, and inventive storytelling of this early reading before the play receives its fully staged premiere at a future Spoletto Festival USA. Don't miss this exclusive opportunity to get a first look at a daring new work from two acclaimed creators.

**College of Charleston
Emmett Robinson Theatre**

Sunday, May 31
1:00pm

Approximately 2 hours
Tickets are free with registration. This is a general admission event.

Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra

MUSIC



Conversation With Tim Myers

Monday, June 1

4:00pm

Host and CBS News correspondent Martha Teichner interviews Festival Orchestra Music Director Timothy Myers at the CofC Simons Center Recital Hall.

Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5

New work for cello and orchestra featuring
Zuill Bailey

WORLD PREMIERE



Experience Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, celebrated for its sweeping melodies and narrative brilliance—qualities that also define his iconic ballets *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker*. The program also features the world premiere of a new work for cello and orchestra by Michael Abels, co-composer of the Pulitzer Prize winning opera *Omar* that had its acclaimed premiere at Spoletto in 2022. Abels brings his distinctive voice to this exciting new work, performed by renowned cellist Zuill Bailey.

**Charleston Gaillard Center Martha and
John M. Rivers Performance Hall**

Sunday, May 24

7:30pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes
Tickets start at \$40

Mahler Symphony No. 1

New violin concerto featuring Livia Sohn



The Festival Orchestra leads audiences through Mahler's "*Titan*," a symphony celebrated for its darkly humorous funeral march and triumphant finale. Opening this program is Paul Wiancko's new violin concerto, co-commissioned by Spoletto and written for renowned violinist Livia Sohn. Inspired by their longtime friendship, the concerto highlights Sohn's virtuosity and their artistic bond forged at Spoletto.

**Charleston Gaillard Center Martha and
John M. Rivers Performance Hall**

Thursday, June 4

7:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes
Tickets start at \$40

Mozart's Mass in C Minor

Spoletto Festival USA Chorus + Orchestra

Conducted by Amanda Quist, Music Director of Spoletto
Festival USA Chorus

Premiered in 1783, the year Britain recognized America's independence, Mozart's *Mass in C Minor* embodies a moment of freedom and rebirth. With its soaring arias and radiant choral passages, the work stands as one of Mozart's most breathtaking achievements. Experience this masterpiece anew as the Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra and Chorus illuminate its power and passion in a performance that honors the creative spirit of the era.

College of Charleston Sottile Theatre

Friday, May 29

7:30pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes

Tickets start at \$55

MUSIC



Amanda Quist
conducts her first
performance as Music
Director of the Festival
Chorus, continuing the
ensemble's cherished
traditions through her
unique musical lens
and deep commitment
to choral excellence.

MUSIC

Festival Chorus:

Storytelling Through American Composers

In her inaugural season as Music Director of the Spoleto Festival USA Chorus, Dr. Amanda Quist leads *Storytelling*—a program that honors the past while looking toward the future. Through works by American composers and others who explore identity, memory, and belonging, the concerts celebrate the power of the human voice to connect, reflect, and inspire. Set within the soaring Gothic interior of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, one of Charleston's most acoustically and architecturally stunning spaces, the Festival Chorus invites audiences to experience music as a shared act of community and renewal.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Friday, June 5

5:30pm

Saturday, June 6

4:30pm

Approximately 1 hour

Tickets start at \$55

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MUSIC

Festival Orchestra:

Appalachian Spring and American Classics

Celebrate the richness of American music with the Festival Orchestra, under the baton of Music Director Tim Myers, in the stunning, historic St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. This program brings to life the charm, lyricism, and storytelling that define America's musical heritage. Featuring Aaron Copland's beloved *Appalachian Spring* Suite and its powerful setting of the Shaker tune "Simple Gifts," the program also includes Samuel Barber's luscious *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, and Jessie Montgomery's poignant *Banner*.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Sunday, May 31

3:00pm and 5:00pm

Approximately 1 hour

Tickets start at \$55

Jason Moran

Ellington in Focus

Step into the world of Duke Ellington, one of the defining figures of American music, as seen through the vision of Jason Moran, one of jazz’s most celebrated pianists, composers, and cultural curators. A Harlem-based visual artist as well as a pianist, Moran blends inventive piano interpretations with bench-side storytelling and a striking video presentation of Gordon Parks’ iconic images of Ellington and Harlem. Moran transforms the concert into an experience that is immersive, bold, playful, and unforgettable. With music, stories, and imagery, this is more than a concert—it’s a declaration of independence for 2026.

Jazz Talk: Listening to Duke

Monday, June 1
2:30pm

Jazz curator and writer Larry Blumenfeld interviews Jason Moran at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston.

College of Charleston Sottile Theatre

Monday, June 1
8:00pm

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

Sponsored by



JAZZ

Terence Blanchard + The E-Collective

Miles Davis & John Coltrane at 100

Eight-time Grammy winner, two-time Oscar nominee, and NEA Jazz Master Terence Blanchard brings his electrifying trumpet and visionary artistry to Spoleto with his E-Collective in a tribute to two of jazz’s greatest innovators: Miles Davis and John Coltrane. Born in New Orleans, Blanchard is a fearless musical force across genres, having scored over 60 films—including *BlacKkKlansman*, *Da 5 Bloods*, and *Selma*—and composed Grammy-winning operas premiered at the Metropolitan Opera. His music pulses with thought, creativity, and profound humanity, exploring identity, justice, and resilience. In this performance, Blanchard and The E-Collective channel the groundbreaking sounds of Davis and Coltrane, fusing improvisation, powerful melodies, and daring jazz innovation.

Charleston Music Hall

Tuesday, May 26
8:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes
Tickets start at \$60

Sponsored by



JAZZ



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Pedrito Martinez Group

JAZZ

Grammy-winning percussionist Pedrito Martinez returns for a third appearance at Spoleto, where he's thrilled audiences with his electrifying rhythms, powerful vocals, and infectious energy. The greatest living Afro-Cuban percussionist—he's played with the likes of Paul Simon, Bruce Springsteen, and Wynton Marsalis—Martinez transforms every performance into a celebration of dance, heritage, and improvisation. His ensemble turns rhythm into pure joy, making it impossible to sit still. A Festival favorite, this is an evening of unforgettable music, irresistible grooves, and sheer celebration—one of Spoleto's most thrilling acts.

College of Charleston Cistern Yard

Wednesday, June 3

9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes

Tickets start at \$40

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JAZZ

Black Gold:

**Quentin Baxter Celebrates Moacir Santos
featuring Chico Pinheiro**

Charleston native and Grammy-winning drummer-composer Quentin Baxter joins Brazilian guitar virtuoso Chico Pinheiro in a celebration of Moacir Santos—the visionary composer whose album “Ouro Negro” (Black Gold) reshaped the sound of jazz across the Americas. Baxter, a founding member of Ranky Tanky and a steward of the Gullah musical tradition, and Pinheiro, who was born and raised in São Paulo, infuse the performance with personal histories and improvisational flair. Together with their ensemble, they reinterpret Santos’ music in a transcendent evening of rhythm, melody, and cross-cultural dialogue. This rare collaboration is a vibrant celebration of innovation, heritage, and artistry—not to be missed.

Charleston Music Hall

Saturday, May 30

8:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes

Tickets start at \$60

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Sullivan Fortner

In Residence

Returning to Spoleto after his acclaimed 2025 collaboration with Cécile McLorin Salvant and the Festival Orchestra, Sullivan Fortner is one of today's most celebrated jazz pianists. The first jazz pianist to receive a Gilmore Award, the inaugural 2026 Larry J. Bell Jazz Artist Award, Fortner is a virtuoso solo artist, bandleader, composer, and McLorin's primary collaborator. At Spoleto 2026, experience two programs: an intimate solo recital showcasing his improvisational brilliance, and a trio performance highlighting playful counterpoint and ensemble mastery. Don't miss this rare chance to see a visionary musician at the height of his powers.

College of Charleston Recital Hall

Sullivan Fortner Solo Game

Friday, June 5

6:00pm and 8:00pm

Sullivan Fortner Trio

Saturday, June 6

6:00pm and 8:00pm

Approximately 1 hour

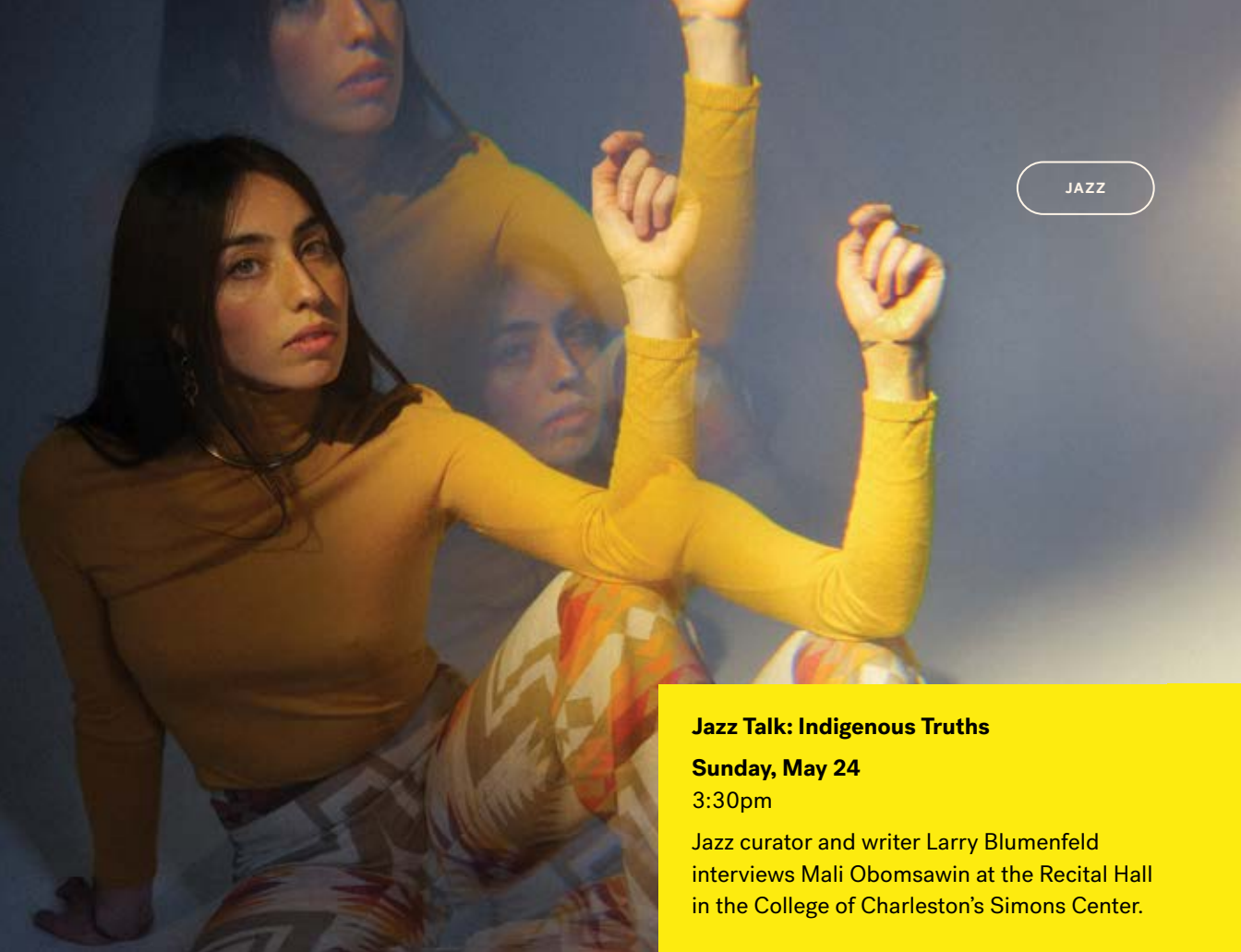
Tickets start at \$45

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JAZZ



JAZZ

Jazz Talk: Indigenous Truths

Sunday, May 24

3:30pm

Jazz curator and writer Larry Blumenfeld interviews Mali Obomsawin at the Recital Hall in the College of Charleston's Simons Center.

Mali Obomsawin

In Residence

Rising star Mali Obomsawin is an Abenaki artist from Canada's Odanak First Nation who brings her boundary-defying artistry to Spoleto. A gifted bassist, vocalist, songwriter, and composer, Obomsawin and her Xtet ensemble create a vibrant tapestry of sound, drawing upon Indigenous rhythms and chants, modern jazz, and contemporary improvisation. Her performances are both deeply rooted and boldly innovative, creating a sonic landscape where tradition meets experimentation. With each note, Obomsawin weaves stories of culture, identity, and resilience, inviting audiences into an immediate and transformative musical journey.

Dock Street Theatre

Saturday, May 23

6:30pm

Sunday, May 24

7:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes

Tickets start at \$45

Sponsored by



Dead as a Dodo

By Wakka Wakka

THEATER, FAMILY-FRIENDLY

SUGGESTED
FOR
AGES 7+

Meet the puppets in a
preview designed for
sensory sensitivities—
details online



With dazzling puppetry, original music, and jaw-dropping visuals, *Dead as a Dodo* plunges into the underworld, where a Dodo mysteriously grows feathers—sparking a darkly funny, life-affirming tale of friendship, transformation, and survival.

Festival Hall

Friday, May 29

6:00pm

Saturday, May 30

11:00am and 3:00pm

Sunday, May 31

3:00pm

Approximately 1 hour

Tickets start at \$34

SPOLETOUSA.ORG
843.579.3100

Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer

THEATER, FAMILY-FRIENDLY

SUGGESTED
FOR
AGES 10+



This one-person puppet show blends live performance, animation, and music in a visually stunning, heartwarming adventure that explores love, hope, and courage on an unforgettable underwater journey.

College of Charleston

Emmett Robinson Theatre

Saturday, May 23

12:00pm and 2:30pm

Sunday, May 24

12:00pm and 2:30pm

Monday, May 25

12:00pm and 2:30pm

Approximately 45 minutes

Tickets start at \$15

LIVE AT THE CISTERN

FEATURE

INTIMATE.
ICONIC.
UNFORGETTABLE.

College of Charleston
Cistern Yard
9:00 PM

PUNCH BROTHERS	MAY 24	FOLK STRING QUINTET
MOUNTAIN GOATS WITH WILLIAM TYLER & YASMIN WILLIAMS	MAY 31	INDIE, FOLK, ROCK
INDIGO GIRLS	JUNE 2	FOLK ROCK DUO



HEAR THE ARTISTS BEFORE YOU SEE THEM. SCAN TO EXPLORE OUR LIVE AT THE CISTERN PLAYLIST FEATURING THIS YEAR'S PERFORMERS.

PEDRITO MARTINEZ GROUP	JUNE 3	JAZZ, CUBAN, POP
MOLLY TUTTLE	JUNE 4	FOLK, COUNTRY, BLUEGRASS
EMMYLOU HARRIS	JUNE 5	COUNTRY HALL-OF-FAMER
COLIN MELOY	JUNE 6	FRONTMAN FOR THE DECEMBERISTS
BRANDI CARLILE	JUNE 7	FOLK, ACOUSTIC, SONGWRITER

Brandi Carlile

Live at the Cistern

Grammy and Emmy-winning Brandi Carlile takes the Cistern stage for an intimate solo acoustic performance. Celebrated for her emotional depth and powerful voice, she performs songs from her acclaimed album *Returning To Myself*, hailed by *Rolling Stone* as her “most honest, insightful, and reflective work.” Experience a deeply personal evening of music and storytelling—pure artistry at its finest.

College of Charleston Cistern Yard

Sunday, June 7

9:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes

Tickets start at \$70

Sponsored by



FEATURE

A deeply personal evening of music and storytelling — pure artistry at its finest



Tell Your Story

COMMUNITY, FREE

The Tell Your Story Fellows perform new, original works inspired by members of the Charleston community. The pieces feature the voices of local Charlestonians sharing their stories alongside sights and sounds of the region. Fellows are chosen by application from alumni of the Festival Orchestra and Chorus, and undertake a 6-month collaboration and oral history interview with a community member. Partners include We Are Family, which provides life-affirming and life-saving programs for LGBTQ+ youth; Charleston Jewish Federation, which builds, secures, and sustains Jewish life in Charleston; and Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach, which provides basic and emergency needs, education, employment and health services to local communities.

**College of Charleston
Recital Hall**

Tuesday, May 26
6:00pm

Approximately 1 hour

SPOLETOUSA.ORG
843.579.3100



Join the community that makes Spoleto possible

When you give a gift to Spoleto, **you join a vibrant group of arts enthusiasts** who share your passion for discovery, creativity, and connection. **Enjoy exclusive benefits and experiences** that bring you closer to the art and artists you love.

Donors enjoy benefits such as:

- Early access to tickets during our donor pre-sale
- Premier seating available only to donors
- Concierge ticket services
- Behind-the-scenes experiences and conversations with artistic leaders
- Invitations to special events and celebrations
- And more!

With your support, Spoleto transforms Charleston into an international hub of artistic expression, becomes a powerful catalyst for creative innovation by presenting works of the highest caliber, and creates a place of belonging for our entire community.



Scan the QR code or make your gift online at spoletousa.org/support. Thank you for being a part of the Spoleto community!

Calendar




May

MONDAY MAY			TUESDAY MAY		
11:00 AM	CHAMBER PROGRAM II	P22	11:00 AM	CHAMBER PROGRAM III	P22
12:00 PM	ALVIN SPUTNIK: DEEP SEA EXPLORER	P41	1:00 PM	CHAMBER PROGRAM III	P22
1:00PM	CHAMBER PROGRAM III	P22	6:00 PM	CIRCA: DIDO AND AENEAS	P12
2:00 PM	MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY	P18	6:00 PM	TELL YOUR STORY	P46
2:30 PM	ALVIN SPUTNIK: DEEP SEA EXPLORER	P41	8:00 PM	TERENCE BLANCHARD + THE E-COLLECTIVE	P35
4:00 PM	CIRCA: HUMANS 2.0	P14			
6:00 PM	THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF	P04			

WEDNESDAY MAY		
11:00 AM	CHAMBER PROGRAM IV	P22
1:00 PM	CHAMBER PROGRAM IV	P22
3:30 PM	CONVERSATIONS WITH CIRCA	P12
6:00 PM	THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF	P04
8:00 PM	AN EVENING WITH KEN BURNS	P24
VISIT THE GIBBES MUSEUM OF ART.		

June

MONDAY JUNE	01	TUESDAY JUNE	02	WEDNESDAY JUNE	03
11:00 AM CHAMBER PROGRAM VII	P22	11:00 AM CHAMBER PROGRAM VIII	P22	11:00 AM CHAMBER PROGRAM VIII	P22
1:00 PM CHAMBER PROGRAM VII	P22	1:00 PM CHAMBER PROGRAM VIII	P22	1:00 PM CHAMBER PROGRAM IX	P22
2:30 PM JAZZ TALK WITH JASON MORAN	P34	7:00 PM UNTOLD STORY BEHIND PORGY & BESS	P26	7:00 PM ALL THE DEVILS ARE HERE	P10
4:00 PM CONVERSATIONS WITH TIM MYERS	P28	9:00 PM INDIGO GIRLS	P42	9:00 PM PEDRITO MARTINEZ GROUP	P36
8:00 PM JASON MORAN: ELLINGTON IN FOCUS	P34	DINE AT ONE OF CHARLESTON'S MANY RENOWNED RESTAURANTS.			

May

THURSDAY MAY	21	FRIDAY MAY	22	SATURDAY MAY	23	SUNDAY MAY	24
6:00 PM SPOLETO FESTIVAL OPENING GALA	P50	12:00 PM OPENING CEREMONY		11:00 AM CHAMBER PROGRAM I	P22	11:00 AM CHAMBER PROGRAM II	P22
		1:00 PM CHAMBER PROGRAM I	P22	12:00 PM ALVIN SPUTNIK: DEEP SEA EXPLORER	P41	12:00 PM ALVIN SPUTNIK: DEEP SEA EXPLORER	P41
		5:30 PM THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF	P04	1:00 PM CHAMBER PROGRAM I	P22	1:00 PM CHAMBER PROGRAM II	P22
		7:00 PM MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY	P18	2:30 PM ALVIN SPUTNIK: DEEP SEA EXPLORER	P41	2:30 PM ALVIN SPUTNIK: DEEP SEA EXPLORER	P41
		SHOP CHARLESTON'S FAMOUS KING STREET.		4:00 PM CIRCA: DIDO AND AENEAS	P12	3:30 PM JAZZ TALK WITH MALI OBOMSAWIN	P39
				5:30 PM MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY	P18	4:00 PM CIRCA: HUMANS 2.0	P14
				6:30 PM MALI OBOMSAWIN	P39	5:30 PM MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY	P18
				8:00 PM RENÉE FLEMING & BÉLA FLECK	P20	7:00 PM MALI OBOMSAWIN	P39
						7:30 PM ZVILL BAILEY AND TCHAIKOVSKY NO. 5	P28
						9:00 PM PUNCH BROTHERS	P42

THURSDAY MAY		28	FRIDAY MAY		29	SATURDAY MAY		30	SUNDAY MAY		31
11:00 AM	CHAMBER PROGRAM IV	P22	11:00 AM	CHAMBER PROGRAM V	P22	11:00 AM	DEAD AS A DODO	P40	11:00 AM	CHAMBER PROGRAM VI	P22
1:00 PM	CHAMBER PROGRAM V	P22	1:00 PM	CHAMBER PROGRAM V	P22	11:00 AM	CHAMBER PROGRAM VI	P22	1:00 PM	THE DUCHY	P27
6:00 PM	CIRCA: DIDO AND AENEAS	P12	5:30 PM	THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF	P04	1:00 PM	CHAMBER PROGRAM VI	P22	1:00 PM	CHAMBER PROGRAM VII	P22
7:30 PM	SCOTTISH BALLET: MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS	P06	6:00 PM	SCOTTISH BALLET: MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS	P06	2:00 PM	SCOTTISH BALLET: MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS	P06	3:00 PM	DEAD AS A DODO	P40
						3:00 PM	DEAD AS A DODO	P40	3:00 PM	ORCHESTRA: APPALACHIAN SPRING	P33
			6:00 PM	DEAD AS A DODO	P40	5:00 PM	GEORGE + GEORGE	P08	5:00 PM	ORCHESTRA: APPALACHIAN SPRING	P33
			7:30 PM	GEORGE + GEORGE	P08	6:30 PM	CIRCA: DIDO AND AENEAS	P12	6:30 PM	GEORGE + GEORGE	P08
			7:30 PM	MOZART'S MASS IN C MINOR	P30	8:00 PM	SCOTTISH BALLET: MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS	P06	9:00 PM	MOUNTAIN GOATS WITH WILLIAM TYLER & YASMIN WILLIAMS	P42
						8:00 PM	QUENTIN BAXTER	P37			

June

THURSDAY JUNE			04	
11:00 AM	CHAMBER PROGRAM IX	P22		
1:00 PM	CHAMBER PROGRAM IX	P22		
3:30 PM	CONVERSATIONS WITH PATRICK PAGE	P10		
7:00 PM	AYODELE CASEL: THE REMIX	P16		
7:00 PM	LIVIA SOHN AND MAHLER NO. 1	P29		
9:00 PM	MOLLY TUTTLE	P42		
FRIDAY JUNE			05	
11:00 AM	CHAMBER PROGRAM X	P22		
1:00 PM	CHAMBER PROGRAM X	P22		
5:30 PM	ALL THE DEVILS ARE HERE	P10		
5:30 PM	CHORUS: STORYTELLING	P32		
6:00 PM	SULLIVAN FORTNER SOLO GAME	P38		
7:00 PM	AYODELE CASEL: THE REMIX	P16		
8:00 PM	SULLIVAN FORTNER SOLO GAME	P38		
9:00 PM	EMMYLOU HARRIS	P42		
SATURDAY JUNE			06	
11:00 AM	CHAMBER PROGRAM X	P22		
1:00 PM	CHAMBER PROGRAM XI	P22		
2:00 PM	AYODELE CASEL: THE REMIX	P16		
3:00 PM	ALL THE DEVILS ARE HERE	P10		
4:30 PM	CHORUS: STORYTELLING	P32		
6:00 PM	SULLIVAN FORTNER TRIO	P38		
7:00 PM	AYODELE CASEL: THE REMIX	P16		
8:00 PM	ALL THE DEVILS ARE HERE	P10		
8:00 PM	SULLIVAN FORTNER TRIO	P38		
9:00 PM	COLIN MELOY	P42		
SUNDAY JUNE			07	
11:00 AM	CHAMBER PROGRAM XI	P22		
1:00 PM	CHAMBER PROGRAM XI	P22		
2:00 PM	AYODELE CASEL: THE REMIX	P16		
4:00 PM	ALL THE DEVILS ARE HERE	P10		
9:00 PM	BRANDI CARLILE	P44		
			BOOK A TOUR WITH A PALMETTO GUILD ASSOCIATION CERTIFIED TOUR GUIDE.	

You're Invited!

Spoletto Festival Opening Gala

We invite you to **celebrate the start of another extraordinary Spoleto Festival USA at the Opening Gala!** Raise a glass to the season ahead with cocktails, a seated dinner, and a thrilling live auction—all in support of Spoleto's mission.

Be among the first to experience Charleston's stunning new hotel, The Cooper at Waterfront Park, where the evening will come alive with **captivating performances from some of this season's artists** including the inimitable acrobats of Circa and other surprise guests.

Together, we'll kick off the Festival in true Spoleto spirit and celebrate an unforgettable evening of artistry and splendor.

Thursday, May 21

Reception

6:00pm

Dinner & Live Auction

7:00pm

The Cooper at Waterfront Park
176 Concord St, Charleston, SC

Creative Black Tie
Ticket prices start at \$750 per person (\$450 Tax-Deductible).



Visit spoletousa.org/gala.
For more information, contact the special events team at (843) 724-1188 or events@spoletousa.org.

Thank you to our sponsors!

BANK OF AMERICA



Thank you!

We would like to express deep and profound gratitude to the Spoleto Festival USA Board of Directors and all the supporters who make the Festival's mission possible. Recognized here are institutional contributors who have made early commitments to the 2026 season as of November 14, 2025, including generous support from:

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Partner with Spoleto Festival USA to bring art to life! To learn more, please contact the Development office at give@spoletousa.org or call (843) 724-1192.

How to Buy Tickets

Online: Starting January 30, visit spoletousa.org.

By Phone: Starting January 30, call (843) 579-3100. Customer service hours are 10am–4pm (ET), Monday–Friday, until extended hours begin May 19.

In Person: Starting May 18, visit the Spoleto Festival USA Ticket Kiosk. Location and hours at spoletousa.org.

Ticket Purchase Policy

- All sales final. No refunds.
- Performance details and artists subject to change.
- Tickets are digital by default; mail or Will Call delivery available for a \$5 printing fee.
- Exchanges available for a \$5 fee up to 72 hours before the performance; fee waived for Spoleto Society donors.
- Tickets may be donated as a tax-deductible contribution up to 30 minutes before a performance.
- All audience members need a ticket, regardless of age.
- \$9 processing fee per order.
- Certain venues may have a non-waivable facility surcharge per ticket.
- Full policy: spoletousa.org/ticket-policy

Accessibility

Accessible & Companion Seating

Wheelchair and companion seating are available at all venues. Purchase online or by calling the Box Office.

Sign Language Interpretation

Available by request. Email boxoffice@spoletousa.org by April 1, 2026. Requests depend on interpreter availability.

Sensory Needs

Sensory bags with noise-canceling headphones, fidget tools, verbal cue cards, and strobe-reduction glasses are available at all venues. Look for KultureCity signs, ask an usher, or visit the venue Box Office.

SPOLETOUSA.ORG
843.579.3100

Open Stage Door

As part of Spoleto Festival USA’s commitment to our community, the Open Stage Door program awards complimentary tickets to non-profit, community service, and educational groups based in the greater Charleston area. This program allows us to provide local audiences with access to world class artists by overcoming barriers and creating connections across multiple performances. Eligible organizations are invited to apply at spoletousa.org/openstagedoor

Locals Weekend

A special celebration just for Charleston residents! Sign up for Spoleto emails to get access to exclusive ticket discounts for 2026 performances. Locals Weekend is sponsored by The Post and Courier.

The Post and Courier

Group Sales

Groups of 10 or more receive a 20% discount on full-price tickets for selected performances. Call (843) 720-1116 or email groups@spoletousa.org.

Military, Teacher, & Student Discounts

Veteran and active-duty military, students, and teachers receive a 10% discount on selected performances. Valid ID is required.

Get tickets



IMAGE CREDITS: Michelle Robin Anderson p41; Cedric Angeles p35; Damien Bredberg p15; Cole Carrico p23; Julieta Cervantes p11; Hazel Coonagh p21; Arden Dickson p46; Andrew Eccles p20; Explore Charleston p1, 32, 48, 49, 53; Haylee Frazier p47; Don Hamilton (Bailey) p27; Antoine Jaussaud p38; Jewelee p9; David Kelly p13; Mike Ledford p42; Clay Patrick McBride p34; Reese Moore p37; Isabella Pagano p19; Patrick Randak p17; Rafael Rios (Loggins-Hull) p23; Andy Ross p7; Collier Schorr p44; Sektor Creative Design p5; Erato Tzavara p40; Leigh Webber p28, 30, 50; Michael Weintrob p36; Bren Wyona p39

FROM OUR PARTNER

Come to the table

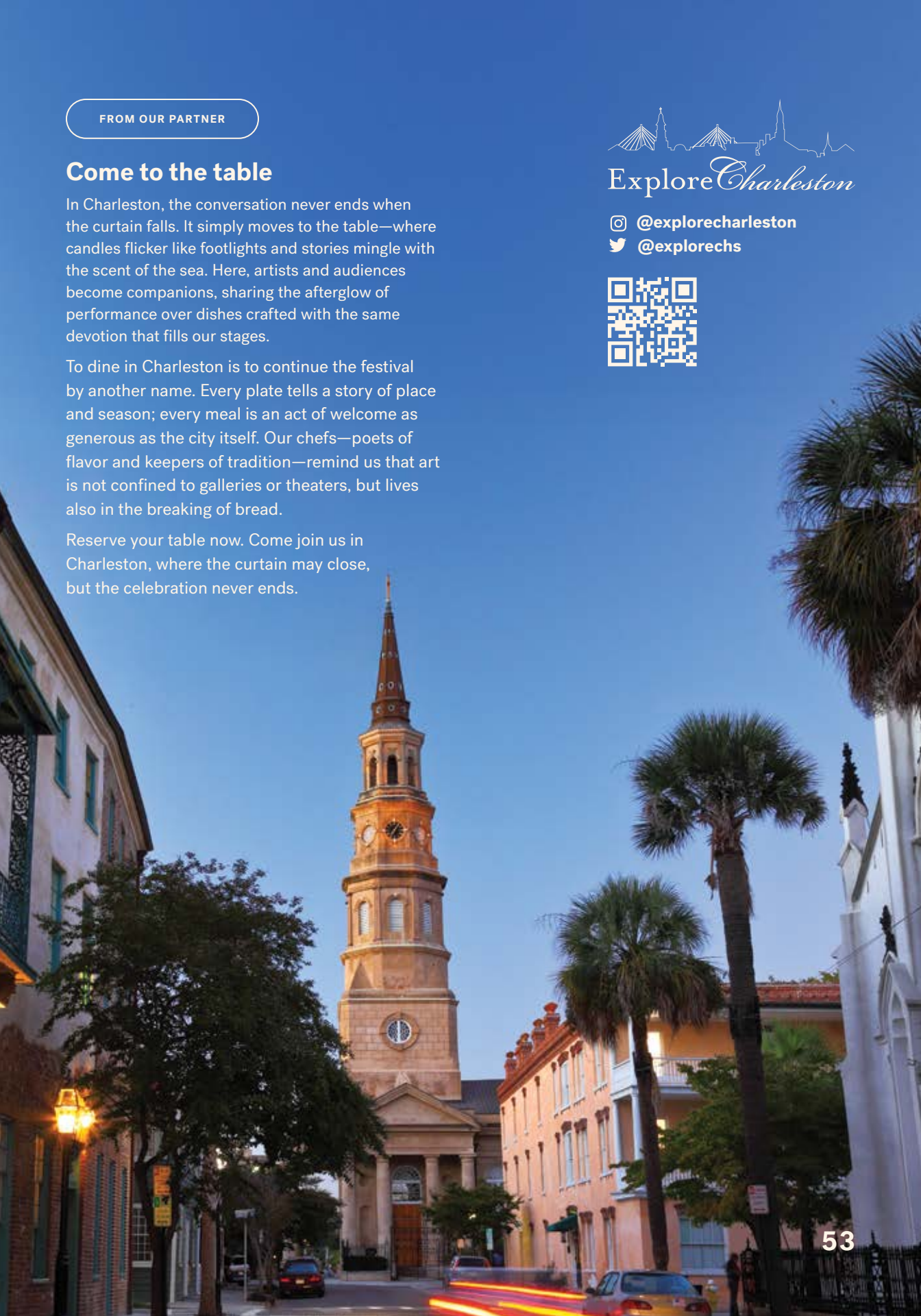
In Charleston, the conversation never ends when the curtain falls. It simply moves to the table—where candles flicker like footlights and stories mingle with the scent of the sea. Here, artists and audiences become companions, sharing the afterglow of performance over dishes crafted with the same devotion that fills our stages.

To dine in Charleston is to continue the festival by another name. Every plate tells a story of place and season; every meal is an act of welcome as generous as the city itself. Our chefs—poets of flavor and keepers of tradition—remind us that art is not confined to galleries or theaters, but lives also in the breaking of bread.

Reserve your table now. Come join us in Charleston, where the curtain may close, but the celebration never ends.



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SPOLETO — FESTIVAL USA

14 GEORGE ST
CHARLESTON, SC 29401-1524

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