

# SPOLETO

FESTIVAL USA



CHARLESTON  
SOUTH  
CAROLINA



May 22 –  
June 7, 2026

[SPOLETOUSA.ORG](http://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





## 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](https://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

OPERA

Menotti's wit  
meets the golden  
age of radio



# Mary, Queen of Scots

Scottish Ballet

DANCE, MUSIC

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

Sponsored by



[SPOLETOUSA.ORG](http://SPOLETOUSA.ORG)  
843.579.3100

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



# George + George

THEATER, COMEDY

By Denis O'Hare and Lisa Peterson

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

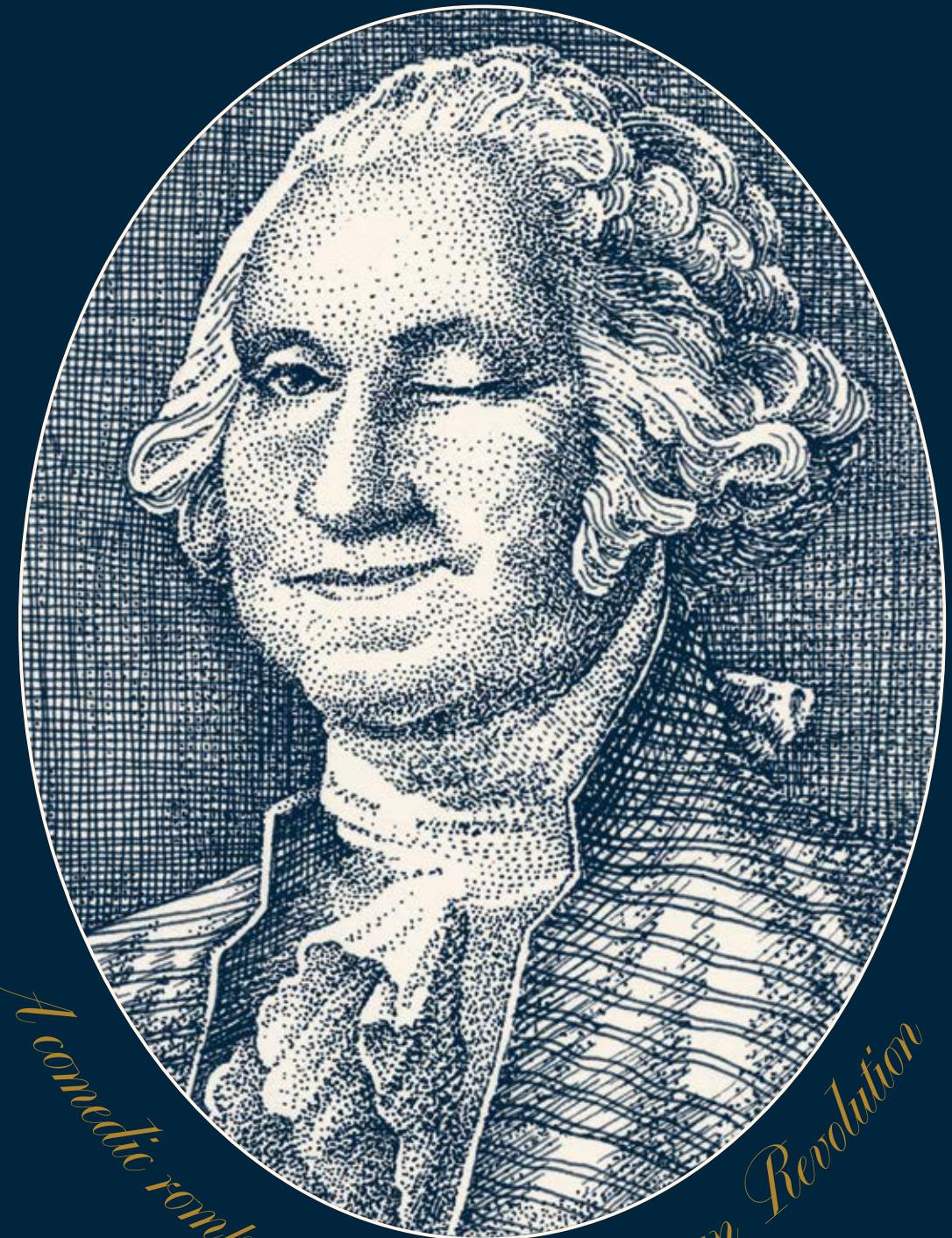
**Sunday, May 31**

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.



**How Shakespeare invented the Villain**

# Dido and Aeneas

**Spoletō 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

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**



South Carolina

DANCE, ALL AGES

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



# 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



**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**



**Honoring the  
enduring spirit  
and strength of  
Appalachia**



# Bank of America Chamber 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](http://SPOLETOUSA.org) for full schedule

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes

Tickets start at \$40



[SPOLETOUSA.ORG](http://SPOLETOUSA.ORG)  
843.579.3100

## 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.

Sponsored by

**BANK OF AMERICA** 

Official Recording Partner



# An Evening with Ken Burns

**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** 

FILM, MUSIC, DISCUSSION

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



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

# The Untold Story Behind *Porgy & Bess*



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

FILM, MUSIC, DISCUSSION

FREE COMMUNITY PROGRAM

# Table Read: *The Duchy*

By Denis O'Hare and Lisa Peterson

THEATER, TABLE READ

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 WCBD-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.



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

Spoletu 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 Spoleto 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 Spoleto 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 Spoleto and written for renowned violinist Livia Sohn. Inspired by their longtime friendship, the concerto highlights Sohn's virtuosity and their artistic bond forged at Spoleto.

**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



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.



# 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



# 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.



JAZZ

### College of Charleston Sottile Theatre

#### Monday, June 1

8:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes

Tickets start at \$45

Sponsored by



# 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

# 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

**Sponsored by**



## 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

**Sponsored by**



# 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

**Sponsored by**



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



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

# Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer

THEATER, FAMILY-FRIENDLY



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

INTIMATE.  
ICONIC.  
UNFORGETTABLE.

College of Charleston  
Cistern Yard  
9:00 PM

PUNCH BROTHERS

MAY 24

FOLK STRING QUINTET

MOUNTAIN GOATS

MAY 31

WITH WILLIAM TYLER & YASMIN WILLIAMS

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

FEATURE

## 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**

**WELLS  
FARGO**

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



# Tell Your Story

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

COMMUNITY, FREE



## 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](http://spoletousa.org/support). Thank you for being a part of the Spoleto community!

# Calendar



## 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 1:00 PM CHAMBER PROGRAM I 5:30 PM THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF 7:00 PM MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY	P22 P22 P04 P18	11:00 AM CHAMBER PROGRAM I 12:00 PM ALVIN SPUTNIK: DEEP SEA EXPLORER 1:00 PM CHAMBER PROGRAM I 2:30 PM ALVIN SPUTNIK: DEEP SEA EXPLORER 4:00 PM CIRCA: DIDO AND AENEAS 5:30 PM MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY 6:30 PM MALI OBOMSAWIN 8:00 PM RENÉE FLEMING & BÉLA FLECK	P22 P41 P22 P22 P18 P18 P39 P20	11:00 AM CHAMBER PROGRAM II 12:00 PM ALVIN SPUTNIK: DEEP SEA EXPLORER 1:00 PM CHAMBER PROGRAM II 2:30 PM ALVIN SPUTNIK: DEEP SEA EXPLORER 3:30 PM JAZZ TALK WITH MALI OBOMSAWIN 4:00 PM CIRCA: HUMANS 2.0 5:30 PM MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY 6:30 PM MALI OBOMSAWIN 7:00 PM MALI OBOMSAWIN 7:30 PM ZUILL BAILEY AND TCHAIKOVSKY NO. 5 9:00 PM PUNCH BROTHERS	P22 P41 P22 P41 P39 P14 P18 P39 P28 P42

## May

MONDAY MAY	25	TUESDAY MAY	26	WEDNESDAY MAY	27
11:00 AM CHAMBER PROGRAM II 12:00 PM ALVIN SPUTNIK: DEEP SEA EXPLORER 1:00 PM CHAMBER PROGRAM III 2:00 PM MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY 2:30 PM ALVIN SPUTNIK: DEEP SEA EXPLORER 4:00 PM CIRCA: HUMANS 2.0 6:00 PM THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF	P22 P41 P22 P18 P41 P14 P04	11:00 AM CHAMBER PROGRAM III 1:00 PM CHAMBER PROGRAM III 6:00 PM CIRCA: DIDO AND AENEAS 6:00 PM TELL YOUR STORY 8:00 PM TERENCE BLANCHARD + THE E-COLLECTIVE	P22 P22 P12 P46 P35	11:00 AM CHAMBER PROGRAM IV 1:00 PM CHAMBER PROGRAM IV 3:30 PM CONVERSATIONS WITH CIRCA 6:00 PM THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF 8:00 PM AN EVENING WITH KEN BURNS	P22 P22 P12 P04 P24
VISIT THE GIBBES MUSEUM OF ART.					

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

## June

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



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

BOOK A TOUR WITH  
A PALMETTO GUILD  
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CERTIFIED TOUR GUIDE.

# You're Invited!

## Spoletto Festival Opening Gala

We invite you to **celebrate the start of another extraordinary Spoletto 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 Spoletto'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 Spoletto 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](http://Spoletousa.org/gala).

For more information, contact the special events team at (843) 724-1188 or [events@spoletousa.org](mailto:events@spoletousa.org).

**Thank you to our sponsors!**

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# Thank you!

We would like to express deep and profound gratitude to the Spoletto 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 Spoletto Festival USA to bring art to life! To learn more, please contact the Development office at [give@spoletousa.org](mailto:give@spoletousa.org) or call (843) 724-1192.

## How to Buy Tickets

**Online:** Starting January 30, visit [spoletousa.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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.



@explorecharleston  
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# SPOLETO –

FESTIVAL USA

14 GEORGE ST  
CHARLESTON, SC 29401-1524

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