GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY’S CENTER FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES 2018/2019 SEASON OF GREAT PERFORMANCES AT MASON

Magnificent Music showcases world-class instrumentalists such as violinist Daniel Hope, classical guitarist Pablo Sáinz Villegas, and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

Dynamic Dance includes Mason debut of Spectrum Dance Theater, the highly-anticipated return of MOMIX, and audience favorite Mark Morris Dance Group

L.A. Theatre Works, Aquila Theatre, and Cirque Mechanics bring classics and spectacular tales to the Center’s main stage as part of Enthralling Theater

Global Views spotlights the arts in today’s world with performances by Compañía Flamenca Eduardo Guerrero, Soweto Gospel Choir, Havana Cuba All-Stars, KODO, and Danú

Clarinetist Eddie Daniels and the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra, pianist Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar, the Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra, and the American Festival Pops Orchestra comprise the American Echoes lineup

Virginia Opera returns with four productions including Weill’s Street Scene, Mozart’s Don Giovanni, Donizetti’s The Elixir of Love, and Puccini’s Madama Butterfly

Acclaimed pianist Jeffrey Siegel leads four new Keyboard Conversations® programs

Plus First-Ever Family Series features Aga-Boom, Olate Dogs, Enchantment Theatre Company’s The Phantom Tollbooth, and Erth’s Prehistoric Aquarium Adventure

(FAIRFAX)—George Mason University’s Center for the Arts announced today the 2018-2019 season of Great Performances at Mason, its annual series featuring leading national and international artists in the disciplines of classical music, opera, jazz, ballet and modern dance, theater, and world music and arts. The newly-announced schedule includes 41 performances in these genres, as well as the introduction of a Family Series. Season subscriptions are currently on sale to Friends of the Center for the Arts at cfa.gmu.edu/tickets/subscriptions/preview or by phone at 703-993-2787. For the general public, subscriptions go on sale on Tuesday, April 17 and single tickets go on sale Wednesday, August 1. See more information at cfa.gmu.edu.
“We are thrilled to be able to continue offering the best of the performing arts in Northern Virginia,” stated Thomas Reynolds, Director of Artistic Programming at George Mason University’s College of Visual and Performing Arts. He added, “the Center for the Arts has long strived to enhance the lives of Northern Virginia residents by presenting performances that engage, enliven, and entertain. The continued support of our subscribers is critical to our mission of making the arts an inescapable presence in the life of our community.”

Highlights of the 2018-2019 season of Great Performances at Mason include: a special evening of swinging jazz-pop music with multi-Grammy Award®-winning sensation The Manhattan Transfer, as part the annual ARTS by George! benefit; the internationally renowned Czech National Symphony Orchestra in a program celebrating Leonard Bernstein; Northern Virginia favorite, the Mark Morris Dance Group; a spectacle of rhythmic music and dance by the Havana Cuba All-Stars; gospel music performances by Soweto Gospel Choir from South Africa and Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar from Georgia; touring adaptations of Steel Magnolias by L.A. Theatre Works and A Midsummer Night’s Dream by Aquila Theatre; familiar opera productions by Virginia Opera, including Don Giovanni and Madama Butterfly, among others; and four performances as part of the newly-added Family Series at the Center for the Arts. A complete breakdown of 2018-2019 season performances by series follows.

The Magnificent Music series kicks off with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, performing stunning works by Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Mozart. Violin virtuoso Daniel Hope and Friends present Air – A Baroque Journey, a concert in which string players use Baroque-era bows on modern instruments to perform music that traces the history and development of the violin. The all-male vocal ensemble Chanticleer returns for its annual holiday performance. The Czech National Symphony Orchestra celebrates 100 Years of Leonard Bernstein with a concert led by conductor John Mauceri, whose mentor was Bernstein himself. Classical guitarist Pablo Sáinz Villegas treats audiences to a recital of musical styles from around the world, featuring Spanish rhythms, Brazilian funk, tango, and Appalachian bluegrass.

Dance fanatics can expect to be wowed by the 2018-2019 Dynamic Dance and All Dance series. First, Spectrum Dance Theater presents A Rap on Race, which offers an interpretation of a historic conversation between Margaret Mead and James Baldwin. MOMIX,
a troupe that fuses dance with illusion, mystifies in a splendid concoction of spellbinding music and elaborate costumes. The celebrated Mark Morris Dance Group returns to showcase works of modern dance that includes The Trout, a new piece set to music from Schubert’s Trout Quintet, and Numerator, with music by Lou Harrison. For the lovers of classical ballet, Russian National Ballet presents Giselle, the romantic tale of a peasant girl and her lover, and Sleeping Beauty, the magical story of a princess who awaits a kiss from her prince. Rounding out the series is Parsons Dance, a modern dance company known for its athletic ensemble work.

The upcoming Enthralling Theater series highlights L.A. Theatre Works’ adaptation of Steel Magnolias, which reminds audiences of the strength of the human condition. Aquila Theatre is set to present two classic works—Frankenstein, based on the first science fiction novel, and A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Shakespeare’s mischievous and magical tale. Lastly, Cirque Mechanics brings acrobats and aerialists on stage for a modern circus experience.

The Global View series continues to showcase art and performers from around the globe. Direct from Cádiz, Spain, Compañía Flamenca Eduardo Guerrero brings fiery flamenco dance to Fairfax, covering many styles of the traditional art form. Hailing from Soweto, South Africa, the Soweto Gospel Choir presents inspirational holiday gospel music. Havana Cuba All-Stars returns with a dynamic whirlwind of music and dance that perfectly exemplifies Cuban culture. Similarly, KODO shares the thrilling Japanese art of taiko drumming while the well-known ensemble Danú celebrates Ireland with its authentic mix of Celtic music and vocals.

American Echoes honors our shared national artistic expressions. As part of the series, Northern Virginia’s American Festival Pops Orchestra, under the baton of Anthony Maiello, and the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra led by saxophonist Jim Carroll make their annual appearances at the Center for the Arts. Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar bring their first ever North American tour, featuring contemporary spins on gospel, pop, and musical theater arrangements. The acclaimed Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra presents The Pink Panther in Concert, performing the full movie score live and allowing audiences to relive the hilarious film.

Virginia Opera offers a captivating season of four productions, featuring opera stars on the rise. Set in a 1946 Manhattan tenement, Kurt Weill’s Street Scene is a narrative of the relationship struggles facing urban dwellers. Don Giovanni, the story of the womanizing Don
Juan, is a quintessential opera by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart covering themes of tragedy and comedy. Gaetano Donizetti’s The Elixir of Love introduces five characters on the search for a potion to seduce their love interests. The closing production of the 2018-2019 season is Giacomo Puccini’s Madama Butterfly, whose unrequited love grips audiences to the end.

The ultimate performer-commentator Jeffrey Siegel returns for the 26th season of Keyboard Conversations®, in which he performs and shares stories alongside a Steinway piano. The first of his “conversations” features The Joyous Music of Beethoven. Then, audiences will visit the era of World War I through works by Ravel, Prokofiev, Sibelius, Bartók, and Rachmaninoff in Music From Time of War, 1914-1918. The Exotic Music of the Night dives into the mystic and the macabre with Mendelssohn’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Saint-Saëns’s Danse Macabre. Finally, Chopin in Paris explores the Polish composer’s life in exile.

In addition to Chanticleer and the American Festival Pops Orchestra, the upcoming season offers two festive Holiday Performances. The popular Vienna Boys Choir returns to charm local audiences with their angelic soprano and alto voices, and the Canadian Brass quintet curates an engaging holiday concert that is perfect for the whole family.

The new Family Series offers great family entertainment at affordable prices. The inaugural season includes four acts that are guaranteed to delight children and parents alike. The series launches with Aga-Boom, featuring three veteran performers of Cirque du Soleil. The Olate father-son duo bring their canine variety show Olate Dogs, which made them winners on America’s Got Talent. Philadelphia’s Enchantment Theatre Company presents an original stage adaptation of the classic children’s book, The Phantom Tollbooth. Lastly, the team behind Erth’s theatrical productions recreates early marine life in Prehistoric Aquarium Adventure.

A chronological listing of 2018-2019 Great Performances at Mason and Family Series events is below. Performances take place in the Center for the Arts’ Concert Hall located at 4373 Mason Pond Drive in Fairfax, Virginia. Season subscriptions are on sale to Friends of the Center for the Arts at cfa.gmu.edu/tickets/subscriptions/preview or by phone at 703-993-2787. Subscriptions go on sale to the general public on Wednesday, April 17 and single tickets go on sale Wednesday, August 1 at the Center for the Arts’ Ticket Office (open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.), by phone at 888-945-2468, or through the Center for the Arts’ website.
**2018/2019 GREAT PERFORMANCES AT MASON**

**Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel**

*The Joyous Music of Beethoven*

Sunday, September 23 at 7 p.m.

Virtuoso pianist Jeffrey Siegel returns with his popular series to enthral us with some of Beethoven’s most upbeat music. Become a classical music insider as Siegel performs an all-Beethoven program in his first concert of the season, including the humorous *Rage over a Lost Penny* and the exuberant Polonaise in C major. In addition, he will play the Theresa Sonata and answer the question, “who was she?” Finally, Siegel will play the *Farewell Sonata*, and explore who was leaving, and why Beethoven was so deeply affected. Perfect for classical music lovers and newcomers alike, his signature “concert with commentary” format gives the story behind the score for an experience that is both entertaining and educational. “A musical bridge-builder in action...Siegel showed just how illuminating the combination of words and abstract music can be” (*Toronto Star*).

An always-popular Question & Answer session with the audience concludes the program.

Tickets: $44, $37, $26

Family Friendly

**The Manhattan Transfer**

Featuring the American Festival Pops Orchestra

Saturday, September 29 at 8:30 p.m.

Multi-Grammy Award®-winning vocal sensation The Manhattan Transfer performs with Northern Virginia’s own American Festival Pops Orchestra in a swinging evening of jazz-pop fusion at its very best. The legendary quintet revolutionized vocal jazz with their impeccable harmonies and crisp interpretations of jazz classics. They gained popularity in New York cabarets in the early 1970s, and quickly earned national fame with the release of their hit album and the single “Operator,” which took radio stations by storm. They continued to perform and record, exploring a range of jazz vocal genres, always with great success, earning their first two Grammy Awards® for the remake of their signature “Birdland.” They have recorded with such greats as Tony Bennett, Bette Midler, and Smoky Robinson. Now they join the American Festival Pops Orchestra with Artistic Director and Founder Anthony Maiello, who has gathered some of the most extraordinary musical talent in the greater D.C. area, to present a dynamic evening of vocal and instrumental swing, doo-wop, jazz, and pop.

*This performance is part of the ARTS by George! benefit. Visit artsbygeorge.gmu.edu for details.*

Tickets: $100, $75, $50
Virginia Opera

*Street Scene*
Saturday, October 6 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, October 7 at 2 p.m.

Virginia Opera opens its season with this landmark American opera, an explosive tragedy about the elusive American Dream. Set in 1946 on the doorstep of a Manhattan tenement within a single 24-hour period, *Street Scene* offers a view into the lives of the residents who struggle with love, jealousy, resentment, and disenchantedment. Featuring a Tony Award®-winning score by 20th century Broadway legend Kurt Weill and powerful lyrics by the “Poet Laureate” of Harlem, Langston Hughes, it has been acclaimed as “an exhilarating blend of Puccini-esque melody, bright, brassy, impudent jazz, brooding blues and sparkly Broadway showtune ... pulsating to the relentless rhythm of irrepressible urban life” (*Arts Desk*).

Sung in English with English supertitles.

Tickets: $110, $90, $54

**Compañía Flamenca Eduardo Guerrero**

*Flamenco Pasión*
Friday, October 12 at 8 p.m.

Direct from Cadiz, Spain, *Flamenco Pasión* bursts with energy as elite dancers convey the many styles of this beloved Spanish art form. Today’s foremost flamenco dancer and choreographer, Eduardo Guerrero, is esteemed for his superior physical ability, flawless technique, and his unique eclectic style, combining classical and contemporary Spanish dance and ballet. It is a captivating performance of precise percussive footwork that displays an extraordinary depth of emotion. Guerrero dances alongside his company of exceptional dancers to present the full range of flamenco styles in a spellbinding demonstration of expressive and sensual dance. “…the choreography is modern and courageous; [Eduardo Guerrero] has no limits, because he does not seem to need them. He dances the impossible” (*Flamenco Divino*).

Tickets: $50, $43, $30

Family Friendly

**Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center**
Saturday, October 13 at 8 p.m.

This premier chamber music ensemble from the world’s largest performing arts complex is composed of some of the finest musicians in the world. Known for its “vitality, incisive attention to detail and spontaneity” (*Chicago Tribune*), the ensemble performs an exuberant program of Russian-inspired classics including works by Irish pianist John Field, Mendelssohn, Schumann, violin virtuoso Giovanni Battista Viotti, and Mozart, along with Russian composer, Mikhail Glinka. These divergent composers directly influenced the
evolution of classical music in Russia. Discover for yourself the “exploding star in the musical firmament” (The Wall Street Journal) that is the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Tickets: $50, $43, $30

L.A. Theatre Works

**Steel Magnolias**
Sunday, October 14 at 7 p.m.

“I would rather have thirty minutes of wonderful than a lifetime of nothing special.” *Steel Magnolias* brings an entire evening of wonderful to the Center! L.A. Theatre Works has reimagined this timeless story about the enduring bonds of friendship in a new, radio-style production featuring a diverse group of six extraordinary women. Return with the cast to Truvy’s beauty shop in the Bayou of Louisiana. The vibrant women gather in this bastion of camaraderie to preen for special occasions, and celebrate and support one another, while enduring the ups and downs of life. Both laugh-out-loud funny and deeply touching, this production exposes the strength of the human condition and our shared need for companionship. This company, known for radio-style drama presentations which include minimal sets and costumes, employ sound effects made the “old fashioned way”, as they were on the classic radio shows of the 1930s and 1940s. L.A. Theatre Works is hailed as “original, exciting, and highly theatrical” (American Theatre Magazine).

Tickets: $44, $37, $26

**Daniel Hope and Friends**

*Air – A Baroque Journey*
Friday, November 2 at 8 p.m.

Join violin virtuoso Daniel Hope as he traces the extraordinary history of the violin from the late Renaissance through the Baroque era, a dynamic period when violinists and composers were liberated to seek new, original ways to express themselves on this fascinating new instrument. For this intriguing concert, Hope is joined by an ensemble of world-class musicians, performing on modern instruments but using bows from the Baroque period. Compositions by Bach, Vivaldi, Handel, and Telemann are complemented by works from the lesser-known Falconieri, von Westhoff, and Matteis. During the concert, Hope shares a narrative that illuminates the interconnections between the composers through the extensive cultural exchange that was taking place throughout Europe. Hope has been praised as “among the best in the world as well as the most thoughtful” (The Observer, London). This program is brought to life by an ensemble of two violins, cello, lute, harpsichord, and percussion.

Tickets: $50, $43, $30
**Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel**  
*Music From Time of War, 1914-1918*  
Sunday, November 4 at 7 p.m.

In this Keyboard Conversation®, piano virtuoso Jeffrey Siegel plays some of the most stirring music written during World War I. This program features works by Ravel, Prokofiev, Sibelius, Bartók, and Rachmaninoff. Perfect for classical music lovers and newcomers alike, his signature “concert with commentary” format provides fascinating background on each piece and its composer before it is played in its entirety. “Siegel’s programs strengthen the fragile bonds of communication between composer and listener and are as welcome as they are rare” *(The Chicago Tribune)*. An always-popular Question & Answer session with the audience concludes the program.

Tickets: $44, $37, $26  
Family Friendly

**Virginia Opera**  
*Don Giovanni*  
Saturday, November 10 at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, November 11 at 2 p.m.

Virginia Opera presents Mozart’s wildly popular *Don Giovanni*, an enthralling opera from its thrilling overture up through its breathtaking final scene. This womanizing scoundrel, better known as Don Juan, has a list of amorous conquests so long it takes his attendant an entire aria just to name them all! Three of the Don’s former lovers pursue him attempting to get revenge, and in the end, the devious rogue finally gets his comeuppance when he refuses to repent from his evil ways. This captivating masterpiece is filled with deep human tragedy, uproarious comedy, powerful music, and the soaring voices of the Virginia Opera in a luscious production. Sung in Italian with English supertitles.

Tickets: $110, $90, $54

**Spectrum Dance Theater**  
*A Rap On Race*  
Friday, November 16 at 8 p.m.

This innovative new work enlivens the current conversation around race and equity, mixing dance and theater to create a fully original, groundbreaking work. It is based on a momentous public conversation held in 1970 between anthropologist Margaret Mead and novelist James Baldwin. *A Rap On Race* uses a series of choreographed dance duets juxtaposed with verbal duets, which were gleaned from this conversation, as a means to reveal the complexities involved when talking about race. The piece features the world-renowned dancers of Spectrum Dance Theater and narration by Julie Briskman as Mead and Donald Byrd as Baldwin. This production reinvigorates the historic conversation that took place nearly 50 years ago and yet is
still relevant today. Conceived by Tony-nominated choreographer Donald Byrd and Pulitzer-nominated actress/playwright Anna Deavere Smith, the work features an original score by jazz great Charles Mingus.

Tickets: $48, $41, $29

Aquila Theatre

**Frankenstein**
Sunday, November 18 at 7 p.m.

Aquila Theatre brings the classic thriller *Frankenstein* to the stage in a production that is sure to make your spine tingle. The story centers on Victor Frankenstein, a Swiss scientist obsessed with his mission to create an artificial humanoid. Without considering the implications, he succeeds, but his creation is no ordinary man. It is a huge, hideous creature possessing a sharp mind and with human emotional needs, which has horrific unintended consequences for the doctor and his family. Written nearly 200 years ago and considered the first true work of science fiction, Shelley’s novel was years ahead of its time, and it still poses myriad timely ethical questions, including those surrounding artificial intelligence. Known for their bold, daring physical style and described as “a classically trained, modernly hip troupe” (*The New York Times*), Aquila Theatre pays homage to the original, frightening writing of Mary Shelley.

Tickets: $44, $37, $26

**Chanticleer**

*A Chanticleer Christmas*
Saturday, November 24 at 8 p.m.

Begin your holiday season with a gorgeous concert of seasonal favorites and classical standards performed by “the world’s reigning male chorus” (*The New Yorker*), Chanticleer. This award-winning male vocal ensemble is often called "an orchestra of voices," because of its seamless blend of 12 singers ranging from soprano to bass. Chanticleer’s impressive repertoire includes Gregorian chant, Renaissance polyphony, and Romantic art songs as well as popular music, jazz, spirituals, and world music. The group has sold over one million albums and has received two Grammy Awards. “Precise, pure and deeply felt singing,” *The New York Times* raves, and *The Los Angeles Times* gushes, “Chanticleer fascinates and entralls for much the same reason a fine chocolate or a Rolls Royce does: through luxurious perfection.”

Tickets: $55, $47, $33

**Soweto Gospel Choir**
Sunday, December 2 at 2 p.m.

The internationally acclaimed Soweto Gospel Choir performs joyous Gospel music and inspirational songs. Included in the program are pieces special to the season, providing a
holiday experience that is perfect for the whole family. Formed in 2002, the choir comprises the best talent from the many churches throughout Soweto, a township of Johannesburg, South Africa, and is dedicated to sharing their joy of faith through music. The group has earned an impressive number of awards, including five Grammy Awards® and an Emmy®. Their collaborations include a diverse list of musicians, among them Pharrell Williams, Celine Dion, the Bala Brothers, and Angelique Kidjo. “Meticulous and unstoppable...spirited and spectacular” (The New York Times).

Tickets: $50, $43, $30
Family Friendly

**Vienna Boys Choir**

*Christmas in Vienna*
Friday, December 7 at 8 p.m.

One of the most revered boy choirs in the world returns to the Center with their popular holiday concert. They capture the joy and wonder of the holiday season with their exquisite performances of classical masterpieces and contemporary favorites. This choir, composed of talented boy sopranos and altos between 9 and 14 and representing 31 countries, is lauded for its heavenly voices, harmonic purity, and endearing charm. Performing for well over 500 years, the choir’s membership has included some of history’s most distinguished composers, including Haydn and Schubert who were themselves choristers. Today, the Vienna Boys Choir regularly tours Europe, Asia, Australia, and the Americas performing for almost a half million people each year, affirming its reputation as a leading international choral ensemble. “The angelic voices of this most famous vocal group are ageless” (The Salt Lake Tribune). Gather the whole family for this delightful holiday treat.

Tickets: $55, $47, $33
Family Friendly

**American Festival Pops Orchestra**

*Holiday Pops: Songs of the Season*
Saturday, December 8 at 8 p.m.

Deck the halls with boughs of holly! It’s time to celebrate with the American Festival Pops Orchestra at their annual holiday concert, a cherished tradition at the Center. This uplifting evening includes favorite classics like Leroy Anderson’s “Sleigh Ride” and “A Christmas Festival,” the ever-popular carol sing-a-long, and fun musical surprises. Special guest artists join conductor Anthony Maiello as he leads Northern Virginia’s very own pops orchestra in a treasured holiday celebration. It is a surefire way to put everyone in your family—even a scrooge—into the holiday spirit.

Tickets: $55, $47, $33
Family Friendly
Canadian Brass

*Canadian Brass Christmas*
Saturday, December 15 at 8 p.m.

Back by popular demand! The internationally famous Canadian Brass returns this holiday season for an evening of impeccable music and witty repartee, perfect for your whole family. Renowned for joyous performances and their iconic white running shoes, this quintet will warm your heart with sparkling brass standards and toe-tapping holiday favorites. Founded nearly 50 years ago, this award-winning ensemble, which is largely responsible for elevating the art of the brass quintet, only gets better with age. Canadian Brass is composed of five musical masters: visionary founder and tuba legend, Chuck Daellenbach, Caleb Hudson and Christopher Coletti (trumpets), Achilles Liarmakopoulos (trombone) and Bernhard Scully (horn). “After four decades, it’s great to see Canadian Brass—practically an institution at this point—still sounding fresh, still attracting young virtuosos and, above all, still having fun with the music” *(NPR Tiny Desk Concert)*.

Tickets: $60, $51, $36
Family Friendly

MOMIX

*Opus Cactus*
Friday, January 25 at 8 p.m.

Marvel at the magnificence of the American Southwest landscape, abounding with towering cacti and slithering lizards, brought to life by the wildly inventive minds and bodies of MOMIX. Surreal, wondrous, and enormously imaginative, *Opus Cactus* is a full evening-length work that seamlessly melds dance and illusion along with spellbinding music and elaborate costumes for an entertaining experience the whole family will enjoy. Under the exacting eye of its founder and artistic director Moses Pendleton, MOMIX has earned an international reputation for its inventive, carefully crafted, and physically beautiful productions. “Inspired by the flora, fauna, and simple magic of the American Southwest, Pendleton’s ingenuity, theatricality and cunning imagination are seen at full stretch…” *(Clive Barnes, New York Post)*.

Tickets: $50, $43, $30
Family Friendly

Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra

*Benny and Beyond*
Eddie Daniels, clarinet
Saturday, January 26 at 8 p.m.

Travel back to the era of big bands and dancehalls when Benny Goodman was “The King of Swing” with “Renaissance” clarinetist Eddie Daniels and Northern Virginia’s treasured favorite,
the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra. *Benny and Beyond* pays homage to the legendary band leader and clarinetist-composer who during the 1930s and 1940s had numerous hit singles, including “Let’s Dance,” “Don’t Be That Way,” “Somebody Stole My Gal,” and many, many more. For over 50 years, Eddie Daniels has thrilled audiences and critics alike, with accolades for his masterful playing in classical and jazz idioms. Artistic Director and alto sax virtuoso Jim Carroll—who whose long and illustrious career has included performances with the likes of Michael Jackson, Nancy Wilson, Maynard Ferguson, Billy Taylor, Woody Herman and His Thundering Herd, and the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra—leads this swinging evening. Join us for the coolest concert of the season!

Tickets: $46, $39, $28
Family Friendly

**Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar**
Friday, February 8 at 8 p.m.

Hear for yourself why rising Gospel stars Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar have millions of YouTube views. This concert is sure to inspire with Trey McLaughlin at the piano leading this group of superbly talented Gospel singers in fresh adaptations of contemporary gospel, pop, and musical theater hits. Internationally recognized for their rich harmonies, emotion-filled vocals, and complex arrangements of classic gospel hymns, the group has performed with many of today’s Gospel greats, such as William McDowell, Kierra “Kiki” Sheard, Richard Smallwood, Earnest Pugh, and James Fortune. They gained fame after being featured on Vashawn Mitchell’s “Chasing After You,” from his Grammy® nominated album “Triumphant.” Savor the inspiring sounds of Georgia’s hottest new Gospel ensemble on their first ever North American tour.

Tickets: $44, $37, $26
Family Friendly

**Havana Cuba All-Stars**
*Asere! A Fiesta Cubana*
Saturday, February 9 at 8 p.m.

Back by popular demand, the amazing dancers and musicians of the Havana Cuba All-Stars return with a jubilant spectacle of sizzling rhythms, joyous trumpets, and authentic Cuban dancing. You will be transported to the island’s cigar-infused Latin jazz clubs and festive white-sand beaches. *Asere! A Fiesta Cubana* showcases Cuba’s rich culture and exceptionally diverse rhythms and melodies—from cha cha cha to rumba, from “Son Cubano” style to salsa. “Throughout the performance, toes were tapping, hands were clapping and hardly an audience member could find the discipline to sit still ...” *(Times Enterprise).*

Tickets: $50, $43, $30
Family Friendly
Virginia Opera
*The Elixir of Love*
Saturday, February 16 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, February 17 at 2 p.m.

Gaetano Donizetti’s infectiously charming bel canto opera sparkles with effervescent melodies, comedic misunderstandings, and endearing characters who are seeking an elixir for one of life’s greatest ills: love! The shy peasant Nemorino secretly yearns for the feisty socialite Adina, but she has her eyes set on a dashing ladies’ man, Sergeant Belcore. Upon hearing the story of Tristan and Isolde, Nemorino decides a love potion is his only hope, and he uses all of his savings to procure a potion from a traveling medicine man of questionable character. Nemorino is convinced it will make Adina fall head over heels in love and proceeds with his plan. But can love really be bottled in a magic potion? Find out in this delightful opera, featuring one of the most celebrated tenor arias of all time, “Una furtiva lagrima.” Sung in Italian with English subtitles.

Tickets: $110, $90, $54

Cirque Mechanics
*42FT – A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels*
Friday, February 22 at 8 p.m.

Experience the latest invention from the creative minds of Cirque Mechanics with their signature blend of acrobatics, mechanical marvels, and a good bit of clowning around. This new production tells the story of an iconic 42-foot circus ring with talented acrobats and aerialists performing astonishing feats of strength and agility, presenting their mechanical interpretation of traditional circus entertainment. Thrill at the timeless wonder of circus artistry combined with impressive mechanical ingenuity, like a galloping metal horse and a spectacular rotating tent frame. This premiere American circus, which was founded in 2004, finds its roots in all things mechanical and shares the stories of American inventiveness. “The greatest contribution to the American circus since Cirque du Soleil” (*Spectacle Magazine*). Bring the whole family to this whimsical and witty circus performance!

Tickets: $48, $41, $29
Family Friendly

Czech National Symphony Orchestra
*100 Years of Leonard Bernstein*

John Mauceri, conductor
Isabel Leonard, mezzo-soprano
Saturday, February 23 at 8 p.m.
Celebrate the 100th birthday of American’s national treasure, Leonard Bernstein, with a musical fête of his works when the internationally renowned Czech National Symphony Orchestra (CNSO) returns to the Center for the Arts. Under the direction of accomplished American conductor, John Mauceri — who was a mentee and conducting fellow under Bernstein — the orchestra performs highlights from Bernstein’s *Mass*, *Candide*, *A Quiet Place*, *West Side Story* and more. CSNO is among Europe’s top symphonic ensembles and is renowned for its versatility. The orchestra brings its music to audiences around the world on tour and through its recordings with programs ranging from classical to contemporary genres, film scores, jazz and musicals. Mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard, critically acclaimed for her performances of Bernstein repertoire, joins the orchestra. “A substantive, rich, and revealing concert…” (*New York Times*).

Tickets: $60, $51, $36

**Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel**

*The Exotic Music of the Night*
Sunday, February 24 at 7 p.m.

Piano virtuoso Jeffrey Siegel explores the mystic and the macabre! This concert features excerpts from Mendelssohn’s beloved *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, including the celebratory *Wedding March*. On this program, Siegel will also play the devilish *Danse Macabre* by Saint-Saëns, Debussy’s enchanting *Evening in Grenade*, a glorious *Nocturne* by Chopin, and more. With his signature “concerts with commentary” format, Siegel makes novices feel welcome while enlightening even the most seasoned classical music lover. “...a pianist with a bravura technique and a big, gorgeous sound...and when the artist himself offers the inside scoop, the musical experience becomes vastly more personal” (*The Denver Post*). A Question & Answer session with the audience concludes the program.

Tickets: $44, $37, $26
Family Friendly

**Mark Morris Dance Group**

With the MMDG Music Ensemble
Friday, March 1 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 2 at 8 p.m.

Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG), one of the most revered contemporary dance companies performing today, returns to their Northern Virginia home at the Center. This influential dance company performs to live music by the MMDG Music Ensemble in a diverse program that includes *The Trout*, a brand-new work set to music from Schubert’s Trout Quintet, and another of Morris’ newest works, *Numerator*. Set to the music of Lou Harrison, *Numerator*, is described as “…dreamlike...surreal... with sharp, unexpected detours” (*MassLive*) and “dramatic poetry” (*The New York Times*). Don’t miss this spellbinding
performance of dances created by Mark Morris, hailed as “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical” (*The New York Times*).

**Tickets:** $50, $43, $30

**The Pink Panther in Concert**  
featuring the Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra  
Friday, March 15 at 8 p.m.

Enjoy all of the hijinks and hilarity of the original classic 1963 film played in its entirety while listening to the award-winning score, composed by the brilliant film composer Henry Mancini, as it is performed live onstage by a full orchestra. Directed by Blake Edwards while at the height of his career, *The Pink Panther* made Peter Sellers an international star with his hilarious characterization of the inept Chief Inspector Clouseau—which he recreated in four subsequent films in the extensive *Panther* series. In this performance, the Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra from the University of Miami’s Frost School of Music, accompanies the projected film, adding an exciting new dimension to the critically acclaimed score and the film itself. Follow Inspector Clouseau as he bumbles through Italy’s exclusive resorts in a hilarious attempt to apprehend the notorious jewel thief who is stalking the Pink Panther diamond. *The Pink Panther* is preserved by the Library of Congress in its National Film Registry and the soundtrack album was awarded a Grammy Hall of Fame Award®. Experience the magic of symphonic cinema with this intriguing fusion of film and live music.

**Tickets:** $55, $47, $33

**KODO**  
Saturday, March 16 at 8 p.m.

Experience the electrifying wall of sound that completely fills the hall when the athletic artists of Kodo take the stage to perform the ancient Japanese art of taiko drumming. Audiences are captivated by the visually stunning performance, the astonishingly precise movements of the drummers, and the sheer beauty of the sounds created with these traditional instruments. “Indeed, if there is such a thing as perfection in music, Kodo comes as near to it as any group in the world.” (*Boston Globe*) In Japanese, the word “Kodo” has two meanings: “heartbeat,” the primal source of all rhythm, and read in a different way, “Kodo” can mean “children of the drum,” a reflection of Kodo’s desire to play the drums simply, with the heart of a child. Since its debut in 1981, Kodo has made it its mission to share taiko drumming with all corners of the globe, giving over 6,000 performances on five continents. Don’t miss this “celebration of music, of physicality, of life” (*The New York Times*).

**Tickets** $50, $43, $30  
Family Friendly
Danú
Sunday, March 17 at 7 p.m.

Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with an authentic Irish music experience the whole family will enjoy! Take a musical journey across the Emerald Isle with one of today’s leading traditional Irish ensembles as they perform timeless Celtic works along with fascinating, powerful new melodies. The award-winning Danú features lush vocals and poetic lyrics sung in English and Gaelic and impressive virtuoso playing of traditional Irish instruments—flute, tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion, and bouzouki. Don’t miss this spirited celebration of Irish music and culture that The Washington Post calls “…a vibrant mix of virtuosity, energy, and empathy.”

Tickets: $50, $43, $30
Family Friendly

Virginia Opera
Madama Butterfly
Saturday, March 23 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 24 at 2 p.m.

Virginia Opera closes its season with Puccini’s magnificent tragic masterpiece, Madama Butterfly. Revealing the depth of human emotion through lyrical duets and heartbreaking arias including the famous “Un bel di,” this poignant and timeless tale of unrequited love and betrayal is riveting, gripping audiences right up to the intense, emotional finale. Danielle Pastin returns as the beautiful young geisha known as Madame Butterfly. Set in Nagasaki, Japan, the opera tells the tale of Butterfly and the restless American Naval Lieutenant B. F. Pinkerton, whose arranged marriage during his visit leaves her clinging to the belief that their love is real and lasting, until she is forced to face the grim truth of their liaison.

Sung in Italian with English supertitles.

Tickets: $110, $90, $54

Aquila Theatre
A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Sunday, March 31 at 7 p.m.

Aquila Theatre returns with a magical and witty production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Shakespeare’s timeless tale of love with its many complications never fails to entertain and remind us of his literary genius. “The course of true love never did run smooth” is the prophetic line spoken just as one of The Bard’s most popular comedies begins. On Midsummer Night in the woodland outside Athens, mischief is afoot as the king and queen of Fairyland arrive to attend the wedding of Duke Theseus and Queen Hippolyta. The impish Puck, servant to the Fairy King, is let loose in the forest with a love potion, and naturally, things go uproariously awry. Aquila’s signature physical theatrical style is the perfect complement to
Shakespeare’s iconic work. *The New York Times* applauds this renowned theater company for making “Shakespeare perfectly comprehensible,” and *The New Yorker* calls their Shakespeare interpretations “beautifully spoken, dramatically revealing and crystalline in effect.”

Tickets: $44, $37, $26

**Russian National Ballet**

*Giselle*
Saturday, April 6 at 8 p.m.

The Russian National Ballet performance of *Giselle* will hold you spellbound with its haunting romantic story, stirring score, sumptuous choreography, and exquisite dancing. In this tale of love, betrayal, forgiveness, and redemption, a heartbroken peasant girl dies after discovering her lover is betrothed to another. She wakes in a supernatural realm inhabited by vengeful spirits who enchant the forest, bewitching the men to fall under their deadly spell. With achingly beautiful music, brilliant choreography by Marius Petipa, and passion-filled dancing under the direction of the legendary Elena Radchenko, this icon of the classical ballet repertoire will captivate you from beginning to end.

Tickets: $56, $48, $34
Family Friendly

**Russian National Ballet**

*The Sleeping Beauty*
Sunday, April 7 at 2 p.m.

The whole family will enjoy this lavish production of the charming fairy tale *The Sleeping Beauty* performed in grand Russian style by the Russian National Ballet. With choreography by ballet master Marius Petipa set to Tchaikovsky’s gorgeous score, this crowning jewel of classical ballet tells the tale of beautiful impossibilities. At Princess Aurora’s christening, the evil fairy Carabosse places a vengeful curse on the baby: on her 16th birthday, she will prick her finger and die. But the kind Lilac Fairy is able to alter the original curse, so instead the princess will sleep for 100 years until awakened by the kiss from a prince. Under the direction of legendary Elena Radchenko, the company brings this timeless classic to life with graceful dancing, exquisite costumes and elaborate sets.

Tickets: $56, $48, $34
Family Friendly
Pablo Sáinz Villegas

**Americano**
Nacho Amimany, percussion; Pedro Giraudo, bass
Friday, April 12 at 8 p.m.

Praised as “the soul of the Spanish guitar,” guitar virtuoso Pablo Sáinz Villegas presents *Americano*, a program that traces the history of the guitar in the Americas. Sáinz Villegas is joined onstage by master world music percussionist Nacho Arimany and Argentinean bassist Pedro Giraudo to perform treasures including Broadway and film scores from Leonard Bernstein and John Williams, Spanish rhythms of Alma Llanera and Antonia Lauro, Brazilian funk and tango from Heitor Villa-Lobos and João Teixeira Guimarães, and even some Appalachian bluegrass. One of this generation’s great guitarists, Pablo Sáinz Villegas has become a worldwide sensation for his “virtuosic playing characterized by irresistible exuberance.” (*The New York Times*), and is celebrated for his passionate, emotive, and open-hearted style. Radiating charisma, he has appeared on some of the world’s most prestigious stages including New York’s Carnegie Hall and the Philharmonie in Berlin. Now this “master of the guitar” (Plácido Domingo) appears at the Center for the Arts in this highly anticipated concert.

Tickets: $46, $39, $28

**Parsons Dance**
Saturday, April 20 at 8 p.m.

New York City-based Parsons Dance is internationally celebrated for creating and performing American modern dance that is positive, life-affirming, enriching, and accessible. Founded in 1985 by Artistic Director David Parsons and Tony Award®-winning lighting designer Howell Binkley, this ensemble has spread the joy of dance in over 447 cities, 30 countries, and five continents in some of the most notable theaters, festivals, and concert halls in the world. Stunning works, like the iconic *Caught,* exemplify this company's innovation and huge audience appeal. Discover for yourself the exuberance of this renowned company described by *The New York Times* as a “‘dance your heart out’ (at all times, no excuses) kind of enterprise.

Tickets: $48, $41, $29

**Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel**
Chopin in Paris
Sunday, April 28 at 7 p.m.

In this concert of stunning piano music and illuminating commentary, Jeffrey Siegel presents the eminent Polish composer Frédéric Chopin and the gorgeous pieces he created while in Paris. Chopin reluctantly left his beloved Poland after the uprising and settled in Paris where he achieved great celebrity. In this program, Siegel performs the Grand Polonaise in E-flat major,
the magical Barcarolle, and the lustrous G-flat Impromptu, while offering fascinating insight into Chopin and the creation of each work. “Jeffrey Siegel has everything: massive technique, musical sensitivity and character, wide tonal resources, immense reserves of power, and the ability to communicate” (Los Angeles Times).

An always-popular Question & Answer session with the audience concludes the program.

Tickets: $44, $37, $26
Family Friendly

NEW! 2018/2019 FAMILY SERIES

Aga-Boom
Sunday, September 30 at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Three veterans of Cirque du Soleil delight with their unique style of physical comedy, blending silly slapstick with European theatrical whimsy to create madcap mayhem where the laughter never ends. This blast of buffoonery with juggling, stilt-walking, and clowning around is exhilarating fun for the whole family. Aga-Boom’s signature ending is pure pandemonium, as toilet-paper streamers, confetti, bouncing balls, lights, alarms, and balloons overtake the theater! “A hugely entertaining experience...a frenzy of scenes that build toward an unforgettable chaotic finale, the show culminates in sheer glee...” (Backstage West “Critics Choice”)

Fun for all ages!

Olate Dogs
Saturday, October 13 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Prepare to be bow-wowed when America’s Got Talent winners Olate (pronounced, “Oh-lah-tay”) Dogs bring their energetic and family-friendly canine-themed variety show to the Center. The father-son duo, Richard and Nicolas Olate, lead their pack of adorable pups in an assortment of gravity-defying feats and delightful animal tricks. The second youngest of 22 children, Richard Olate began training stray dogs in his native Chile when he was 12 years old, and his story of poverty to success is as inspiring as his charming crew of rescue dogs, who have all been given a second chance. Come see for yourself the acclaimed back-flipping dogs who will conga line their way into your heart.

Fun for all ages!
**Enchantment Theatre Company**

*The Phantom Tollbooth*
Sunday, January 27 at 2 p.m.

The beloved and inventive childhood classic book, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, is brought to life in an original stage adaption. Norton Juster’s original story begins with Milo, who is very bored until a tollbooth mysteriously appears in his room. He decides to drive his toy car through it, and everything changes! Once on the other side, Milo is thrilled to find a fantastical world where he is welcomed, and his help is desperately needed. Using puppets, masks, magic, inventive scenic effects, and original music, Enchantment Theatre Company recreates Milo’s adventures as he travels the Lands Beyond in his exciting quest to rescue Princess Rhyme and Reason. “A masterful fusion of engaging storytelling with the performing and visual arts, which appeals to all of the senses, stimulates intuitive thinking and captivates adults and children alike.” *(DC Metro Theater Arts)*

Recommended for ages 6-11; Grades 1-6

**Erth’s Prehistoric Aquarium**
Sunday, March 3 at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Calling all budding paleontologists! The internationally celebrated team at Erth has scoured the seven seas, collecting a lively assortment of prehistoric creatures from the deep to share with dinosaur and sea-creature loving kids. This hands-on theatrical performance uses giant puppetry, stilt-walkers, and inflatable environments to recreate the wonder of early marine life. *Erth’s Prehistoric Aquarium* is interactive, and a small number of young explorers will be selected from the audience to join the creatures and their handlers on a quest to the bottom of the ocean—to ‘swim’ with plesiosaurs, kronosaurus, and more! For nearly 20 years, Erth has strived to create fun, educational, eye popping visual experiences that will delight all.

Recommended for ages 5 years and up

**Tickets to all Family Series events:**
Individual tickets: $15 adults, $10 children
Purchase all four to save 20%; $48 adults, $32 children
*Great Performances at Mason* subscribers save 10%

**About Great Performances at Mason**

*Great Performances at Mason* is a program of George Mason University’s Center for the Arts, the professional presentation and production arm of the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA). CVPA provides an academic environment in which the arts are explored as individual disciplines and interdisciplinary forms that strengthen one another. The college prepares students for careers as creators, performers, teachers, scholars, arts leaders and arts entrepreneurs. Understanding that an education in the arts is deepened by regular contact with the work of distinguished visiting artists, the Center for the Arts, the professional presentation and production arm of the college, welcomes a variety of professional and world-renowned
artists, musicians and actors to its stage. Students have the opportunity to perform, create and exhibit their work in a wide variety of public venues including a 2,000-seat Concert Hall. CVPA is home to the Schools of Music, Dance, Art and Theater, as well as the Computer Game Design, Arts Management and Film and Video Studies programs.

About George Mason University
George Mason University is Virginia’s largest public research university. Located near Washington, D.C., Mason enrolls more than 33,000 students from 130 countries and all 50 states. Mason has grown rapidly over the past half-century and is recognized for its innovation and entrepreneurship, remarkable diversity and commitment to accessibility. Mason is also one of the best values in higher education, producing graduates who lead all Virginia schools with the highest annual salaries.

For more information, please visit:

George Mason University’s Center for the Arts

#MasonArts

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