SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2018
AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY’S CENTER FOR THE ARTS
featuring:
The Manhattan Transfer
Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel
Aga-Boom
Virginia Opera: Street Scene
Compañía Flamenca Eduardo Guerrero
Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
L.A. Theatre Works: Steel Magnolias
and more!

(FAIRFAX)—George Mason University’s Center for the Arts released today its schedule of performances for September and October 2018 as part of Great Performances at Mason and the newly-launched Family Series. The calendar includes events that span disciplines, such as classical music, opera, theater, and international dance. Tickets are available at cfa.gmu.edu.

The 2018/2019 season kicks off on September 23 with Jeffrey Siegel’s first Keyboard Conversations® program in which he will share The Joyous Music of Beethoven—giving an inside look into the music of the German composer and pianist. Vocal jazz-pop sensation The Manhattan Transfer headlines a special Gala Performance, alongside the American Festival Pops Orchestra, as part of the ARTS by George! benefit on September 29. This annual fundraising event garners support for College of Visual and Performing Arts’ student scholarships and the Great Performances at Mason series. The month of September also marks the launch of the Family Series with two performances by Cirque du Soleil veterans Aga-Boom.

In October, more impressive acts will be joining the Great Performances at Mason 2018/2019 roster. Virginia Opera returns to the Concert Hall stage on October 6 and 7 with Street Scene, a landmark American opera by Langston Hughes and Kurt Weill. Then, the athletic dancers of Compañía Flamenca Eduardo Guerrero arrive direct from Spain to share the art of flamenco on October 12. Continuing a busy weekend of shows, the Chamber Music Society of
Lincoln Center offers a program of Russian-inspired classics on October 13, and L.A. Theatre Works brings a new production of the heartwarming story, Steel Magnolias, on October 14.

A full schedule of performances for September and October 2018 is below. Unless otherwise noted, performances will take place in the Center for the Arts’ Concert Hall located at 4373 Mason Pond Drive in Fairfax, Virginia. Tickets are available for purchase in person at the Center for the Arts’ Ticket Office (open Tuesday–Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. starting on Tuesday, August 21), by calling 703-993-2787, or through the Center for the Arts’ website.

*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 enthrall 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.

$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.

Making a special guest appearance on the performance will be the Mason Jazz Vocal Ensemble, directed by Dr. Darden Purcell, Director of Jazz Studies/Jazz Voice at George Mason University. This award-winning vocal jazz group of George Mason University students will perform “I’ll Be Seeing You,” as well as their tour de force, “No More Blues,” a piece custom-arranged for the group by American Festival Pops Orchestra Composer/Arranger-in-Residence, Bryan Kidd.

$100, $75, $50

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

**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 disenchantment. 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.

$110, $90, $54

**Compañía Flamenca Eduardo Guerrero**

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

Direct from Cádiz, 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).

$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.

$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).

$44, $37, $26
Family Series

**Aga-Boom**
Sunday, September 30 at 1 p.m. & 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”*).

$15 adults, $10 children
Fun for all ages!

**Mason Student and Faculty Performances**

*Theater*

**The Mason Players Originals!**
Friday, September 14 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, September 15 at 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

We start our season with original and innovative artistic performances and plays! New scripts, conceptual offerings, one-person shows! All created by our students for this initial theatrical celebration heralding an exciting season.

Pay What You Can ($5 increments only)

*Music*

**Grand Piano Celebration**
Sunday, September 23 at 3 p.m.

Featuring the artistry of Dr. Linda Apple Monson, pianist, in collaboration with Mason faculty colleagues, Dr. Elissa Alvarez, soprano; Dr. Kathleen Mulcahy, clarinet; pianists Dr. Anna Balakerskaia and Dr. John Healey and outstanding student piano artists.

$20 adult, $15 senior, $5 youth through grade 12
Free for Mason students with ID
**Music**

**Mason Symphonic Band Concert**  
Thursday, October 4 at 8 p.m.

The Mason Symphonic Band, under the vibrant musical leadership of Profs. John Kilkenny and Denny Stokes, provides music majors and increasingly growing numbers of non-music majors an opportunity to study and perform a wide variety of traditional and contemporary wind band literature.

$12 adults, $8 seniors, $5 youth through grade 12

**Music**

**Mason Symphony Orchestra**  
Wednesday, October 10 at 8 p.m.

Mason Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Dennis Layendecker. The Mason Symphony Orchestra is comprised of outstanding string, wind, and percussion players from throughout the School of Music.

$12 adults, $8 seniors, $5 youth through grade 12

**Music**

**Mason Wind Symphony & Fairfax Wind Symphony**  
Tuesday, October 16 at 8 p.m.

The George Mason University Wind Symphony, led by composer-conductor Mark Camphouse, is a select ensemble comprised of outstanding wind, brass, and percussion players in the School of Music and the University. The ensemble’s mission is to study and perform the best literature available for wind band, while emphasizing soloistic and orchestral performance practice. The Wind Symphony ranks among the finest collegiate wind bands in the Commonwealth and performs the best of new band literature. Programs include world premieres of student and faculty compositions, student and faculty soloists, and more traditional repertoire.

$12 adults, $8 seniors, $5 youth through grade 12

**Theater**

**Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**  
Thursday, October 25 at 8 p.m.  
Friday, October 26 at 8 p.m.  
Saturday, October 27 at 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.  
Sunday, October 28 at 2 p.m.
Mark Twain’s timeless classic sweeps us down the mighty Mississippi in this musical adaptation of Huck Finn. Our irrepressible hero helps his friend Jim escape to freedom while sharing hilarious, suspenseful, and heartwarming adventures, all told with unforgettable, classically American music. Professional Artist in Residence, Thomas W. Jones II helms this journey.

$30 adults, $15 students and seniors

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 35,000 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.

For more information, please visit:

George Mason University’s Center for the Arts

#MasonArts

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