NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2018
AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY’S CENTER FOR THE ARTS
featuring:
Daniel Hope and Friends
Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel
Virginia Opera: Don Giovanni
Spectrum Dance Theater: A Rap On Race
Aquila Theatre: Frankenstein
Chanticleer
Mutts Gone Nuts
Soweto Gospel Choir
Vienna Boys Choir
American Festival Pops Orchestra
Canadian Brass
and more!

(FAIRFAX) — George Mason University’s Center for the Arts released today its schedule of performances for November and December 2018 as part of the Great Performances at Mason series and Family Series, as well as Mason student and faculty appearances and. The calendar includes a number of varied programs that span disciplines, including classical music, opera, theater, and choral and gospel music. Tickets are currently available at cfa.gmu.edu.

The 2018 fall/winter schedule kicks off on November 2 with violinist extraordinaire Daniel Hope as he traces the history of the violin from the late Renaissance through the Baroque era in Daniel Hope and Friends. Pianist Jeffrey Siegel returns on November 4 with a new Keyboard Conversations® program, Music From Time of War, 1914-1918, which highlights some of the most popular music written during World War I. The following weekend, Virginia Opera brings one of Mozart’s most well-known operas, Don Giovanni, for two performances on November 10 and 11. Spectrum Dance Theater presents a groundbreaking work on November 16, enlivening the conversation about race and equity through theater and modern dance, and Aquila Theatre stages a production of the classic thriller Frankenstein on November 18. The
month’s offerings conclude with Chanticleer, ringing in the holidays with seasonal favorites on November 24, and Mutts Gone Nuts, a comedy dog-thrill show on November 25.

Great Performances at Mason continues with a musical celebration of Nelson Mandela’s 100 birthday by Soweto Gospel Choir on December 2. The Vienna Boys Choir returns on December 7 with its ever-popular Christmas in Vienna concert. The festivities linger through December 8 with the American Festival Pops Orchestra, performing holiday classics like Sleigh Ride and A Christmas Festival, and leading a sing-along. Lastly, the acclaimed Canadian Brass wraps up the series on December 15 with an evening of impeccable music and witty repartee.

A full schedule for November and December 2018 is below. Unless otherwise noted, performances 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 Ticket Office (open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.), by calling 703-993-2787, or through the Center’s website.

Great Performances at Mason

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.

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

In this second 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.

$44, $37, $26

**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.

Audio description is available for this performance.

$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.

$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.

$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 enthralls for much the same reason a fine chocolate or a Rolls Royce does: through luxurious perfection.”

$55, $47, $33
**Soweto Gospel Choir**

Sunday, December 2 at 2 p.m.

The two-time Grammy Award®-winning Soweto Gospel Choir has been spreading sheer joy to audiences across the globe for nearly two decades! Comprised of 20 of the best artists in South Africa, the choir invites you to enjoy the incomparable and inspirational power of African Gospel music. These uplifting performers have shared the stage with some of the biggest names in music including U2, Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Robert Plant, Celine Dion, Red Hot Chili Peppers, and Josh Groban. For the first half of this concert, the choir will perform *Songs of the Free*, a rousing program celebrating the centenary of the birth of the father of their Rainbow Nation, Nelson Mandela. Following that, the performers will share international gospel classics and holiday favorites including their hair-raising takes on “Silent Night” and Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah.” Just try to stay in your seat!

$50, $43, $30

**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.

$55, $47, $33

**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.

$55, $47, $33

**Canadian Brass**  
*A 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*).

$60, $51, $36

**Family Series**

**Mutts Gone Nuts**  
Sunday, November 25 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Prepare to be bow-wowed! Husband and wife duo Scott and Joan Houghton bring a comedy dog-thrill show like none other. From frisbee and barrel tricks to dance and jump rope routines, these canines rescued from shelters will win you over. These talented canines even include two world record holders. Feather, a greyhound, set the standard for highest canine jump and cattle dog mix Geronimo holds two world records in double-dutch jump rope. Experience in person the incredible talents of these furry friends you may have seen on television’s *The View, Ellen*, or *The Late Show with David Letterman*.

$15 for adults, $10 for children  
Fun for all ages!
Mason Student and Faculty Performances

Music

Choral Invitational Concert
Dr. Lisa Billingham
Sunday, November 4 at 3 p.m.
Concert Hall

University Chorale under the direction of Dr. Lisa Billingham. The University Chorale, a choir of 80-100 singers, performs a wide variety of music each semester ranging from classical styles to multi-cultural works and popular music.

University Singers under the direction of Dr. Stan Engebretson. A select choral ensemble at George Mason University, the University Singers are dedicated to the performance of advanced vocal chamber music ranging from Renaissance to contemporary and commissioned works.

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

Dance

Fall New Dances
Thursday, November 8 at 8 p.m.
Friday, November 9 at 2 p.m. at 8 p.m.
Saturday, November 10 at 8 p.m.
Harris Theatre

Enjoy the premiere of dances that were created by choreographers at the start of their careers.

$15 full, $10 students, staff and seniors, $7 groups of 10 or more

Music

Mason Wind Symphony & Symphonic Band
Monday, November 12 at 8 p.m.

The 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.

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

Theater

Machinal
Thursday, November 15 at 8 p.m.
Friday, November 16 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, November 17 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Sunday, November 18 at 2 p.m.
TheaterSpace

By Sophie Treadwell
Directed by Kayla Schultz

A parable about an ordinary young woman living and working in a mechanized, materialistic, wasteland of society, Machinal is inspired by the real-life case of convicted murderer Ruth Snyder. Considered one of the high points of Expressionist Theater on the American stage.

$20 Adult, $10 students, staff, seniors and groups

Music

Jazz 4 Justice™
Saturday, November 17 at 8 p.m.

Presented by the Mason School of Music

Established in 2001 by Fairfax, VA attorney Edward L. Weiner, Esq. and Founder of Mason Jazz Studies, Jim Carroll, Jazz 4 Justice is an award-winning annual concert presented by the Legal Services of Northern Virginia and Mason Jazz Studies.

Jazz 4 Justice is a truly unique event where attorney's, judges, students and members of the Northern Virginia community gather to celebrate their love of jazz. Proceeds from the evening benefit the LSNV and the Prince William County Bar continue its mission of service to the Northern Virginia community as well as providing financial support for the Mason Jazz Studies department for trips and recordings.

$20 adults, $15 seniors, $15 youth through grade 12
**Music**

**Mason Jazz Vocal Night**
Wednesday, November 28 at 8 p.m.
Concert Hall

Join us for an evening of music dedicated to Jazz Vocals! Performances by Mason Jazz Studio soloists and the Mason Jazz Vocal Ensemble, directed by Dr. Darden Purcell.

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

**Music**

**Opera: Dido and Aeneas**
Friday, November 30 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, December 1 at 8 p.m.
Harris Theatre

The Mason University Opera Theater & Workshop provides serious vocal performance students with in-depth study and performance of operas from Baroque to modern, with opera scenes and productions each semester. The Opera Theater presents two to three productions annually.

A presentation of the beautiful Baroque opera by Purcell.

$15 adults, $10 seniors, $5 youth through grade 12

**Dance**

**Dance Innovations**
Thursday, December 6 at 8 p.m.
Friday, December 7 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, December 8 at 8 p.m.
Harris Theatre

Presented by the Mason School of Dance

New works by various emerging choreographers.

$15, $10 students, staff and seniors, $7 groups of 10 or more

**Music**

**Mason Symphony Orchestra & Jazz Holiday concert**
Sunday, December 9 at 7 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

**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**

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