



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
announces its**

**2012–2013 Season**

**Highlights include:**

*Nordic Cool 2013*

**NSO: Lang Lang Residency**

**The Inaugural Season of Jason Moran**

**WNO's Season of Divas**

**Christopher Wheeldon's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland***

**Kennedy Center Production of *The Guardsman***

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts today announced the 2012–2013 season programming for the Kennedy Center, National Symphony Orchestra, and Washington National Opera. In wide-ranging programming that covers theater, dance, music of all kinds, and productions for young people, the Kennedy Center continues its commitment, as the nation's center for the performing arts, to producing and presenting the best of national and international arts.

Kennedy Center Chairman David M. Rubenstein stated, “The Kennedy Center’s 42nd season will introduce audiences to captivating corners of the globe—from the shores of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden in *Nordic Cool 2013* to the ballet companies of nine U.S. cities in *Ballet Across America*. Performing arts luminaries will lead us in discovering new insights—from Jason Moran’s inaugural season of jazz programming to the NSO’s weeklong residency with Lang Lang to WNO’s season of operatic divas including Sondra Radvanovsky, Patricia Racette, and Angela Meade. Our signature ballet, contemporary dance, and theater programming will continue to bring the best performing artists to Washington, and for the 15th

straight year, the Kennedy Center will continue to offer a free performance every single day of the year on our newly redesigned Millennium Stage.”

Highlights of the 2012–2013 season appear below. Please see supporting press releases for additional information.

### **NORDIC COOL 2013**

From February 19–March 17, 2013, the Kennedy Center presents *Nordic Cool 2013*, an unprecedented arts festival highlighting the culture of the Nordic countries—Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden—and the territories of Greenland, the Faroe and Åland Islands. Seeking to answer the question of what is “Nordic,” the festival aspires to offer clarity on a region of the world whose dynamic culture and creative economy have seemed elusive to many, particularly in America. By exploring the region’s cultural diversity, the Kennedy Center aims to foster an appreciation of the Nordic heritage, and an understanding of the region’s global influence. Continuing the Center’s tradition of producing renowned international celebrations by curating traditional and contemporary expressions of dance, theater, music, visual art, literature, and film, *Nordic Cool 2013* will explore the interplay of themes central to Nordic life, such as nature, technological innovation, environmental sustainability, entrepreneurial spirit, and youth culture. New Nordic Cuisine will be highlighted in the Center’s restaurants and demonstrations by renowned chefs will be featured on the Millennium Stage. Panels and forums will include many of the region’s most prominent writers and filmmakers, including Nobel laureates. The festival will bring some of the best artists from the region to participate, entertain, and educate audiences, and to throw light on a, thus far, elusive culture. Such artists include the National Theatre and ice percussionist Terje Isungset from Norway; Royal Dramatic Theatre and Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra from Sweden; pianist Sunna Gunnlaugs; Tampere Workers Theatre and Tero Saarinen Company from Finland; Danish Dance Theatre and Teatret Gruppe 38 from Denmark; and Vesterport theater and jazz pianist Víkingur Olafsson of Iceland, among many others.

### **THEATER**

The Kennedy Center’s 2012–2013 Theater season includes a new Kennedy Center production of Fernec Molnár’s *The Guardsman*, featuring a new adaptation by Richard Nelson and direction by Gregory Mosher. This comedic play has not been seen on Broadway in nearly 90 years, since it marked the first collaboration of famed husband-and-wife team Lynn Fontanne and Alfred Lunt in 1924. The Center also presents national touring productions of the wildly popular *The Book of Mormon* and *War Horse*, as well as *Anything Goes*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, and *Irving Berlin’s White Christmas*. The sixth season of Barbara Cook’s *Spotlight* features cabaret-style performances by Judy Kuhn, Maureen McGovern, Donna Murphy, Adam Pascal, and Terri White. *DruidMurphy* celebrates the works of Tom Murphy, one of Ireland’s most respected living dramatists. Directed by Garry Hynes, *DruidMurphy* invites patrons to experience each of the three plays individually or all three together in a single day. Other international theater offerings include *Songs of Migration*, a musical tribute to the great songs of migrants across the African continent, as well as several productions in *Nordic Cool 2013*. The Kennedy Center hosts its 11th annual *Page-to-Stage* new play festival over Labor Day weekend, featuring more than 40 theaters from the D.C. metropolitan area, all with a mission to produce and support new work.

## **BALLET**

The Center's 2012–2013 Ballet season includes Kennedy Center favorites as well as the return of storied companies from across North America. National Ballet of Canada brings Christopher Wheeldon's much-lauded work, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, and Mariinsky Ballet presents Alexei Ratmanský's *Cinderella*, marking the extension of the Center's 10-year existing relationship with the company. The season also includes two programs by American Ballet Theatre, including *Le Corsaire*; seven performances by New York City Ballet; Helgi Tomasson's *Romeo and Juliet* by San Francisco Ballet; and Ballet West's *The Nutcracker*—the oldest full-length American *Nutcracker*—choreographed by William Christensen based on his conversations with George Balanchine and Alexandra Danilova. The Center's third *Ballet Across America* engagement presents Ballet Austin, Boston Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, North Carolina Dance Theatre, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Pennsylvania Ballet, Richmond Ballet, Sarasota Ballet, and The Washington Ballet.

## **JAZZ**

The Kennedy Center's 2012–2013 Jazz season, under the new leadership of Artistic Advisor Jason Moran, takes an exciting new direction while remaining true to the traditional canon. The more than 70 performances in the 2012–2013 Jazz season feature artists such as the Heath Brothers, Kurt Elling, Kenny Barron and Dave Holland, Charles Lloyd, Jack DeJohnette, and Dr. Lonnie Smith, as well as Roseanna Vitro, Nnenna Freelon, and others. Adding a new performance space for jazz replete with dance floor, sofas, chairs, and open seating, the Atrium's Supersized Jazz Club houses a series of concerts by such performers as Soulive, Medeski Martin & Wood as well as the rollicking Jason Moran's *Fats Waller Dance Party*. The Center hosts an *Election Night Jam* with Jason Moran and The Bandwagon as the presidential votes are tallied on November 6. Jazz and comedy are paired as David Alan Grier opens an evening of stand-up comedy and music with an ensemble led by Jason Moran. April brings a celebration of *The Music of New Orleans* featuring "The New Orleans Bingo! Show" with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band as well as a performance with percussionist Jason Marsalis. Annual events such as NPR's *A Jazz Piano Christmas*, the *Mary Lou Williams Jazz Festival*, and *A Jazz New Year's Eve* complete the season. The Center's jazz concerts are frequently recorded for future broadcast on NPR's *JazzSet with Dee Dee Bridgewater*.

## **NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

National Symphony Orchestra's 2012–2013 season includes a weeklong residency with Chinese pianist Lang Lang. A longtime friend and mentee of NSO and Kennedy Center Music Director Christoph Eschenbach, Lang Lang performs three Beethoven concerti with the NSO as well as piano recitals featuring a variety of repertoire. The season also celebrates young artists in the early years of their careers, such as Jonathan Biss, Yuja Wang, Renaud Capuçon, Alisa Weilerstein, and Augustin Hadelich, as well as Dan Zhu and Jeremy Denk who make their NSO debuts. Several renowned soloists and conductors, including Emanuel Ax, Christoph von Dohnányi, Anne Sofie von Otter, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, John Adams, and Anne-Sophie Mutter join the season. As it has for many years, the NSO continues its concert series on the National Mall to help the nation commemorate Memorial Day and Independence Day and will be seen and heard by television and radio audiences in the millions. The monthly "NSO Showcase" continues to air on WETA-FM from September to June and outreach performances and events will be held at the

Kennedy Center and around the Washington metropolitan area. The Orchestra plays Carnegie Hall in May 2013 as part of “Spring for Music.”

### **WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA**

Washington National Opera’s 2012–2013 season offers a new WNO co-production of Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein’s *Show Boat*, directed by WNO Artistic Advisor Francesca Zambello. Other productions during the season will include platforms for operatic divas, including *Anna Bolena* featuring Sondra Radvanovsky in the title role, *Manon Lescaut* with Washington favorite Patricia Racette in the title role, and *Norma*, featuring the role and WNO debut of Angela Meade as Norma as well as Dolora Zajick as Adalgisa. *Don Giovanni* featuring Ildar Abdrazakov and Barbara Frittoli rounds out the season of mainstage operas. Following on the heels of its recent artistic announcement, WNO will present the return of holiday programming in the Terrace Theater with *Hansel and Gretel*. The fan-friendly *Opera in the Outfield* program continues at Nationals Park with *Don Giovanni*. WNO’s “Celebrity Concert Series” includes two large-scale concert performances by Nathan Gunn and Diana Damrau which will be accompanied by the WNO Orchestra while Angela Meade presents a recital in the more intimate Terrace Theater. The Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program continues to train opera singers on the verge of major careers while providing performance opportunities at the Center and throughout the city.

### **NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA POPS**

In his second season as Principal Pops Conductor, Steven Reineke leads the National Symphony Orchestra Pops in performances with singer/songwriter Roberta Flack, Grammy Award®-winning trumpeter Chris Botti, and singer and voice actor Seth MacFarlane (*Family Guy*, *American Dad!*) in *The Music of Sammy Cahn*. Reineke will also conduct *The Wizard and I: The Musical Journey of Stephen Schwartz* featuring Broadway songstresses Julia Murney and Jennifer Laura Thompson. The Pops season also includes a set of Christmas-themed concerts titled *Happy Holidays!* conducted by Randall Craig Fleischer and three concerts with the perennially popular Irish group The Chieftains.

### **CONTEMPORARY DANCE**

The Kennedy Center’s 2012–2013 Contemporary Dance season features the Kennedy Center debuts of Lar Lubovitch Dance Company as well as Monica Bill Barnes & Company, who presents *mostly fanfare* and *Everything is getting better all the time*, as well as a new work. Audience favorite Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater makes its annual appearance with a program that includes its signature *Revelations* and Shen Wei Dance Arts closes out its five-year residency with *Undivided Divided*, a large-scale immersive performance experience with video projections, multi-track sound, paint, and sculptural installation. Malavika Sarukkai makes her first return to the Kennedy Center after her sold-out appearance in 2011’s *maximum INDIA* festival and *Voices of Strength* presents two programs of contemporary dance and theater by woman from Africa. The Center’s 12th annual Local Dance Commissioning Project presents two world premiere dance works by Washington-area choreographers.

## **CHAMBER MUSIC**

The Kennedy Center's 2012–2013 Chamber Music season includes the Fortas Chamber Music Series, The Kennedy Center Chamber Players, and dozens of performances on the Millennium Stage, including the Center's Conservatory Project, a semi-annual weeklong event featuring the best young musical talents from the nation's top conservatories. The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts in the Terrace Theater features more than a dozen performances by U.S. and international artists. Artists include Dawn Upshaw with Crash Ensemble, Anonymous 4, Midori who celebrates the 30th anniversary of her professional debut, and the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, the Center's chamber ensemble-in-residence. The Kennedy Center Chamber Players, comprised of members of the National Symphony Orchestra, will offer four performances of diverse repertoire in the Terrace Theater. *Nordic Cool 2013* presents Trio con Brio Copenhagen, pianist Juho Pohjonen, and soprano Anne Sofie von Otter.

## **PERFORMANCES FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES**

The Theater for Young Audiences season presents two new Kennedy Center commissioned works including *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*, a play adapted by Tom Isbell from the popular Rodman Philbrick book, and *Jason Invisible*, a co-commission with the Kennedy Center and VSA, which is adapted by Laurie Brooks from a novel by Han Nolan. In a work co-commissioned by the Kennedy Center, Marionetas de la Esquina from Mexico City brings a delightful and charming new twist to their puppet production of *Sleeping Beauty* for its U.S. premiere. Washington National Opera marks a return to holiday programming for young people and their families with an English-language production of *Hansel and Gretel* in the Terrace Theater. The Opera and the National Symphony Orchestra continue to present diverse programming for young people of all ages while mounting performances for tens of thousands of local school children throughout the season. In addition, several performances, literary, film, and other events will be presented for young people and their families as part of *Nordic Cool 2013*.

## **MILLENNIUM STAGE**

The Kennedy Center is the only American institution that presents a free performance 365 days a year. Created in 1997 and underwritten by James A. Johnson and Maxine Isaacs, the Millennium Stage features a broad spectrum of performing arts each day at 6 p.m. and helps fulfill the Center's mission of making the performing arts accessible to everyone. In the past 15 years, more than 3 million visitors have seen 6,000 groups with performances as varied as: jazz, ballet, storytelling, popular music, modern dance, opera, choral music, tap dance, theater, chamber music, symphonic music, puppetry, stand-up comedy, and cabaret. Of the more than 43,000 performers that have appeared on the Millennium Stage, approximately 25,000 have been Washington-area artists and more than 4,500 have been international performing artists representing more than 50 countries. The Millennium Stage has also hosted artists representing all 50 states, and has presented more than 15,000 artists in their Kennedy Center debuts. Since 1999, each night's performance has been broadcast live over the Internet, and thousands of performances have been digitally archived on the Kennedy Center website. The 2012–2013 season offers more than 365 free performances, including the annual *Page-to-Stage* festival featuring dozens of theater readings presented by DC-area theater companies. The Millennium Stage also offers happy hours, NSO Prelude concerts, WNO season preview concerts, and social dancing, including *Jason Moran's Fats Waller Dance Party* featuring Meshell Ndegeocello.

## **SONGS OF CONSCIENCE**

Throughout modern history, powerful songs delivered by passionate singers have galvanized people and led movements of change. From Paul Robeson and Woody Guthrie to Bob Marley and Chuck D, bold and socially conscious artists have used music, words, and style to bring attention and understanding to the critical issues of their day. In collaboration with the Grammy Museum, the Kennedy Center presents two full-length concerts, each celebrating the legacy of an artist whose music captured the spirit of their times and continues to echo today. *This Land is Your Land: Woody Guthrie at 100* celebrates the folk singer's centennial while *The Legacy of Bob Marley* honors the man whose reggae music shaped our culture and encouraged us to "Get Up, Stand Up."

## **VSA**

VSA, the international organization on arts and disability and an affiliate company of the Kennedy Center, will present performances, exhibitions, and educational programming at the Kennedy Center, nationally, and abroad. Such programming includes the VSA Playwright Discovery Program and the VSA International Young Soloists Program. Other programming in the 2012–2013 season includes *Jason Invisible*, a newly commissioned play for young people and their families, and the Rosemary Kennedy Intern Initiative, which provides career opportunities for youth with disabilities at arts organizations around the country. VSA, with its dozens of satellites across the United States and in 51 countries, educates, entertains, and enlightens people across the globe each year.

## **GALA EVENTS AND BROADCASTS**

Throughout the 2012–2013 season, the Kennedy Center hosts and presents major performances such as the 35th anniversary of the award-winning *Kennedy Center Honors* which is broadcast on CBS and seen by millions each year. Other special performances include the 15th annual *Mark Twain Prize for American Humor*, the NSO Season Opening Ball, Washington National Opera's Season Opening Gala and Opera Ball, the Kennedy Center Spring Gala, and more.

## **EDUCATION AT THE KENNEDY CENTER**

The Kennedy Center retains its commitment as the nation's cultural center to educating and enlightening children in Washington and around the country. The Center's national education programs include: *Any Given Child*, which is currently working in seven municipalities and their school districts around the country to develop a long-range strategic plan for arts education; ARTSEGE, a website that offers standards-based teaching materials for use in and out of the classroom, media-rich interactive experiences for teachers and students, professional development resources and other materials for integrating the arts in the curriculum; Partners in Education, which forges relationships between arts organizations and their community school systems to build effective arts education programs; and the Kennedy Center Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards, which acknowledge teachers of grades K-12 whose efforts have made a significant impact on their students.

Locally, the Kennedy Center's programs include *Changing Education Through the Arts*, a program that works with 16 schools in the area to affect long-term change in school culture through professional learning in arts integration; Professional Development Opportunities for

Teachers, which trains Washington-area educators to teach the arts or other subject areas through the arts; and Washington, D.C. Partnership Schools, where the Center provides resources and teaching artist residencies to 27 elementary, junior, and senior high schools in Washington, D.C. The Center also mounts more than 100 of performances of theater, music, dance, and opera throughout the season for more than 100,000 local school-aged kids.

In addition, the Center offers multiple career development programs for young artists both locally and nationally, including the National Symphony Orchestra's Youth Fellowship Program, Summer Music Institute, and High School Competition; Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, Opera Institute, and Kids Create Opera Partnership; the biennial New Visions/New Voices forum for development of new plays for young people; *Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell*; *Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead*; VSA's Playwright Discovery Program, Young Soloists and Visual Arts Programs; internships and fellowships; and the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival which impacts hundreds of thousands of college-aged theater students across the country and marks its 45th anniversary in 2013.

## **ABOUT THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, overlooking the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., is America's living memorial to President Kennedy. Under the guidance of Chairman David M. Rubenstein, President Michael M. Kaiser, and Music Director Christoph Eschenbach, the nine theaters and stages of the nation's busiest performing arts facility attract audiences and visitors totaling 3 million people annually; Center-related touring productions, television, and radio broadcasts welcome 40 million more.

Opening its doors on September 8, 1971, the Center presents the greatest performances of music, dance, and theater; supports artists in the creation of new work; and serves the nation as a leader in arts and arts management education. With its artistic affiliates, the National Symphony Orchestra and Washington National Opera, the Center's achievements as a commissioner, producer, and nurturer of developing artists have resulted in more than 300 theatrical productions, and dozens of new ballets, operas, and musical works.

Each year, more than 7 million people nationwide take part in innovative and effective education programs initiated by the Center, including performances, lecture/demonstrations, open rehearsals, dance and music residencies, master classes, competitions for young actors and musicians, and workshops for teachers. These programs have become models for communities across the country. The Center's *Any Given Child* program works with selected local school districts and seeks to provide a comprehensive arts education to children K-8. The Center also has been at the forefront of making the performing arts accessible to persons with disabilities, highlighted by its affiliation with VSA, with which it shares programs and resources.

The Kennedy Center is a leader in arts management education. Through its DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the Kennedy Center, advanced training is provided for arts administrators at varying stages of development, working with arts organizations and leaders throughout the United States and in nearly 70 countries.

As part of the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts for Everyone outreach program, the Center stages more than 400 free performances of music, dance, and theater by artists from throughout the world each year on the Center's main stages, and every evening at 6 p.m. on the Millennium Stage. Announced in 2011, the *Rubenstein Arts Access Program* expands the Center's efforts to make the arts accessible to children, young adults and to people who have little or limited ability to attend and enjoy the performing arts, enabling audiences to engage in more ways, at more times, and in more places than ever before.

## **MYTIX PROGRAM**

The Kennedy Center's *MyTix* program offers patrons 18-30 years old and active duty members of the armed services complimentary and discounted tickets to a wide variety of performances throughout the 2012-2013 season. Patrons can visit [kennedy-center.org/mytix](http://kennedy-center.org/mytix) to register and receive *MyTix* member benefits including a bi-weekly newsletter and ticket alerts, discounts on food and beverage service, discounts at Kennedy Center Gift Shops, and much more. *MyTix* is part the *Rubenstein Arts Access Program*.

### **MAJOR SEASON SPONSORS**

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Patrons 30 and under and active-duty members of the military are invited to join the Kennedy Center's *MyTix* program for special discount offers and chances to win free tickets.

**For more information, visit [www.kennedy-center.org/mytix](http://www.kennedy-center.org/mytix).**

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