McCARTER THEATRE CENTER ANNOUNCES 2020-2021 SEASON

PRINCETON, NJ: Special Programming Director William W. Lockwood and Managing Director Michael S. Rosenberg are pleased to announce the lineup for the 2020-2021 Dance, Classical Music, and Signature Series at McCarter Theatre Center. Each series will feature an exciting and eclectic mix of the world’s greatest musicians, dance companies, and performing artists, including several returning favorites and McCarter debuts.

About the variety of presented events, Mr. Lockwood remarked, "This year’s schedule contains some of my very favorite artists, including some I’ve been trying to book for a long time. McCarter is unique in its reputation as a home for artists from around the world. No other institution in the country presents a full time Theater Series alongside a full schedule of presented events quite like McCarter does, and no other does it better."


McCarter Theatre Center’s Dance Series has set an extremely high standard in the past half century, with Lockwood’s unique sense of curatorial flair bringing incendiary new artists at the top of their respective games to Princeton. This year is no different, with appearances by Parsons Dance, Compañía Nacional de Danza, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and Pam Tanowitz Dance.

The Signature Series is a veritable “who’s who” of world class talent, including Béla Fleck, Nella, Wynton Marsalis and Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, David Sedaris, and more on the schedule.
Also added for 2020-2021 is a new series: **National Geographic Live**, a three-event speaker series that brings to the stage first-hand accounts told by the magazine’s world-class explorers, photographers, scientists, filmmakers, and adventurers.

Subscription packages for the 2020-2021 Dance, Classical Music, Signature, and National Geographic Live Series are available now by calling McCarter Theatre Center at (609) 258-2787, visiting [mccarter.org](http://mccarter.org), or visiting the McCarter Ticket Office, located at 91 University Place in Princeton.

[Download press images here.](#)

**MUSIC SERIES**

![Lief Ove Andsnes](image)


*Joint Recital:*

**PINCHAS ZUKERMAN**, violin & viola; **YEFIM BRONFMAN**, piano  
Monday, October 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

With a celebrated career encompassing five decades, **Pinchas Zukerman** reigns as one of today’s most versatile musicians—violin and viola soloist, conductor, and chamber musician. He is renowned as a virtuoso, admired for the expressive lyricism of his playing, singular beauty of tone, and impeccable musicianship, which can be heard throughout his discography of over 100 albums for which he gained two Grammy awards and 21 nominations. Internationally recognized as one of today’s most acclaimed and admired pianists, **Yefim Bronfman** stands
among a handful of artists regularly sought by festivals, orchestras, conductors and recital series. His commanding technique, power and exceptional lyrical gifts are consistently acknowledged by the press and audiences alike. Their program at McCarter will include sonatas by Brahms, Franck, and Shostakovich.

DANIIL TRIFONOV, piano  
Monday, October 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

Grammy winner Daniil Trifonov broke the sound barrier when he exploded on the music scene a decade ago and has made a spectacular ascent of the classical music world as a solo artist, champion of the concerto repertoire, chamber and vocal collaborator, and composer. Combining consummate technique with rare sensitivity and depth, his performances are a perpetual source of awe.

BACH’S ST. MATTHEW PASSION  
with the Gächinger Kantorei, Orchestra Bach-Collegium  
& Soloists of the Internationale Bachakademie Stuttgart  
Hans-Christoph Rademann, conductor

Patrick Grahl, tenor (Evangelist)  
Sarah Wegener, soprano  
Marie Henriette Reinhold, alto  
Benedikt Kristjansson, tenor (Ariel)  
Peter Harvey, bass (Christ)  
Krešimir Stražanac, bass (Pilate)  
Tuesday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

The St. Matthew Passion is recognized as a supreme achievement of vocal literature since its premiere at Leipzig’s St Thomas Church in 1727. The work’s physical demands alone—requiring both orchestra and soloists plus a double-chorus—explain why it is rarely performed. Bach depicts Christ’s Passion as a musical dialogue with a directness that allows us to feel the extreme emotions triggered by the events described. Performed with subtitles.

BACH’S BRANDENBURGS  
with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center  
Thursday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Richardson Auditorium

This McCarter holiday tradition brings together 20-plus resident members of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center—an all-star lineup performing one of music’s most enduring masterpieces, all in a single evening.
LEIF OVE ANDSNES, piano
Thursday, January 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

With his commanding technique and searching interpretations, the celebrated Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes has won acclaim worldwide, playing concertos and recitals in the world’s leading concert halls and with its foremost orchestras. 2020 may be Beethoven’s 250th birthday, but Andsnes has already taken the composer’s music to 108 cities in 27 countries over the course of a four-year journey. His McCarter program is further indicative of his focus on both seldom-heard and familiar repertoire with works by Janacek, Bartok, and Schumann’s Carnaval, Op.9.

JEREMY DENK, piano with Les Violons du Roy Chamber Orchestra
Sunday, February 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

Jeremy Denk is one of America’s foremost pianists. Winner of a MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship, and the Avery Fisher Prize, Denk was recently elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Denk returns frequently to Carnegie Hall and in recent seasons has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, and at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the BBC Proms, along with countless other performances. For his 2021 McCarter performance, Denk collaborates on an innovative program with the strings of Canada’s Les Violons du Roy, including two of Bach’s keyboard concertos. Denk has also transcribed works for Les Violons by composers such as Dowland, Morley, Monteverdi, Purcell, and Gesualdo.

CHRISTINE GOERKE, soprano
with Martin Martineau, piano
Wednesday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

Dramatic soprano Christine Goerke is a vocal superstar well known for the heroines of Wagner’s operas. Her Brünnhilde in the Ring Cycle has been celebrated around the world, from La Scala to Covent Garden to the Met, as are her Elektra and Turandot in the operas of Strauss and Puccini. As New York Magazine put it, “Those of us lucky enough to hear her in her prime will treasure the memory until we become insufferably nostalgic.”

Joint Recital:
MITSUKO UCHIDA, piano; MARK PADMORE, tenor
Tuesday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

Collaborations between two artists of this caliber are cause for celebration. Mitsuko Uchida reigns as the quintessential interpreter of the piano music of Mozart and Schubert. She maintains an inspired balance between head and heart, combining an iconic perfection of sound with spontaneity. Among singers, Mark Padmore is his own legend. In the choral
masterworks of Bach and Handel, the operas of Benjamin Britten, and the song cycles of Schubert and Schumann, he has no peer. All of which makes his program with Uchida even more special: it’s an all-Schumann feast, including the composer’s two major song cycles, *Liederkreis*, Op. 39, and *Dichterliebe*, Op.48, both written by Schumann in 1840 as love songs to his wife Clara.

**DANCE SERIES**

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago will appear at McCarter on February 3, 2021.

**PARSONS DANCE**

*Wednesday, October 14 and Thursday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Berlind Theatre*

Founded in 1985 by Artistic Director David Parsons and Tony Award-winning lighting designer Howell Binkley, the company has toured to more than 445 cities, 30 countries, and 5 continents and has performed at such notable venues as The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Sydney Opera House, Maison de la Danse, and Teatro Municipal do Rio de Janeiro. Heralded by *The New York Times* as “one of the great movers of modern dance,” David Parsons has received many accolades throughout his career and has collaborated with iconic artists across all disciplines, including Dr. Billy Taylor, Kenji Bunch, Stephen Schwartz, Allen Toussaint, William Ivey Long, Donna Karan, Annie Leibovitz, and Alex Katz.
CARMEN
Compañía Nacional de Danza (España)
Wednesday, November 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

The story of Carmen and the music of Bizet’s opera have both proved irresistible to choreographers for decades. The latest is Swedish choreographer Johan Inger, whose 2015 version for Madrid’s CND re-imagines the traditional Spanish myth of the iconic gypsy in a more comprehensive context and makes it 21st century ballet for our times.

HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO
Wednesday, February 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

Under the direction of Glen Edgerton, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago is among the most original forces in contemporary dance, combining explosive energy, theatrical jazz, and classical ballet into a style uniquely its own. As one of the only professional dance companies to perform year-round, Hubbard Street is continually touring nationwide and internationally. Now in its 41st year, the main company has appeared in celebrated dance venues in 44 states and 19 countries.

New Work for Goldberg Variations:
PAM TANOWITZ DANCE
SIMONE DINNERSTEIN, piano
Wednesday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

New Work for Goldberg Variations is an evening-length piece for piano and seven dancers, created by classical pianist Simone Dinnerstein and choreographer Pam Tanowitz. Inspired by and set to the live performance of Bach’s iconic and commanding score Goldberg Variations, the work is performed by Dinnerstein with Tanowitz’s company, Pam Tanowitz Dance. Dinnerstein, one of the foremost Bach interpreters of her generation (and a specialist in Goldberg), brings her nuanced understanding of the demanding score to the project; Tanowitz’s choreography will use a slyly deconstructed classical movement vocabulary to translate Bach’s intricate score into movement.
Wynton Marsalis & Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra will appear at McCarter on April 16, 2021.

MY BLUEGRASS HEART WITH BÉLA FLECK
With William Apostol, Michael Cleveland, Sierra Hull, and Mark Schatz
Thursday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

Béla Fleck has virtually reinvented the image and the sound of the banjo through a remarkable performing and recording career that has taken him all over the musical map and on a range of solo projects and collaborations. Still releasing albums and touring, Fleck and his band, the Flecktones, have garnered a strong and faithful following among jazz and new acoustic fans.

STRINGS FOR PEACE
Amjad Ali Khan, sarod
Sharon Isbin, guitar
Amaan Ali Bangash, sarod
Ayaan Ali Bangash, sarod
Friday, October 16 at 8 p.m. in the Berlind Theatre

The sarod and the guitar belong to a common family of stringed musical instruments. Through this collaboration, Strings for Peace strives to preserve the essence of both Indian and Western traditions so they can flow into each other without artistic compromise. Each of the
artists brings the spirit of sharing the unique treasures of their own artistic traditions, as well as finding common ground in Ragas and Medieval modes. The idea is to achieve a cross-fertilization at both the cellular and cosmic levels of two classical music traditions, which are often held to be radically different. This is a blissful dream of a project, infused with the unique amalgamated contributions of artists united under a common aegis, regardless of their diverse backgrounds, cultures, traditions, generations, genders, religions, and career paths.

THE MoTH MAINSTAGE  
Friday, November 6 at 8 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

The Moth—hailed as “New York’s hottest and hippest literary ticket” by The Wall Street Journal—is an acclaimed not-for-profit organization dedicated to the craft of storytelling. In its twenty-year history, The Moth has presented more than 40,000 stories, told live and without notes, by people from all walks of life to standing-room-only crowds worldwide. The Moth Podcast is downloaded more than 73 million times a year, and The Peabody Award-winning The Moth Radio Hour, airs weekly on more than 500 public radio stations nationwide. Each Moth Mainstage features simple, old-fashioned storytelling, by five wildly divergent raconteurs who develop and shape their stories with The Moth’s directors.

FLY HIGHER: CHARLIE PARKER @ 100  
Friday, November 20 at 8 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

Acclaimed co-musical directors Rudresh Mahanthappa (alto saxophone) and Terri Lyne Carrington (drums) celebrate one of the most innovative and influential artists in modern musical history and examine his impact in pop, hip-hop, rap, rock, and jazz. Joined by a superb lineup including Charenée Wade (vocals), Adam O’Farrill (trumpet), Kris Davis (piano), Larry Grenadier (bass) and Kassa Overall (DJ), Mahanthappa and Carrington will honor Charlie Parker’s centennial year by showcasing “Bird’s” uncompromising musical joy, humor, and beauty by mining his deep repertoire and showcasing new, modern compositions.

CÉCILE McLORIN SALVANT  
Saturday, December 12 at 8 p.m. in the Berinda Theatre

The world first learned of the incredible vocal artistry of Cécile McLorin Salvant when she won the prestigious 2010 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition. In just under the span of a decade she has evolved from a darling of jazz critics and fans, to a multi-Grammy Award winner, to a prescient and fearless voice in music today. She has won the Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocalist for her past three consecutive albums, including her newest release, The Window, an album of duets with the pianist Sullivan Fortner which explores and extends the tradition of the piano-vocal duo and its expressive possibilities. With just Fortner’s deft accompaniment to support McLorin Salvant, the two are free to improvise and rhapsodize, to play freely with time, harmony, melody, and phrasing.
BRANFORD MARСALIS QUARTET
Joey Calderazzo, piano
Eric Revis, bass
Justin Faulkner, drums
With special guest The Sullivan Fortner Trio
Friday, February 5 at 8 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

Branford Marsalis has stayed the course. From his early acclaim as a saxophonist bringing new energy and new audiences to jazz, he has refined and expanded his talents and his horizons as a musician, composer, bandleader and educator – a 21st Century mainstay of artistic excellence. Known for the telepathic communication among its uncommonly consistent personnel, its deep book of original music replete with expressive melodies and provocative forms, and an unrivaled spirit in both live and recorded performances, the Branford Marsalis Quartet has long been recognized as the standard to which other ensembles of its kind must be measured.

BESSIE, BILLIE & NINA
Pioneering Women in Jazz
Friday, February 12 at 8 p.m. in the Berlind Theatre

From the Jim Crow era-South through the turbulent 1960s, Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday and Nina Simone were among the most influential and popular singers of their times. Both within their music and outside of the clubs and concert halls, they wielded their exceptional talents to combat racial prejudice, sexism, and poverty.

Produced by Grammy-winning Eli Wolf (Norah Jones, Cassandra Wilson), and with arrangements by pianist and musical director Carmen Staff (Dee Dee Bridgewater), Bessie, Billie & Nina: Pioneering Women In Jazz features three dynamic vocalists, each a rising star in her own right: Charenée Wade and Camille Thurman (both regular performers with Jazz at Lincoln Center) and Tahira Clayton (co-leader, WIJO, Women in Jazz Organization). Presented in affiliation with WIJO and backed by an all-female band, Wade, Thurman, and Clayton celebrate the enduring legacies of these iconic women and artists with performances of their classic songs, including Bessie Smith’s “Downhearted Blues,” Billie Holiday’s “Strange Fruit,” and Nina Simone’s “Mississippi Goddam.”

EN MASSE
Circa
Tuesday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

In En Masse, Australia’s Circa Ensemble takes the audience on a wild, tender, and savage ride in a work of explosive physicality and power that blurs the boundaries of dance, theatre, music, and circus arts. This company of ten acrobats and three musicians presents visions of humanity
at its extremes through circus settings blending songs from Schubert’s “Winter Journey” (Winterreise) and “Swan Song” (Schwanengesang) plus a two-piano arrangement of Stravinsky’s ground-breaking Rite of Spring (played live) and music by Swedish composer Klara Lewis. The result finds acrobats caught in a life-and-death struggle between anarchic energy and exquisite loss.

LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTECARLO
Saturday, February 20 at 8 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

The “Trocks,” as they are affectionately known, have reigned supreme as the world’s foremost all-male comic ballet troupe, dancing the fine line between high art and high camp. Donning drag to perform their faithful (sort of) renditions that poke fun at the conventions of “serious” dance, they parody classical works from Swan Lake to Giselle and choreographers from Balanchine to Martha Graham.

CATAPULT
Saturday, March 6 at 11 a.m. (sensory friendly) and 3 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

Catapult Entertainment is collaborative by nature. One of the ways that they live up to their unusual name is by launching ideas at each other through art and movement. When ideas come together they change the creative landscape and there is great rejoicing as they run around like kids exploring and playing in their newly expanded world in this special Sensory-Friendly performance.

About Sensory-Friendly Performances
While open to everyone, sensory-friendly performances are designed to serve individuals on the autism spectrum, those with cognitive or developmental disabilities, or other sensory sensitivities, and their families.

NELLA
Saturday, March 6 at 8 p.m. in the Berlind Theatre

A 2019 Latin Grammy Award Winner for Best New Artist and a Berklee College of Music alum, Nella’s is a new voice hailing from the Venezuelan island of Margarita. Her music is a meeting place for her country’s folklore roots, the influence of her contemporaries, and the music of the Andalusian region. In 2018, Nella was invited to sing the title track in the film Everybody Knows, directed by Oscar Award winner Asghar Farhadi, and appeared alongside Javier Bardem and Penelope Cruz. After a series of sold out performances in Spain, Latin America, Mexico and the US, Nella released her debut album Voy on May 31, 2019, written and produced by Javier Limón for which she won Best New Artist at the 2019 Latin Grammys. More
recently, Nella wrapped up her first US national tour with sold out shows in New York City, Boston, San Francisco, and Chicago and continues to enchant audiences worldwide.

OUR NATIVE DAUGHTERS
Featuring Rhiannon Giddens, Amythyst Kiah, Allison Russell and Leyla McCalla
Wednesday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

Featuring Rhiannon Giddens, Amythyst Kiah, Leyla McCalla, and Allison Russell; Our Native Daughters reinterprets and creates new works from old ones, shining light on African-American women’s stories of struggle, resistance, and hope. Their album, Songs of Our Native Daughters, gathers these musicians together in song and sisterhood to connect with their forebears. Drawing on and reclaiming early minstrelsy and banjo music, these musicians reclaim, recast, and spotlight the often unheard and untold history of their ancestors, whose stories remain vital and alive today.

The material on Songs of Our Native Daughters—written and sung in various combinations—is inspired by New World slave narratives, discrimination and how it has shaped our American experience, as well as musicians such as Haitian troubadour Althiery Dorval and Mississippi Hill Country string player Sid Hemphill, and more.

DAVID SEDARIS
Tuesday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

David Sedaris’ annual visit to McCarter has become a cherished spring tradition. With sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, Sedaris has established himself as one of America’s pre-eminent humor writers. He is the master of satire and one of today’s most observant writers addressing the human condition.

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA
with Wynton Marsalis
Friday, April 16 at 8 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis (JLCO) comprises 15 of the finest jazz soloists and ensemble players today. Led by Wynton Marsalis, Jazz at Lincoln Center Managing and Artistic Director, this remarkably versatile orchestra performs a vast repertoire ranging from original compositions and Jazz at Lincoln Center-commissioned works to rare historic compositions and masterworks by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Fletcher Henderson, Thelonious Monk, Mary Lou Williams, Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Goodman, Charles Mingus, and many others. The JLCO has been the Jazz at Lincoln Center resident orchestra since 1988, performing and leading educational events in New York, across the United States, and around the globe.
GIRAFFES CAN’T DANCE
Saturday, April 24 at 3 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

All the animals in the jungle know their own special dance, but Gerald the Giraffe can’t seem to move without a clumsy step. But with the help of a wise cricket, he finds his own song, and dances to the beat of his own drum! In this stage adaptation of the beloved children’s book, with puppets, African rhythm, and lots of dancing, Gerald learns that his differences are what make him special.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE

Dr. Kara Mooney will appear at McCarter on March 3, 2021.

Furthering the knowledge and understanding of our world is the core purpose of National Geographic. Premium storytelling and visually stunning photography inspire people to act, enlightens their perspective, and provokes conversation. National Geographic Live is a speaker series that brings to the stage first-hand accounts told by the magazine’s world-class explorers, photographers, scientists, filmmakers, and adventurers.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE
LIFE ON THE VERTICAL, WITH MARK SYNNOTT
Wednesday, October 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

Legendary climber and National Geographic adventure writer Mark Synnott made his name as a big wall pioneer with numerous first ascents. Today, he helps scientists make significant findings in inaccessible places. Through it all, he’s stayed on the leading edge of discovery.
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE
WHEN WOMEN RULED THE WORLD, WITH DR. KARA COONEY
Wednesday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

Throughout history, powerful women have been called many things—witches, regents and seductresses. But there was a time in the ancient world when at least one was called “King.” Dr. Kara Cooney, professor of Egyptology, will introduce you to some strong female leaders, whose power was compromised from the start.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE
ON THE TRAIL OF BIG CATS, WITH STEVE WINTER
Wednesday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Matthews Theatre

Dedicated explorer and award-winning photographer Steve Winter will take you from Asian jungles where resilient tiger populations persist, to the Himalaya, home of the rare snow leopard. Follow him into the rainforests of Latin America to view the elusive jaguar, and into the Hollywood Hills in pursuit of the American cougar. Co-author of Tigers Forever, Winter’s mission is to share the beauty of big cats while working to save them.

TICKET INFORMATION
Tickets for all performances are on sale now and can be purchased online at mccarter.org, by phone at (609) 258-2787, or in person at the McCarter Ticket Office.

ABOUT McCARTER THEATRE CENTER
McCarter Theatre Center’s mission is to create world-class theater and present the finest performing artists for the engagement, education, and entertainment to the community. Winner of the 1994 Tony Award® for Outstanding Regional Theatre, world premieres include Christopher Durang’s Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike (2013 Tony® - Best Play); Tarell Alvin McCraney’s The Brother/Sister Plays; Emily Mann’s Having Our Say; and Danai Gurira’s The Convert. Other works which later moved to Broadway include Brian Friel’s Translations, Nilo Cruz’s Anna in the Tropics (Pulitzer Prize), and Frank McGuinness’ translation of Electra. Additionally, McCarter brings the finest artists from around the world to Princeton, New Jersey, including upcoming visits from Branford Marsalis, David Sedaris, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and many more. Education and outreach efforts serve tens of thousands through student matinees, in-school residencies, and adult education classes. McCarter is supported by contributions from Princeton University, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, corporations, foundations, and from over 2,000 individuals. More at mccarter.org.
### AT A GLANCE: CLASSICAL MUSIC SERIES

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Matthews                             with Wynton Marsalis

4/24/21 – 3 p.m.                     Giraffes Can’t Dance
Matthews                             

AT A GLANCE: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE SERIES

DATE/LOCATION                        ARTIST
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Matthews                             Life on the Vertical, with Mark Synnott

3/3/21 – 7:30 p.m.                   National Geographic Live
Matthews                             When Women Ruled the World, with Dr. Kara Cooney

5/12/21 – 7:30 p.m.                  National Geographic Live
Matthews                             On the Trail of Big Cats, with Steve Winter

All dates and titles are subject to change

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