DUKE PERFORMANCES ANNOUNCES “LIVE & ESSENTIAL”
Presenting New Music, Theater and Dance at Duke and in Durham

Nov. 9, 2021, Durham, N.C.—Duke Performances announces its spring season “Live & Essential,” featuring 20 presentations including new dance, contemporary theater and music from established and emerging artists. Single tickets are now on sale at dukeperformances.org, and most spring performances are $35 or less.

SPRING SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Dance—The American Ballet Theatre and Duke University pick up a three-year partnership in person with the return of the ABT Studio Company to the Rubenstein Arts Center. This group of pre-professional ballet dancers will wrap up a week-long residency with performances on Saturday, Jan. 28 and Sunday, Jan. 29. The program of contemporary ballet works by women choreographers centers “For What Is it All Worth?” by Hope Boykin, a Durham native, choreographer and longtime Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater company member.

On Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16, Company SBB performs the world premiere of “Embarqued: Stories of Soil.” This new work centers African ancestral stories and blends dance, theater and installation art. “Embarqued” draws upon choreographer Stephanie Batten Bland’s previous investigations into memorials.

Theater—Annie Dorsen is forging a new genre of “algorithmic theater” that integrates, and dramatizes, artificial intelligence. On Friday, Feb. 11 and Saturday, Feb. 12, Duke Performances presents “Yesterday, Tomorrow,” an algorithm-made reconstruction of the Beatles’ “Yesterday” with “Tomorrow” from “Annie,” the Broadway musical. The algorithm is generated on stage, with three singers performing the results live.

Music—Duke Performances is partnering with Three Lobed Recordings, WXDU 88.7 FM, Duke Arts and the Duke Coffeehouse to present a three-day festival (April 14–16) celebrating the 21st anniversary of this independent, North Carolina record label known for supporting sonic experimentation. Label artists—including harpist Mary Lattimore, singer-songwriter Steve Gunn, virtuosic guitarist William Tyler and more—will perform indoors and outdoors at venues around campus.
The spring season includes performances by the returning greats Branford Marsalis (April 21 and 22) and Pat Metheny, playing with his touring ensemble Side-Eye (Feb. 9).

Emerging artists include a free performance by the new music quartet Yarn/Wire (Feb. 4), devoted to expanding the representation of composers and beginning a multi-year collaboration with the Duke Music Department. Les Filles de Illighadad—fronted by Fatou Seidi Ghali, one of the only Tuareg female guitarists—bring the sounds of nomadic musical traditions from central Niger to Motorco on Thursday, March 31.

WORLD PREMIERE OF DUKE PERFORMANCES COMMISSION

Duke Performances commissioned the four-time GRAMMY Award-winning sextet Eighth Blackbird, together with composer David Lang and theater director Anne Bogart, to create “composition as explanation.” This performance, premiering on Friday, Feb. 25 and Saturday, Feb. 26, takes up Gertrude Stein’s 1926 work by the same name and integrates theater, classical composition, and choreography. Lang, who has received both a Pulitzer Prize and a GRAMMY Award, is known for expanding the role of the musician in performance.

SIMPLE PRICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY

Performances will continue to be offered in person at venues in Durham and on the Duke University campus, with public health safety measures in place. To simplify welcoming audiences back live, Duke Performances is offering its 2021–22 season at a single price (with very few exceptions): $35. Tickets for Duke University students are $10, with support from the Provost and the Vice Provost for the Arts.

Duke Performances will continue to prioritize the health and safety of the extended community (current Duke University guidelines for campus visitors). Individuals are strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated before attending performances on the Duke University campus and at venues in the community. Duke Performances will adhere to all university, local and state regulations on and off campus, which are subject to change on short notice depending on public health conditions. Specific health and safety information is provided online and via email for each performance in advance.

ABOUT DUKE PERFORMANCES

Duke Performances—the professional performing arts presenter at Duke University in Durham, N.C.—engages diverse, virtuosic, and future-thinking artists from our own region and around the world to present meaningful and celebratory performances at Duke and in Durham, in service to our mission of enhancing learning and research, fostering community, and furthering the presentation of new performance.

Annually, Duke Performances offers a robust season of world-class performances, making use of a network of Duke and Durham venues, and presenting artists spanning classical, new music,
jazz, Americana, independent rock, international music, theater and dance. dukeperformances.org.

SPRING 2022 SEASON SCHEDULE

ABT Studio Company
Friday, Jan. 28 at 8pm and Saturday, Jan. 29 at 8pm
Reynolds Industries Theater
Genre: Dance
$35 General / $10 Duke students

Yarn/Wire
Friday, Feb. 4 at 8 p.m.
Baldwin Auditorium
Genre: Contemporary music
Free performance, made possible, in part, with support from the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation

Annie Dorsen, Yesterday Tomorrow
Friday, Feb. 11 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 12 at 8 p.m.
von der Heyden Studio Theater, Rubenstein Arts Center
Genre: Theater
$35 General / $10 Duke students

Pat Metheny Side-Eye
Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 8 p.m.
Carolina Theatre
Genre: Jazz
$45 / $55 / $65 / $10 Duke students

Urban Bush Women
Hair & Other Stories
Friday, Feb. 18 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 19 at 8 p.m.
Reynolds Industries Theater
Genre: Dance
$35 General / $10 Duke students

Ciompi Quartet
Saturday, Feb. 19 at 8 p.m.
Baldwin Auditorium
Free performance; Duke University’s resident string quartet

Eighth Blackbird
Friday, Feb. 25 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 26 at 2 p.m.; and Saturday, Feb. 26 at 8 p.m.
von der Heyden Studio Theater, Rubenstein Arts Center
Genre: Contemporary music  
$35 General / $10 Duke students

**Lorelei Ensemble**  
Thursday, March 24 at 8 p.m.  
Baldwin Auditorium  
Genre: Vocal ensemble  
$35 General / $10 Duke students

**Rafal Blechacz**  
Friday, March 25 at 8 p.m.  
Baldwin Auditorium  
Genre: Classical  
$35 General / $10 Duke students

**Ciompi Quartet**  
Saturday, March 26 at 8 p.m.  
Baldwin Auditorium  
Free performance; Duke University’s resident string quartet

**Imani Winds**  
Sunday, March 27 at 7 p.m.  
Baldwin Auditorium  
Genre: Chamber music  
$35 General / $10 Duke students

**Les Filles de Illighadad**  
Thursday, March 31 at 8 p.m.  
Motorco Music Hall  
Genre: Nigerian desert blues music  
$35 General / $10 Duke students

**Three Lobed Recordings 21st Anniversary Festival**  
Genre: Indie  
Performance times and additional artists to be announced soon.

**DAY 1**  
Thursday, April 14  
Duke Coffeehouse  
Featuring: Daniel Bachman, Marisa Anderson & William Tyler, Danny Paul Grody  
$20 / $10 Duke students

**DAY 2**  
Friday, April 15  
von der Heyden Studio Theater, Rubenstein Arts Center  
Featuring: Steve Gunn (solo), Meg Baird & Mary Lattimore, 500mg
$25 / $10 Duke students

**DAY 3 - Afternoon Session**
Saturday, April 16
Karsh Alumni Center
Featuring: Mary Lattimore & guest, Pelt, Wet Tuna, and more to be announced later.
$25 / $10 Duke students

**DAY 3 - Evening Session**
Saturday, April 16
von der Heyden Studio Theater

**Company SBB**
Friday, April 15 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 16 at 8 p.m.
Reynolds Industries Theater
Genre: Dance
$35 General / $10 Duke students

**Branford Marsalis**
Thursday, April 21 at 8 p.m. and Friday, April 22 at 8 p.m.
Baldwin Auditorium
Genre: Jazz
$50 / $62 / $10 Duke students

**Stile Antico**
Friday, April 29 at 8 p.m.
Duke Chapel
Genre: Vocal Ensemble
$35 General / $10 Duke students

**SPRING 2022 CHAMBER ARTS SEASON SCHEDULE**

All Chamber Arts Series presentations are in Baldwin Auditorium. Single tickets for the remainder of the 2021-2022 season are $35 / $10 for Duke students.

**JUNCTION TRIO**
Saturday, Jan. 15 at 8 p.m.

**ELIOT QUARTET**
Saturday, Feb. 26 at 8 p.m.

**FRAUTSCHI/MANASSE/NAKAMATSU TRIO**
Saturday, March 19 at 8 p.m.
QUATUOR DANEL
Saturday, April 2 at 8 p.m.

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