

**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
announces  
the 2017–2018 season of**



**MASON BATES'S**

**KC JUKEBOX**

**Third season of contemporary music series curated by  
Kennedy Center Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates  
continues to reinvent the traditional concert experience**

**Season includes a rare D.C. appearance  
by German music pioneers Mouse on Mars,  
plus two events in March 2018 as part of the Center's  
*DIRECT CURRENT* celebration of contemporary culture**

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates today announce programming for the 2017–2018 season of *KC Jukebox*, the innovative contemporary music series which spotlights the works of living composers as filtered through Bates's signature re-imagining of the classical music experience.

Using a mix of cutting-edge technology and dynamic electro-acoustic palettes—and bringing together forward-thinking instrumentalists, vocalists, and DJs from Washington and beyond—*KC Jukebox* fuses new music and new audiences for a new kind of

classical music performance. Each *KC Jukebox* event is followed by a free after-party featuring guest DJs and a cash bar to keep the vibe flowing well into the night.

“It’s been so gratifying to see such vibrant and diverse audiences gravitate to *KC Jukebox*. Listeners have encountered a huge variety of new music, from avant-garde classical works to post-minimalist indie rock, all while experiencing new formats that collide social hangs with the concert hall,” said *KC Jukebox* curator Mason Bates. “The coming season features a mix of new music from classical to electronica to beyond, and we’ll continue to have fun experimenting with the many cool spaces the Kennedy Center offers.”

The third season of *KC Jukebox* features five eclectic events, two of which are part of the Kennedy Center’s *DIRECT CURRENT*, a new annual 10-day immersion in contemporary culture with a focus on interdisciplinary work by some of the most potent voices in American arts today. The 2017–2018 season includes:

**Mouse on Mars**

**Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Atrium**

Renowned German electronica duo Mouse on Mars brings its visionary sound to the Kennedy Center in a visceral event combining live electronica and acoustic instruments. Widely acknowledged as the heirs to Kraftwerk, Mouse on Mars makes a rare D.C. appearance.

**Ear/Eye**

**Friday, December 8, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Terrace Theater**

The intersection of music and imagery will be explored in this multimedia performance, from the beautiful textures of Timo Andres’s response to pen-and-ink abstractions to Anna Clyne’s industrial response to a film about the creation of the Brooklyn Bridge. A featured work by Marcos Balter pairs startling musical sonorities with Italian design imagery of the 1970s, and the evening also includes Jacob Cooper’s moody *Ripple the Sky*, a piece inspired by the mental illness of Robert Schumann.

**California Mystics**

**Also part of *DIRECT CURRENT***

**Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Atrium**

A journey in ambience, rhythm, and texture featuring composers from California’s past and present. Using Bedouin-inspired tenting and pillows, the Kennedy Center Atrium will be transformed into an immersive and inviting environment to explore works by Lou Harrison, Steve Reich, Nathaniel Stookey, and Mason Bates.

## ***Mercury Soul***

Also part of ***DIRECT CURRENT***

Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Location to be announced

After a successful sold-out engagement in 2016, Mason Bates's signature event, *Mercury Soul*, returns to Washington for another custom blend of live electronica, classical music, DJing, and visual art, creating a cutting-edge, immersive dance club within the Kennedy Center. Featured works include compositions by Missy Mazzoli, Derek Bermel, Ted Hearne, and Jennifer Higdon.

## ***JFK Jukebox***

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Terrace Theater

In celebration of President Kennedy, *KC Jukebox* presents a program of music informed by the Civil Rights movement, from a haunting string quartet by Carlos Simon—*Elegy: A Cry From the Grave*, dedicated to those who have been murdered wrongfully by an oppressive power—to a special performance by David T. Little's band, Newspeak. The evening's featured piece is *The Holy Presence of Joan d'Arc* for 10 cellos by recently rediscovered visionary Julius Eastman.

## **TICKET INFORMATION**

Subscriptions for Mason Bates's *KC Jukebox* are on sale now. To purchase a subscription, patrons should visit the Box Office, call the Subscription Office at (202) 416-8500, or go to [www.kennedy-center.org/subscribe](http://www.kennedy-center.org/subscribe). Subscriptions may be purchased in advance of general on-sale dates, which will be announced soon. Groups of 20 or more may contact the Kennedy Center Group Sales office at (202) 416-8400.

## **ABOUT MASON BATES**

**Mason Bates** joined the Kennedy Center in the 2015–2016 season as its first Composer-in-Residence and was recently nominated for two 2017 Grammy Awards®. A contemporary composer grounded in both the fundamentals of classical music and electronica, he tackles broad, creative themes, moving the orchestra into the digital age and dissolving the boundaries of traditional symphonic music. His award-winning compositions combine an expanded orchestral palette, often including electronic sounds with large-scale, imaginative narrative forms that incorporate topics ranging from earthquakes to energy.

Frequently performed by orchestras large and small, his symphonic music has received widespread acclaim and is championed by leading conductors such as Michael Tilson Thomas, Riccardo Muti, and Leonard Slatkin. In 2012, he was awarded the Heinz Award in the Arts and Humanities, and in 2014 was named the second most-performed living composer by symphony orchestras.

Mason Bates moves fluidly between two distinct musical worlds, with one foot in prestigious symphony halls and the other in late-night dance clubs, where he deejays. He brings these two worlds together not only with his electro-acoustic compositions, but also through his efforts to introduce new music to new venues. His classical/club

project, *Mercury Soul*, integrates classical performances into an evening of DJing in alternative spaces and has attracted large crowds to events created for the Chicago, San Francisco, and New World symphonies.

Bringing classical music to new audiences is a central part of Bates's activities as a curator. With composer Anna Clyne, he has transformed the Chicago Symphony's MusicNOW series into an imaginative concert experience, drawing huge audiences with cinematic program notes and immersive stagecraft.

Bates recently served as the Mead Composer-In-Residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which in 2012 performed his *Alternative Energy* under Riccardo Muti on the opening night of Carnegie Hall's fall season. He also maintains deep relationships with the San Francisco Symphony, which recently completed a three-week Beethoven and Bates Festival; and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, where he recently served as Composer of the Year.

Mason Bates was raised in neighboring Virginia, and his early musical education was shaped by frequent visits to the Kennedy Center. With the future in mind, he looks to continue expanding his musical contributions and explore composition in the realms of theater, opera, and film.

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

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is America's living memorial to President Kennedy. Under the guidance of Chairman [David M. Rubenstein](#), and President [Deborah F. Rutter](#), the nine theaters and stages of the nation's busiest performing arts facility attract more than three million visitors to more than 2,000 performances each year, while center-related touring productions, television, and radio broadcasts reach 40 million more around the world.

The Center produces and presents performances of music, dance, comedy, and theater; supports artists in the creation of new work; and serves the nation as a leader in arts education. With its artistic affiliates, the [National Symphony Orchestra](#) and [Washington National Opera](#), the Center has produced more than 300 theatrical productions, and dozens of new ballets, operas, and musical works, in addition to hosting numerous international cultural festivals. The Center's Emmy<sup>®</sup> and Peabody Award-winning [The Kennedy Center Honors](#) is broadcast annually on CBS and annual [The Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize for American Humor](#) is broadcast on PBS.

The education programs of the Kennedy Center, including those of its affiliate [VSA](#), the international organization on arts and disability, have become models for communities across the country and have unlocked the door to learning for millions of young people. [Education at the Kennedy Center](#) produces and presents age appropriate performances and educational events, and fosters innovative programming, curriculum, and professional development for students, teachers, and families.

The Center and its affiliates stage more than 400 free performances by artists from throughout the world each year on the Center's main stages, and every day of the year at 6 p.m. on its Millennium Stages, which are also streamed live, online. The Center

also offers reduced and complimentary tickets to young people, active members of the military, and the underserved through its [MyTix program](#) and offers a Specially Priced Tickets program for students, seniors, persons with disabilities, and others with fixed low incomes.

To learn more about the Kennedy Center, please visit [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org).

Discover the [Kennedy Center](#) on social media:



**#KCJukebox**  
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### **FUNDING CREDIT**

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### **PRESS CONTACT**

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### **TICKETS & INFORMATION**

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