



**The Kennedy Center  
announces the**

## **Millennium Stage Schedule for September 2016**

**Free Daily Performances**

**Featuring**  
**15th Annual *Page-to-Stage* New Play Festival**  
**Comedian Ben Gleib**  
**Peace Corps's Storyteller Showcase**  
**Howard University Gospel Choir**  
**Local Dance Commissioning Project**  
**and many more**

(WASHINGTON)—The Kennedy Center announced today its September 2016 schedule of daily performances on the Millennium Stage. The newly released calendar highlights a variety of international music acts presented in collaboration with local embassies, including Luz de Riada and the ONIX ENSEMBLE from Mexico (September 1 and 15), horsehead fiddler Khatanbold Urlagbaatar from Mongolia (September 2), ethno-jazz group Salt Peanuts from the Kyrgyz Republic (September 10), and Chiara Oddorico from Paraguay (September 14).

The upcoming month's programming also features readings from the 15th Annual *Page-to-Stage* New Play Festival (September 3-5), which showcases new plays and works from more than 50 regional theater companies that include Pinky Swear Productions, Mosaic Theatre Company of DC, Synetic Theater, and the Playwrights Group of Baltimore. Other performances of note are: the Cajun music of the Yvette Landry Trio (September 7); modern blues sounds of Amythyst Kiah (September 13); the J.A.S.S. Quartet (September 19); a stand-up show by comedian Ben Gleib (September 20); and the Howard University Gospel Choir (September 25). Rounding out the month is a world premiere, two-evening dance performance inspired by John F. Kennedy's legacy and the political and social movements of the 1960s from artist Sarah Beth Oppenheim and her company Heart Stück Bernie, as part of the Kennedy Center's Local Dance Commissioning Project (September 29 and 30).

Now in its 19th year, the Millennium Stage is the only place in the U.S. to offer a free performance every day of the year that is streamed [live on the web](#). A full schedule of Millennium Stage performances

for the month of September 2016 is below. Unless otherwise noted, performances will take place in the Kennedy Center Grand Foyer and no tickets are required. Performances are open to television and radio news coverage. Media crews must request access at least one full week prior to the performance date.

### Full Chronological Schedule for September 2016

DATE	TIME	PERFORMANCE
Thurs., September 1	6 p.m.	Mexican ensemble <b>Luz de Riada</b> performs hypnotic, potent rock-folk-jazz as heard in their album trilogy, <i>Cuentos y Fábulas</i> (“Tales and Fables”). <i>Presented in collaboration with the Embassy of Mexico/Mexican Cultural Institute.</i>
Fri., September 2	6 p.m.	The horsehead fiddle ( <i>morin-khuur</i> ) is an instrument whose strings are made with horsehair. Musician <b>Khatanbold Urlagbataar</b> will perform traditional classics and contemporary hits alongside artists from America and his native country of Mongolia. <i>Presented in collaboration with the Embassy of Mongolia.</i>
Sat., September 3	6 p.m.	<b>Pinky Swear Productions</b> presents its award-winning musical <i>Over Her Dead Body: A Bluegrass Benediction</i> as part of the 2016 <i>Page-to-Stage</i> New Play Festival. In the middle of recording a set of “murder ballads,” members of a bluegrass variety show are forced to confront the dark stories related to the songs they sing.
Sun., September 4	6 p.m.	Details to be announced at a later date.
Mon., September 5 <b>Family Theater</b>	6 p.m.	<b>Istijmam</b> is a collaborative of theater makers from Oran, Algeria, presented by Center Stage as part of the 2016 <i>Page-to-Stage</i> New Play Festival. Their production <i>Et’teffah/The Apples</i> is a gritty, intimate work that bears witness to Algeria’s shadowed past and complex destiny of the present day. <i>Free general admission tickets will be distributed in the Hall of States starting at approximately 5 p.m., up to two tickets per person.</i>
Tues., September 6	6 p.m.	<b>Rajab Suleiman and Kithara</b> uncovers the tradition’s essential origins of Zanzibar-based <i>tarrab</i> music, renowned for its lush mix of Arabic and western instruments, diva-worthy vocalizations, and allusive Swahili lyrics. Kithara is touring the U.S. as part of Center Stage, a program of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the New England Foundation for the Arts.
Wed., September 7	6 p.m.	<b>The Yvette Landry Trio</b> performs a taste of Louisiana’s Cajun music as varied as the culture where it was born, accompanied by pedal steel master Richard Comeaux and fiddle virtuoso Beau Thomas. <i>Part of the Homegrown: The Music of America concert series, presented by the Library of Congress American Folklife Center.</i>
Thurs., September 8	6 p.m.	As the headliner of <b>Manny Kellough’s Jazz All Stars</b> , Manny Kellough’s career has seen him performing with everyone from Barry White to Carmen McRae to Billy Preston. His show will incorporate his original music as well as hits from over the years. <i>Presented by the DC Legendary Musicians.</i>
Fri., September 9	6 p.m.	<b>Target Family Night:</b> As the Navy’s premier jazz ensemble, the <b>U.S. Navy Band Commodores</b> have been performing big band jazz for the Navy and America since 1969. The Commodores write and arrange much of their music, and present concerts that are an eclectic mix of big band, jazz vocal arrangements and new instrumental songs written specifically for the Commodores of today.

Sat., September 10	6 p.m.	The Kyrgyz Republic's leading jazz band, <b>Salt Peanuts</b> , performs as part of the 25th anniversary of the former Soviet Republic's independence. In addition to playing traditional Kyrgyz instruments, the band will incorporate a <i>manaschi</i> , who will recite parts from the Kyrgyz poem <i>Epic of Manas</i> . <i>Presented in collaboration with the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic to the U.S.A. &amp; Canada, Friends of Kyrgyzstan, and U.S. Peace Corps.</i>
Sun., September 11	6 p.m.	The <b>Playback Theatre Ensemble</b> takes the ideas and stories of its audience members and turns them into impromptu on-stage performances. This method of presentation promises to be a stimulating and engaging moment in real time for both actors and theater patrons alike.
Mon., September 12	6 p.m.	<b>James A. Johnson Young Artist Series:</b> Four-time winner of the Music of the Indian Ocean prize, singer <b>Maya Kamaty</b> presents a concert featuring her signature island blues melodies and halting ternary rhythm music. <i>This performance is part of the James A. Johnson Young Artist Series, made possible by Target.</i>
Tues., September 13	6 p.m.	Southern Gothic alt-country blues singer-songwriter <b>Amythyst Kiah</b> has strong vocal integrity and eclectic influences that span decades. She draws heavily on old-time music and is inspired by vocal stylings of R&B and country music from the 1950s to the 1970s, as well as many leading contemporary artists.
Wed., September 14	6 p.m.	Considered one of the most internationally acknowledged Paraguayan pianists, <b>Chiara D'Odorico</b> performs works by composers from her native country. <i>Presented in collaboration with the Embassy of Paraguay.</i>
Thurs., September 15 <b>Family Theater</b>	6 p.m.	The <b>ONIX ENSEMBLE</b> is a well-known and acclaimed group of Mexican musicians that perform the best interpretations of Latin American contemporary music. <i>Presented in collaboration with the Embassy of Mexico/Mexican Cultural Institute. Free general admission tickets will be distributed in the Hall of States starting at approximately 5 p.m., up to two tickets per person.</i>
Fri., September 16	6 p.m.	The <b>Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists</b> sing excerpts from Mozart's sparkling comedy, <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> , as a preview of Washington National Opera's upcoming production.
Sat., September 17	6 p.m.	Brazilian virtuoso harmonica and flute player <b>Pablo Fagundes</b> and percussion and seven-string guitar player <b>Valério Xavier</b> present the best of Brazilian rhythms as part of Georgetown University's Brazil Week series, a weeklong celebration of Brazilian culture.
Sun., September 18	6 p.m.	<b>The Out of Water eXperience</b> is a high-intensity, alternative rock, progressive Hip Hop band, led by lyricist and spoken word artist Femi the Drifish. Their live performances range from presenting topics of social justice and self-awareness to witty rhymes and creative concepts.
Mon., September 19	6 p.m.	A dynamic and exciting blend of South Indian <i>raga</i> , North Indian folk/classical and Latin rhythms, and jazz's harmonic structure, the <b>J.A.S.S. Quartet</b> creates a distinctly evocative sound that maintains the Indian classical and jazz aesthetic, while pushing the boundaries of these traditions to create a refreshingly new sound.
Tues., September 20 <b>Family Theater</b>	6 p.m.	<b>Comedy at the Kennedy Center:</b> Years ago, <i>Esquire</i> called comedian <b>Ben Gleib</b> one of "six comedians who could be comedy's next big thing." His first hour special, <i>Ben Gleib: Neurotic Gangster</i> , premiered on Showtime in June. <i>This performance contains mature content. Free general admission tickets will be distributed in the Hall of States starting at approximately 5 p.m., up to two tickets per person.</i>
Wed., September 21	6 p.m.	<i>Cuatro</i> player <b>Gabriel Muñoz</b> will perform Puerto Rican folk music as part of the percussion and vocal ensemble, Melodías Borinqueñas. <i>Part of the Homegrown: The Music of America concert series, presented by the Library of Congress American Folklife Center.</i>

Thurs., September 22	6 p.m.	Guitarist <b>Queen Esther</b> performs her special blend of jazz, blues, and soul music, described as “Black Americana,” alongside her group The Blue Crowns.
Fri., September 23	6 p.m.	With a compelling mix of jazz, gospel, R&B, rock, and rap elements, acclaimed jazz composer, pianist, singer & actor <b>Mark G. Meadows</b> aims to break through social barriers and spread peace, love and understanding. Meadows will perform with his band, The Movement.
Sat., September 24	6 p.m.	Winners of the <b>2016 Peace Corps Storytelling Contest</b> will take listeners on a round-the-world journey, sharing their experiences from time spent in Ecuador, Nicaragua, Swaziland, Togo, Tonga, and Ukraine.
Sun., September 25	6 p.m.	The <b>Howard Gospel Choir of Howard University</b> , formed by students, alumni, and community members, presents a concert of energetic gospel music.
Mon., September 26	6 p.m.	Strathmore Artist-in-Residence: Drawing from the rich legacy of jazz guitar greats, <b>Jan Knutson</b> ’s music is a unique blend of virtuosity, lyricism, and vitality. Knutson will be joined by fellow guitarist Steve Abshire for a concert of classic standards and originals, including tunes from Jan’s latest album, <i>Looking Both Ways</i> .
Tues., September 27	6 p.m.	In observance of <b>YoungArts Awareness Day</b> , four young artists will sprint through the founding of our nation to the present day in <i>A Very Brief History of the United States</i> . Travel from the Revolutionary War to the birth of jazz, and from the Civil Rights Movement to modern politics in this celebration of improvisation, creativity, and collaboration.
Wed., September 28	6 p.m.	From the streets of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, <b>Jagwa Music</b> brings on a high-powered celebration with the interlocking rumble of drums, hacked mini casio keyboards, and hotwired megaphones grounding spitfire vocals. Jagwa Music is touring the U.S. as part of Center Stage, a program of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the New England Foundation for the Arts.
Thurs., September 29 – Fri., September 30	6 p.m.	Local Dance Commissioning Project Awardee <b>Sarah Beth Oppenheim</b> and her company Heart Stück Bernie present a dance performance commissioned by the Kennedy Center that draws inspiration from significant events in John F. Kennedy’s presidency, including the Commission on the Status of Women, Civil Rights, and the tumultuous social climate, the excitement and science of the race to the moon, and President Kennedy’s July 1963 request to Congress to abolish the quota system of immigration.

**All performers and programs are subject to change without notice.**

### **ABOUT THE KENNEDY CENTER MILLENNIUM STAGE**

The Kennedy Center is the only U.S. 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. Brought to the public by Target Stores and The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation, the Millennium Stage helps fulfill the Center’s mission of making the performing arts accessible to everyone. In the past 17 years, more than 3 million visitors have seen 6,000 groups with performances as varied as: jazz, ballet, storytelling, popular music, contemporary 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 more than 4,430 of these performances have been digitally archived on the Kennedy Center’s website, [kennedy-center.org](http://kennedy-center.org).

### **Need a Lift?**

The free Kennedy Center Shuttle, the Center’s link to Metro’s Foggy Bottom/George Washington University Metro station (blue/orange/silver lines), departs every 15 minutes from 9:45 a.m. to midnight, Monday – Friday; 10 a.m. to midnight, Saturdays; noon to midnight, Sundays; and 4:00 p.m. to midnight on Federal holidays. Free parking is not available when attending free events.

### **FUNDING CREDITS**

*The Millennium Stage is brought to you by Target and The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation.*

*The Millennium Stage was created and underwritten by James A. Johnson and Maxine Isaacs to make the performing arts accessible to everyone in fulfillment of the Kennedy Center's mission to its community and the nation.*

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For more information on the Millennium Stage, please visit the [Millennium Stage event page](#) or [Millennium Stage Facebook page](#).

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



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