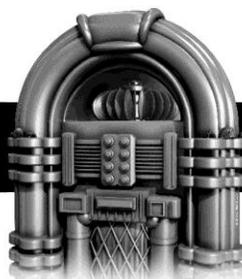


The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
presents

MASON BATES'S



KC JUKEBOX

# *Mercury Soul*

Second season of innovative *KC Jukebox* series  
begins with Mason Bates's signature event

DJs, classical music, and live electronica  
intermix for an immersive dance party

Monday, October 24, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.  
Kennedy Center Atrium

(WASHINGTON)—Kennedy Center Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates continues his reinvention of the traditional concert experience with the first event in his second season of the *KC Jukebox* series: the classical rave *Mercury Soul*, Monday, October 24, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. in the Kennedy Center Atrium.

[\*Mercury Soul\*](#) blends live electronica, classical music, DJing, and visual art to take listeners on an immersive tour of the historic sweep of epochs of dance music from Bach to the present day, transforming the Kennedy Center into a cutting-edge dance club. Music by composer-violinist Daniel Roumain opens the concert; Roumain additionally plays violin with Bates during electronica segments of the program, which also includes a drum 'n' bass–inspired percussion trio by Bates and works by two 20th-

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century masters, Igor Stravinsky and John Adams. The performance is conducted by *Mercury Soul* co-founder Benjamin Schwartz. Bates, a.k.a. DJ Masonic, keeps the party spinning in the DJ booth with periodic DJ sets interspersed throughout the evening. Cash bars located just off the dance floor will be open all night long.

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* spotlights the works of living composers as filtered through Bates’s signature re-imagining of the classical music concert experience. *KC Jukebox* expands to five events in the 2016–2017 season and will also include [Ravishment](#), an eclectic evening exploring hot-off-the-presses chamber music (Monday, January 30, 2017); a concert headlined by Angolan-born composer and instrument builder [Victor Gama](#) (Wednesday, February 22, 2017); a performance by the superstar chorus [Chanticleer](#), which includes the world premiere of a co-commissioned work by Bates (Tuesday, May 2, 2017); and the Kennedy Center debut of the legendary local DJ collective [Thievery Corporation](#) (two shows on Monday, May 15, 2017).

Mason Bates and his work will be spotlighted in other areas of the Kennedy Center during the 2016–2017 season. The National Symphony Orchestra will perform three of Bates’s works: the electronica-influenced [Liquid Interface](#) on April 20–22, 2017, conducted by Cristian Mačelaru. [Garages of the Valley](#), an all-acoustic celebration of Silicon Valley’s tech visionaries, in performances June 8–10, 2017, led by Edo de Waart; and [a new commissioned work](#) celebrating the life of President John F. Kennedy on the occasion of the centennial of the President’s birth, presented on May 24, 2017. This new work, scored for mezzo-soprano, orchestra, and electronica, juxtaposes the poetry of longtime JFK confidant Robert Frost with excerpts of Kennedy’s own words.

## **TICKET INFORMATION**

*Mercury Soul* takes place on **Monday, October 24, 2016** at 7:30 p.m. in the Kennedy Center Atrium. [Tickets](#) are \$20 and are on sale now at the Kennedy Center box office, by calling Instant-Charge at (202) 467-4600 or toll-free (800) 444-1324, or through the Kennedy Center [website](#). For all other ticket-related customer service inquiries, call the Advance Sales Box Office at (202) 416-8540.

## **ABOUT MASON BATES**

**Mason Bates** joined the Kennedy Center in the 2015–2016 season as its first Composer-in-Residence. 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.

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



**#MasonBates #MercurySoul**

## **FUNDING CREDITS**

New Artistic Initiatives are funded in honor of Linda and Kenneth Pollin.

## **PRESS CONTACT**

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## **TICKETS & INFORMATION**

(202) 467-4600; (800) 444-1324  
[www.kennedy-center.org/](http://www.kennedy-center.org/)