The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announces the

Re-Opening of the Terrace Theater
October 3-November 5, 2017

A Month-long Suite of Performances Across Genres Celebrates the New Venue After 16-Month Reconstruction

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts will officially open its fully reconstructed Terrace Theater in October and early November 2017 with 20 distinct performances that display the variety and scope of Kennedy Center programming. Programs scheduled from October 3 to November 5, 2017 will activate the new space with performances by featured artists across a range of styles, including: Jason Moran and Q-Tip, Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists, the Kennedy Center Chamber Players, members of the National Symphony Orchestra, D.C. Youth Orchestra, Damian Woetzel: DEMO, jazz bassist Ron Carter, visual artist Carrie Mae Weems, Cynthia Erivo as part of Renée Fleming VOICES, the D.C. premiere of Ta-Nehisi Coates’s Between the World and Me, and New York Festival of Song featuring Bernstein’s Songfest.

The 494-seat Terrace Theater is one of the busiest and most versatile of the theaters at the nation’s performing arts center, hosting 150 to 180 performances each year encompassing music, jazz, dance, film, lectures, and more. The Terrace Theater was closed in June 2016 to begin a $20 million reconstruction project, the first in its 38-year history, to update and upgrade the space, bringing it into compliance with the

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Americans with Disabilities Act and providing an improved experience for the Center’s artists and audience members.

“The magic of the Terrace Theater has always been its versatility. Its flexibility allows us to explore different styles and present such a wide range of programming that everyone can find something to enjoy in this space,” said Deborah F. Rutter, president of the Kennedy Center. “Making sure everyone has access to the arts is of paramount importance to us, so we’re extremely pleased that the completion of this project means all of our theaters at the Center reflect current accessibility standards and every patron who visits us can enjoy the high-quality performances we offer in the Terrace Theater. We also continue to be grateful to the government and people of Japan, who helped open the original Terrace Theater in 1979, and continue to be supportive of the Theater and the unique programming that happens here.”

The extensive 16-month reconstruction was undertaken to provide accessibility throughout the theater and flexibility for various performance types while enhancing its function as a chamber hall. The space’s updated acoustics will provide flexibility for a wide range of musical styles—from vocal recitals to small ensembles to jazz.

The theater will be completely transformed with curved wood paneling that invokes the materials and build of stringed instruments. The new design accommodates 494 seats with up to 13 wheelchair-accessible locations distributed throughout the theater, as well as direct, accessible access to the stage from the audience chamber. The Roof Terrace lobby will be expanded to include an open staircase and new elevator that offer patrons access to a new lower lobby with additional restrooms. The transformation also includes renovations to the dressing rooms to provide accessible facilities to the performers. The theater’s restrooms will be renovated to serve the entire north Terrace, including the Theater Lab and Terrace Gallery.

A key feature is the movable proscenium wall (the wall that separates the stage from the seating area) which can adjust in width and height to accommodate various
performance types and to provide the ideal acoustical configuration for each production. Energy efficient LED performance lighting and a new state-of-the-art sound system are featured elements of the upgrade.

The Terrace Theater is the sixth of the Center’s seven theaters to be renovated or opened since 1997. The renovation for the Concert Hall was completed in 1997, the Opera House in 2003, the Eisenhower Theater in 2008, and the Theater Lab in 2012. The Family Theater was constructed in 2005, replacing a space dedicated to the American Film Institute. All theaters have been brought up to current accessibility standards.

Quinn Evans Architects of Washington, D.C. designed the project in collaboration with Schuler Shook (theater design), Jaffe Holden (acoustics), Mueller Associates (MEP engineers), McMullan & Associates (structural engineers), and GHD (fire protection). Construction is currently underway by Rand Construction Corporation of Alexandria, Virginia. Federal funds supported the reconstruction.

The Terrace Theater was a gift from the government of Japan to the people of the United States in commemoration of the bicentennial of American Independence in 1976. In honor of this gift and the continued relationship between the Kennedy Center and the government of Japan, the re-opening celebration includes performances in the Terrace Theater by prominent Japanese artists Kazunori Kumagai and Yumi Kurosawa.
## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: TERRACE THEATER RE-OPENING

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The 2017–2018 Kennedy Center Terrace Theater Re-Opening Schedule

D.C. Youth Orchestra
Tuesday, October 3, 2017, 6 p.m.
Millennium Stage at the Terrace Theater

The D.C. Youth Orchestra Program (DCYOP) provides group lessons and ensemble opportunities at all levels and abilities. The Orchestra has toured 22 countries and worked with esteemed musicians such as Aaron Copland, Lorin Maazel, Mstislav Rostropovich, Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, and Gustavo Dudamel. The program has received the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award (formerly Coming Up Taller) and the Mayor’s Award for Outstanding Contributions to Arts Education. Guided by its mission, “music for young people; achievement for life,” today DCYOP serves more than 600 youth each year. Ranging in age from four and a half to 18, these students represent more than 200 different schools and 100 unique zip codes; 75% of the musicians are children of color.

Between the World and Me
A Live Performance Event
Wednesday, October 4, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

In this special live performance event, presented in collaboration with the Apollo, Ta-Nehisi Coates’s riveting second book is presented as a letter of lessons to his son, and brought to life through interspersed music, visual projections, and monologue-style readings by notable guest artists. This intimate portrait in a time of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown asks how we have a conversation of race and politics with the next generation and with ourselves. With a message that is both timely and urgent, Between the World and Me uses creative expression and narrative to interrogate the truth.

Musicians from the National Symphony Orchestra
Thursday, October 5, 2017, 6 p.m.
Millennium Stage at the Terrace Theater

A chamber ensemble featuring musicians from the National Symphony Orchestra perform a program of music by Brahms and Dvořák, related to the NSO subscription program that week.

Jason+ Q-Tip
Friday, October 6, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Two of the Kennedy Center’s dynamic artistic partners, DJ and rapper Q-Tip, Artistic Director for Hip Hop culture, and jazz pianist and composer Jason Moran, Artistic Director for Jazz, explore contemporary sounds at the crossroads of their respective genres, in this one-night only collaborative concert.
Lotus
Tap Stars Reunite to Celebrate the Art Form
Saturday, October 7, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

A local group of seven tap dancing artists, connected through their Broadway background in Bring in Da Noise, Bring in Da Funk, reunite for a night of performances choreographed to honor the roots of tap dance, their predecessors, and each other, all to live jazz music.

Kennedy Center Chamber Players: Fall Concert
Sunday, October 8, 2017, 2 p.m.

The acclaimed ensemble of NSO musicians offers a fall concert, with a program to be announced at a later date.

Domingo-Cañizares Young Artists in Concert
Tuesday, October 10, 6 p.m.
Millennium Stage at the Terrace Theater

Artists from Washington National Opera’s Domingo Cañizares Young Artist Program present a recital of art song and concert works, exploring the relationship between text and music, poet and composer, pianist and voice. This recital is an intimate window into the many facets of an opera singer’s artistry, showcasing the talents of some of the finest young singers and accompanists in the country.

2-4-6-8! A Chamber Music Celebration by the Numbers
Thursday, October 12, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Today’s brightest artists perform a duet (2!), a quartet (4!), a sextet (6!), and an octet (8!), truly showcasing a breathtaking range of chamber music configurations. In a thrilling program curated and played in part by their artistic director Joseph Kalichstein, a.k.a. "Yossi," the Center proudly welcomes two of today’s most notable foursomes who respectively represent the esteemed tradition and bright future of chamber music: the Emerson String Quartet’s long career has been distinguished by nine Grammy Awards®, three Gramophone Awards, and the Avery Fisher Prize, while the Dover Quartet is one of the hottest young ensembles on the scene today, sweeping the 2013 Banff International String Quartet Competition after forming when its members were just 19 years old. They are joined by National Symphony Orchestra pianist Lisa Emenheiser. A Fortas Chamber Music Concert
Renée Fleming and Christian McBride  
Part of Renée Fleming VOICES  
Friday, October 13, 2017, 7 and 9 p.m.

A genre-crossing evening of world-renowned soprano, National Medal of the Arts recipient, and Kennedy Center Artistic Advisor at Large Renée Fleming, with the stellar jazz bassist and host of NPR’s Jazz Night in America Christian McBride. Accompanied by pianist Julian Joseph, the concert follows a recent premiere of this unique trio at London’s Wigmore Hall.

Lee Konitz at 90  
Saturday, October 14, 2017, 7 and 9 p.m.

A celebration of the 90th birthday of saxophonist and NEA Jazz Master Lee Konitz (born October 13, 1927) and his trio, performing selections from two new Impulse! Records, released in 2017. This program is part of the Jazz series.

Sphinx Virtuosi  
October 15, 2017, 2 p.m.

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Sphinx Organization, this exciting program offers a collection of concerti through the ages. The program has something for both seasoned listeners as well as young and new audiences, and showcases tremendous variety in languages and styles. A Fortas co-presentation with Washington Performing Arts.

Japanese Connections  
Featuring Kazunori Kumagai and Yumi Kurosawa  
Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Japanese Connections is a special evening performance which features two ground-breaking Japanese artists. Kazunori Kumagai is well known for his tap dancing creativity on stage as well as his collaborations with other art forms. Yumi Kurosawa is renowned for her Koto performances and innovative collaborations. Featuring these two celebrated Japanese artists pays tribute to the connection forged between the Kennedy Center and the government and people of Japan who supported the original opening of the Terrace Theater in 1979.

Damian Woetzel: DEMO  
Friday, October 20, 2017, 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, October 21, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Entering its exciting third season of his innovative series, and the first in the newly renovated Terrace Theater, New York City Ballet Principal dancer turned director, choreographer, and thought leader Damian Woetzel will once again curate and host
DEMO. Acclaimed for mixing artists in cross-genre collaborative performances, Woetzel brings together a range of dancers, musicians, poets, actors, and other artists to explore new work as well as reframe existing work around a common theme. Previous DEMO performances have centered on the themes of time and place, paid tribute to heroes, and examined the interplay between music and dance. Programming to be announced at a later date.

**Opera Lafayette**  
Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Opera Lafayette presents a program of Monteverdi with three stars of the next generation: lutenist Thomas Dunford, harpsichordist Jean Rondeau, and soprano Lea Desandre. The composer’s music straddles the Renaissance and the Baroque, and includes the first great operas ever written. Mr. Dunford assists Opera Lafayette in crafting a program for six vocalists and seven instrumentalists which includes a semi-staged presentation of the chamber opera *Il combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda*.

**Ron Carter**  
Friday, October 27, 2017, 7 and 9 p.m.

Bassist and NEA Jazz Master Ron Carter returns to the Kennedy Center in performance with his own group, following receipt of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation “BNY Mellon Living Jazz Legacy Award” at an October 2016 ceremony in the Kennedy Center Atrium.

**Carrie Mae Weems: Grace Notes: Reflections for Now**  
Sunday, October 29, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Focused on social justice, acclaimed visual artist Carrie Mae Weems offers up *Grace Notes: Reflections for Now*, a provocative performance of music, song, text, spoken word, and video projection that explores this historical moment. The performance features singers Alicia Hall Moran, Imani Uzuri, and Eisa Davis. This engagement is part of JFKC: A Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy, the Kennedy Center’s yearlong programming initiative marking the 100th anniversary of John F. Kennedy’s birth and legacy, inspired by five ideals frequently attributed to America’s 35th President: *Courage, Freedom, Justice, Service, and Gratitude*.

**Profiles in Creativity with David Rubenstein**  
Guest Artist TBD  
Thursday, November 2, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

In his new conversation series, philanthropist and Kennedy Center Board Chairman David M. Rubenstein sits down with high-profile figures from the arts and culture field and beyond. This unique series, inspired and influenced by the words and beliefs of
President John F. Kennedy, offers rare, personal discussion with extraordinary men and women who have made history through their creative achievements. Guest and program details to be announced at a later date.

**Cynthia Erivo**  
**Part of Renée Fleming VOICES**  
**Friday, November 3, 2017, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Saturday, November 4, 2017, 7:30 p.m.**

A fresh Broadway sensation, Cynthia Erivo, who won the Tony Award® for Best Actress for *The Color Purple* will be performing as a part of Renée Fleming’s VOICES series. Erivo’s soulful rendition of “The Impossible Dream” wowed audiences as a part of the 2016 Kennedy Center Honors special tribute to President John F. Kennedy, as a part of his centennial year celebration at the Kennedy Center. Program details to be announced at a later date.

**New York Festival of Song featuring Bernstein’s Songfest**  
**Sunday, November 5, 2017, 2 p.m.**

As part of the worldwide *Bernstein at 100* celebration, New York Festival of Song offers a Leonard Bernstein musical extravaganza. The concert features a rare performance of the maestro’s ensemble work, Songfest, which premiered 40 years ago in the nation’s capital. Set to an eclectic array of poems by some of America’s most beloved writers, including Langston Hughes, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Conrad Aiken, Edgar Allan Poe, and Walt Whitman, Songfest captures the composer at the dazzling peak of his powers: a kaleidoscopic view of the American experience told through the passionate voices of insiders, outsiders, artists, ex-patriates, married couples, and kids. The program also survey’s Bernstein’s most beloved works written for Broadway and the concert hall. This program is presented by Vocal Arts DC.

**FUNDING CREDITS:**

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*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.*

*Additional funding for the Millennium Stage is provided by Bernstein Family Foundation, The Isadore and Bertha Gudelsky Family Foundation, Inc., The Meredith*

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**David and Alice Rubenstein** are the Presenting Underwriters of the NSO and WNO.

WNO acknowledges the longstanding generosity of Life Chairman Mrs. Eugene B. Casey.

WNO's Presenting Sponsor
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The Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program is made possible through the generous support of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, with additional funding provided by Judy and Billy Cox, Nicole Alfandre Halbreiner, Susan Carmel Lehrman, John & Mary Lee Malcolm, Michael F. and Noémi K. Neidorff and The Centene Charitable Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey P. Pohanka, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Schuilling, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Guillermo Schultz, Washington National Opera Council, and The Women’s Committee of Washington National Opera.

Renée Fleming VOICES is made possible through the extraordinary generosity of the Charles E. Smith Family Foundation.

Additional support for Renée Fleming VOICES is provided by the Buffy and William Cafritz Family Foundation.

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**MYTIX**
The Kennedy Center’s MyTix program offers patrons 18–30 years old and active duty members of the armed services to join for special discount offers and chances to win free tickets. For more information, visit [www.kennedy-center.org/mytix/](http://www.kennedy-center.org/mytix/).

**ABOUT THE KENNEDY CENTER**
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® 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.

For more information about the Kennedy Center visit www.kennedy-center.org.

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