



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 31, 2018

The Kennedy Center  
announces the

## **Millennium Stage Schedule for October 2018**

**Celebrating the Human Spirit  
with Free Performances of Countless Artistic Styles**

including

**Erica Rae Smith and Diana Movius**

as part of

**the Local Dance Commissioning Project**

**DC Palestinian Film and Arts Festival**

**Multiflora Productions's Flash of the Spirit**

**Zhou Family Band**

**Howard University Jazz Ensemble**

**National Symphony Orchestra Youth Fellowship Program**

**El Septeto Santiago**

**La Maquina de Cuba**

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announces its October 2018 schedule of free daily performances on the Millennium Stage today. The 18th annual **Local Dance Commissioning Project** continues with a new work from dancehall artist **Erica Rae Smith-Gooden** (October 5–6) and a multimedia ballet on the 2008 Wall Street financial crisis, presented by **Diana Movius** (October 13–14).

The Kennedy Center continues to partner with the community by hosting artists in collaboration with ongoing festivals throughout the Washington, D.C.-region.

Comedian **Mona Aburmishan**'s performance on Millennium Stage ends the **DC Palestinian Film and Arts Festival** (October 7) and **Multiflora Productions's Flash of the Spirit** music festival presents two programs: **Orquesta el Macabeo** (October 11) and **Syria to Egypt: A Musical Continuum** (October 12). Flash of the Spirit is an annual month-long DIY global music festival, presenting emerging and remarkable international musicians from abroad as well as local musicians from our diverse immigrant communities. Additionally, the Richmond Folk Festival presents the **Zhou Family Band** on October 15.

Other calendar highlights include a tribute to music professor Fred Irby with celebrated alumni Tia Fuller and the Howard University Jazz Ensemble (October 18), a concert by students from the National Symphony Orchestra Youth Fellowship program (October 29), and two Cuban music experiences: a performance by Grammy®-nominated *son* ensemble **El Septeto Santiago** (October 8) and dancing with salsa band **La Maquina de Cuba** (October 23).

Millennium Stage, now celebrating its 21st season, is a manifestation of the Kennedy Center mission and vision to welcome all to celebrate our collective cultural heritage in the most inclusive, accessible way possible. 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 Internet](#).

A full schedule of Millennium Stage performances for the month of October 2018 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 2018

DATE	TIME	PERFORMANCE
Mon., October 1	6 p.m.	<p><b>24 Preludes &amp; Improvisations</b> is a monumental work, alluding in its form to Johann Sebastian Bach's <i>24 Preludes and Fugues</i>. <b>Piotr Orzechowski's</b> total of 48 pieces are an attempt to delve into the most important notions of music, such as structure, principle, creation, and improvisation. <i>Presented in collaboration with the Embassy of Poland.</i></p>
Tues., October 2	6 p.m.	<p><b>The U.S. Army Blues</b>, part of the United States Army Band "Pershing's Own," is the premier jazz ensemble of the United States Army. After informal beginnings in 1970, this 18-piece ensemble became an official element of the Army Band in 1972. Comprised of exceptional jazz musicians from across the nation, the Army Blues strive to fulfill their mission through public concerts, educational outreach, and the preservation of the tradition of America's unique art form: jazz.</p>
Wed., October 3	6 p.m.	<p>Since beginning his study of West African music at a very young age, <b>Uasuf Gueye</b> has devoted his life to being a cultural ambassador who brings African music and culture to people around the world and connects the African Diaspora. His expansive repertoire encompasses West African traditional music and his own original compositions, many of which combine the rhythmic sounds of West African music with bluesy themes and jazzy riffs.</p>
Thurs., October 4 Family Theater	6 p.m.	<p>Enjoy a free preview of musical highlights from <b>Washington National Opera's</b> new production <b><i>La traviata</i></b> (October 6–21). Telling the tale of opera's original "Pretty Woman," members of WNO's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program perform select works from Verdi's romantic masterpiece. <i>Free general admission tickets will be distributed in the Hall of States starting at approximately 5:00 p.m., up to two tickets per person.</i></p>
Fri., October 5	6 p.m.	<p><b>Local Dance Commissioning Project: Erica Rae Smith-Gooden's</b> world premiere includes modern-fusion and Caribbean dancehall, music, and social dance culture—including a live "selecta" (DJ). The work celebrates the legacy and vitality of dancehall</p>

		movement and invites the community to view the choreographer's discovery, all while encouraging a call-and-response format integral to the style.
Sat., October 6	6 p.m.	See Fri., October 5 for more information.
Sun., October 7	6 p.m.	The hysterically sharp and witty Palestinian American comedian <b>Mona Aburmishan</b> closes out the eighth annual DC Palestinian Film and Arts Festival with a show that will be sure to bring you to tears of laughter. <i>Presented in collaboration with the DC Palestinian Film and Arts Festival.</i>
Mon., October 8	6 p.m.	Founded in Santiago de Cuba's famed Casa de la Trova in 1995 by Tres guitar virtuoso Fernando Dewer, <b>El Septeto Santiago</b> has since earned its designation as Cuba's foremost <i>son</i> music ensemble. With multiple Grammy® nominations and a Latin Grammy® win under their belt, the group has traveled the world with their joyous Cuban rhythms.
Tues., October 9	6 p.m.	The future of jazz can be heard in <b>Gina Sobel's</b> music. She is known for her improvising prowess on flute, and is an accomplished vocalist, saxophonist, and composer. Her music features keen lyrics and expansive melodies, and brings together elements of funk, modal jams, and found sounds. Sobel is a consummate bandleader and an eager collaborator, all in the service of making good music. <i>Presented in collaboration with the Strathmore Artist in Residence program.</i>
Wed., October 10	6 p.m.	<b>Wanted Man</b> plays all kinds of music and their first album has the colors of punk, surf, rock-a-billy, blues, folk, and country, varying from song to song. <i>Presented in collaboration with Hometown Sounds.</i>
Thurs., October 11	6 p.m.	Puerto Rico's <b>Orquesta el Macabeo</b> visits the Kennedy Center as part of their 10th anniversary tour in the U.S. The performance is a musical journey that travels through Orquesta el Macabeo's evolution across four official album releases. <i>Presented in collaboration with Multiflora Productions's Flash of the Spirit music festival.</i>
Fri., October 12	6 p.m.	<b>Syria to Egypt: A Musical Continuum</b> is a journey on land and through time of the formative years of Arabic music. The program will feature the five most important classical composers of the region, presented in a chronological order.

		<i>Presented in collaboration with Multiflora Productions's Flash of the Spirit music festival.</i>
Sat., October 13	6 p.m.	<b>Local Dance Commissioning Project:</b> With inspiration from Stravinsky's <i>The Rite of Spring</i> , <b>Diana Movius's</b> world premiere multimedia ballet probes the fall of Wall Street during the 2008 financial crisis, the nature of accountability, and its impact on society.
Sun., October 14	6 p.m.	See Sat., October 13 for more information.
Mon., October 15	6 p.m.	<b>Zhou Family Band</b> (周家班) plays traditional wind and percussion music that has accompanied birth and death celebrations of people in central-eastern China for more than 600 years. Coming from Lingbi, Anhui Province, part of the Central Plain area which formed the cradle of Chinese civilization, the Zhou family has been musicians for seven generations, and are bearers of a tradition that represents the foundation of Chinese folk music— <i>Bolin Laba</i> , a national, intangible cultural heritage of China as declared by UNESCO. <i>Presented in collaboration with the Richmond Folk Festival.</i>
Tues., October 16	6 p.m.	<b>Tse/Sho?/What's That?</b> is a super-charged puppet cabaret production of the breakthrough Teatr-Pralnia (Laundry Theater) with Ukraine's leading contemporary hub, CCA Dakh, directed by theatrical disruptor Vlad Troitsky. <i>Presented in collaboration with Center Stage, a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, produced by the New England Foundation for the Arts.</i>
Wed., October 17	6 p.m.	<b>The Alexandria Folk Dance Troupe of Egypt</b> was founded by the Egyptian artist Aly El Gendy in 1968. Their performance method is based on and influenced by Egyptian folklore, and the world-renown troupe has participated in many international festivals and events. <i>Presented in collaboration with the Embassy of Egypt.</i>
Thurs., October 18	6 p.m.	The <b>Howard University Jazz Ensemble</b> (HUJE) will perform classic American jazz selections. Performing with HUJE as a guest soloist will be saxophonist Tia Fuller. Fuller is Professor of Music at the Berklee School of Music. This performance is a part of Howard University's Homecoming celebrations.

Fri., October 19	6 p.m.	Hailing from Palenque, the first free black town in the Americas, <b>Kombilesa</b> is a Colombian Hip Hop group making an electrifying fusion of traditional <i>Palenquero</i> music and urban rap, with lyrics in both <i>Palenquero</i> and Spanish. <i>Presented in partnership with the Lincoln Center's David Rubenstein auditorium.</i>
Sat., October 20	6 p.m.	Local <i>capoeira</i> leaders <b>Abada-Capoeira DC</b> join forces with all-woman samba reggae percussion band <b>Batalá Washington</b> to present a joint evening of syncopated rhythms and dynamic martial art and dance movements, celebrating the vibrant culture of Brazil.
Sun., October 21	6 p.m.	<b>Target Family Night:</b> Violin and piano duo <b>Lana Berakovic</b> and <b>Maija Karklina</b> will introduce children and their families to the world of classical music as part of the <i>Kids Euro Festival</i> , one of the largest performing arts festivals for children in America. For their first performance in the U.S., the two musicians travel all the way from Austria, home to world-famous composers like Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Arnold Schönberg, and Johann Strauss. The duo belongs to the ensemble of the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz, Austria's oldest university of music. <i>Presented as a part of Kids Euro Festival.</i>
Mon., October 22	6 p.m.	Prague-born singer and musician <b>Martina Fišerová</b> introduces her original songs, meshing harmonic sophistication with unpretentious and personal expression as part of the celebration of the 100 years of Czech independence. <i>Presented in collaboration with the Embassy of the Czech Republic.</i>
Tues., October 23	6 p.m.	Come and bring your dance shoes to enjoy an unforgettable concert with <b>La Maquina de Cuba</b> , one of the top 5 Cuban salsa bands from the Island!
Wed., October 24	6 p.m.	<b>Kurbasy</b> , an ensemble of three vocalists and three instrumentalists, brings tight vocal harmonies, resonant lyrics, and phantasmagoric visual imagery from the Carpathian mountains of Western Ukraine. <i>Presented in collaboration with Center Stage, a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, produced by the New England Foundation for the Arts.</i>

Thurs., October 25	6 p.m.	<p><b>Fran Vielma</b>'s works represent his personal vision of contemporary Venezuelan jazz made in New York City. His esthetic exhibits a small portion of the vast and little-known compendium of traditional musical languages of Venezuela blended with jazz traditions and concert music elements.</p> <p><i>This performance has been selected by Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jason Moran.</i></p>
Fri., October 26 Terrace Gallery	6 p.m.	<p><b>The Bentzen Ball Comedy Festival: Off Book: The Improvised Musical Podcast</b></p> <p>Hosts <b>Zach Reino and Jessica McKenna</b> are also known as the musical sketch duo The Zach and The Jess. They have written musical sketches for <i>Party Over Here</i>, BuzzFeed, FunnyOrDie, Nickelodeon, and they created and starred in <i>Serious Music</i>, a digital series for ABC. <i>Off Book: The Improvised Musical Podcast</i> on Earwolf has been praised by various online publications including <i>Indie Wire</i>, <i>USA Today</i>, <i>Parade</i>, <i>AV Club</i>, and <i>Splitsider</i>. The podcast has also performed live at Comedy Central's Clusterfest and SF Sketchfest. Between their podcast and UCB performances, Reino and McKenna sometimes improvise four musicals a week. It's almost like it's no big deal to write a musical. Boom! Rodgers and Hammerstein, ya been roasted!</p> <p><i>This program contains mature themes and strong language. It will not be streamed live or archived. Free general admission tickets will be distributed in the States Gallery starting at approximately 5:00 p.m., up to two tickets per person. Presented in partnership with the BYT Benzen Ball.</i></p>
Sat., October 27 Terrace Gallery	6 p.m.	<p><b>The Bentzen Ball Comedy Festival: Stand-Up with Melinda Hill</b> is an award-winning comedian, writer, and actress who has worked with many of the greats including Cameron Crowe, Kristen Wiig, Maria Bamford, Sarah Silverman, Nick Swardson, and Robin Williams. <i>LA Weekly</i> says Melinda Hill's "bubbly, adorable persona belies outlandish comedy" while Laughspin calls her "a wonderfully prolific, whip-smart comedian." She's been described as a "dynamic triple threat" who's "mastered the art of humorous incongruity" with "deceptively demure faux-cluelessness" by Maui Aloha Update, Chicago NewCity Stage, and Las</p>

		<p>Vegas City Life. Basically, she delivers smart satire on a sparkle rainbow.</p> <p><i>This program contains mature themes and strong language. It will not be streamed live or archived. Free general admission tickets will be distributed in the States Gallery starting at approximately 5:00 p.m., up to two tickets per person.</i></p> <p><i>Presented in partnership with the BYT Benzen Ball.</i></p>
Sun., October 28	6 p.m.	<p><b>And Then...</b> is a dance and soft circus expressed performance in a polyphonic and imaginary world. Four characters meet to tell and present their story in different ways—objects roll around, things move, and perspectives change through dance, speech, and song. <i>And Then...</i> is a suggestive puzzle, a playful treasure hunt, and a riddle.</p> <p><i>Presented as a part of Kids Euro Festival.</i></p>
Mon., October 29	6 p.m.	<p>High school students from the <b>National Symphony Orchestra Youth Fellowship Program</b> perform solos on the Millennium Stage. These students study with NSO musicians and are a part of a school-year program designed to prepare them for a 21st-century career in music.</p>
Tues., October 30	6 p.m.	<p>Students and graduates with hearing impairments and hearing students from the <b>Riga Rainis Evening School's</b> perform concerts and engage in musical activities, including elements of drama and pantomime. Together with their teachers, they create a new form of artistic expression where each musical phrase is followed synchronously by emotional recital to music in sign language, thus setting untraditional interpretations of pieces.</p> <p><i>Presented in collaboration with the Embassy of Latvia.</i></p>
Wed., October 31	6 p.m.	<p><b>The Capitol Bones</b>, featuring vocalist Christal Rheams, perform a wide variety of music from jazz to rock with a tribute to Aretha Franklin.</p>

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

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

Millennium Stage embodies the Kennedy Center mission and vision, inviting audiences to celebrate our collective cultural heritage in an inclusive, accessible way. Millennium Stage, now in its 21st season, explores countless artistic styles and inspires the community to engage in the performing arts. Welcoming local, national, and

international artists, the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage is the only U.S. institution that presents a free performance, 365 days a year at 6 p.m., streamed live on the internet.

Support Millennium Stage by texting 'MSTAGE' to 243-725. Your gift will help the Kennedy Center continue to bring free programming to Washington, D.C.

### **Need a Lift?**

The free Kennedy Center Shuttle, the Center's link to Metro's Foggy Bottom/George Washington University/Kennedy Center Metro station (blue/orange/silver lines), departs every 15 minutes from 9:45 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., Monday – Thursday; 10 a.m. to midnight, Fridays and Saturdays; noon to 11 p.m., Sundays; and 4 p.m. on Federal holidays. Free parking is not available when attending free events.

### **FUNDING CREDITS**

*The Centene Charitable Foundation is the Presenting Sponsor of Millennium Stage.*

*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.*

*Generous support is provided by The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation and The Karel Komárek Family Foundation.*

*Additional support is provided by Kimberly Engel and Family-The Dennis and Judy Engel Charitable Foundation, The Gessner Family Foundation, The Irene Pollin Audience Development and Community Engagement Initiatives, The Isadore and Bertha Gudelsky Family Foundation, Inc., The Meredith Foundation, Dr. Deborah Rose and Dr. Jan A.J. Stolwijk, the U.S. Department of Education, the National Committee for the Performing Arts, and the Millennium Stage Endowment Fund.*

*The Millennium Stage Endowment Fund was made possible by James A. Johnson and Maxine Isaacs, Fannie Mae Foundation, the Kimsey Endowment, Gilbert† and Jaylee† Mead, Mortgage Bankers Association of America and other anonymous gifts to secure the future of the Millennium Stage.*

For more information on the Millennium Stage,  
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**#MillenniumStage**

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