



Press Release

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**The Kennedy Center, National Geographic Society,
and National Gallery of Art
Launch Multifaceted Artistic Collaboration
in the 2018–2019 Season**

THE HUMAN JOURNEY

**Examines Themes of Migration, Exploration, Identity, and
Resilience in Joint Programming Initiative**

**Drawing on the respective strengths of each organization, D.C. collaboration
features 10 commissions, 7 world premieres, themed panel discussions,
exhibits, mini-documentary series, and education seminars in conjunction
with Georgetown University**

(WASHINGTON)—Three of D.C.’s leading non-profit institutions—the Kennedy Center, the National Geographic Society, and the National Gallery of Art—today unveiled ***The Human Journey***, an unprecedented year-long collaboration that invites audiences to investigate the powerful experiences of migration, exploration, identity, and resilience through the lenses of the performing arts, science, and visual art. From October 2018 and running through July 2019, *The Human Journey* encompasses multidisciplinary performances, exhibits, and immersive opportunities drawing on the unique strengths and complementary capabilities of each of the partner organizations. Highlights include three projects by Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jazz Jason Moran exploring race, war, and personal narrative; a new National Geographic-National Symphony Orchestra commission for orchestra exploring the natural beauty and fragility of the Arctic; an original photography exhibit showcasing the work of young refugees; a major showing of the early work of pioneering photographer Gordon Parks; and a special exhibition of rarely seen lunar images to mark the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

“*The Human Journey* is inspired by the powerful stories that each of our organizations witness every day when we place works on our stages, exhibitions in our halls, and photographs in our media,” said Kennedy Center President Deborah F. Rutter. “Each partner brings a unique perspective, and by joining together, we have an opportunity to promote deeper understanding of the migration of people and the resilience of humankind to overcome conflict, adversity, prejudice, and injustices, often emboldened by a spirit of exploration and hope.”

In addition to performances and exhibits across the season, artists, programmers, and educators from the Kennedy Center and visiting companies will also participate in cross-organizational discussions and events as part of *The Human Journey*. Performances will be bolstered with audience education and engagement offerings that allow artists and audiences to engage more deeply with the programmatic themes. As just one example, the Center’s Performances for Young Audiences will feature pre- and post-performance programming for young patrons and their families, including interactive experiences, creative conversations with artists, and deeper-dive engagement around the issues and ideas presented in performances.

High-profile panel discussions, currently in curation, will feature leaders from the arts, science, political, and academic communities considering the themes of migration, identity, exploration, and resilience. Slated topics include humans’ yearning for exploration and discovery, the impact of war on art, cultural identity inherent to comedy, and the contemporary experience of the “Hyphenated American.”

Migration and Identity Shape Our Collective Human Journey

“The Human Journey is primarily a story of migration—be it by choice or force. This movement of people has historically brought together cultures from around the globe, shrinking our planet and bringing the cultural identities that define us into sharper focus,” commented Tracy Wolstencroft, chairman and CEO of the National Geographic Society. “At National Geographic, we believe that understanding ourselves and what makes us human is a critical step in achieving a more equitable and sustainable future, and the story of human migration is central to that.”

A major highlight of the Migration theme will be a powerful photography exhibit showcasing National Geographic Photo Camp, on display in the public spaces of the Kennedy Center in April through June 2019. National Geographic Photo Camp is a fascinating global project in which young people from underserved communities, including at-risk and refugee teens, learn how to use photography to tell their own stories of survival, explore the world around them, and develop deep connections with others. World-class National Geographic photographers and magazine editors provide students with a personalized, immersive learning experience, inspiring the next generation of photojournalists and motivating them to find their voice. The Photo Camp exhibit showcases the selections of photography, video, and written text to weave a narrative of the experiences and realities of displaced youth from around the world. Exhibit dates and details will be confirmed at a later date.

Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jazz Jason Moran contributes three original projects to *The Human Journey*. His first project, *James Reese Europe and The Harlem Hellfighters: The Absence of*

Ruin (December 8, 2018), explores the migration of cultural influence and jazz's resonance both in Europe and in the U.S. A century after James Reese Europe—an iconic figure in the evolution of jazz music—landed in Brest, France, with the Harlem Hellfighters and at the height of World War I, Jason Moran celebrates Europe's legacy in a multidimensional musical reflection on the impact of the African American presence in Europe in the closing years of World War I. Moran gives the U.S. premiere at the Kennedy Center following concerts in London; Cardiff, Wales; Berlin; and Paisley, Scotland as part of a tour marking the centenary of the Armistice. With contributions from John Akomfrah, and visual materials from acclaimed cinematographer Bradford Young, this new project demonstrates Moran's profound insights into the creative world of key figures in jazz history. *James Reese Europe and The Harlem Hellfighters: The Absence of Ruin* is co-commissioned by 14-18 NOW: WWI Centenary Art Commissions, the Kennedy Center, and Serious Music.

In *Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration* (April 14, 2019), Jason and Alicia Hall Moran's compelling new concert experience examines the major demographic shift known as the Great Migration in which millions of African Americans left the American South after emancipation for the North, West, and beyond. These men and women brought their unique musical tastes and awareness with them—as well as new concepts of instrumental excellence with African American rhythms. The Morans draw upon their own family lore and the stories of this historical movement with music from rhythm and blues to gospel, classical to Broadway, work songs to rock 'n' roll. *Two Wings* celebrates the enormous influence of the black community—what it left behind, the spirit it brought with them, and the essential art it continues to inspire. Full cast to be announced at a later date. This work receives its world premiere at Carnegie Hall, New York, on March 30, 2019.

Jason Moran also participates in a bold new project, *Heroes Take Their Stands*, with the Grammy®-winning Silkroad Ensemble (May 5, 2019). The ensemble engages with the social and political turmoil of our time in a program that, through music, tells the stories of five heroic figures from diverse cultures—from the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., to Elektra from Greek mythology, to Arjuna from Hindu epic poetry. Moran contributes a piece inspired by Dr. King's 1955 address to Holt Street Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Other composers collaborating for this project include Pauchi Sasaki, Colin Jacobsen, Kayhan Kahlor, and Zhao Lin.

Other performances across a range of genres include: West-Eastern Divan Orchestra (November 7), Iranian American comedian Maz Jobrani (November 16), *Cartography* (January 11–13), Bobby Sanabria's *West Side Story Reimagined* (January 18), David Sánchez's *CARIB* (January 26), Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company in *The Analogy Trilogy* (March 28–30), and Du Yun's *Where We Lost Our Shadows* (March 31). Further programs representing the theme of Migration are detailed in the full chronological listing found on page 5 of this press release.

A Spirit of Exploration Expressed through Art and Music

Two exhibitions from the National Gallery of Art feature prominently in *The Human Journey*, emphasizing identity and exploration found in historical photography. Focusing on new research, *Gordon Parks: The New Tide, Early Work 1940–1950* (November 4–February 18 at National Gallery of Art) and its accompanying catalog are the first to document Parks's early

photographs from the formative decade of the photographer's 60-year career. Looking at the importance of these early years in shaping his innovative vision, the National Gallery of Art exhibition covers Parks's rapid evolution from a railway porter to an accomplished, self-taught artist whose creative documentary and fashion pictures were regularly featured in the nation's top periodicals. Parks's photographs provide an engaging study of the competing purposes, readings, and meanings of photography during this turbulent decade, when he mixed commercial, government, industrial, journalistic, and private experiences to become the most prominent photographer of his generation.

2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing on July 20, 1969. Given John F. Kennedy's historic connection to the space race and his famous "Moon Shot" speech, the National Gallery of Art celebrates this anniversary of American exploration with the exhibition *By the Light of the Silver Moon: A Century of Lunar Photography from the 1850s to Apollo 11* (April 28–October 14, 2019, at National Gallery of Art). The exhibit features some 50 works, including a selection of photographs from the unmanned Ranger, Surveyor, and Lunar Orbiter missions that led up to the Apollo, as well as glass stereographs, taken on the moon by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. Photography played a significant role both in preparing for the Apollo 11 mission and in shaping the cultural consciousness around the event. These photographs, from the 19th century to the "space age" 1960s, merged art and science and transformed the way humans envisioned and comprehended the cosmos.

"The Gallery is delighted to partner with the Kennedy Center and National Geographic on this collaboration," said Earl A. Powell III, Director of the National Gallery of Art. "Our two exhibitions, *Gordon Parks: The New Tide, Early Work 1940–1950*, and *By the Light of the Silver Moon: A Century of Lunar Photography from the 1850s to Apollo 11*, both illustrate photography's capacity to document the human experience. A range of programs presented in tandem with each will encourage visitors to consider the many ways the medium has influenced the formation of the American identity."

A major world premiere project, titled *ARCTICA*, will feature the intersection of art and exploration in a new work by contemporary Russian American composer and pianist Lera Auerbach, performed by the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO). Co-commissioned by the National Geographic Society and the NSO, Auerbach created *ARCTICA* in collaboration with National Geographic's Explorer-in-Residence and global conservationist, Dr. Enric Sala. Auerbach's work for piano, orchestra, and chorus is a major new multimedia project for which she traveled to the Arctic to collect stories, images, and sounds. With Auerbach at the piano, *ARCTICA*'s world premiere performance will be led by conductor Teddy Abrams, the transformative young Music Director of the Louisville Orchestra. Other co-commissioning orchestras represent the member countries of the Arctic Council, including Canada, Russia, Finland, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, and Sweden. (March 30, 2019)

The Human Journey season closes with a world premiere Kennedy Center commission, *EARTHRISE*, featured as part of the Center's Performances for Young Audiences (July 18–August 4, 2019). Lauren Gunderson's immersive, original play commemorates the 50th anniversary of

the moon landing, featuring music and lyrics by Kait Kerrigan and Brian Lowdermilk. Using projections, songs, and real audio and video footage of astronauts, interviews, and President Kennedy, *EARTHRISE* captures the breathtaking feat of the historic Apollo 11 lunar flights as seen through the eyes of three children of NASA employees in 1969.

Other performances across a range of genres include: *How to Catch a Star* (November 21–December 16, 2018) and *Hotel Pro Forma* and the Latvian Radio Choir (February 13–16, 2018). Further programs representing the theme of Exploration are detailed in the full chronological listing found on page 5 of this press release.

Mini-Documentary Series Shares Artists' Personal Journeys and Inspirations

The essence of *The Human Journey* is best told through the individual stories of our artists and explorers. The Kennedy Center has teamed with producers at Storyline to create a series of online mini-documentaries to highlight artists who practice their art through the personal experiences and passions that drive and inform their creative process. Indigenous dance artist and choreographer Rulan Tangen, a Kennedy Center Citizen Artist who comes for a weeklong residency in April, is featured in the debut film of the series. Additional videos will be released throughout the upcoming season. [Human Journey video HERE](#)

Education Seminars in Conjunction with Georgetown University

Beginning with the Fall 2018 semester, the Kennedy Center joins forces with Georgetown University in a pilot program exploring how intersection of thematic arts programming and academic learning can be used to develop a robust, interdisciplinary humanities curriculum. Offering students a non-credit course focusing on three *Human Journey* works: *Long Way Down*, *Silent Night*, and *Barber Shop Chronicles*, the seminar series features attendance at performances followed by discussions or workshops on the Georgetown University campus. Each discussion will be hosted by a faculty member whose work aligns with the content of artistic work, as well as an artist connected to the respective Kennedy Center production. The on-campus discussion will also be open to the public. Students and faculty will help document connections across performances to highlight the themes of *The Human Journey*. *The Georgetown University partnership is hosted by Georgetown College and the Georgetown Humanities Initiative.*

ArtChangeUS@Kennedy Center (National Digital Conversations)

Building on the Kennedy Center's ongoing collaboration with ArtChangeUS (ArtChangeUS@Kennedy Center), *The Human Journey* Spring season will feature a live-streamed series of national dialogues between prominent artists and pivotal change-makers who are advancing a pluralistic vision of America. Details to be announced at a later date.

Complete Listing of *The Human Journey* Programs

Maimouna Youssef

Part of the *Bridge Concert Series*

October 13, 2018 (Terrace Theater)

Baltimore-born and D.C.-raised, Maimouna Youssef is a global citizen, a musical healer, a cultural philanthropist, and a community pillar. She has shared stages with Sting, Nas, Common, Lauryn Hill, Ed Sheeran, Jill Scott, Bruno Mars, among others. Youssef's latest project is already making its mark on the international music scene with its single "Shine Your Light," placing at number six on UK Indie music charts. She returns to the Kennedy Center for a one-night-only concert in the Terrace Theater.

Companhia de Dança Deborah Colker: *Dog without Feathers (Cão Sem Plumás)*

October 18–20, 2018 (Eisenhower Theater)

Last at the Kennedy Center in 2010, Companhia de Dança Deborah Colker returns with an evocative performance inspired by a poem of the same title by Brazilian author João Cabral de Melo Neto. In creating her first work entirely inspired by her Brazilian heritage, Colker vividly brings Cabral's work to life through her interpretation of the beautiful, yet impoverished Capibaribe River Region in Brazil, and the day-to-day rhythms of the people who rely on it for life. Since founding her own company in 1994, Brazilian director/choreographer Deborah Colker has been inspired by her experiences as an athlete to combine physically daring feats with visually striking designs—and redefine the rules for what can and can't be done in the world of dance. *October 18 and 20 will include post-performances discussions with Colker, moderated by Marie Arana.*

Lyrics from Lockdown

October 18–20, 2018 (Terrace Theater)

Lyrics from Lockdown is a revealing look at what race, prisons, poverty, and privilege mean in America today. Blending the heartbeat of Hip Hop with the pulse of poetry, Bryonn Bain's one-man show is a true story about his experience of racial profiling and wrongful incarceration at the hands of New York City police, and how his experience led to a transformative friendship with a death row inmate. Bain weaves the voices of more than 40 characters into this extraordinary, internationally acclaimed *tour de force* production featuring a live band performing a fusion of Hip Hop, theater, spoken word, rhythm and blues, calypso, and classical music. Produced by the Sankofa Justice and Equity Project, Executive Producer Harry Belafonte; directed and produced by Gina Belafonte; written and performed by Bryonn Bain.

Join the conversation! *Each performance will be followed by a town-hall style dialogue.*

Hip Hop Listening Session: #Lifein5 Edition

October 24, 2018

Join a host of special guests as the Kennedy Center launches its #Lifein5 digital-first initiative. Drawing from the "Top 5" concept, participants will create a collaboratively generated musical experience exploring the top five songs that tell their Hip Hop stories. The listening session will be facilitated by ethnomusicologist Dr. Fredara Hadley and features Kennedy Center Hip Hop Council member Xavier Jernigan and special guests, with a live soundtrack spun by one of today's most exciting DJs. Members of the public will also be invited to contribute their #Lifein5 creating an entirely crowdsourced playlist.

Long Way Down (Performances for Young Audiences)

October 27–November 4, 2018 (Family Theater)

Sixty seconds. Seven floors. One elevator. Fifteen-year-old Will's brother has just been shot, and Will is ready to follow "The Rules": 1) "No Crying," 2) "No Snitching," 3) "Get Revenge." But on the ride down, with his brother's gun in his pocket, his plan is interrupted by a few visitors. D.C.-area native Jason Reynolds's *New York Times* bestselling book comes to the stage in a compelling and timely production. Told entirely in free-form poetry, *Long Way Down* captures the potent minute Will contemplates retaliation. As mysterious guests appear at each floor, Will realizes there might be a bigger story to be told. He knows who he's after. Or does he?

Most enjoyed by age 12 and up.

Deeper Dive! *After all performances, special guest experts will engage audiences in a conversation that unpacks the themes presented on stage.*

National Gallery of Art

Gordon Parks: The New Tide

November 4, 2018–February 18, 2019 (National Gallery of Art)

During the 1940s American photographer Gordon Parks (1912–2006) grew from a self-taught photographer making portraits and documenting everyday life in Saint Paul and Chicago to a visionary professional shooting for *Ebony*, *Vogue*, *Fortune*, and *Life*. For the first time, the formative decades of Parks's 60-year-long career are the focus of an exhibition, which brings together 120 photographs and ephemera—including magazines, books, letters, and family pictures. The exhibition will illustrate how Parks's early experiences at the Farm Security Administration, Office of War Information, and Standard Oil (New Jersey) as well as how his close relationships with Roy Stryker, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, and Ralph Ellison helped shape his groundbreaking style. A fully illustrated catalog, with extensive new research and previously unpublished images, will accompany the exhibition. *Organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, in collaboration with the Gordon Parks Foundation. Curated by Philip Brookman, consulting curator. Bank of America is a proud to be the national sponsor of Gordon Parks: The New Tide, Early Work 1940–1950. Generous support has also been kindly provided by the Trellis Fund. The Exhibition Circle of the National Gallery of Art also contributed support.*

West-Eastern Divan Orchestra

November 7, 2018 (Concert Hall)

This orchestra brings together young Palestinians, Israeli, and other Arab musicians and defies the fierce political divide in the Middle East. Founded in 1999 by Daniel Barenboim and Edward Said as a workshop, individuals who had only interacted with each other through the prism of war found themselves living and working together as equals. As they listened to each other during rehearsals and discussions, they traversed deep political and ideological divides. Though this experiment was intended as a one-time event, it quickly evolved into a legendary orchestra. Their program, conducted by Daniel Barenboim, will include R. Strauss's *Don Quixote* and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5. *Co-presented with Washington Performing Arts.*

Malavika Sarukkai

Film Screening: The Unseen Sequence

November 8, 2018 (Family Theater)

Bharatanatyam, one of India's most profound classical arts, is being reinterpreted, renewed, and invigorated by the distinguished choreographer Malavika Sarukkai. For more than three decades, she has preserved key elements of the style in her work while creating a contemporary and personal interpretation of its cultural significance. This film by Sumantra Ghosal, a collaborator for Sarukkai's *Thari—The Loom*, explores *bharatanatyam* through the artist, showcasing her work with the hallowed, and often unforgiving, tradition.

Join the Conversation! *The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Malavika Sarukkai.*

Washington National Opera

Silent Night

November 10–25, 2018 (Eisenhower Theater)

The year is 1914 and the Great War has just been declared, dividing nations and sending millions into battle. As Christmas Eve falls on a battlefield near Belgium, soldiers in French, German, and Scottish

trenches begin recalling songs of home, stepping into no-man’s-land for a spontaneous truce. Once sworn enemies, they trade in their weapons for merriment and camaraderie—resulting in one miraculous night of peace. Based on the true story of a wartime ceasefire, and as depicted by the 2005 film *Joyeux Noël*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Silent Night* by composer Kevin Puts makes its WNO premiere in the centennial month of World War I’s end. Alumni from WNO’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program join a cast composed entirely of WNO family. Featuring lyrics in multiple languages, the music captures a powerful vision of humanity and hope. *Sung in English, French, German, Italian, and Latin with projected English titles.*

Maz Jobrani

November 16, 2018 (Concert Hall)

Iranian American comedian and actor Maz Jobrani is part of the “Axis of Evil” comedy group, which has appeared on a comedy special on Comedy Central. Jobrani has also appeared in numerous films, television shows, on radio, and in comedy clubs. His filmography includes roles in *The Interpreter*, *Friday After Next*, *Dragonfly*, and *Jimmy Vestwood: American Hero*. He appears as a regular character on the 2017 CBS sitcom *Superior Donuts*.

Recommended for mature audiences.

How to Catch a Star (Performances for Young Audiences)

November 21–December 16, 2018 (Family Theater)

Once there was a boy who dreamed a star could be his new friend—if only he could catch one. He tried climbing to the top of the tallest tree. He tried flying in a paper rocket ship. But nothing worked. Just when the boy was about to give up, he discovered something as dazzling and special as the star he was seeking. Best-selling author and illustrator Oliver Jeffers’s beloved children’s book about chasing your dreams comes to vivid life in a world premiere Kennedy Center–commissioned production created and directed by Jared Mezzocchi. Featuring colorful projections and choreographed movement, *How to Catch a Star* is a whimsical tale of discovery, friendship, and delightful surprises.

Most enjoyed by age 3 and up. All performances will include pre- and post-show interactive experiences. A Creative Conversation will follow the November 23 1:30 p.m. performance.

Barber Shop Chronicles

November 28–December 1, 2018 (Eisenhower Theater)

Set in barber shops in Johannesburg, Harare, Kampala, Lagos, Accra, and London, *Barber Shop Chronicles* welcomes audiences into this unique, intimate community where African men gather to discuss the world and their lives. These are places where the banter can be barbed but the truth is always telling. Following its critically acclaimed run at the Royal National Theatre in London, “this funny and joyous but equally poignant” play (*The Guardian*) will warm your heart. *Part of the Kennedy Center’s World Stages.*

Jason Moran: James Reese Europe and The Harlem Hellfighters: The Absence of Ruin

December 8, 2018 (Eisenhower Theater)

How does war impact art? Artistic Director for Jazz Jason Moran seeks an answer to this question in the U.S. premiere of *The Absence of Ruin*, his salute to James Reese Europe, the early African American ragtime musician and first black bandleader who created an international demand for jazz and served as an inspiration to generations of musicians to follow. Through new arrangements and stunning visual media, including a special film component directed by John Akomfrah (*The March*) with cinematography by Bradford Young (*Selma, Arrival*), Moran explores Europe’s deep musical catalogue and how his achievements continue to affect today’s culture and sound. A groundbreaking artist and composer, Europe played a pivotal role in the recruitment efforts during the First World War, where his songs became anthems for the young men who fought alongside him. Moran gives the U.S. premiere at the

Kennedy Center following concerts in London; Cardiff, Wales, Berlin; and Paisley, Scotland as part of a tour marking the centenary of the Armistice. *James Reese Europe and The Harlem Hellfighters: The Absence of Ruin* is co-commissioned by 14-18 NOW: WWI Centenary Art Commissions, the Kennedy Center, and Serious Music.

***Cartography* (Performances for Young Audiences)**

January 11–13, 2019 (Family Theater)

Inflatable rafts on the Mediterranean. Dark holds of cargo trucks. Family photos wrapped carefully in a backpack that crosses the border checkpoints. Author and illustrator Christopher Myers and director Kaneza Schaal, along with New York-based company Arktype, explore how the world is alive with movement and migration. Inspired by the artists' creative work with young refugees from around the world, *Cartography* asks what part we play in the lives of youth who set out into the unsure waters of their future. From the effects of climate change to war and poverty, this powerful story examines the forces that shape where we have come from, how we have moved, and where we are going.

Most enjoyed by age 12 and up. All performances will include pre- and post-show interactive experiences. A Creative Conversation will follow the January 12 1:30 p.m. performance.

Bobby Sanabria, MultiVerse Big Band

West Side Story Reimagined

January 18, 2019 (Terrace Theater)

With an all-new instrumental orchestration of lively Latin jazz, electrifying percussionist and bandleader Bobby Sanabria and his MultiVerse Big Band pay tribute to the beloved Broadway masterpiece that redefined the American musical. *Reimagined* expands upon the original Latin American styles utilized by Bernstein to include: Venezuelan *joropo*, Puerto Rican *bomba* and *plena*, Dominican merengue, Brazilian samba and samba cansao, Cuban mambo, cha-cha-cha, bolero, *son montuno*, West African-rooted bembé, and American funk and swing. The combination provides the musicians an “explosive platform as jazz soloists,” says Sanabria.

David Sánchez

CARIB

January 26, 2019 (Terrace Theater)

Grammy®-winning Puerto Rican saxophonist David Sánchez's deeply personal new project, *CARIB*, brings hot island melodies to the Terrace Theater. *CARIB* uses modern jazz to explore the kinship between the West African drum rhythms of Yuba, Calinda, and Sika and music from Haiti, Carriacou, and his native Puerto Rico. Sánchez takes yet a deeper dive into the Afro-Caribbean musical lineage and its shared history with the American jazz tradition.

Ron Miles, Brian Blade, Bill Frisell, Jason Moran, & Scott Colley

I AM A MAN

February 2, 2019 (Terrace Theater)

On the day before his assassination in 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood in Memphis alongside the striking sanitation workers who carried signs declaring “I AM A MAN.” Ron Miles, “one of the finest trumpeters in jazz today” (*Jazz Times*), makes his most compelling artistic statement to date with a night of music from his new project, a record titled after this simple, powerful phrase that challenged centuries of discrimination. The group's virtuosic camaraderie animates *I AM A MAN*'s expansive themes, building an album of and for today from the spiritual foundations of black American music. In an interesting tie-in to the *Human Journey* partnership, visual art by artist Glenn Ligon on display at the National Gallery of Art,

served as the inspiration for the composition, *I AM A MAN*. Tickets not yet on sale to members or the general public.

Rennie Harris Co-Commission
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Lazarus

February 5–10*, 2019 (Opera House)

Rennie Harris, who has created several acclaimed works for the Ailey company, including *Exodus*, *Home*, and *Love Stories* (a collaboration with Judith Jamison and Robert Battle), choreographs the company's first-ever evening-length dance. *Lazarus* is inspired by the life and legacy of Alvin Ailey, and addresses the racial inequities America faced when Mr. Ailey started his company in 1958 and still faces today.

Celebrating the company's 60th Anniversary Season in 2018–2019, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater founded by legendary choreographer Alvin Ailey and currently led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, plays a crucial social role in using the beauty and humanity of the African American heritage and other cultures to unite people of all races, ages, and backgrounds. *Lazarus is a Kennedy Center co-commission. *Select performances.*

Hotel Pro Forma and the Latvian Radio Choir
NeoArctic

February 13–16, 2019 (Terrace Theater)

Making its U.S. premiere, this collaboration between Danish artistic incubator Hotel Pro Forma and the Latvian Radio Choir daringly explores the Anthropocene, a new geological age characterized by the harsh impact of humanity on our vulnerable ecosystem. Through a mingling of classical voice, electronica, dramatic staging, and movement, plus a dynamic backdrop of photography from NASA, this visual music performance addresses a broad range of environmental issues from climate change to soil erosion. Twelve unique soundscapes cover 12 different landscapes to tell the story of planet Earth and its future. *In English.*

She A Gem (Performances for Young Audiences)

February 15–24, 2019 (Family Theater)

In this original play by Josh Wilder, Krystin, Jaleesa, and Amber form a double-dutch team in inner city Philadelphia to compete in their neighborhood pageant. If they win, they'll receive a special prize: their futures told by Ms. Mary, the local psychic. Will they become a famous singer? A hairdresser? Or maybe a "gem," a special leader who cares for the neighborhood. Then they meet a pregnant teen from North Philly who can jump double-dutch almost better than any of them. Just as the girls anticipate learning about their futures, they will learn something important about her past that affects them all.

Most enjoyed by age 12 and up. All performances will include pre- and post-show interactive experiences.

Deeper Dive! *After all performances, a special guest expert will engage audiences in a conversation that unpacks the themes presented on stage.*

Cirkus Cirkör
Limits

March 6–9, 2019 (Eisenhower Theater)

"Boundaries are meant to be crossed. Limits are meant to be exceeded!" says Tilde Björfors, who conceived and directed this physical theater work by Sweden's Cirkus Cirkör. We build fences around our gardens, walls, and barricades, and place armed soldiers around our countries. But human beings have never wanted to stay in the same place. In classic Cirkus Cirkör style, *Limits* will turn perspectives on their heads. *In English and Swedish with projected English titles.*

Sundance Institute (International Theater)

March 12 & 13, 2019 (Terrace Gallery)

As part of the Kennedy Center's continued efforts to support the creation of new works and unique artistic voices, the Center will again partner with Sundance Institute to present a series of theater pieces from Institute alumni. In 2019, Sundance Institute brings Theater from the Middle East and North Africa with *Jogging*, conceived and performed by Hanane Hajj Ali. A Lebanese woman follows a daily routine of jogging to keep herself safe from obesity, bone diseases, and anxiety, creating a connection between her intimate personal space and the city. *Performed in Arabic with English titles. Recommended for age 16 and up.*

Nicholas Payton

Afro-Caribbean Mixtape

March 15, 2019 (Terrace Theater)

New Orleans-born trumpeter, pianist, singer, and composer Nicholas Payton presents his signature BAM, "Black American Music," exploring art beyond the confines of genre classification. This season, Payton returns to the Kennedy Center to perform pieces from his ambitious new project *Afro-Caribbean Mixtape*, his 2017 album that fuses the musical traditions of his Louisiana hometown with bebop, swing, blues, and soul, all rooted in the rhythms of Africa. *Tickets not yet on sale to members or the general public.*

***The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963* (Performances for Young Audiences)**

March 15–24, 2019 (Family Theater)

Meet the Watsons of Flint, Michigan: Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, big brother Byron, and 10-year-old Kenny. When Byron can't stay out of trouble, the whole family piles into their "Brown Bomber" and drives south to visit Grandma Sands for the summer. But along the way, they will experience a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement. Christopher Paul Curtis's Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King Award-winning book comes to life in a staged concert reading adaptation by Christina Ham with live music. Told through Kenny's ever-witty perspective, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* captures family antics alongside poignant observations of Birmingham's tragic church bombing. Experience the beloved story of a family's bond and endurance amidst one of the darkest periods in America's history.

Most enjoyed by age 9 and up. Includes pre- and post-show interactive activity for families. All performances will include pre- and post-show interactive experiences. A Creative Conversation will follow the March 16 2 p.m. performance.

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company

The Analogy Trilogy

March 28–30, 2019 (Eisenhower Theater)

A true pillar of modern dance, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company makes a triumphant return, having last performed at the Kennedy Center in 2011. Choreographed by Artistic Director and Kennedy Center Honoree Bill T. Jones and Associate Artistic Director Janet Wong, the company brings three separate evening-length works that delve into the voice of the marginalized in our society, exploring identity, migration, survival, and family. Dancers move, sing, and speak as they are accompanied by live music, video, and projections that help guide the story. *Analogy 1/Dora: Tramontane* is based on an oral history that Jones conducted with his mother-in-law, a French Jewish nurse and social worker. The work tells her story of survival during World War II. *Analogy 2/Lance: Pretty aka the Escape Artist* is Jones sharing the emotional struggle and hardships that his nephew Lance faced in the underworld of the late '80s and early '90s club culture and sex trade. *Analogy 3/Ambros: The Emigrant*, inspired by W.G. Sebald's historical novel *The Emigrant*, creates a fictionalized narrative for the character Ambros Adelwarth to explore the impact

of trauma on the psyche. *The Analogy Trilogy* is also part of the Kennedy Center's *DIRECT CURRENT* programming.

ARCTICA

National Symphony Orchestra

Co-commissioned by National Geographic Society and the NSO

March 30, 2019

Inspired by an expedition to the Arctic by internationally acclaimed poet, composer, and artist Lera Auerbach and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, marine ecologist, and global conservationist Enric Sala, *ARCTICA* is a multimedia work for piano, chorus, and orchestra. In his NSO debut, Teddy Abrams will conduct the world premiere of this NSO co-commission, by contemporary Russian American composer Lera Auerbach. *ARCTICA* features in a program that will include nature-themed works by Dvořák and Sibelius as well as a work by Kennedy Center Composer-in Residence Mason Bates. Other co-commissioning orchestras represent the member countries of the Arctic Council, including Canada, Russia, Finland, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, and Sweden. *ARCTICA* is also part of the Kennedy Center's *DIRECT CURRENT* programming.

Join the Conversation! *Includes a pre-concert Forewords program with artists and scholars.*

Where We Lost Our Shadows

Du Yun, composer

Helga Davis, vocals

Ali Sethi, vocals

Shayna Dunkleman, percussion

Khaled Jarrar, videographer

The Peabody Orchestra; Joseph Young, conductor

March 31, 2019 (Terrace Theater)

The Kennedy Center presents the U.S. premiere of *Where We Lost Our Shadows*, a video oratorio documenting the experience of refugees in Germany, by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Du Yun and Palestinian visual artist and videographer Khaled Jarrar, who introduce their work together in a post-concert talk. This work is co-commissioned by the Kennedy Center with Carnegie Hall, the American Composers Orchestra, London's Southbank Centre, and Cal Performances, and is also part of the Kennedy Center's *DIRECT CURRENT* programming.

Join the Conversation! *Includes a post-concert discussion with Du Yun and Khaled Jarrar.*

Falling Out

April 4 & 5, 2019 (Family Theater)

Endlessly inventive theater artists Jessica Grindstaff and Erik Sanko offer an emotional call to climate action. Inspired by the catastrophic 2011 tsunami and Fukushima nuclear disaster, this rippling meditation on water, heartbreak, and toxic fallout fuses contemporary flex dance and Japanese butoh tradition with Phantom Limb's singular style of puppet theater. Created in collaboration with Dai Matsuoka of the transporting dance troupe Sankai Juku, *Falling Out* weaves music, movement, and design into a haunting tapestry of collective collapse and renewal. Inspired by those in Japan, where tsunami survivors were able to record thoughts about loved ones, a "Memory Phone" will offer concert-goers the opportunity to voice their thoughts and feelings on love, water, nature, and loss. *Falling Out* is co-presented in collaboration with The Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics at Georgetown University. *Falling Out* is also part of the Kennedy Center's *DIRECT CURRENT* programming.

Join the Conversation! Both performances also include a post-concert discussion.

National Geographic

Photo Camp Refugee Exhibit

April–June 2019 (Kennedy Center Hall of States and Nations)

National Geographic Photo Camp engages young people from underserved communities, including at-risk and refugee teens. They learn how to use photography to tell their own stories, explore the world around them, and develop deep connections with others. World-class National Geographic photographers and National Geographic magazine editors provide students with a personalized, immersive learning experience, inspiring the next generation of photojournalists. Then, through intimate presentations in their own communities and public exhibitions that reach millions of viewers, National Geographic Photo Camp showcases the students' perspectives on issues that are important to all of us.

The exhibition, the first of its kind in Washington, D.C., will consist of a selection of photographs, videos, and written text, designed to weave a narrative of the experiences of displaced youth. It will include stories of their individual journeys as well as reflections on family, culture, and the connection to their new communities.

Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration

Jason Moran & Alicia Hall Moran

April 14, 2019 (Eisenhower Theater)

Jason and Alicia Hall Moran's compelling new concert experience examines the major demographic shift known as the Great Migration, in which millions of African Americans left the American South after emancipation for all points North, West, and beyond. These men and women brought their unique musical tastes and awareness with them—as well as new concepts of instrumental excellence with African American rhythms. Jason and Alicia explore their own family lore and the stories of this historical movement with music from rhythm and blues to gospel, classical to Broadway, work songs to rock 'n' roll. Joining them are Grammy[®]-winning vocalist Smokie Norful and the acclaimed wind quintet Imani Winds to deliver universal human truths and personal reflections through music, spoken word, visual media, and more.

National Gallery of Art

By the Light of the Silvery Moon

April 28–October 14, 2019 (National Gallery of Art)

The year 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing on July 20, 1969. Photography played a significant role both in preparing for the mission and in shaping the cultural consciousness of the event. An exhibition of some 50 works will include a selection of photographs from the unmanned Ranger, Surveyor, and Lunar Orbiter missions that led up to the Apollo 11. The landmark event will be represented by glass stereographs, taken on the moon by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, showing close-up views of three-centimeter-square areas of the lunar surface, as well as iconic NASA and press photographs of the astronauts that were disseminated widely in the wake of the mission's success. Additionally, a select survey of lunar photographs from the 19th and early 20th centuries features works ranging from Walter de la Rue's 1850s glass stereograph of the full moon to a suite of Charles Le Morvan's rich, velvety photogravures from *Carte photographique et systematique de la lune*, published in 1914, which attempted to systematically map the entire visible lunar surface. These photographs, from the 19th century to the "space-age" 1960s, merged art and science and transformed the way that we envision and comprehend the cosmos. *Organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington. Curated by Diane Waggoner, curator of 19th-century photographs, National Gallery of Art.*

Kennedy Center Arts Summit 2019

Human Journey: Creating the Story of US

April 29, 2019 (Theater Lab)

The 2019 Arts Summit will explore how we define and shape our world through the stories we tell (and the ones we don't). How can storytelling reframe our world view—shift and expand what we think is possible? How do more inclusive, diverse stories help build a more equitable society? How can the right story inspire us to action? How can radical listening foster empathy and stitch together the tears in our social fabric? Focusing on three concepts—The Stories We Tell, Retold; Shifting the Spotlight; and Stitching Us Back Together—and through a series of long conversation, performances, discussions, breakout sessions, and presentations, we will broadly explore story as an art form, a tool, and a strategy for moving us forward. Characteristic of the annual Arts Summit, the Kennedy Center engages experts and masterful storytellers from across numerous fields—the arts, media, education, policy, business, the sciences, and beyond—to challenge old ideas, spark new ones, and catalyze potent partnerships across disciplines.

Rulan Tangen & Dancing Earth

...SEEDS: RE GENERATION...

April 26, 2019 (Millennium Stage)

...SEEDS: RE GENERATION... is a purposeful performance that indigenizes space as vital transformative gathering ground. Centered in indigenous ecological knowledge, a weeklong residency culminates in an immersive, interdisciplinary, and contemporary dance ritual. ...SEEDS: RE GENERATION... evolves from Dancing Earth's intertribal artists in exchanges with Native elders, farmers, foragers, seed savers, and food and water justice groups, in visioning sessions and movement workshops that root our restoration of land and people. In association with the 2019 Arts Summit, Tangen, a 2018–2019 Kennedy Center Citizen Artist, will participate in a weeklong residency that highlights her work as an indigenous artist, combining outreach work and participatory activities in the local community.

Silkroad Ensemble: Heroes Take Their Stands

May 5, 2019 (Eisenhower Theater)

Heroes Take Their Stands is an evening-length, multimedia work in five parts, and a cycle of stories that spans time, space, and human experience. The new pieces will be written for the Silkroad Ensemble by different composers, including Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jazz Jason Moran (in a yet untitled piece inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s address to Holt Street Baptist Church in 1955), Pauchi Sasaki (*Elektra*), Colin Jacobsen (*Arjuna at Kuru: Discourse with Lord Krishna*), Kayhan Kahlor (*Slavosh in Touran: Farewell to His Wife & Horse*), and Zhao Lin (*Doe E at Chuzhov*). *The Kennedy Center is a co-commissioner of Silkroad's Heroes Take Their Stands. Tickets not yet on sale to members or the general public.*

Byhalia, Mississippi

June 11–30, 2019 (Terrace Theater)

Byhalia, Mississippi is a new Kennedy Center production of playwright Evan Linder's uncompromising exploration of race, family, and betrayal in the American South, which won Chicago's prestigious Jefferson Award in 2016 for Best New Work. Jim and Laurel Parker are about to become new parents. They are broke. They are loud. They are proud Southerners. When Laurel gives birth to their long overdue child, she and Jim are faced with the biggest challenge of their lives. *Byhalia, Mississippi* explores a couple in the midst of turmoil—and a town with a racially charged past that finds its way into the present.

Serenade! Choral Festival

The Human Journey: Music, Migration & Identity

July 6 & 7, 2019 (Grand Foyer, 6 p.m.)

July 8, 2019 (Concert Hall, 6 p.m.)

Part of *The Human Journey* and a co-presentation by Classical Movements and the Kennedy Center, the ninth Annual *Serenade!* Choral Festival features two multi-choral performances by international choirs as part of Millennium Stage. The grand finale concert features individual performances from all *Serenade!* Ensembles, as well as two world premieres commissioned by Classical Movements for the *Serenade!* mass choir. Participating international choirs (to date) include Túumben Paax (Mexico), juice (a contemporary music choir from the United Kingdom), and Singing Sensations Youth Choir (Baltimore/U.S.), with additional choirs to be confirmed at a later date. Established in 2011, Classical Movements' *Serenade!* Choral Festival is an exuberant celebration of choral music from around the world, offering unforgettable, life-changing experiences for singers and audiences alike. Presented free to the public—with freewill donations collected for local non-profit charities—*Serenade!* has showcased more than 85 choirs from 33 countries at prestigious venues throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

The Band's Visit

July 9–August 4, 2019 (Eisenhower Theater)

The critically acclaimed new musical *The Band's Visit* celebrates the deeply human ways music, longing, and laughter can connect us all. Based on the award-winning Israeli film, the musical tells the story of an Egyptian Police Band who is sent to a remote village in the middle of the Israeli desert after a mix-up at the border. With no bus until morning and no hotel in sight, these unlikely travelers are taken in by the locals. Under the spell of the desert sky, their lives become intertwined in the most unexpected ways. Based on the multi-award-winning film, *The Band's Visit* is brought to the stage by three-time Tony® nominee David Yazbek, Drama Desk nominee Itamar Moses, and acclaimed director David Cromer.

EARTHRISE (Performances for Young Audiences)

World premiere and Kennedy Center commission

July 18–August 4, 2019 (Terrace Gallery)

While the countdown begins for the launch of Apollo 11 in 1969, three children of key NASA employees watch from different perspectives. As the historic flight unfolds, the kids dream a collective dream of looking back from the spaceship on the moon to see a majestic earthrise. Lauren Gunderson's immersive, original play commemorates the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, featuring music and lyrics by Kait Kerrigan and Brian Lowdermilk. Using projections, songs, and real audio and video footage of astronauts, interviews, and President Kennedy, *EARTHRISE* captures the breathtaking feat of the first lunar landing. As the kids dream of voyaging to the moon and back, their journey highlights the power of science and new perspectives on one another, Earth, and life. *Tickets not yet on sale to members or the general public.*

Most enjoyed by age 5 and up. A Creative Conversation will follow the July 20 1:30 p.m. performance.

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PRESS CONTACTS

Eileen Andrews (Kennedy Center)
(202) 416-8448
etandrews@kennedy-center.org

Kelsey Flora (National Geographic)
(202) 807-3133
kflora@ngs.org

Anabeth Guthrie (National Gallery of Art)
(202) 842-6804
a-guthrie@nga.gov