



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 12, 2019

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

Millennium Stage Schedule for July 2019

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

Including
***Serenade!* Choral Festival**
Black Masala
NSO Project - Apollo @ 50
Cimarrón
Cedric Watson
The Theatre Lab
National Symphony Orchestra's Summer Music Institute
WNO Opera Institute

(WASHINGTON)— The Kennedy Center announces the July calendar of events for Millennium Stage, its free daily performance series featuring art and artists representing countless artistic styles. A highlight of the July calendar includes the Kennedy Center's third summer co-presenting with Classical Movements to celebrate international choral music with ***Serenade!*** (July 6–8). This year, the festival investigates themes of *The Human Journey*—a collaboration between the Kennedy Center, National Geographic Society, and the National Gallery of Art, which invites audiences to investigate the powerful experiences of migration, exploration, identity, and resilience through the lenses of the performing arts, science, and visual art.

Other highlights include a performance by local, pop-up brass band **Black Masala** (July 19); a curated tribute by NASA and the NSO to the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, **NSO Project—Apollo 11 @ 50** (July 20); a *joropo* musical experience by **Cimarrón** (July 23); a Cajun, Creole, and Zydeco-influenced concert by Grammy®-nominated musician **Cedric Watson** (July 25); and an original take on Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* by **The Theatre Lab** (July 27).

Additionally, approximately 60 students from the **National Symphony Orchestra's Summer Music Institute** will perform in three concerts on the Millennium Stage, showcasing their talents and new skills learned from the four-week long program designed to expose and prepare students for a 21st-century orchestral career (July 9, 15, 28). The **WNO Opera Institute** also takes place this summer, and singers who participate in the three-week long program at American University are invited to perform on the Millennium Stage on July 14.

Millennium Stage, now celebrating its 22nd season, is a manifestation of the Kennedy Center's 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 United States 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 July 2019 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.

Chronological Schedule for July 2019

Please check the Kennedy Center websites for updates on programming.

DATE	TIME	PERFORMANCE
Mon., July 1	6 p.m.	Co-produced by Grammy® nominee Ivis Flies and Grammy® winner Ivan Benavides, Rio Mira is a marimba supergroup with Afro-Pacific binational heritage consisting of some of the most in-demand and respected musicians from Colombia and Ecuador. Their music is the sonic rejoining of the region known as El Pacifico Sur, one connected by history, ecology, and culture and divided by the national borders of Ecuador and Colombia. <i>Presented in collaboration with the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.</i>
Tues., July 2	6 p.m.	Smithsonian Folklife Festival <i>More information to be determined at a later date.</i> <i>Presented in collaboration with the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.</i>
Wed., July 3	6 p.m.	Smithsonian Folklife Festival presents <i>The Sunlit Path: Mary D. Williams Sings Songs of Protest and Promise</i> <i>More information to be determined at a later date.</i> <i>Presented in collaboration with the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.</i>
Thurs., July 4	6 p.m.	<i>More information to be determined at a later date.</i>
Fri., July 5	6 p.m.	2019 Wammie Award winners for Best Bluegrass Album, Two Ton Twig , explores the fringes of traditional bluegrass and string band music with their eclectic blend of modern influences. This quartet based in Alexandria, Virginia released their third full-length album in February of this year.

Sat., July 6	6 p.m.	Co-presented with Classical Movements, the ninth annual Serenade! reflects on <i>The Human Journey: Music, Migration and Identity</i> with professional vocal groups, community choral ensembles, and youth choirs alike. <i>This program is part of The Human Journey.</i>
Sun., July 7	6 p.m.	Please see Sat., July 6 for details. <i>This program is part of The Human Journey.</i>
Mon., July 8 Concert Hall	6 p.m.	Classical Movements's ninth annual Serenade! Washington, D.C. Choral Festival concludes on the Concert Hall stage with a truly grand finale: individual performances by <i>The Human Journey</i> ensembles from Iran, Mongolia, Ecuador, Mexico, Canada, France, and Germany, as well as the <i>Serenade!</i> mass choir, led by the 2019 recipient of the Robert Shaw Lifetime Achievement Award, Doreen Rao. Dr. Rao will conduct her second <i>Serenade!</i> mass choir in the world premiere of <i>Refuge</i> —a brand-new work by soprano and composer Patrice Michaels—commissioned by the Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program. <i>This program is part of The Human Journey.</i> <i>Free general admission tickets will be distributed in the Hall of Nations starting at approximately 4:30 p.m., up to two tickets per person.</i>
Tues., July 9	6 p.m.	Students from the NSO Summer Music Institute compete to play a concerto with the NSO SMI Orchestra at their final concert on Sunday, July 28 at 6 p.m. in the Concert Hall as part of a Millennium Stage presentation.
Wed., July 10	6 p.m.	Singer and guitarist Ilusha Tsinadze was born in Soviet-era Georgia and emigrated to the U.S. at the age of 8. His second album, <i>Yes & No</i> , is a musical conversation between the contemporary sounds of Brooklyn and the traditional music his family left behind in Georgia.
Thurs., July 11	6 p.m.	Target Family Night: Join the All-American Boys Chorus for an evening of summertime fun. In a return performance to the Kennedy Center, these young singers from California take the audience on an adventure through America's rich musical heritage.
Fri., July 12 Terrace Theater	6 p.m.	Comedy at the Kennedy Center: <i>More information to be determined at a later date.</i> <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 p.m., up to two tickets per person.</i>
Sat., July 13	6 p.m.	D.C.-based musician Cheick Hamala Diabate has long explored the connection between America's traditions and his own griot roots. Like many American string players, including Bela Fleck with whom Diabate has collaborated and performed, Diabate noticed the eerie resemblance of his trusty <i>n'goni</i> and the banjo. In 2007, Diabate's collaboration with banjo player Bob Carlin, "From Mali to America" (5-String Productions), led to a Grammy® nomination for Best Traditional World Music Album. <i>More information to be determined at a later date.</i>
Sun., July 14	5:45 p.m.	WNO Opera Institute at American University is a three-week summer program that brings dedicated young singers together to explore opera in a professional and nurturing environment.

Mon., July 15 Concert Hall	6 p.m.	The NSO Summer Music Institute Orchestra performs Brahms's Symphony No. 1 in the Concert Hall. Come hear the students in their first concert of the Summer Music Institute. <i>Free general admission tickets will be distributed in the Hall of Nations starting at approximately 4:30 p.m., up to two tickets per person.</i>
Tues., July 16	6 p.m.	Yanga (American Musicians Abroad Project) , is a manifestation of Colombia's ever expanding musical influence. Sprouting their own distinct branch on the tree of Caribbean music and culture, Yanga cultivates a new sound rooted in the traditional rhythms of the Caribbean coast of Colombia.
Wed., July 17	6 p.m.	Three-time Latin Grammy® nominee Jovino Santos Neto , a master pianist, composer, and arranger, is among the top Brazilian musicians working today. Currently based in Seattle, Washington, he has been closely affiliated with Brazilian master Hermeto Pascoal throughout his career. Neto's personal style is a creative blend of energetic grooves, deep harmonies, improvisation, lyrical melodies, and great ensemble playing, always inspired and informed by the colorful richness of Brazilian music.
Thurs., July 18	6 p.m.	<i>More information to be determined at a later date.</i>
Fri., July 19	6 p.m.	Brassy, Washington, D.C.-based outfit Black Masala is part of the new generation of go-anywhere brass bands. You can hear this sound all over the world now—from New Orleans (Hot 8) to Belgrade (Boban and Marko Markovic), Paris (Fanfarai) to Cotonou (Gangbe Brass Band), and right here on the East Coast area as well (Red Baraat and No BS! Brass). A major party alert for this band—Black Masala puts on an amazing, high-energy live show.
Sat., July 20	6 p.m.	NSO Project—Apollo 11 @ 50 is a tribute and celebration to the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11. Curated by NASA and the NSO, today's program will look to the past, present, and future of space exploration.
Sun., July 21	6 p.m.	Lakou Mizik is a multigenerational collective of Haitian musicians formed in the aftermath of the devastating 2010 earthquake. The group includes elder legends and rising young talents, united in a mission to honor the healing spirit of their collective culture and communicate a message of pride, strength, and hope to their countrymen and the world.
Mon., July 22	6 p.m.	Casuarina is one of the best <i>samba</i> groups hailing from Brazil. Come ready to dance and <i>samba</i> the night away.
Tues., July 23	6 p.m.	Cimarrón performs <i>joropo</i> music from the plains of the Orinoco River with a global and contemporary sound. Their powerful scenic force achieves a unique blend of its Andalusian, Indigenous American, and African roots, with impulsive, yet meaningful ethnic singing, amazing stomp dance, and fierce instrumental virtuosity of strings and percussion.
Wed., July 24	6 p.m.	<i>Actions</i> , performed by members of Ireland's John Scott Dance , is a physical conversation between two individuals in empty space. Two outstanding dancers, Mufutau Yusuf and Kevin Coquelard, merge and break apart. The dance material is a battle through the space using physicality, lifts, falls, text, and sound—the dancers

		alternately throwing their bodies together then fragmenting into threads of raw movement. <i>Actions</i> is mostly performed in silence, but uses fragments of music by Meredith Monk and Michael Galasso.
Thurs., July 25	6 p.m.	Cedric Watson , a four-time Grammy®-nominated fiddler, singer, accordionist, and songwriter, is one of the brightest contemporary talents to emerge in Cajun, Creole, and Zydeco music over the last decade. Watson's creative style and obvious joy in playing make him an engaging and exciting performer. Moving with ease between fiddle and accordion, his natural playfulness takes presence on stage. The Cedric Watson Trio also includes multi-instrumentalist Chris Stafford (of the band Feufollet) and rubboardist Desirée Champagne. <i>Presented in partnership with the Library of Congress Homegrown series with American Folklife Center.</i>
Fri., July 26	6 p.m.	From around the world and across the USA, some of the most skilled and talented emerging musicians with disabilities, age 14–25, are the winners of this year's VSA International Young Soloists competition . This date celebrates the 29th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the 44th anniversary of VSA, a Jean Kennedy Smith Arts and Disability program.
Sat., July 27	6 p.m.	A celebration of personal discovery, The Theatre Lab presents selections from <i>Alix in Wonderland</i> , a wholly original take on social norms, self-perception, and what it really means to grow up in today's world. A tumble down that world-famous rabbit hole brings teenage Alix face-to-face with the wild, wacky, and annoying denizens of Lewis Carroll's Wonderland, but none of them are quite as anyone remembers them.
Sun., July 28 Concert Hall	6 p.m.	The NSO Summer Music Institute Orchestra performs Mahler's Symphony No. 4 in the Concert Hall. The winner of the SMI concerto competition will perform with the orchestra as a result of the finals competition held on the Millennium Stage on July 9. Hear the students in their final concert and the winner of the concerto competition will be chosen. <i>Free general admission tickets will be distributed in the Hall of Nations starting at approximately 4:30 p.m., up to two tickets per person.</i>
Mon., July 29	6 p.m.	Tonight's performance celebrates the debut release of pianist and composer Dave Meder . This trio will embark on an ambitious postmodernist outing, traversing a rarely played Thelonious Monk gem, a gospel hymn, a title track inspired by Philip Glass's <i>Etudes</i> , and original compositions on the cutting edge of modern jazz.
Tues., July 30	6 p.m.	Old Salt Union is an Americana/bluegrass band from St. Louis, Missouri. Old Salt Union has the groove and the chops of a great string band, balanced with infectious Rock 'n' Roll energy. Their music occupies that sweet space between Old Crow folk and Yonder Mountain jam—not a bad place to be for a band about to break.
Wed., July 31	6 p.m.	After years of success in the medical field, Suzie Brown discovered a relentless pull towards music that has now yielded five albums, a succession of songwriting awards, featured placement of her music

		<p>at retailers like Starbucks and the Gap, and invitations to TEDMED and other conferences around the country, speaking about finding a vulnerability through music that makes her a better doctor. Scot Sax knows his way around a song. He has been writing them for years, whether it was with his own bands Wanderlust and Feel, or as a purveyor of hits for singers like Faith Hill and Tim McGraw. It was Sax, in fact, who co-wrote the country duo's Grammy®-winning smash "Like We Never Loved At All."</p>
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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, Friday and Saturday; noon to 11 p.m., Sunday; and 4 p.m. on Federal holidays. Standard parking rates apply 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,
please visit the [Millennium Stage event page](#) or [Millennium Stage Facebook page](#).

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