

This calendar is current as of 4.21.23. Programs subject to change. Please confirm listings before publication.

Events take place at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street, unless otherwise noted.

September 2023

Branford Marsalis Quartet

Friday, September 29, 8 PM

NEA Jazz Master Branford Marsalis, “the highest echelon of jazz tenor saxophonists,” (*Los Angeles Times*) returns to our stage for the first time in eight years. An uncompromising artist and multiple Grammy® Award-winner, Marsalis is backed by his longtime quartet – pianist Joey Calderazzo, bassist Eric Revis and drummer Justin Faulkner – for a kaleidoscope of moods from the group’s latest album, *The Secret Between the Shadow and the Soul*, its most emotionally wide-ranging and melody-driven collection to date. “As immediately intimate as it is infinitely expansive,” the album “serves as a snapshot of where the quartet currently stands: at the top of its game.” (*DownBeat*)

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

The Acting Company

Odyssey

Saturday, September 30, 8 PM

Sunday, October 1, 3 PM

Sunday, October 1, 7 PM

Philadelphia premiere

What lengths would you go to get home? In this Philadelphia premiere by The Acting Company, two-time OBIE Award-winning director Lisa Peterson brings new life to Homer’s homecoming epic, *The Odyssey*. Four young women, trapped in the limbo of a refugee camp, retell Odysseus’ adventures as they struggle with their own search for a home. Based on the revelatory translation by Penn professor and MacArthur Fellow Emily Wilson, which was named to *The New York Times*’ top 100 notable books list for 2018, this bold adaptation brings fresh humor and grace to a story we all think we know.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

October 2023

Malpaso Dance Company

Friday, October 6, 8 PM

Saturday, October 7, 2 PM

Saturday, October 7, 8 PM

World premiere | Penn Live Arts commission | Philadelphia premieres | Penn Live Arts debut

Making its Penn Live Arts debut, Cuba’s hottest contemporary troupe shares a little slice of Havana in a program featuring the world premiere of Osnel Delgado’s *Dancing Island*. With the “fluid, sexy athleticism” (*Miami New Times*) for which its known, this co-commissioned work sees Malpaso Dance Company exploring the genesis and evolution of Cuban social dances, from rumba to salsa, which burst with the rhythms, moves and culture of this vibrant country. “Sparklingly present...and remarkably strong,” (*The New York Times*) the company also performs the Philadelphia premieres of Ohad Naharin’s *Tabula Rasa* and Daileidys Carrazana’s *The Last Song*.

Malpaso Dance Company’s performance is made possible in part with support provided by the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

The Crossing & Ragazze Quartet

SIN-EATER

Saturday, October 14, 8 PM

Sunday, October 15, 3 PM

Sunday, October 15, 7 PM

World premiere | Penn Live Arts commission

“America’s most astonishing choir,” (*The New York Times*) The Crossing, performs the world premiere of *SIN-EATER*, a work of ritual music-theatre exploring the nature of power through its connection to eating and food. Led by Donald Nally, this multiple Grammy® Award-winning new music choir collaborates with David T. Little, “one of the most imaginative young composers,” (*The New Yorker*) director Jorinde Keesmaat and the Netherlands’ Ragazze Quartet for this Penn Live Arts co-commission. Drawing texts from across time and place, the work is rooted in the medieval practice of paying a poor person to “eat” the sins of the rich, juxtaposed with exploring who we ask to sin or suffer for us today.

Commissioned by The Crossing, Donald Nally, conductor, and Penn Live Arts with support from the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Cappella Pratensis & Sollazzo Ensemble

The Feast of the Swan

Thursday, October 19, 7:30 PM

This performance takes place at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, 19 South 38th Street.

Philadelphia debuts | Philadelphia premiere

A celebratory evening of polyphonic singing and music from the Middle Ages. Hailing from the Netherlands, the all-male vocal ensemble Cappella Pratensis specializes in interpreting music from the 15th and 16th centuries. Switzerland’s Sollazzo Ensemble is critically acclaimed for its highly expressive delivery of late medieval and early Renaissance music. Together, the groups perform in Philadelphia for the first time in a festive program based on historical descriptions of an elaborate annual banquet held in a small Dutch town that boasted one of the best choirs in Europe.

Co-sponsored by Penn’s Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Negro Ensemble Company

No Policy, No Justice

Friday, October 20, 8 PM

Saturday, October 21, 2 PM

Saturday, October 21, 8 PM

2023-24 Season Artist-in-Residence

World premieres | Penn Live Arts commissions

Our 23/24 season artist-in-residence, New York’s esteemed Negro Ensemble Company (NEC), performs the world premiere of two commissioned one-act plays. As part of our season-long focus, the plays will center on the tragedy and trauma of the gun violence epidemic and its disproportionate impact on communities of color. With NEC, “arguably the most successful Black theatre group in the world,” (*American Theatre*) we seek to elevate these vital conversations and amplify Black voices, stories and perspectives.

The Negro Ensemble Company’s performances are made possible in part with support provided by the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Aoife O'Donovan
Special Guest Yasmin Williams
Saturday, October 21, 8 PM
Penn Live Arts debut

“A vocalist of unerring instinct,” the Grammy® award-winning Aoife O'Donovan makes her Penn Live Arts debut in a special concert performing the music of Bruce Springsteen’s acoustic triumph, *Nebraska*, in its entirety. “Saluting Springsteen’s songcraft with clear, pitch-perfect articulation and affable delivery,” O'Donovan pairs this raw, folk album with favorites from her critically acclaimed *Age of Apathy*, offering “quietly startling songs that are at once intimate and ambitious, autobiographical and metaphysical.” (*The New York Times*)

This performance is co-presented with World Cafe Live.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Ulysses Owens Jr. Big Band
Sunday, October 29, 7 PM

“A fiery and creative drummer,” (*DownBeat*) Grammy® Award-winning jazz trailblazer Ulysses Owens Jr. returns to our stage following his incredible Philadelphia debut performance last season. Now, he’s joined by his high-octane big band, voted 2022 Rising Star Large Ensemble by *DownBeat*. Packed with emerging jazz talent, the group performs a mix of originals and classics, balancing excitement with subtlety, and polish with unbridled innovation. Get ready for some big band fireworks!

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

November 2023

The Songs of Solomon
The Music of Salamone Rossi
Thursday, November 9, 7:30 PM

This performance takes place at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, 19 South 38th Street.

Explore the world of Salamone Rossi, a Jewish composer working in Italy at the same time as Claudio Monteverdi. Largely ignored until the 20th century, Rossi was a multifaceted musician who wrote for the glittering court of Mantua as well as for the synagogue. The first known musician to compose a collection of choral motets in Hebrew, Rossi’s *The Songs of Solomon* (1623) were an innovative development in Jewish devotional music. Meg Bragle, mezzo-soprano and Penn Department of Music Artist-in-Residence, returns to our stage alongside the chamber ensemble, Filament, and other nationally renowned artists to create a portrait in sound of this intriguing and talented composer.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

The Flying Karamazov Brothers
4PLAY
Sunday, November 12, 3 PM

Expect the unexpected with the Flying Karamazov Brothers, a zany band of flame-throwing, juggling, kilt-and-tutu-wearing eccentrics making a long-awaited return to Philadelphia after over 20 years. The group is celebrating its 50th anniversary, having shared laugh-out-loud comedy, wild theatrics and a “stunning spectacle of feats” (*Time Out New York Kids*) to rave reviews on Broadway and around the world. “As close to a sure thing as can be found onstage,” (*The New York Times*) the troupe’s wildly popular show, *4PLAY*, ensures “nobody leaves the theater without a big grin!” (*Variety*)

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Doug Varone and Dancers

Friday, November 17, 8 PM

Saturday, November 18, 2 PM

Saturday, November 18, 8 PM

Philadelphia premiere

Doug “Varone’s ability to convey depths of emotion through highly charged, physically exciting choreography has made him a rarity among his generation.” (*The New York Times*) Now, in the Philadelphia premiere of *Somewhere*, he reimagines Leonard Bernstein’s *West Side Story* by stripping away the iconic narrative. Focusing solely on this much-loved and familiar score, the result is pure and vibrant, brimming with nuance and emotional heft. “Many choreographers can create interesting movement; few can make it mean so much.” (*Chicago Tribune*)

Visit [PennLiveArts.org](https://pennlivearts.org) for more information.

Erena Terakubo

Sunday, November 19, 7 PM

Philadelphia debut

Rising star jazz saxophonist Erena Terakubo simply steals the show. She’s topped the charts in her native Japan, was awarded the prestigious presidential scholarship to study at Berklee College of Music and has already worked with a veritable who’s who in jazz, including Christian McBride, Kenny Barron and Ron Carter. Now, Terakubo brings her classic bebop sound to Philadelphia for the first time, joined by Akiko Tsuruga (organ), Paul Bollenback (guitar) and Fukushi Tainaka (drums).

Visit [PennLiveArts.org](https://pennlivearts.org) for more information.

December 2023

Christian McBride's New Jawn

Sunday, December 3, 7 PM

Eight-time Grammy® Award-winning bassist Christian McBride returns to his hometown backed by his all-star quartet of Josh Evans (trumpet), Marcus Strickland (tenor sax) and Nasheet Waits (drums). Named in tribute to one of our city’s beloved colloquialisms, “the Philly flavor is present—tight instrumentation, fast-and-loose percussive subtlety and soul for days.” (*DownBeat*) McBride, known for his “astounding fluidity on the bass,” (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*) brings the fire and fury of a virtuoso and seasoned jazz luminary.

Visit [PennLiveArts.org](https://pennlivearts.org) for more information.

Dorrance Dance

The Nutcracker

Friday, December 8, 8 PM

Saturday, December 9, 2 PM

Saturday, December 9, 8 PM

Philadelphia premiere

Tap superstar and MacArthur Fellow Michelle Dorrance “is a virtuoso, both as a dancer and choreographer.” (*The New York Times*) In this Philadelphia premiere, tap dance meets holiday favorites from *The Nutcracker Suite* boasting boogies, slides, struts and dives into Duke Ellington’s intoxicating interpretation of the Tchaikovsky classic. Get ready to enter a world of jazz, swingin’ syncopation and vernacular sugar, persuading us all to be a little more soulful this holiday season.

Visit [PennLiveArts.org](https://pennlivearts.org) for more information.

The Crossing @ Christmas

Friday, December 15, 6 PM

Friday, December 15, 8:30 PM

This performance takes place at Iron Gate Theatre, 3700 Chestnut Street.

World premiere

Conducted by Donald Nally, the “adventurous, fiercely talented” (*The New York Times*) new music choir, The Crossing, performs the world premiere of *poor hymnal* by David Lang. Woven into many varying religions, hymnals represent a catalog of ideals worshipers agree upon, such as how we treat and care for others, particularly those who are less fortunate. In *poor hymnal*, Lang adds to this tradition, posing the question of whether the hymns we’re singing today are truly reflective of a society that feels a responsibility to care for and support one another.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

January 2024

BODYTRAFFIC

Friday, January 19, 8 PM

Saturday, January 20, 2 PM

Saturday, January 20, 8 PM

World premiere | Philadelphia premieres | Penn Live Arts Commission

BODYTRAFFIC brings “vivid theatricality to a range of provocative works commissioned from some of today’s most dynamic choreographers.” This celebrated company returns with a commissioned world premiere by Matthew Neenan as well as three Philadelphia premieres: *Love.Lost.Fly* by Micaela Taylor, exploring how people from different worlds come together; *The One to Stay With* by Baye & Asa, a response to the opioid crisis; and *PACOPEPEPLUTO* by Alejandro Cerrudo, which honors self-expression in witty solos set to Dean Martin hits. Don’t miss the bold “invention, attitude, and urban edge” of this breathtaking contemporary troupe. (*The Boston Globe*)

Penn Live Arts is the lead commissioner of the world premiere work by Matthew Neenan, made possible in part with support provided by the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Daedalus Quartet

Bartok’s Monster

Sunday, January 21, 7 PM

World premiere

The “insightful and vibrant” (*The New York Times*) Daedalus Quartet returns to our stage with *Bartok’s Monster*, a collaboration with Dan Rothenberg, Co-Founder/Co-Artistic Director of Pig Iron Theatre Company, and Sebastienne Mundheim, Founder/Artistic Director of White Box Theatre. A musical investigation into a missing string quartet, this brand-new program by Penn’s exceptional quartet-in-residence takes inspiration from *Avoid the Day: A New Nonfiction in 2 Movements*, a novel by Penn English professor Jay Kirk.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Sur-Sudha

Saturday, January 27, 8 PM

Philadelphia debut

Nepal's renowned musical ambassador, Sur-Sudha, brings its captivating Eastern classical and folk fusion to Philadelphia for the first time. Meditative one moment and compellingly rhythmic the next, the group's standout solos and collective improvisations on traditional Nepali harmonies conjure bright visions of this tiny nation in the Himalayas. Led by founder and tabla maestro Surendra Shrestha, Sur-Sudha is dedicated to sharing universal messages of peace around the world. A rare chance to hear this cultural gem is not-to-be-missed.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Cirque Mechanics

Zephyr

Sunday, January 28, 3 PM

Philadelphia premiere

Throwing caution to the wind, the daredevil acrobats of Cirque Mechanics return to our stage with more "high-flying, free-wheeling fun" (*Omaha World-Herald*) in the Philadelphia premiere of *Zephyr*. Inspired by the wind, and the human ingenuity in harnessing its power, this brand-new show explores our relationship with the planet via a 20-foot-tall windmill, a rotating turntable and exhilarating feats. Get ready, *Zephyr* is a whirlwind of modern circus that'll blow you away.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

February 2024

JACK Quartet

Beautiful Trouble

Friday, February 2, 8 PM

World premiere | Penn Live Arts debut

Known for "reliably surprising, and reliably impressive" (*The New York Times*) performances, the JACK Quartet makes its Penn Live Arts debut in the world premiere of Natacha Diels' *Beautiful Trouble*. Based on a six-part video series for choreographed string quartet, this concert-length production merges experimental music, video and theatre to create a sensory experience that considers our ability and desire to consume media. Diels, an Assistant Professor of Music at Penn, created the work to examine a moment in time through the power of abstract narrative and music, both heard and seen.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Cécile McLorin Salvant

Saturday, February 3, 8 PM

Cécile McLorin Salvant is quite simply "the finest jazz singer to emerge in the last decade." A three-time Grammy® Award winner and recent MacArthur Fellow, this genre-defying, theatrical vocalist captivated a full house when she debuted on our stage back in 2021 and now, she returns on the heels of a brand-new album, *Mélusine*. With her velvety and "elusively beautiful voice" on full display, Salvant combines her conservatory-honed technique with a prismatic gift for lyrical storytelling in this must-see live performance. (*The New York Times*)

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir

Thursday, February 8, 7:30 PM

*This performance takes place at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, 19 South 38th Street.
Philadelphia debut*

One of the world's finest choirs, the storied Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir comes to Philadelphia for the first time. These "pure and impassioned, astounding choral artists" (*The Wall Street Journal*) perform works by their countryman, Arvo Pärt, for whom they are the foremost interpreter, as well as by Italian Renaissance master Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina. A chance to hear the powerful, precise and expressive voices of this virtuosic ensemble in one of Philadelphia's most beautiful spaces is a rare treat.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Ballets Jazz Montréal ESSENCE

Friday, February 9, 8 PM

Saturday, February 10, 2 PM

Saturday, February 10, 8 PM

Philadelphia premieres

One of the world's greatest dance companies, Ballets Jazz Montréal celebrates its 50th anniversary with a landmark program of Philadelphia premieres. Aszure Barton's *Les Chambres des Jacques* creates "a world of wonder" (*The Boston Globe*) that's "full of surprise and humor, emotion and pain." (*The New York Times*) Crystal Pite's critically acclaimed *Ten Duets on a Theme of Rescue* explores classic storylines that invite the audience to determine who exactly rescues whom. And, *We Can't Forget About What's His Name* by company member Ausia Jones ruminates on feelings of uncertainty and how it influences moments of connection.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Negro Ensemble Company

Zooman and the Sign

Thursday, February 15, 7:30 PM

Friday, February 16, 8 PM

Saturday, February 17, 2 PM

Saturday, February 17, 8 PM

Sunday, February 18, 3 PM

2023-24 Season Artist-in-Residence

"Arguably the most successful Black theatre group in the world," (*American Theatre*) the Negro Ensemble Company (NEC), our 23/24 season artist-in-residence, returns with a revival of Charles Fuller's *Zooman and the Sign*. Set in Philadelphia in 1979, the play explores the effects of gun violence on a family and their struggle to convince apathetic neighbors to take a stand together to achieve justice. Fuller was born and raised in our city, and best known for his Pulitzer Prize-winning work, *A Soldier's Play*, originally produced off-Broadway by NEC. Now, we bring this Obie Award-winning play home to celebrate this remarkable playwright and shed light on how his work still resonates today.

The Negro Ensemble Company's performances are made possible in part with support provided by the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Balaklava Blues

Sunday, February 25, 7 PM

This performance takes place at World Cafe Live, 3025 Walnut Street

Balaklava Blues is an activist-driven, genre-bending group mixing traditional folk music and transnational EDM with the echoes of revolution and war. A timely Philadelphia debut performance, this full-blown multimedia techno concert aims to build empathy and understanding when we need it most, spotlighting Ukrainian experiences and music with universal themes of identity, displacement, oppression and trauma. "Gorgeously sung and passionately played," Balaklava Blues is "an evocation of human solidarity." (*The Guardian*)

This performance is co-presented with World Cafe Live.

Fima Chupakhin

Thursday, February 29, 7:30 PM

Brooklyn-based Ukrainian jazz pianist and film composer Fima Chupakhin makes his Penn Live Arts debut with the world premiere of a commissioned work dedicated to the resilience and perseverance of the Ukrainian people. Leader of the award-winning Acoustic Quartet jazz group in Ukraine, this rising star first came to the U.S. to study on a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship and is now a versatile player and producer on the New York scene. Building on the success of his debut album, *Water*, Chupakhin's performances are masterful and emotive, making for a stellar evening of jazz.

March 2024

Ukraine: The Edge of Freedom

Mariana Sadovska

The Night is Just Beginning

Friday, March 1, 7 PM

Philadelphia premiere | Penn Live Arts debut

Vocal artist and composer Mariana Sadovska blends Ukrainian folk song, avant-garde theatre and social activism. Her travels along the front lines of the first invasion of eastern Ukraine inspired a unique musical production, *The Night is Just Beginning*. This Philadelphia premiere is still all too relevant today, wringing "startling drama from traditionalist songs turned contemporary in a set that [spans] folklore, humor, grief and rage. Her voice holds the clarity and bite of Slavic folk styles; her stage presence has the bright-eyed intensity of Björk or PJ Harvey." (*The New York Times*) Experience the turbulent poetry of war in this gripping Penn Live Arts debut.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Ukraine: The Edge of Freedom

DakhaBrakha

Sunday, March 3, 7 PM

Penn Live Arts debut

A riotous, sonic feast and visual spectacle, Kyiv's DakhaBrakha makes its Penn Live Arts debut in a powerful celebration of the limitless power of music. The quartet calls its sound "ethno-chaos," a moniker that perfectly describes the fusion of ancient Ukrainian folk melodies into a tapestry that embraces indie rock, pop, hip hop, the avant-garde and traditional instrumentation from the surrounding world. With live performances hailed as "utter brilliance" (NPR) and "a truly remarkable experience," (*Star Tribune*) DakhaBrakha's subversive musical synthesis is fresh, spirited and urgent, with a message of peace and solidarity in uncertain times.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Saturday, March 9, 8 PM

The undisputed kings of South African a cappella, Ladysmith Black Mambazo returns to our stage for the first time in over 10 years. This Grammy® Award-winning group is beloved around the world for its “truly great singing, balancing soulful ballads and traditional dance songs with exquisite and perfectly timed harmony work.” (*The Guardian*) Weaving an uplifting message of peace and love, this vocal powerhouse radiates joy, performing South African classics alongside gospel favorites.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Rennie Harris Puremovement

Friday, March 22, 8 PM

Saturday, March 23, 2 PM

Saturday, March 23, 8 PM

2023-24 Season Artist-in-Residence

“The most brilliant hip-hop choreographer in America,” (*The New Yorker*) Rennie Harris returns with a 30th anniversary retrospective of works that helped catapult his company to the world stage. In *Students of the Asphalt Jungle*, *March of the Antman* and *P-Funk*, Harris explores gun violence, gangs and other themes as relevant today as when they first premiered. Beautifully crafted and ahead of their time, these acclaimed classics are paired with current repertoire including *A Day in the Life* and *The Word* to showcase how Harris “expertly uses hip-hop movement to establish emotional atmosphere” (*The New York Times*) and tell a story we all need to hear.

Penn Live Arts is the artistic home of Rennie Harris Puremovement. These performances are made possible in part with support provided by the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

April 2024

Orquesta Akokán

Friday, April 12, 8 PM

Penn Live Arts debut

Step back in time to when mambo took our country by storm. Making its Penn Live Arts debut, the Grammy®-nominated Orquesta Akokán channels the fiery Cuban mambo revolution of the 1940s and 50s while pushing the grooves to new heights. Bursting with an innate sense of soul and songcraft that’s timeless and immaculate, enjoy original songs by “some of the island’s greatest instrumentalists,” (*The New York Times*) including members of Cuba’s legendary Irakere and Los Van Van. This blazing big band will definitely have you dancing!

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Alarm Will Sound

Sunday, April 14, 7 PM

The “reliably exhilarating new-music ensemble” Alarm Will Sound returns with an evening of music by “our greatest living composer,” Steve Reich. With a long history of presenting works by this seminal 20th century icon, our program celebrates the 50th anniversary of *Music for 18 Musicians*, perhaps the most influential minimalist work of all time. The evening also includes *Clapping Music*, which uses hands as the sole instrument, and *Radio Rewrite*, inspired by the music of Radiohead. “As close to being a rock band as a chamber orchestra can be,” Alarm Will Sound brings intelligence and a sense of adventure to each performance. (*The New York Times*)

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

MOMIX

Friday, April 19, 8 PM

Saturday, April 20, 2 PM

Saturday, April 20, 8 PM

Beloved around the globe, the dancer-illusionists of MOMIX return to our stage on the heels of their smash-hit, *Alice*, back in 2022. Led by the wildly imaginative Moses Pendleton, who packs “beauty, mystery, emotion and uproarious fun” (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*) into each inventive performance, this troupe uses the wonders of the human form, nature and music to create vivid, surreal worlds of wonder, urging us along on the adventure. “And one thing is certain: Every ride is an incredible, unforgettable journey.” (Broadway World)

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Ruth Naomi Floyd

Are We Yet Somehow Alive?

Thursday, April 25, 7:30 PM

This performance takes place at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, 19 South 38th Street.

World premiere | Penn Live Arts debut

Philadelphia’s own sacred jazz vocalist/composer, Ruth Naomi Floyd, makes her Penn Live Arts debut in *Are We Yet Somehow Alive?*, a moving world premiere that pairs jazz, blues and gospel with fine art projections to share compelling first-person accounts from enslaved Africans in America. At the intersection of despair, endurance and resistance, these narratives explore what it means to be human amidst the struggle for liberation and dehumanization. Praised for her distinctive sound and progressive jazz ensembles, Floyd uses her soaring mezzo-soprano voice to shine light and find defiant joy in our experience.

Co-presented with the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

May 2024

Machine de Cirque

La Galerie

Saturday, May 4, 3 PM

Philadelphia debut | Philadelphia premiere

The circus invades the museum! Seven zany acrobats and an electrifying musician set off a vibrant explosion of color in an otherwise monochrome exhibit. In this exhilarating feast for the senses, the wacky and endearing characters of *La Galerie* combine dizzying feats, astonishing discoveries and a serious dose of silly fun in an ode to creativity. With “immensely gifted performers...and spectacular routines,” (*The Boston Globe*) the Québec-based Machine de Cirque makes its Philadelphia debut with breathtaking stunts and live music in a show that’s at once playful, poetic and perilous.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

NDR Bigband & Kinan Azmeh

Flow

Friday, May 10, 8 PM

Philadelphia debut

Germany's preeminent jazz ensemble, the NDR Bigband is made up of the country's premier soloists, each contributing a strong individual style and musical language to create a striking group sound. The band makes its Philadelphia debut alongside Syrian-born and New York-based clarinetist Kinan Azmeh, performing the music of their 2021 album, *Flow*, with compositions by Azmeh, arranged by Wolf Kerschek. Called "intensely soulful" and a "virtuoso" by *The New York Times*, Azmeh's music explores the contrasts and cultural flux he feels while at home in both New York and Damascus.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Madeleine Peyroux

Sunday, May 12, 7 PM

Penn Live Arts debut

Often compared to Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald and Edith Piaf, Madeleine Peyroux's dusky, lyrical style and talent for reinterpreting jazz, blues and folk standards has made her an international vocal star. She makes her Penn Live Arts debut performing music from her forthcoming 2023 album, featuring the already popular "How I Wish," a fan favorite from her recent *Careless Love* tour. With endearing passion and great artistic curiosity, this genre-defying singer/songwriter gives a "most exciting, involving vocal performance." (*TIME Magazine*)

This performance is co-presented with World Cafe Live.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Mark Morris Dance Group

The Look of Love

Friday, May 31, 8 PM

Saturday, June 1, 2 PM

Saturday, June 1, 8 PM

Philadelphia Premiere

From "I Say a Little Prayer" to "Walk on By" to "Always Something There to Remind Me," more than a dozen legendary hits by the award-winning pop composer Burt Bacharach pair with exhilarating movement in *The Look of Love* by Mark Morris, "the most successful and influential choreographer alive." (*The New York Times*) Returning to our stage after the smash-hit *Pepperland* in 2022, this new, full-length work boasts lush arrangements by pianist/composer Ethan Iverson. "Mark Morris's tribute to Burt Bacharach is what the world needs now," so don't miss the Philadelphia premiere of this "witty, wounding and brilliant new dance production." (*The Washington Post*)

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

June 2024

Toll the Bell

Friday, June 7, 12 PM

Toll the Bell is a city-wide sound installation of simultaneous and sustained bell ringing that honors the victims of gun violence and raises critical awareness for common-sense gun reform.

The Crossing

Friday, June 14, 8 PM

Saturday, June 15, 8 PM

This performance takes place at Icebox Project Space, New Music at Crane Arts, 1400 N. American Street. Philadelphia premiere

“America’s most astonishing choir,” (*The New York Times*) The Crossing, performs the Philadelphia premiere of Tyshawn Sorey’s *Monochromatic Light (Afterlife)*. An extraordinary composer, multi-instrumentalist and professor of music at Penn, Sorey’s critically acclaimed work is a tribute to both the deeply contemplative space of Rothko Chapel and Morton Feldman’s 20th-century masterpiece of the same name. Sorey’s complex shades of color, feeling and texture are enhanced by 3D visual projections to create an all-encompassing journey into the collective memory and trauma of our time. Conducted by Donald Nally and joined by bass-baritone Davóne Tines, Sorey’s new work shares the program with Feldman’s 1971 composition allowing for fascinating comparison.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

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