

[This calendar is available on the Annenberg Center's website.](#) It is current as of 1.4.21. Programs subject to change. Please confirm listings before publication.

February 2021

LIVESTREAM

Samara Joy & Pasquale Grasso

Thursday, February 4, 7 PM

Two rising jazz stars make their Annenberg Center debut. Samara Joy won the prestigious Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition in 2019, and now at only age 21, she's already a veteran performer at famed New York jazz clubs with a much-anticipated debut album due by mid-2021. Samara Joy will reunite on stage with Pasquale Grasso, an award-winning guitarist whose astounding technique and "practically faultless" (*DownBeat*) playing has garnered high praise from jazz great Pat Metheny. With astonishing talent that belies their youth, this duo will perform a mix of originals and American Songbook classics, offering a glimpse at the future of jazz.

This is an original, live event, performed on the Annenberg Center stage and streamed online, and includes an interactive Q&A with the performers.

Visit AnnenbergCenter.org for more information.

LIVESTREAM

Paul Taylor Dance Company

Thursday, February 18, 7 PM

"One of the most intelligent, stylish and physically magnificent dance troupes," (*New York Magazine*) the Paul Taylor Dance Company carries on the dance icon's legacy in a program of stark dualities. Danced by a cast of six, *Profiles*, a surprisingly tense work that explores the darker side of human nature is contrasted with the exuberant classic, *Esplanade*. Set to Bach violin concertos, *Esplanade* uses spirited pedestrian movement to celebrate the ordinary moments of our everyday lives.

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LIVESTREAM

Duo Tempesta di Mare

Gwyn Roberts, Recorder/Flute & Richard Stone, Theorbo

Thursday, February 25, 7 PM

Throughout history, musicians have traveled frequently to study and perform, striving for a successful career. Now, as people across the globe stay at home, Gwyn Roberts and Richard Stone, founding artistic co-directors of Tempesta di Mare, focus on the baroque musicians who defied this trend by remaining local yet still absorbing and radiating a variety of stylistic influences. Featuring works by Mancini, Babell, Blavet and more, Roberts, who is also Penn's Director of Early Music Ensembles, and Stone perform as a duo on recorder, flute and theorbo, exploring works by composers who stayed close to home.

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March 2021

LIVESTREAM**Thomas Kraines, Cello & Kinan Abou-afach, Cello/Oud**

Thursday, March 4, 7 PM

Cellist Thomas Kraines, a member of Penn's quartet-in-residence, the Daedalus Quartet, joins forces with cellist, oudist and composer Kinan Abou-afach, whose music championing Arabic and Syrian traditions has been described as "a journey in sound." (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*) The duo will perform a program of original compositions and improvisations as well as the world premiere of a new work by composer Gene Coleman.

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Visit AnnenbergCenter.org for more information.

LIVESTREAM**HopeBoykinDance**

Thursday, March 11, 7 PM

Beloved for her twenty-year tenure with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Hope Boykin makes her choreographic Philadelphia debut. A former PHILADANCO dancer, Boykin has graced the Annenberg Center stage many times, and now returns to perform world premiere works alongside five other dancers. This dance powerhouse is revered not only as one of Ailey's "most striking performers, but she's proven that she's a choreographer with something to say." (*Dance Magazine*)

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April 2021

LIVESTREAM**Rennie Harris Puremovement**

Thursday, April 1, 7 PM

Rennie Harris, "the most brilliant hip-hop choreographer in America," (*The New Yorker*) returns with an evening of works including two that directly reflect on current tragedies facing our nation. A reworking of the acclaimed 1995 duet, *A Day in the Life*, tells the story of brothers who get caught up in a violent street altercation with the police, while *Black Promises*, set to music by Beyoncé, is a tormented solo about systemic police brutality against black men. It's hip-hop storytelling at its finest by "the most profound choreographer of his idiom." (*The New York Times*)

Additional pieces:

*Continuum**The Word**The Big What If*

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LIVESTREAM

Zakir Hussain

Thursday, April 8, 7 PM

Pezhham Akhavass, tombak and Iranian percussion

Marcus Gilmore, drums

Abbos Kosimov, doyra and Uzbek percussion

Zakir Hussain, the “peerless master of the Indian tabla” (NPR), returns to the Annenberg Center stage, joined by Pezhham Akhavass (tombak and Iranian percussion), Marcus Gilmore (drums) and Abbos Kosimov (doyra and Uzbek percussion), in a lively showcase of the vibrancy of Indian music. An international phenomenon and true virtuoso, Hussain performs meditative classical ragas and high-energy rhythmic drumming, mesmerizing audiences with his uncanny intuition and masterful improvisational dexterity.

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LIVESTREAM

Keyon Harrold

With Laurin Talese & Special Guests

Thursday, April 15, 7 PM

Hailed as the “future of the trumpet” by Wynton Marsalis, Keyon Harrold is a sought-after artist who’s featured on over 100 albums and worked with artists from Beyoncé and Common to Gregory Porter and Robert Glasper. His music is sweeping and cinematic, drawing on elements of jazz, classical, rock, blues and hip-hop. Exploring themes of springtime, this “scorching trumpeter” (*The New York Times*) performs alongside special guests including Laurin Talese, the 2018 winner of the Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition who boasts “some of the most luxuriant, sumptuously phrased jazz vocals you could hope to hear.” (*The Chicago Tribune*)

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LIVESTREAM

Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers

Thursday, April 22, 7 PM

Described as “deeply spiritual and remarkable” (*Dance Magazine*) and known for lush works of poetic sensibility, Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers graces the Annenberg Center stage with a program including the world premiere of *The Wind*, performed by Kun-Yang Lin himself. Returning to the stage for the first time since his retirement from dancing in 2013, *The Wind* marks the first piece Lin has choreographed for himself since 2010. In collective, the evening will reflect on the state of the world amidst a pandemic with prevailing messages of hope and unity. Lin seeks to illustrate how isolation can provide opportunities to reflect, grow and evolve, allowing us to form a deeper connection with all humanity.

Program:

New Normal?

Inside

Renaissance

Spring Duet

The Calling

The Wind – World premiere

Post-show Q&A

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Visit AnnenbergCenter.org for more information.

May 2021

LIVESTREAM

Ayodele Casel

Chasing Magic

Thursday, May 6, 7 PM

"A tap dancer of unquestionable radiance," Ayodele Casel is one of the "Biggest Breakout Stars of 2019." (*The New York Times*) Mentored by the legendary Gregory Hines, who hailed her as "one of the top young tap dancers in the world," Casel has become a powerful voice for the art form, consistently performing to sold out crowds and receiving rave reviews. Casel makes her Philadelphia debut in an all-female program alongside singer/songwriter and Broadway alum Crystal Monee Hall and acclaimed pianist Anastasia Victory, with direction by Torya Beard.

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LIVESTREAM

Eddie Palmieri Afro-Caribbean Jazz Quartet

Friday, May 7, 7 PM

Quartet:

Eddie Palmieri - Leader, Piano

Luques Curtis - Bass

Louis Fouché - Alto Saxophone

Camilo Molina - Drums

Legendary pianist, bandleader and NEA Jazz Master Eddie Palmieri is at the top of his game. This beloved patriarch of Latin jazz has amassed nine Grammy® Awards while remaining on the cutting edge of Afro-Caribbean music since the early 1960s. Known for his bold charisma and innovative drive, Palmieri returns to the Annenberg Center stage, fusing his Puerto Rican heritage with the complexity of jazz influences as one of the great pianists of his era.

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LIVESTREAM

Matthew Neenan

Thursday, May 27, 7 PM

Called "fresh, touching, musical, original," Matthew Neenan's choreography makes "dancers look vulnerable, openhearted and, above all, marvelously free." (*The New York Times*) A former principal dancer and now Choreographer in Residence at Pennsylvania Ballet as well as the co-founder of BalletX, Neenan brings a site-specific world premiere that will explore intimacy in isolation with the "wonderful immediacy and vibrancy" (*Dance Magazine*) for which he's known.

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