

*This calendar is current as of 9.20.24. Programs subject to change. Please confirm listings before publication. Photos for all performances listed are available [here](#).*

## September 2024

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### **Pilobolus** **re:CREATION**

Friday, September 27, 8 PM  
Saturday, September 28, 2 PM  
Saturday, September 28, 8 PM  
Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

#### **Program:**

*Tales from the Underworld* (2024, Philadelphia premiere)  
*Walklyndon*  
*Bloodlines* (2024, Philadelphia premiere)  
*Awaken Heart* (2023, Philadelphia premiere)  
*Rushes*

Pilobolus takes you to a world where imagination knows no limits and boundaries of gravity blur. “Acrobatics are liquefied into poetry” (*The New York Times*), as Pilobolus performs re:CREATION, a dynamic collection of works infused with daring experiments and fantastical innovations. As fresh and vibrant as ever, Pilobolus breaks all the rules in the very best way.

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

## October 2024

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### **Mythili Prakash** ***She’s Auspicious* (Philadelphia premiere)**

Friday, October 4, 8 PM  
Saturday, October 5, 2 PM  
Sunday, October 6, 2 PM  
Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

*This performance is part of the [Beyond the Stage](#) series, offering special engagement activities to further explore the themes and influences in the artist’s work.*

Celebrated Bharata Natyam dancer Mythili Prakash leads an all-female cast of performers and musicians in the Philadelphia premiere of *She’s Auspicious*, a full-length work that challenges femininity and Prakash’s own conflicting identities of woman, mother, and classical Indian dancer. “Prakash is a bold and original artistic force...always exuding fierce commitment to her art and culture.” (*Fjord Review*)

*The presentation of Mythili Prakash was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Foundation and the Mellon Foundation.*

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

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## **Joshua Redman Group featuring Gabrielle Cavassa**

### ***where are we***

Saturday, October 5, 8 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

"One of today's best saxophonists," (*NPR*) Joshua Redman returns to Philadelphia for the first time in over 10 years to perform the music of his latest album, *where are we*. Created with pandemic-induced wanderlust, this musical journey through America marks his first-ever collaboration with a vocalist, rising star Gabrielle Cavassa, and travels across genre and generation. Mashups of new work and standards including Bruce Springsteen's "Streets of Philadelphia," Count Basie's "Goin' to Chicago," Rodgers and Hart's "Manhattan," John Coltrane's "Alabama" and more are interpreted with Redman's signature improvisational brilliance and melodic invention.

Media support for this performance is provided by WRTI 90.1 FM

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

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## **Complexions Contemporary Ballet (*Philadelphia premieres*)**

Friday, October 18, 8 PM

Saturday, October 19, 2 PM

Saturday, October 19, 8 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

### **Program:**

*Bach 25* (excerpt) – Philadelphia premiere

*Choke*

*Gone*

*Elegy* – Philadelphia premiere

*This Time, With Feeling* – World premiere

*For Crying Out Loud* – Philadelphia premiere

Led by Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson, "hailed as two of the greatest virtuosos ever to emerge from [Alvin] Ailey" (*The New York Times*), Complexions is known for high-octane movement, an evocative style and a penchant for pushing the boundaries of ballet. This "matchless American dance company" (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*) performs the Philadelphia premiere of *For Crying Out Loud*, set to a soundtrack of acoustic U2 hits. Drawing on the grit and honesty of these stripped-down, iconic songs, the work explores the vulnerability of the human condition in its most conflicted state. Additional works by Rhoden complete the program, each showcasing the technical precision, athletic prowess, and sheer passion of this breathtaking company.

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

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## **FLIP Fabrique**

### ***SLAM! (Philadelphia premiere)***

Friday, October 25, 8 PM

Saturday, October 26, 2 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

Canada's FLIP Fabrique returns with the Philadelphia premiere of *SLAM!*, amplifying the theatrical and exuberant nature of wrestling and taking inspiration from the sport in its many forms from around the world. Known for "acts that don't seem humanly possible," (*The New York Times*) the acrobats of FLIP Fabrique collaborated with director Robert Lepage and Ex Machina to create a spectacular showcase of strength in which an array of characters test their skills and bring all the drama.

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

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### **Sweet Honey in the Rock**

Sunday, October 27, 7 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

Beloved a cappella group Sweet Honey in the Rock returns to Penn Live Arts in celebration of its milestone 50th anniversary. Internationally renowned for a musical landscape blending gospel, R&B, jazz, and lively ASL interpretation, this powerhouse ensemble is rooted in uplifting African American history and culture. Boasting two of its founding members, one a Philadelphia native (Carol Maillard), Sweet Honey continually proves it is one of the most dynamic, versatile, and relevant musical collectives today.

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

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## **November 2024**

### **Zakir Hussain & Rahul Sharma**

Sunday, November 3, 7 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

Tabla superstar Zakir Hussain is “a fearsome technician but also a whimsical inventor, devoted to exuberant play.” (*The New York Times*) The 2023 Percussionist of the Year winner for both the *DownBeat* Critics Poll and Jazz Journalist Association, Hussain mesmerizes audiences with meditative classical ragas, high-energy rhythmic drumming, and masterful improvisational dexterity. Joined by renowned santoor player Rahul Sharma, son of music legend Shivkumar Sharma, the two virtuosos perform a lively showcase of Indian music.

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

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### **The Gesualdo Six (Philadelphia debut)**

Thursday, November 7, 7:30 PM

St. Mary's Church | 3916 Locust Walk

Acclaimed for its flawless intonation, “precision and fluency” (*The Guardian*), British vocal ensemble The Gesualdo Six makes its Philadelphia debut in a performance of English Renaissance masterpieces spanning 200 years. Encompassing medieval-sounding pieces by Forest and Sheryngham, intricately woven polyphonic works by Tallis and Byrd, and the beautiful simplicity of Gibbons and Tomkins, expect an evening that is “ingeniously programmed and impeccably delivered, with that undefinable excitement that comes from a group of musicians working absolutely as one.” (*Gramophone*)

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

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### **Abdullah Ibrahim Trio**

Sunday, November 10, 7 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

Revered 2019 NEA Jazz Master Abdullah Ibrahim brings his “spell-binding trio” to our stage on the heels of his latest release, *3*. With over 50 wide-ranging albums, this pianist, composer and outspoken chronicler of South Africa’s struggle with apartheid has become an international icon, mixing influences from jazz and classical to gospel and traditional African music with an “ever-inventive talent.” Stateside performances by Ibrahim are a rare occurrence, and this evening promises an unforgettable experience with a living jazz legend. (*Jazzwise*)

Media support for this performance is provided by WRTI 90.1 FM

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

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## **Ben Folds**

### **Paper Airplane Request Tour**

Saturday, November 16, 8 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

Widely regarded as one of the major music influencers of his generation, singer/songwriter and pianist Ben Folds has created an enormous body of work that spans pop albums with Ben Folds Five, solo releases, compositions for film/TV, and more, with hits including “Brick,” “Rockin’ the Suburbs,” and “The Luckiest.” With his signature charm and cleverly brilliant lyrics, Folds makes a one-night-only appearance in Philadelphia. This performance will feature an opening act by special guest Lindsey Kraft.

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

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## **Limón Dance Company (Philadelphia premieres)**

Friday, November 22, 10:30 AM - **Student Discovery**

Friday, November 22, 8 PM

Saturday, November 23, 2 PM

Saturday, November 23, 8 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

A titan of American modern dance, the Limón Dance Company performs *The Traitor*, one of the most significant works of the 1950s that explores betrayal through vibrant movement, lush musicality, and haunting images. This iconic work is paired with two Philadelphia premieres - *Scherzo*, a compelling take on rhythm and movement that hasn't been performed in decades, and a 2024 creation by Kayla Farrish, a powerful new voice in the dance world. Farrish's piece will take inspiration from two lost Limón works, *Redes* and *El Grito*, and incorporate her own perspective on their themes of community and identity as an artist of color.

Program to include:

*The Traitor* by José Limón (1954)

New work by Kayla Farrish (2024) – Philadelphia premiere

*Scherzo* by José Limón (1955) – Philadelphia premiere

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

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## **Seo Jungmin (Philadelphia debut)**

Sunday, November 24, 7 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

*This performance is part of the [Beyond the Stage](#) series, offering special engagement activities to further explore the themes and influences in the artist's work.*

Seo Jungmin pushes the boundaries between traditional and contemporary music with her exceptional skills on the 25-string Gayageum. A member of the renowned Korean music duo, Su:m, and acclaimed internationally for her innovative solo releases, Jungmin makes her Philadelphia debut with *One, My Utopia!*, a mesmerizing sound world of Gayageum, shamanic vocals, and percussion.

*This engagement of Seo Jungmin is made possible in part through the Performing Arts Global Exchange program of Mid Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.*

## December 2024

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### **Gillian Welch & David Rawlings**

Friday, December 6, 8 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

Hailed as “modern masters of American folk” (Pitchfork), the Grammy® Award-winning duo of Gillian Welch and David Rawlings returns to the Penn Live Arts stage for the first time since 2017 to perform the music of their latest album, *Woodland*. With a rich and remarkable career spanning over 25 years and multiple critically acclaimed albums, these expert songwriters showcase an “almost supernatural chemistry” (NPR) in this rare concert appearance of their captivating folk and Americana music.

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### **Bria Skonberg**

#### **Jingle Bell Swing**

Sunday, December 8, 7 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

Swing into the holidays with the smoky vocals and fiery trumpet of Bria Skonberg! Described as “one of the most versatile and imposing musicians of her generation” (*The Wall Street Journal*) and “a millennial shaking up the jazz world” (*Vanity Fair*), this rising star makes her Penn Live Arts debut with her hot jazz take on seasonal favorites, including her hit cover of “All I Want for Christmas is You.” Backed by her quintet, Skonberg’s voice and Louis Armstrong-inspired trumpet talent soar in this jazzy holiday celebration.

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

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### **Le Patin Libre**

#### ***Murmuration (Philadelphia debut)***

Friday, December 13, 7:30 PM

Saturday, December 14, 7:30 PM

Penn Ice Rink | 3130 Walnut Street

Le Patin Libre is the world’s only contemporary ice-skating company. Hailing from seven different countries and coming to Philadelphia for the very first time, these former championship figure skaters use speed, precision, and intricate moves to reinvent what’s possible on the ice. Inspired by the mysterious aerial ballet of bird flocks, *Murmuration* reimagines these complex phenomena into mesmerizing choreography, taking an abstract journey of harmonious, exhilarating, and sometimes dangerous togetherness.

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

## January 2025

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### **Agora de la danse**

#### **Koros – VR Experience (Philadelphia premiere)**

Friday, January 24, 5 PM

Friday, January 24, 7 PM

Friday, January 24, 9 PM

Saturday, January 25, 1 PM

Saturday, January 25, 3 PM

Saturday, January 25, 5 PM

Saturday, January 25, 7 PM

Saturday, January 25, 9 PM

Sunday, January 26, 1 PM

Sunday, January 26, 3 PM

Sunday, January 26, 5 PM

Sunday, January 26, 7 PM

Sunday, January 26, 9 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

Imagine being in the middle of a stage, completely immersed within a performance, surrounded by dancers so close you see the intricacies of each movement and feel the depth of emotion. The magic of a virtual reality headset makes this possible, to plunge into the heart of three works specially adapted for this novel experience: *The Complex Simplicity of Love* by Margie Gillis, *Allegro Barbaro* by Hélène Blackburn, and *6.58 manifesto* by Andrea Peña. A Philadelphia premiere, and a rare opportunity to encounter something of this kind in the United States, *Koros* encourages us to view contemporary dance in a whole new way. Audience members are invited to gather in the lobby following each performance to discuss their experience.

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

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### **Mali Obomsawin Quartet (Philadelphia headline debut)**

Sunday, January 26, 7 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

*This performance is part of the [Beyond the Stage](#) series, offering special engagement activities to further explore the themes and influences in the artist's work.*

Making their Philadelphia headline debut, Mali Obomsawin is a bassist and singer/songwriter from Odanak First Nation. Infused with jazz, roots music, and indie rock, Obomsawin's internationally acclaimed album, *Sweet Tooth*, was named in the "Best of 2023" list by *Grammy.com*, *The Guardian*, NPR, and *JazzTimes*. Truly on the cutting edge of jazz, Obomsawin seamlessly melds chorale-like spirituals, folk melodies, and post-Albert Ayler free jazz in evocative compositions that serve not only as "potent commentary on indigenous heritage, autonomy and experiences but as gripping, dynamic and thunderous music in and of itself." (*JazzTimes*)

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

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### **Benjamin Bagby & Sequentia**

#### **Gregorius – The Holy Sinner**

Thursday, January 30, 7:30 PM

Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral | 19 South 38th Street

Renowned early music artist Benjamin Bagby returns on the heels of his sold-out performance of *Beowulf* back in 2023. Joined by Sequentia, one of the world's most respected and innovative ensembles for medieval music, Bagby brings to life Hartmann von Aue's *Gregorius – The Holy Sinner*, an ancient tale of sin, repentance, and redemption. Known for captivating interpretations of music from bygone eras, these incomparable artists "have mastered obscure languages and made them their own in performances that are riveting as well as convincing." (*Boston Musical Intelligencer*)

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

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### **Minty Fresh Circus (World premiere)**

**Conceived by Monique Martin**

Friday, January 31, 10:30 AM – **Student Discovery**

Friday, January 31, 8 PM

Saturday, February 1, 2 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

*This performance is part of the [Beyond the Stage](#) series, offering special engagement activities to further explore the themes and influences in the artist's work.*

Journey through time and space to explore themes of freedom and survival in the early Black American experience. Named in tribute to Harriet Tubman, whose childhood nickname was Minty, this world premiere co-commission is a raucous, playful reimagination of circus and dance that infuses African performance rituals, ceremonies, and cultural traditions. Ultimately, *Minty Fresh Circus* is an Afrofuturistic celebration of the healing power of Black music and movement within a contemporary circus framework.

*Penn Live Arts is a co-commissioner of the world premiere of Minty Fresh Circus as part of the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program.*

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

## February 2025

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### **Negro Ensemble Company**

**Day of Absence**

Thursday, February 6, 10:30 AM - **Student Discovery**

Thursday, February 6, 7:30 PM

Friday, February 7, 8 PM

Saturday, February 8, 2 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

*This performance is part of the [Beyond the Stage](#) series, offering special engagement activities to further explore the themes and influences in the artist's work.*

“Arguably the most successful Black theatre group in the world,” (*American Theatre*) the Negro Ensemble Company returns to the Penn Live Arts stage with a new production of Douglas Turner Ward’s *Day of Absence*, marking the 60th anniversary of when the group premiered the work off-Broadway. Described as a reverse minstrel show, with Black actors in whiteface, the play tells the story of an average Southern town that awakes to find all its Black residents have disappeared. “Ward’s wit is scathing” (*The New York Times*) in this comedic and pointed commentary on systemic racism that still bears relevance 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](https://PennLiveArts.org) for more information.

### **Shemekia Copeland**

Friday, February 7, 8 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

Hailed as “the greatest blues singer of her generation” (*The Washington Post*) and “a powerhouse vocalist,” (*Rolling Stone*) Shemekia Copeland makes her Penn Live Arts debut, with incomparable vocals, hard-hitting musical truths, and pure star power. This award-winning blues and Americana artist is beloved worldwide for her soulful way of addressing life’s trials through her music. “Regardless of subject matter, though, there’s no mistaking the majesty of Copeland’s instrument, nor the ferocity of her delivery. Copeland reaffirms the relevance of the blues.” (*The Chicago Tribune*)

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

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## RUBBERBAND

### ***Reckless Underdog (Philadelphia premiere)***

Friday, February 14, 10:30 AM – **Student Discovery**

Friday, February 14, 8 PM

Saturday, February 15, 2 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

With an “exciting, seemingly improbable fusion of hip hop, ballet, and modern dance,” (*Los Angeles Times*) RUBBERBAND performs the Philadelphia premiere of *Reckless Underdog*, a dazzling, three-act masterpiece. Ranging in choreographic style, scenography, and music, each part establishes its distinct universe and seeks to boldly overturn the conventions placed upon dance and theatre.

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

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### **Rafiq Bhatia with Chris Pattishall (World premiere)**

Sunday, February 23, 7 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

“An intimidatingly strong guitar player,” Rafiq Bhatia is “one of the most intriguing figures in music today.” (*The New York Times*) Making his Penn Live Arts debut alongside pianist Chris Pattishall, Bhatia marries emotional intensity with musical virtuosity in his embrace of jazz, rock, electronica, and Indian influences. Performing the world premiere of a Penn Live Arts commission as well as music from his upcoming 2024 album, “Bhatia is writing his own musical language,” where “sound becomes contour; music becomes something to step into rather than merely follow.” (*The New York Times*)

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

## March 2025

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### **Ricercar Consort (Philadelphia debut) & Céline Scheen, soprano**

Thursday, March 6, 7:30 PM

Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral | 19 South 38th Street

**Soprano** Céline Scheen

**Violin** Josef Zak & Augustin Lusson

**Violone** Benoît Vanden Bemden

**Theorbo** Daniel Zapico

**Organ** Paul Goussot

**Bass Viol and Musical Direction** Philippe Pierlot

With “a wonderfully full yet transparent sound” and “expressive detail that [is] wholly absorbing,” (*Gramophone*) Belgium’s Ricercar Consort performs in Philadelphia for the very first time. The ensemble is known for its profound and rigorous exploration of Baroque repertoire in both its significant catalog of recordings and enthralling performances around the world. Joined by the Grammy®-nominated soprano Céline Scheen, the program, entitled *The Virgin’s Teares*, features works by Vivaldi, Monteverdi, Purcell, Handel, and more that were inspired by the Virgin Mary and themes of joy, anger, doubt and despair.

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

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## **Jontavious Willis**

Friday, March 7, 8 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

Called a wunderkind by blues legend Taj Mahal, Grammy®-nominated guitarist and singer Jontavious Willis makes his Penn Live Arts debut. Performing music from his forthcoming 2024 album, a testament to his love of songwriting, Willis' toe-tapping tunes are a synthesis of his Georgia heritage and reverence for blues traditions. "Willis deserves to be celebrated as one of the brilliant new voices" as he is "the real deal, a player and singer who got it all: deep roots feeling, instrumental prowess and a voice that carries the heart and soul of the blues." (*Living Blues Magazine*)

*This performance is co-presented with World Cafe Live.*

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## **DENTRO (U.S. premiere)**

### **Giuliana Musso**

Thursday, March 13, 7:30 PM

Friday, March 14, 8 PM

Saturday, March 15, 2 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

*This performance is part of the [Beyond the Stage](#) series, offering special engagement activities to further explore the themes and influences in the artist's work.*

*DENTRO. Una storia vera, se volete*

*INSIDE. A true story, if you think so*

A mother discovers the worst of truths. A father innocent until proven guilty. Waves of doctors, social workers and other "helpers" who don't really want to know, furthering the secret's concealment. In the U.S. premiere of *DENTRO*, Giuliana Musso, one of Italy's most interesting voices in contemporary theatre, explores the traumatic effects of silence when abuse occurs at home. *DENTRO* is not documentary theatre but an investigation of a current happening; it's not a work about violence but one exploring the concealment of truth and the lost innocence of children.

*Performances of DENTRO are made possible in part with support provided by the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program.*

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

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## **Rennie Harris Puremovement**

### **American Street Dancer (World premiere)**

Friday, March 14, 10:30 AM – **Student Discovery**

Friday, March 14, 8 PM

Saturday, March 15, 2 PM

Saturday, March 15, 8 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

*This performance is part of the [Beyond the Stage](#) series, offering special engagement activities to further explore the themes and influences in the artist's work.*

### **Rennie Harris is PLA's 24/25 season Brownstein Artist-in-Residence**

Rennie Harris, "the most brilliant hip-hop choreographer in America" (*The New Yorker*) and Penn Live Arts' 24-25 season artist-in-residence, returns with the world premiere of a commissioned work, *American Street Dancer*, honoring the impact of street dance on the arts world. From the father of street dance, Master Juba, to the influence of this style on tap legends like Savion Glover, hip hop has contributed to theatre, film and culture globally, cementing its place in our history. Backed by a hip-hop orchestra of bucket and hand bone players, beat boxers and DJs, *American Street Dancer* will feature street and tap dancers celebrating styles from across the U.S. – Afro-Cuban salsa (New York), jitting (Detroit), footwork (Chicago) and GQ (Philadelphia).

*Rennie Harris in Residence has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. Rennie Harris Puremovement is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. 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](https://PennLiveArts.org) for more information.

### **Angélique Kidjo**

Saturday, March 22, 8 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

Angélique Kidjo is a five-time Grammy® award-winner and world music superstar. Blending traditional West African music, jazz, R&B, and funk, Kidjo is a force of nature on stage, using the “earth-shaking power and resonance” (*The Arts Desk*) of her voice to make connections across genres, generations, and geopolitical boundaries. “To be able to witness Angélique Kidjo in her element is a gift,” wrote Alicia Keys on Kidjo’s inclusion in *TIME*’s 100 Most Influential People list. “It doesn’t matter where you are—you hear her, and you become alive. She electrifies people.”

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

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### **Kronos Quartet**

Sunday, March 30, 7 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

“The Kronos Quartet has broken the boundaries of what string quartets do.” (*The New York Times*) This renowned new music ensemble, an early Penn Live Arts favorite, celebrates composer and longtime collaborator Terry Riley’s recent 90th birthday. Paired with some of the quartet’s newest commissions, the program features several of the 30 works that Riley has written for the group, including *The Gift*, *This Assortment of Atoms – One Time Only!* and *One Earth, One People, One Love*. With thousands of concerts performed worldwide, Kronos Quartet amply demonstrates that it is “the most far-ranging ensemble geographically, nationally and stylistically the world has known.” (*The Los Angeles Times*)

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

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## **April 2025**

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### **The 7 Fingers**

#### ***Duel Reality (Philadelphia premiere)***

Saturday, April 5, 2 PM

Saturday, April 5, 8 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

“Every time they take the stage — or soar above it — the 7 Fingers test the limits of possibility.” (*The Boston Globe*) Renowned around the world as one of the very best cirque troupes, Canada’s The 7 Fingers makes its Penn Live Arts debut with the Philadelphia premiere of *Duel Reality*, an acrobatic tour-de-force inspired by the star-crossed lovers and feuding families of *Romeo and Juliet*. A smash hit at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, this is an immersive, daredevil showdown where the stakes have never been higher.

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

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### **Jordi Savall & Hespèrion XXI**

#### ***Music of Fire & Love (Philadelphia premiere)***

Thursday, April 10, 7:30 PM

Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral | 19 South 38th Street

In this Philadelphia premiere, Grammy® Award-winning early music interpreter and master of the viola da gamba, Jordi Savall, returns to the Annenberg Center alongside his legendary ensemble, Hespèrion XXI, for an eclectic program of glosados, variations, and improvisations. With performances that marry meticulous research with virtuosic musicianship, Savall breathes new life into centuries-old compositions, many previously considered lost. For Savall, “music is always more than fleeting sounds. It enfolds histories. It reflects worlds. To draw a distinction between musicology and the sheer joy of performance is next to impossible.” (*The New York Times*)

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

### **Patty Griffin**

Sunday, April 27, 7 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

One of the most consequential singer-songwriters of her generation, Patty Griffin takes the Penn Live Arts stage for the first time. Over two decades, the Grammy® Award-winner has crafted a rich body of Americana, folk, and gospel music that chronicles the deeply personal moments of her life: love and death, heartache and joy, connection and detachment. Always imbued with compassion, uncanny perception, and ever-increasing ingenuity, Griffin's "songs have independent lives that continue in your head when the music ends." (*The New York Times*)

*This performance is co-presented with World Cafe Live.*

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

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## **May 2025**

### **Malandain Ballet Biarritz (*Philadelphia debut*)**

#### ***The Seasons***

Friday, May 2, 8 PM

Saturday, May 3, 2 PM

Saturday, May 3, 8 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

France's prestigious Malandain Ballet Biarritz performs in Philadelphia for the very first time in *The Seasons*, a full-length work set to *The Four Seasons*, both Vivaldi's masterpiece and the lesser-known composition of the same name by Giovanni Antonio Guido. While drastically different, both works are a celebration of nature, and this is eloquently explored in choreographer Thierry Malandain's masterful fusion of classical and contemporary styles. "The dance carries everything, from the joy of spring to the passions of summer...just a splendid invitation to meditate on the beauty of life and the passage of time." (*Le Figaro*)

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

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### **360 ALLSTARS (*Philadelphia debut*)**

Sunday, May 4, 4:30 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

#### ***Part of the 2025 Philadelphia Children's Festival***

Spinning circles around the competition, 360 ALLSTARS makes its Philadelphia debut with a dream team of world-champion athletes and artists showing off their mad skills in freestyle basketball, BMX, breaking, acrobatics, and more. With sold-out runs on Broadway and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, this supercharged urban circus puts the thrill of extreme sports centerstage, backed by a pulse-pumping, live-looped soundtrack. "From basketballs to B-boys to BMXs and unicycles, everything spins at speed in this dizzying show that melds street culture with circus spectacle to make your seat shake." (*The Guardian*)

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

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### **Philadelphia Children's Festival**

Sunday, May 4 – Tuesday, May 6

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## Lakecia Benjamin

Friday, May 9, 8 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

A rising star with inimitable jazz talent, alto saxophonist Lakecia Benjamin impressed Philadelphia audiences with her radiant performances in Penn Live Arts' 2022 Coltrane Festival. "Equally melodic and assertive, her sound feels rooted in tradition, yet broad enough to encompass R&B and Latin music." (*The New York Times*) Benjamin's acclaimed 2023 record, *Phoenix*, received three Grammy® nominations, further cementing her place as one of the best jazz saxophonists of today. And now, by popular demand, she returns to the Penn Live Arts stage with her dynamic quartet to celebrate a 2025 album release.

Media support for this performance is provided by WRTI 90.1 FM

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

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## Parsons Dance (*Philadelphia premieres*)

Friday, May 30, 8 PM

Saturday, May 31, 2 PM

Saturday, May 31, 8 PM

Annenberg Center | 3680 Walnut Street

Led by "one of the great movers of modern dance," Parsons Dance is an audience-favorite, with remarkable athleticism and bold, dance-your-heart-out choreography. Parsons' signature musicality and wit shine in the Philadelphia premieres of new works, *Balance of Power* and *Mr. Withers*, set to "Ain't No Sunshine," "Lean on Me," "Just the Two of Us" and more hits by singer/songwriter Bill Withers. The program also features Jamar Roberts' latest piece set to music by jazz legend Miles Davis, as well as company classics *Swing Shift* and *Caught*, a beloved stroboscopic masterpiece. From the opening curtain to the final bows, "Parsons Dance is an enjoyable ride." (*The New York Times*)

### Program to include:

- *Mr. Withers* by David Parsons (2023) – Philadelphia premiere
- *Balance of Power* by David Parsons (2020) – Philadelphia premiere
- New work by Jamar Roberts (2024) – Philadelphia premiere
- *Swing Shift* by David Parsons (2003)
- *Caught* by David Parsons (1982)

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## Press Contacts

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