

This calendar is current as of 5.26.22. 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 2022

Community Open House

Friday, September 16 – Saturday, September 17

Penn Live Arts kicks off its 50th anniversary celebration season with two days of free performances and activities open to the community. The fun includes a second line procession across campus and a main stage performance by the New Breed Brass Band (free but reservations are required), Penn Band Slam, Pilobolus Safari (free but timed reservations are required), storyteller Charlotte Blake Alston, and an official National Dance Day celebration with hip hop dancer Virgil “Lil O” Gadson, all leading up to the season opening performance with the Penn Live Arts debut of gospel legends the Blind Boys of Alabama (paid, tickets required). Visit PennLiveArts.org/OpenHouse for more details.

Blind Boys of Alabama

Saturday, September 17, 8 PM

With a career that spans 70 years, the five-time Grammy® Award-winning Blind Boys of Alabama are recognized worldwide as living legends of gospel music. They defined the sound of the American south and continue to innovate today, traversing musical boundaries with remarkable interpretations of everything from traditional gospel to contemporary songs. The group makes its Penn Live Arts debut, performing music from its capstone album, *Almost Home*, as well as favorites from across the decades. "Seeing the Blind Boys of Alabama in concert is part living history, part concert, all uplifting experience." (*The Washington Post*)

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Kardemimmit

Friday, September 30, 8 PM

With ancient instruments and angelic vocals the four women of Finnish folk music group Kardemimmit showcase the heritage of the kantele, their country's national instrument. Alongside 15- and 38-stringed kanteles, the quartet sings mesmerizing harmonies in original compositions that blend a modern approach with a deep foundation in Finnish, Eastern European and Scandinavian traditions. Kardemimmit's tight vocals and nimble playing shines as they bring their unique sound to Philadelphia for the very first time.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

October 2022

Machine de Cirque **La Galerie**

Sunday, October 2, 7 PM

Seven zany acrobats and an electrifying musician set off a vibrant explosion of color in an otherwise monochrome museum exhibit. In this 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. 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.

Pilobolus

Friday, October 7, 8 PM

Saturday, October 8, 2 PM

Saturday, October 8, 8 PM

Pilobolus celebrates 50 years of radical creativity and boundary-pushing art with *Big Five-OH!*, a remixed retrospective of signature works from vintage classics to current innovations. It's the Pilobolus audiences have grown to love, with wit, sensuality and stunning physical acumen, put on a sideways tilt as the company looks to the future and tests every limit. "There are other companies that take art to extremes, but Pilobolus proves once more that it does it best."
(*The Philadelphia Inquirer*)

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Negro Ensemble Company **Our Voices, Our Time: One-Act Play Festival**

Saturday, October 8, 2 PM

Saturday, October 8, 8 PM

Our Voices, Our Time: One-Act Play Festival, a collaboration with Penn Live Arts' 2022-23 season artist-in-residence, the esteemed Negro Ensemble Company, seeks to amplify and celebrate Black voices, stories and perspectives, elevating meaningful and thought-provoking conversations on the monumental role of Black artists in shaping art and culture in our country. Selected from a worldwide pool of submitted scripts, each play will be produced and see its world premiere with Penn Live Arts before going on to New York for an extended run.

This project is funded in part by an ArtsForward grant from the Association of Performing Arts Professionals, made possible through support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Additional support has been provided through an Extended Artist Residency grant from The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation.

The Negro Ensemble Company Residency in the 22/23 season is made possible in part with support provided by the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Negro Ensemble Company is the 22/23 season artist-in-residence of the Brownstein Residency for Artistic Innovation.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

**Alice & John: A Coltrane Festival
Pam Tanowitz Dance**

Friday, October 14, 8 PM
Saturday, October 15, 2 PM
Saturday, October 15, 8 PM

Known for “sublime dance theater of the highest caliber,” Pam Tanowitz “has long been one of the most formally brilliant choreographers around.” (*The New York Times*) Following her Penn Live Arts debut during its 2021-22 digital season, Tanowitz’ acclaimed company returns with two world premieres, including *Walk With Me*, a PLA-commissioned work set to the music of Alice and John Coltrane. With live music by saxophonist Lakecia Benjamin and her band, Pursuance, the piece sees Tanowitz choreographing to jazz for the first time. Her innovative twist on ballet and modern styles continues to shine in *forever and ever and ever and ever*, uniquely developed for the Annenberg Center’s Zellerbach Theatre.

Penn Live Arts is the lead commissioner of *Walk With Me*.

Pam Tanowitz Dance’s *Walk With Me* in the 2022-23 season is made possible in part with support provided by the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Co-commissioning and development support was provided by Fisher Center LAB, which receives funding from the Fisher Center at Bard’s Artistic Innovation Fund with lead support from Rebecca Gold and S. Asher Gelman through the March Forth Foundation. The Fisher Center at Bard is Pam Tanowitz’s artistic home.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

**Alice & John: A Coltrane Festival
Lakecia Benjamin & Pursuance
with Special Guests**

Sunday, October 16, 7 PM

Named a rising star in *DownBeat’s* 2020 Critics Poll, Lakecia Benjamin is fierce and fearless, offering a reverent embrace of the jazz canon infused with the soul of funk and R&B. In an all-Coltrane program, Benjamin is joined by her band, Pursuance, and some very special guests: vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater and two musicians who played with the Coltranes themselves, Gary Bartz and Philadelphia-native Reggie Workman. Enjoy John Coltrane’s masterpiece, *A Love Supreme*, and his newly rediscovered “Blue World,” as well as music from Benjamin’s *Pursuance: The Coltranes* album and the world premiere of a Penn Live Arts commission.

Lakecia Benjamin is Artistic Advisor of Alice & John: A Coltrane Festival.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

**Alice & John: A Coltrane Festival
Ravi Coltrane Quintet
The Music of John & Alice Coltrane**

Saturday, October 22, 8 PM

Back by popular demand, the second son of Alice and John “has evolved a bright, warm tone that pours from his instrument with a lucidity of expression, often with a molten intensity not devoid of a certain family resemblance.” (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*) In the Philadelphia premiere of his Cosmic Music program, saxophonist Ravi Coltrane leads a contemporary exploration of the groundbreaking, mystical and spiritual music of his legendary parents.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Alice & John: A Coltrane Festival
Brandee Younger

Sunday, October 23, 7 PM

Making her Penn Live Arts debut, the classically trained, 2021 Grammy®-nominated harpist celebrates her musical hero Alice Coltrane's otherworldly album, *Ptah, the El Daoud*, with additional Coltrane favorites and music from Younger's 2021 album, *Somewhere Different*. "Younger has almost single-handedly made a persuasive argument for the harp's role in contemporary jazz," (*The New York Times*) and this immersive concert experience will surely illustrate why.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

The Songs of Solomon
The Music of Salamone Rossi

Thursday, October 27, 7:30 PM

Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral

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, is joined by other nationally renowned artists to create a portrait in sound of this intriguing and talented composer.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Béla Fleck & Abigail Washburn

Sunday, October 30, 7 PM

Hailed as "the king and queen of the banjo," (*Paste Magazine*) sixteen-time Grammy® Award-winner Béla Fleck returns to our stage alongside his wife, fellow banjoist and singer Abigail Washburn. Fleck is the world's premier banjo player, known for his eclectic mix of bluegrass and jazz, while Washburn marries folk traditions with far-flung Eastern influences. Together, their sound is familiar yet wildly innovative, and on stage their artistry and chemistry results in a picking partnership unlike any on the planet.

Béla Fleck & Abigail Washburn's performance is co-presented with World Cafe Live.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

November 2022

Ballet Hispánico

Friday, November 4, 8 PM

Saturday, November 5, 2 PM

Saturday, November 5, 8 PM

“One of the best contemporary repertory ensembles,” (*The New York Times*) Ballet Hispánico recently celebrated five decades of lush and virtuosic dance that fuses Latin culture with contemporary technique. Theatricality and passion propel every move as Ballet Hispánico performs the Philadelphia premieres of *Club Havana*, an exhilarating mash-up of Latin styles, *Con Brazos Abiertos*, a fun and frank look at life caught between Mexican and American cultures, and *Línea Recta*, a powerful exploration of flamenco and its lack of physical partnering.

Program:

Club Havana by Pedro Ruiz

Con Brazos Abiertos by Michelle Manzanales

Línea Recta by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Falling Out of Time

Sunday, November 6, 7 PM

Osvaldo Golijov's gripping song cycle, *Falling Out of Time*, explores the vast emotional journey of a mother and father grieving the loss of their son. Based on David Grossman's book of the same name, this piece “glides frictionlessly across classical, folk, pop, and jazz idioms” as a “kind of voyage of the soul through jagged sweeps of grief and defiance, memory and yearning.” (*The Boston Globe*) Performed by several musicians from the Silk Road Ensemble, this Philadelphia premiere by a Penn alumnus weaves an evocative tapestry of sound with voices, Persian kamancheh, Chinese pipa and sheng, trumpet, guitar, electronics, string quintet and percussion.

Sung in English and Hebrew with supertitles.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Terence Blanchard & Andrew F. Scott

Gordon Parks: An Empathetic Lens

Saturday, November 12, 8 PM

Five-time Grammy® Award-winning trumpeter/composer Terence Blanchard is joined by his E-Collective, the Turtle Island Quartet and visual artist Andrew F. Scott for a dynamic portrait of dual influences. Performing music from his 2021 album, *Absence*, Blanchard offers a heartfelt tribute to legendary jazz saxophonist Wayne Shorter. This Philadelphia premiere is enhanced by Scott's live curation of Gordon Parks' iconic photography, showcasing his tremendous impact on social justice and humanitarianism.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Soweto Gospel Choir

Friday, November 18, 8 PM

With “a cornucopia of remarkable voices,” (*The New York Times*) the Soweto Gospel Choir returns with its much-beloved blend of South African gospel, reggae and pop. The three-time Grammy® Award-winning choir performs the Philadelphia premiere of *Hope*, a powerful program that celebrates freedom for all in South Africa and the U.S., along with inspirational classics by Billie Holiday, James Brown, Aretha Franklin and many more. Don't miss this vibrant evening with the world's favorite choir.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

December 2022

Rennie Harris Puremovement

Rome & Jewels

Friday, December 9, 8 PM

Saturday, December 10, 2 PM

Saturday, December 10, 8 PM

“The most brilliant hip-hop choreographer in America,” (*The New Yorker*) Rennie Harris, is back with a complete re-mounting of one of his most celebrated works, *Rome & Jewels*. A story of love, fear, violence and triumph, *Rome & Jewels* challenges preconceived notions of Shakespeare with a hip hop journey through the streets of Philadelphia. The evening-length production was groundbreaking globally, winning numerous awards as it explored racial, religious and economic questions through the lens of gang violence. Honoring Puremovement's 30th anniversary and featuring some of the original cast, Elizabethan drama gets intermixed with hip hop rhythms and tragic gang culture, resulting in an epic and poetic look at real life.

This performance contains strong language and sexual content.

Rennie Harris Puremovement's *Rome & Jewels* in the 22/23 season is made possible in part with support provided by the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass

A Very Brassy Christmas

Sunday, December 11, 7 PM

Mixing classical, big band jazz and New Orleans swing, this brass ensemble brings together top musicians from across the country for a jazzy holiday celebration. Led by trumpeter Rodney Marsalis, part of the famed first family of jazz, this glorious group will ring in the season with Christmas classics, including arrangements from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* and Handel's *Messiah*. This festive evening with a dream team of brass players is not-to-be-missed.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

The Crossing @ Christmas

Friday, December 16, 7 PM

The Church of the Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square

“America’s most astonishing choir,” (*The New York Times*) The Crossing, reflects on our world during the holiday season. Conducted by Donald Nally, this multiple Grammy® Award-winning new music ensemble performs a world premiere by Caroline Shaw and the Philadelphia premiere of *Mass Transmission* by Mason Bates. Featuring organist Scott Dettra, *Mass Transmission* explores how the telephone and early radio connected people across the planet but created a new kind of global loneliness at the same time.

The Crossing @ Christmas performance in the 22/23 season is made possible in part with support provided by the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

January 2023

Arno Schuitemaker

If You Could See Me Now

Friday, January 13, 8 PM

Saturday, January 14, 2 PM

Saturday, January 14, 8 PM

“One of the leading dancers in the Netherlands,” (*Dance Europe*) former aeronautical engineer turned award-winning choreographer Arno Schuitemaker makes his U.S. debut with the U.S. premiere of *If You Could See Me Now*. This magical and intense full-length work explores perception through a radical integration of hypnotic, perpetual movement with electronic music and light, stretching how one experiences space and time. *If You Could See Me Now* hints at themes of love, loneliness and waiting, while urging you to take another look.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Dance Theatre of Harlem

Friday, January 20, 8 PM

Saturday, January 21, 2 PM

Saturday, January 21, 8 PM

The iconic Dance Theatre of Harlem returns to Penn Live Arts with the world premiere of *Blake Works IV (The Barre Project)* by William Forsythe. This work is the latest in a continuously evolving series, *The Barre Project*, which originated digitally during the height of the pandemic when live performances weren’t possible. A sort of “love letter to dancers, to technique, to the possibilities of the ballet barre,” (*Fjord Review*) this new version was created specifically for Dance Theatre of Harlem, highlighting the diverse and formidable talents of this stunning company.

World premiere: January 20, 2023, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Penn Live Arts/Annenberg Center, Philadelphia.

Originated from *The Barre Project (Blake Works II)*, created and filmed in 2020 with Tiler Peck, Lex Ishimoto, Brooklyn Mack and Roman Mejia for its first broadcast on March 25, 2021, on the CLI Studio Digital Platform. www.clistudios.com

This world premiere was made possible in part with support provided by the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Teatro delle Albe

fedeli d'Amore

Friday, January 20, 8 PM

Saturday, January 21, 8 PM

Written by Marco Martinelli

Music by Luigi Ceccarelli

Performed by Ermanna Montanari

Devised and directed by Marco Martinelli and Ermanna Montanari

Teatro delle Albe is one of Italy's most respected contemporary theatre companies, earning world-wide acclaim for its innovative style and boundary-pushing approach to traditional theatre. Co-founded by Marco Martinelli and Ermanna Montanari, the troupe makes its Philadelphia debut with the U.S. premiere of *fedeli d'Amore (Love's Faithful)*. Written by Martinelli as a "polyptych in seven panels," the work reflects on Dante Alighieri and the contemporary world through evocative vocal, musical and visual dramaturgy, a visceral staging of the last visions of Dante during his final passage from life to death.

Performed in Italian with English supertitles.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Benjamin Bagby's *Beowulf*

Friday, January 27, 8 PM

With dragons, demons and heroic quests, the Old English epic poem *Beowulf* has captivated the masses for centuries. Now, renowned performer Benjamin Bagby uses his voice and the Germanic harp to present the medieval text, evoking an entire ancient world on stage. Seldom seen in Philadelphia, Bagby makes his Penn Live Arts debut and "comes as close to holding hundreds of people in a spell as ever a man has...That is much too rare an experience." (*The New York Times*)

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Acrobuffos

Air Play

Sunday, January 29, 3 PM

Circus and science collide in this poetic ode to the power of air. A smash hit back in 2019, Acrobuffos' *Air Play* makes the ordinary seem extraordinary as audiences of all ages laugh and watch in awe. With knowing smiles and suitcases full of surprises, this comedic duo animates airflow, goads gravity and makes buoyant, beautiful and really, really high art out of the very thing we breathe. "Something wonderful is in the air. *Air Play* is delightful." (*The New York Times*)

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

February 2023

Sō Percussion & Caroline Shaw

Friday, February 3, 8 PM

Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw combines forces with Sō Percussion, known for an “exhilarating blend of precision and anarchy, rigor and bedlam.” (*The New Yorker*) Vocalist on this program, Shaw’s faultless ear for melody and harmony pairs with Sō Percussion’s nearly endless menagerie of instruments and techniques, offering a powerful program of Philadelphia premieres, including *Let the Soil Play Its Simple Part*, composed together, as well as Shaw’s *Taxidermy* and the Grammy® Award-winning *Narrow Sea*. Making their Penn Live Arts debuts, these brilliant artists unveil a soulful world of sonic richness, explored through the medium of distinctly contemporary songs.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

VOCES8

Thursday, February 9, 7:30 PM

Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral

The “eight beautifully integrated solo voices” (*BBC Music Magazine*) of Britain’s VOCES8 take a cappella to the next level in this Penn Live Arts debut. Boasting a vastly diverse repertoire, a charming stage presence and a passion for inspiring future generations of musicians, “the singing of VOCES8 is impeccable in its quality of tone and balance. They bring a new dimension to the word ‘ensemble’ with meticulous timing and tuning.” (*Gramophone Magazine*) Following extensive international tours, VOCES8 has a devoted fan base and an opportunity to enjoy one of their performances in one of Philadelphia’s most beautiful spaces is not-to-be-missed.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Martha Graham Dance Company

Friday, February 10, 8 PM

Saturday, February 11, 2 PM

Saturday, February 11, 7 PM

The most celebrated modern dance company in America returns to Philadelphia with a wondrous classic and an exciting Philadelphia premiere. The “most skilled and powerful dancers you can ever hope to see” (*The Washington Post*) perform a newly reimagined *Canticle for Innocent Comedians*, based on the 1952 original which was considered magical but is now lost. With lead choreography by Emmy® and Tony® Award-winner Sonya Tayeh alongside a diverse group of dance-makers, this *Canticle* keeps the same format and theme with a new score by jazz pianist Jason Moran. Completing the program, the iconic *Appalachian Spring* showcases why Graham’s legacy and company have remained at the forefront of American dance for most of a century.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Negro Ensemble Company

World Premiere Play

Wednesday, February 15, 7:30 PM

Thursday, February 16, 7:30 PM

Friday, February 17, 8 PM

Saturday, February 18, 2 PM

Saturday, February 18, 8 PM

“Arguably the most successful Black theatre group in the world,” (*American Theatre*) the Negro Ensemble Company, Penn Live Arts’ season artist-in-residence, performs a world premiere play juxtaposing 1960s protest poetry with the current social climate. This new work merges live music, dance, civil rights era poetry and contemporary writings that reflect on our nation’s recent racial reckoning, with additional inspiration from Ntozake Shange’s acclaimed theatre piece, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow is Enuf*. Directed by five-time NAACP best directing award-winner Denise Dowse and with designer Patrice Andrew Davidson, this meaningful exploration of social and racial themes that elevates the authentic, underrepresented stories of the Black experience is co-commissioned and co-produced by Penn Live Arts.

This project is funded in part by an ArtsForward grant from the Association of Performing Arts Professionals, made possible through support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Additional support has been provided through an Extended Artist Residency grant from The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation.

The Negro Ensemble Company Residency in the 22/23 season is made possible in part with support provided by the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Negro Ensemble Company is the 22/23 season artist-in-residence of the Brownstein Residency for Artistic Innovation.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Ulysses Owens Jr. & Generation Y

Saturday, February 25, 8 PM

One of the most sought-after drummers of his generation, Ulysses Owens Jr. “take[s] a back seat to no one.” (*The New York Times*) His reverence for tradition and his unique ability to create penetrating musical shapes has attracted the attention of jazz’s heavy hitters including Wynton Marsalis and Christian McBride. In recent years, Owens Jr. has increasingly focused on education, amplifying the next generation of jazz talent as a professor at The Juilliard School, and showcasing those up-and-coming stars in his Generation Y band. This exciting Philadelphia debut performance is not-to-be-missed.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

March 2023

Tabea Debus, recorder

Adam Cockerham, archlute

Thursday, March 2, 7:30 PM

Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral

Early music sensation Tabea Debus is known for her ability to coax an astonishing spectrum of moods and timbres from the recorder. In a program entitled *Ohrwurm* (German for “earworm”), Debus is joined by Adam Cockerham on archlute for a delightful compilation of memorable pieces by Bach, Monteverdi, Purcell and more from the 17th and 18th centuries. Seamlessly spanning the eras of recorder repertoire, “she turns some captivating fandangos, jigs, and other dances into outright toe-tappers...like an informal but fiery set at a jazz club.” (*Early Music America*)

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Anaïs Mitchell

Friday, March 3, 8 PM

Best known as the Tony and Grammy® Award-winning creator of the Broadway musical *Hadestown*, Anaïs Mitchell is a “formidable songwriting talent” who comes from the world of narrative folksong, poetry and balladry, writing and singing compelling songs that “address contemporary angst with uncanny vision.” (*The New York Times*) Mitchell was named by *TIME* as one of the 100 most influential people of 2020 and her warm sound and thoughtful, heartfelt lyrics will shine in her Penn Live Arts debut.

Anaïs Mitchell's performance is co-presented with World Cafe Live.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Theo Bleckmann

Berlin: Songs of Love and War, Peace and Exile

Saturday, March 11, 8 PM

“A vocalist of inventive instinct and assiduous musicality,” (*The New York Times*) German-born American Theo Bleckmann makes his Penn Live Arts debut with a program of Weimar-era music from war-torn Berlin, a city in its heyday yet on the precipice of disaster. Joined by pianist Dan Tepfer and the Daedalus Quartet, Penn's quartet-in-residence, Bleckmann approaches classic, dark cabaret songs with a tender vulnerability, magnifying their personal and political relevance in today's world.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

The Crossing

PRISM Quartet

Friday, March 24, 7 PM

The Church of the Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square

Led by Donald Nally, the “adventurous, fiercely talented choir,” The Crossing, “combines an embrace of the new, a social conscience and fearless technique.” For this performance, the multiple Grammy® Award-winning new music group is joined by the PRISM Quartet, “a bold ensemble that set the standard for contemporary-classical saxophone quartets.” The program features the world premiere of *Self-Portrait, Unfinished* by Martin Bresnick, a composer known for “music that seems at once ancient, elegiac and awesomely new.” (*The New York Times*)

The Crossing's performance in the 22/23 season is made possible in part with support provided by the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

FLIP Fabrique

Muse

Saturday, March 25, 2 PM

Can a woman play football? Can a man wear a dress? Yes! Canada's visually stunning cirque troupe, FLIP Fabrique, explores what it means to be your true self in *Muse*. Known for offering “acts that don't seem humanly possible,” (*The New York Times*) this Philadelphia premiere defies gravity as the acrobats challenge themselves physically while also playfully slipping between traditional gender roles. Whether in high heels or shoulder pads, the ensemble celebrates individuality, offering an inspiring and fresh take on circus and societal expectations.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

April 2023

Arturo O'Farrill

The Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra

Thursday, April 13, 7:30 PM

Five-time Grammy® Award-winner Arturo O'Farrill and his Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra blend big band jazz, Latin rhythms and the virtuosity of a large group of the world's most accomplished solo musicians. The son of the late, great Chico O'Farrill, Arturo celebrates his father in a program of Philadelphia premieres, setting Chico's iconic *Afro-Cuban Jazz Suite* alongside Arturo's *Afro Latin Jazz Suite*. Don't miss this Latin jazz visionary and "one of the best jazz orchestras in existence." (*The New Yorker*)

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Paul Taylor Dance Company

Friday, April 21, 8 PM

Saturday, April 22, 2 PM

Saturday, April 22, 8 PM

"One of the most exciting, innovative, and delightful dance companies in the entire world," (*The New York Times*) the Paul Taylor Dance Company returns to Penn Live Arts in a program including *Le Sacre du Printemps (The Rehearsal)*, where a dance rehearsal and film noir whodunit merge in a clever reimagining of the Stravinsky masterpiece, and *Brandenburgs*, an elegant and joyous Taylor classic set to Bach's much-loved concertos. "The American spirit soars whenever Taylor's dancers dance," (*San Francisco Chronicle*) and this performance will be no exception.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

May 2023

Nrityagram Dance Ensemble & Chitrasena Dance Company

Āhuti

Friday, May 5, 8 PM

Saturday, May 6, 2 PM

"The Nrityagram Dance Ensemble are rock stars in the dance world." (*New York Post*) As India's premier dance troupe, *The New York Times* proclaims that "these are among the world's greatest dancers" who frequently offer "one of the most extraordinary dance events of the year." Now, joined by Sri Lanka's acclaimed Chitrasena Dance Company, they perform the Philadelphia premiere of *Āhuti*. Featuring live music and vibrant tradition, this full-length work explores the interconnection of rhythm, music and physical expression between the companies' Odissi and Kandyen dance styles.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

George Hinchliffe's Ukelele Orchestra of Great Britain

Sunday, May 7, 7 PM

Dancing between sincerity and insanity with a unique mix of punk rock sensibilities and wry British humor, the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain has fans ranging from the Queen of England to David Bowie. They are masters of the unexpected, re-imagining a menagerie of rock, pop, jazz, blues and classical, and anything else they think is ripe for the picking. The result is always "cleverly arranged and played with humor, energy and virtuosity." (*The New York Times*) Don't miss the Philadelphia debut of these singing and strumming uke superstars!

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Julianna Barwick

Friday, May 19, 8 PM

Louisiana-bred, Los Angeles-based musician and singer Julianna Barwick creates ethereal, largely wordless soundscapes by looping her angelic voice in “layers of soft, radiant texture to build an effect of sacred-feeling simplicity.” (*The Guardian*) A luminary at the intersection of ambient and electronic music with critically acclaimed compositions that transport listeners to a space of beauty and wonder, Barwick makes her Penn Live Arts debut with this performance.

Julianna Barwick’s performance is co-presented with World Cafe Live.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

June 2023

Craig Taborn

Friday, June 2, 8 PM

Hailed by *The New York Times* as “one of the best jazz pianists alive,” Craig Taborn’s music “has an elusive aura, both in its spectral, moody textures and in its proud refusal to cater to expectations about what jazz, or even music, should be.” Taborn will make his Philadelphia headline debut in a solo concert that features the improvisational sounds and silences, swirling colors and poetic forms of his stunning 2021 album, *Shadow Plays*.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

SWING OUT

Friday, June 9, 8 PM

Saturday, June 10, 2 PM

Saturday, June 10, 8 PM

Penn Live Arts audience favorite and tap superstar Caleb Teicher, “one of the brightest lights in tap today” (*The New Yorker*) is joined by collaborators Evita Arce, LaTasha Barnes and Nathan Bugh and more stellar dancers for Lindy Hop choreography and improvisation, all set to live music by the Eyal Vilner Big Band. The Philadelphia premiere of this incredible show ends with an on-stage jam session, with the audience invited to join in the fun!

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

#

Press Contacts

Katherine Blodgett, for Penn Live Arts

Email: katherineblodgett@gmail.com

Phone: 215.431.1230

Alexander Freeman, Director of Marketing and Ticketing, Penn Live Arts

Email: freemana@upenn.edu

Phone: 215.898.9081