

MANSION
STRATHMORE

Music in the Mansion

**CHRISTYLEZ BACON &
MIKE BLOCK**

Thursday, October 24, 2024, 7:30pm



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Mike Block is a Grammy Award-winning cello player, singer, and composer passionate about cross-cultural collaboration through music, hailed as “one of the bravest, most intriguing musicians on the American fusion scene.” (*Gramophone*). Acclaimed by the *New York Times* for his “vital rich-hued solo playing,” and by *Salt Lake City Desert News* as “a true artist... a sight to behold,” Mike tours in a variety of collaborative projects, and was among the first wave of cellists to adopt a strap to stand while performing, using his patented design, The Block Strap. He is also the founding Director of Play For the Vote, Mike Block String Camp, and Silkroad’s Global Musician Workshop.

Christylez Bacon (pronounced: chris-styles) is a Grammy nominated progressive hip-hop artist and multi-instrumentalist from Southeast Washington, D.C. As a performer, Christylez multi-tasks between various instruments such as the West African djembe drum, acoustic guitar, and the human beat-box (oral percussion), all while continuing the oral tradition of storytelling through his lyrics.

With a mission towards cultural acceptance and unification through music, Christylez is constantly pushing the envelope—from performances at the National Cathedral to becoming the first hip-hop artist to be featured at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. He has also composed and performed with the National Symphony Orchestra and Princeton Symphony Orchestra on multiple occasions, collaborated with cellist Yo-Yo Ma, and created an intentional culture exchange project and subsequent documentary between Washington, D.C. and Brasília, Brazil.

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