

# STRATHMORE NEWS

SUMMER  
20  
24

## EVERYBODY WINS

How juried exhibitions  
shape artistic careers

## SPEND SUMMER OUTSIDE

Free open-air concerts  
across the county

## 24-25 SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT

Lila Downs  
Meshell Ndegeocello  
Rosanne Cash  
*and more!*

# STRATHMORE



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COVER ARTWORK: Live from the Lawn by David Stuck

INSIDE COVER PHOTOS L-R: Chucho Valdes, Bloom by Strathmore at Good Hope by Jim Saah, Arts and Social Justice Fellowship by Ceylon Mitchell

# MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Ensure the future of the programming you love and keep Strathmore a creative home for all. Join today for immediate presale access to new shows now and great benefits all year.

[STRATHMORE.ORG/JOIN](https://strathmore.org/join)



# JUST ANNOUNCED!

*These shows go on sale Friday, May 31, but Strathmore members are buying tickets now. Join today to access the presale!*

**STRATHMORE.ORG/JOIN**

## ROSANNE CASH

*Sun, Sept 22*

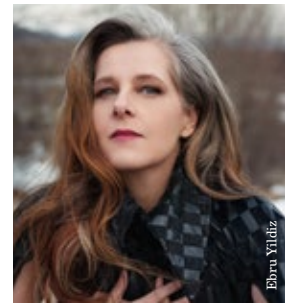
Contemporary American roots icon celebrates the 30th anniversary of her groundbreaking album *The Wheel*.



## NEKO CASE

*Wed, Oct 9—on sale now!*

An acclaimed solo artist and member of The New Pornographers, Neko Case crafts a unique folk-rock sound filled with honesty and compelling storytelling.



## MARIZA

*Thu, Oct 3*

Global *fado* icon blends Portuguese tradition with diverse influences.



## AFRO-CUBAN ALL STARS

*Fri, Oct 18*

A celebration of Cuba's musical heritage, from energetic big band tunes to heartfelt acoustic melodies.



## MESHELL NDEGEOCELLO: NO MORE WATER/ THE GOSPEL OF JAMES BALDWIN

*Sat, Oct 5* 

Grammy-winning artist honors writer and activist James Baldwin with a soulful exploration of his powerful words.



## MALEVO

*Sun, Oct 27*

Internationally celebrated dance company reimagines traditional Argentine *malambo* with flamenco and percussion.



**Join us for a series of events celebrating the 100th anniversary of James Baldwin's birth.**

**JAMES BALDWIN: THE PRICE OF THE TICKET  
COMMUNITY SCREENING AND CONVERSATION  
WITH DR. KEITH CLARK**

*Fri, Aug 2*

**GO THE WAY YOUR BLOOD BEATS:  
YOUNG ARTISTS HONOR JAMES BALDWIN**

*Sat, Sept 7*

**JAMES BALDWIN AT THE CROSSROADS:  
THE DEVIL FINDS WORK  
WITH E. ETHELBERG MILLER**

*Thurs, Sept 26*

**AND MORE!**

## JUDY COLLINS & MADELEINE PEYROUX

*Fri, Nov 1*

Iconic folk and jazz singer-songwriters share the stage for a night of songs and stories.



## LEGEND DORADO SCHMITT AND SONS SAMSON & AMATI DJANGO'S JAZZ MANOUCHE

*Sun, Nov 10*

Internationally renowned musical family celebrates Romani guitarist Django Reinhardt's contributions to jazz.



## A SWINGIN' LITTLE CHRISTMAS! STARRING JANE LYNCH

FEATURING KATE FLANNERY & TIM DAVIS WITH THE TONY GUERRERO QUINTET

*Wed, Dec 4—on sale now!*

Jane Lynch & friends spread holiday cheer with comedy and songs from their chart-topping album, *A Swingin' Little Christmas*.



## DAVE KOZ AND FRIENDS CHRISTMAS TOUR 2024

FEATURING: JONATHON BUTLER WITH SPECIAL GUESTS: VINCENT INGALA, ADAM HAWLEY, AND REBECCA JADE

*Thu, Dec 5*

Legendary jazz saxophonist returns to Strathmore with his annual Christmas tour.



## YAMATO: THE DRUMMERS OF JAPAN

人の力 "HITO NO CHIKARA"— THE POWER OF HUMAN STRENGTH

*Thu, Jan 23* 🍱

Preeminent Japanese Taiko drumming group awes audiences with 40 unique drums on stage.



## SONG OF THE NORTH

*Fri, Jan 31* 🍱

Cinematic performance combines the manual art of shadow puppetry with projected animation to tell the classic Persian tale.



## ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN IN THE FIELDS WITH BRUCE LIU

*Thu, Mar 6*

A renowned orchestra and an emerging pianist team up for a powerhouse performance of classical music.



## THE NAGHASH ENSEMBLE

*Fri, March 21* 

Armenian folk songs reinvented with new classical music and contemporary postminimalism elements.



## LILA DOWNS

*Thu, March 27* 

Six-time Grammy winner channels her diverse heritage into multilingual songs blending folk, jazz, hip-hop, and traditional Mexican rhythms.



## MIHO HAZAMA AND M\_UNIT

*Sun, April 13*

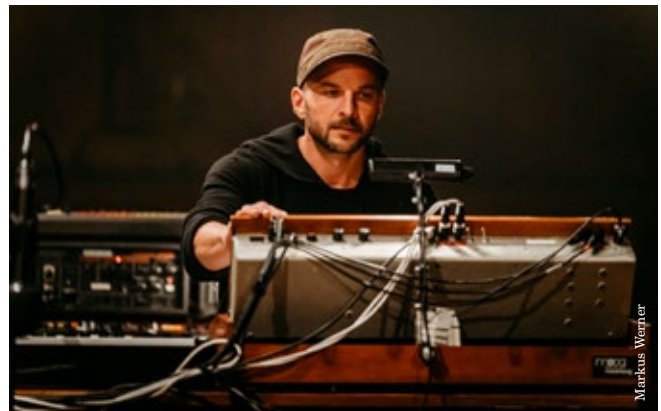
Grammy-nominated composer and conductor leads her innovative jazz chamber orchestra.



## NILS FRAHM

*Thu, May 8*

Berlin-based pianist boldly blends classical influences with modern electronic elements.




## CHUCHO VALDÉS IRAKERE 50

*Sun, May 11* 

Founder Chucho Valdés honors Afro-Cuban jazz band Irakere's 50th anniversary with an electrifying tribute.



 Our Windows series offers a chance to explore unique perspectives, themes, and issues raised by the work of the artist(s). Each performance is accompanied by preconcert lectures and conversations to deepen the experience.

[STRATHMORE.ORG/WINDOWS](http://strathmore.org/windows)

# BEAT THE HEAT

Step out of the sun for some cool concerts in the Music Center and at AMP.

## IN THE MUSIC CENTER

### THE STARS OF THE PEKING ACROBATS

Sun, Aug 4

Daring maneuvers turn the ancient artistry of Chinese acrobatics into modern performance art.

### STRAIGHT NO CHASER SUMMER: THE 90S

Thu, Aug 8

A cappella renditions of '90s chart-toppers from MTV icons like Backstreet Boys, 'NSYNC, and Lisa Loeb.

### THE RIGHTEOUS BROTHERS LOVIN' FEELIN' FAREWELL TOUR

Thu, Aug 15

A nostalgic journey through six decades of soulful melodies with the iconic pop duo behind hits like "Unchained Melody."

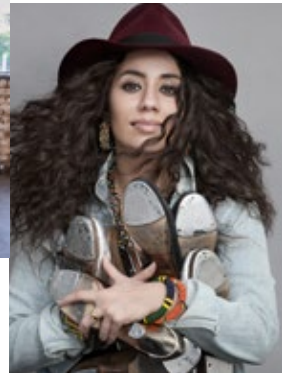
### A BANDHOUSE GIGS TRIBUTE TO DC LEGENDS

Sat, Aug 17

One-of-a-kind concert pays homage to the eclectic sounds of DC's diverse music scene and its legacy artists.



Straight No Chaser, Peking Acrobats  
by Tom Meinhold



final performances at  
AMP

### TRAY WELLINGTON BAND

Thu, June 6, 8pm

High-energy acoustic progressive bluegrass

### KYSHONA

Fri, June 7, 8pm

Soulful singer and songwriter

### MICHELA MARINO LERMAN AND LOVE MOVEMENT

Thu, June 13, 8pm

Exploring love through tap dance and music

### THE SIDLEYS SUGAR KINGDOM ALBUM RELEASE WITH SPECIAL GUEST JULIET LLOYD

Fri, June 14, 8pm

Indie rock family band

### VERONNEAU'S BLUE TAPESTRY

Sun, June 23, 4pm & 7:30pm

A tribute to Joni Mitchell and Carole King

AMP's doors will close June 30.

Learn more about our plans at

[STRATHMORE.ORG/AMP](https://strathmore.org/amp)

Tray Wellington Band, Michela Marino Lerman by Luis Guillén

# A MUSICAL JOURNEY *through* STRATHMORE'S CAMPUS

*Sonic Trails combines technology and music for a unique outdoor experience.*

*by Jason Fontelieu*



Like a village green, Strathmore's campus is a place to make connections. Joi Brown, Strathmore's artistic director and vice president of programming, describes the current *Sonic Trails* installation as another way to "activate that space."

*Sonic Trails* is an immersive sound experience where visitors traverse Strathmore's 16-acre campus using a free GPS app they downloaded to their phone, creating a unique composition for each user. "As you're moving around the campus, you become a partner in creating a custom music experience," says Brown. "No two people are going to have the same experience."

The sweeping installation is active through December, with music adapted from a Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) recording of *The Imagined Forest*. Composed by Grace-Evangeline Mason of the United Kingdom, BSO performed the piece's US premiere last year, under the baton of Jonathon Heyward.

Strathmore's *Sonic Trails* experience was created and mapped by the Holladay Brothers, who pioneered this

idea of "location-aware music," as they call it. "*The Imagined Forest* is very evocative and has beautiful layering and separate sections, which allowed the Holladay Brothers to create distinctly different audio experiences throughout campus," Brown says.

*Sonic Trails* invites participants to explore at their own pace 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Upon entering the campus, instructions guide users on downloading and using the app to enjoy the music while strolling.

This immersive audio journey also enhances the celebration of Strathmore's upcoming 20th anniversary, offering a fresh dimension to the visual and performance aspects cherished on campus for nearly two decades.

"Whether you're a seasoned visitor of Strathmore's campus or simply someone in need of something beautiful and serene, this experience is for you," she adds. "It's a bit of a break and refuge from the craziness of the world."

*Strathmore extends its gratitude to Kathleen Knepper for generously supporting Sonic Trails.*

**STRATHMORE.ORG/SONIC**

# GOOD HOPE GROOVES

*Strathmore's Bloom at Good Hope concerts in Silver Spring uplift the community and musicians alike.*

by Barbara Ruben



From Latin jazz to spirituals to Afrobeat percussion, Judy Croker makes it a point to attend most of Strathmore's free concerts at the Good Hope Neighborhood Recreation Center in Silver Spring, one of many free Bloom by Strathmore programs. Not only does Croker enjoy the diversity of music, but she also values the location's convenience—the center is less than a mile from her home.

"The concerts are well planned and organized," she says. "Most definitely the venue is a major influence, and being free encourages an eager, well-packed audience."

That is precisely the intent of Bloom's year-round concert series, which takes place every second Saturday of the month. While Strathmore is renowned for its free summer concerts on the lawn at its North Bethesda campus, it also extends similar opportunities at Good Hope, located in the Colesville area, near New Hampshire Avenue. One of the program's primary goals is to reach broader audiences across the county, including communities without easy access to Strathmore's main campus.

"The Bloom stage has opened doors for many artists from the surrounding communities to perform. Many of the artists that have been selected do resonate with the community," says Monika Hammer, communications program manager and public information officer for Montgomery County Recreation. "One big impact has been the introduction of the audience to the different forms of art, artists, and types of music. Members of this community may not previously have had access to these types of experiences, so seeing them brought right into their backyard has been very impactful."

The concerts have also played a role in bringing new members to the recreation center, which offers amenities such as a gym, fitness room, and game room. Some attendees use these facilities before or after the concerts, notes Hammer.

"Visitors and community members have had an overwhelmingly positive response to the concert series," she says. "They have expressed how grateful they are to have the opportunity to enjoy the free live concerts and enjoy quality family time."

Spring concerts featured performances by pianist Joshua Jenkins, specializing in Cuban and Brazilian music, plus acoustic animal-themed music with Kevin Elam. Both artists are alumni of Strathmore's Artist in Residence (AIR) program.





Music enthusiasts will get another chance to immerse themselves in Cuban music on July 13, when the ensemble Raíces Negras takes the stage. Led by AIR alum Ceylon Mitchell, a flutist who also performed at Good Hope in 2022, the concert will showcase the fusion of Afro-Cuban rhythms and European classical instruments.

“This concert will highlight the Cuban *charanga* tradition, which really took off in the 1940s and ’50s. It was spotlighted and promoted through the musical group Orquesta Aragón. I want to pay homage to that group,” he says.

“To be able to put this ensemble together is really a dream of mine. People can’t help being moved by *charanga*’s universal appeal. It will very much be an interactive experience,” Mitchell says.

This summer’s concert will differ from Mitchell’s previous Strathmore performances. As an AIR, he performed with a larger ensemble at the Mansion at Strathmore to a noticeably different audience than at Good Hope.

“My last Bloom concert was very diverse from an ethnic and racial perspective,” he says. “There’s a really [big] population of Brazilian and Cuban cultures [at Good Hope]. It’s a good experience for the audience to see musicians with similar backgrounds.”



SCAN TO WATCH CEYLON MITCHELL’S AIR PERFORMANCE. AND DON’T FORGET TO RSVP TO SEE HIM LIVE ON JULY 13!



Discover our upcoming free shows and community events at [STRATHMORE.ORG/GOODHOPE](https://strathmore.org/goodhope)

*Strathmore is deeply grateful for Washington Gas’s multiyear commitment to help make our Good Hope Concert Series possible.*



# COMING TO GOOD HOPE

Free concerts around town! Join us for diverse entertainment on campus (p. 16) and at Good Hope Recreation Center.



## TOSIN ARIBISALA

Sat, June 8, 5pm

Dynamic Afrobeat-fusion artist and band thrill with African rhythms and cross-cultural melodies.



## CEYLON MITCHELL AND RAÍCES NEGRAS

Sat, July 13, 5pm

Award-winning Cuban *charanga* ensemble pays homage to the iconic Orquesta Aragón.



## DEBÓRAH BOND

Sat, Aug 10, 5pm

Soul vocalist and band celebrate the timeless repertoire of R&B legend Luther Vandross.



## THE SWEATER SET

Sat, Sept 14, 5pm

Wammie-winning folk duo harmonizes about love, loss, and life.



## SNEHESH NAG, BECKY HILL, & NADIA PESSOA

Sat, Oct 12, 5pm

Three rising artists combine talents, drawing inspiration from Indian, Appalachian, and Brazilian folk music.

RSVP at [STRATHMORE.ORG/GOODHOPE](https://strathmore.org/goodhope)

GOOD HOPE NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION CENTER  
14715 Good Hope Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20905

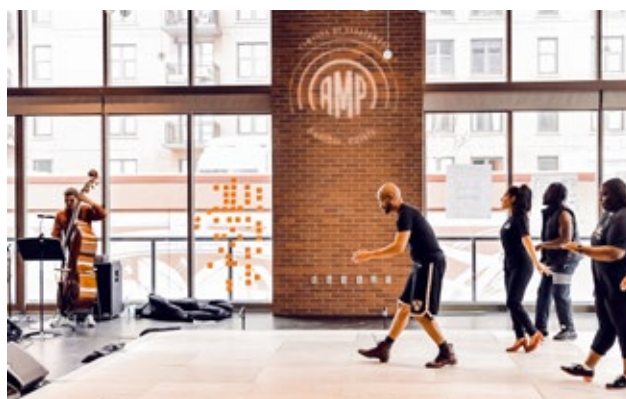
# STRATHMORE *Snapshots*

## GERSON LANZA RESIDENCY

*Putting it all together at AMP.*

During his six-day residency in January, Gerson Lanza, an Artist in Residence alum, led a talented group of musicians, dancers, and dramatists in further developing *Mi Vida en Rhythm*. This original performance explores the experience of being a Black Latinx immigrant in the United States through music, media design, and dance. Despite the snowy weather, Lanza and performers ignited AMP, working hard to bring the new work to life. Gerson's residency demonstrates Strathmore's commitment to supporting artists through AMPlify, a program that provides a stress-free environment and necessary resources for artistic creation.

*Strathmore extends its gratitude to Carol and Joe Danks for generously investing in artists through AMPlify.*



Photos by David Stuck

# EXHIBITIONS

## CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

May 14–July 27

### TRANSLATION THROUGH ART

Emon Surakitkoson returns to Strathmore to curate a show celebrating the artistic voices of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders from the DMV and Baltimore. Spanning various media and subjects, *Translation Through Art* aims to foster community among artists and visitors alike, spark meaningful conversations, and reveal moments of connection, healing, levity, and growth.

Generous support for this exhibition is provided by Karen Lefkowitz and Al Neyman.



### THINKING GLOBALLY EILEEN MARTIN

Mixed media artist Eileen Martin finds inspiration in the countless individuals and organizations dedicated to addressing the complex challenges our planet faces. Her latest body of work is an exploration of the intersection between art and activism, highlighting collective efforts aimed at sustaining the planet and fostering a harmonious world.



## ART AHEAD

Sept 17–Nov 2

### IN THE COMPANY OF TREES

This companion exhibition to *Monuments* celebrates the symbolism and majesty of trees and forests.



[STRATHMORE.ORG/EXHIBITIONS](https://strathmore.org/exhibitions)

From top: *Memories* by Yerkezhan Abuova, *The Lost Treasures* by Eileen Martin, *Mansion* by Rebekah J. Murray

#### MANSION HOURS

Tue–Fri: 12–4pm

Sat: 10am–3pm

Sun–Mon: Closed

Closed in August

FREE ADMISSION

# BEYOND THE WINNERS' CIRCLE

*Juried exhibitions foster artistic evolution—and not just for the winners.*

by Kate Oczypok

An invaluable platform for local and regional artists to promote their talent, juried exhibitions can set artists on a path to success. They can also serve as catalysts for artistic growth and community engagement, even for artists whose work isn't accepted into a show.

"We think of our juried exhibitions as one of the many ways to assist artists," says Lesley Morris, director of Strathmore's Mansion Galleries. "When artists reach out with questions, we can provide them helpful tips on how to enhance their submissions or refine their artistic vision."

Earlier this year, Strathmore hosted its 32nd annual juried exhibition, *Prism*. The theme challenged artists to explore the communicative power of color across a wide range of media, subjects, and styles. Morris was particularly interested in seeing innovative uses of color combinations.

"While commercials and advertising often tell us what colors are 'trendy,' artists who combine unconventional colors like orange and gray or turquoise and lime demonstrate that color theory is flexible," she says. "Nothing should necessarily be 'in' or 'out.'"

Strathmore exhibitions typically have single-word titles like *Prism*. Cathy Abramson, a local representational oil painter, has participated in several shows, including one called *Touch*. She appreciates the open-ended nature of these themes, which are intended to spur the imagination.

One of Morris's favorite shows was the 2019 juried exhibition, *Night*, featuring depictions ranging from abstract to realistic across various media.

"I was surprised by how artwork dealing with darkness requires careful consideration of light source, resulting in unexpected elements among the participating artists," she says.

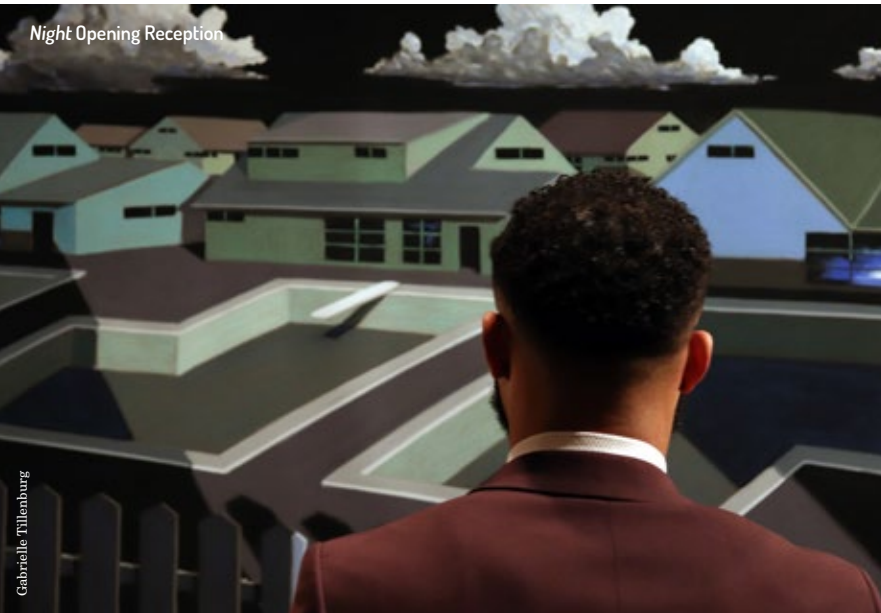
When considering jurors for these exhibitions, Morris prioritizes individuals with a background in art who understand the complexities of various mediums,



Yellow Gem On A Blue Glass Plate  
by Cathy Abramson



David Stuck



Night Opening Reception

Gabrielle Tilenburg



Andrew Propp



Ladan Ebrahimian with her artwork at a 2016 Strathmore juried exhibition.

such as clay, fiber, glass, and watercolor. She also seeks jurors knowledgeable in design theory, including composition, size, rendering, and rhythm.

Furthermore, Morris values jurors who appreciate artists as a community and recognize the importance of encouraging individual artistic expression.

“We want people sensitive to artists submitting for the first time,” Morris says. “I never want to work with anyone who disparages such attempts. It takes courage to share artwork revealing personal emotions and ideas.”

While there is an entry fee for all juried exhibitions, Morris notes that Strathmore’s fees are affordable—typically around \$30 for submitting up to eight pieces. Proceeds support visual arts at Strathmore, including more than a dozen free exhibitions every year and free or low-cost companion programming. Additionally, these exhibitions have a long-standing history of awarding cash prizes; Strathmore awards a combined total of \$900 in prize money to the recipients of the best in show, second, and third prizes.

Abramson, who enjoys painting local scenes, cityscapes, and interiors, has never won a prize at Strathmore’s juried exhibitions. Despite this, she always feels supported by Morris, jurors, and fellow artists alike. “Lesley and I have had art conversations during

painting drop-offs and by email,” she says. “She even came to a special preopening event for a show that I was in at the Phillips Collection.”

Ladan Ebrahimian, a local artist specializing in glass painting, has also participated in numerous Strathmore shows, including the 90th Annual International Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature in 2023. She views Strathmore’s opening night receptions as valuable opportunities for artists to engage with curators and jurors. At one event, a juror curating another show invited Ebrahimian to give a talk at a DC think tank, an example of how juried shows can open other opportunities for artists.

“Juried shows are a great way for artists to have their work evaluated and recognized by experts in the field,” she says.

Abramson agrees. “You have to get yourself out there,” she says. “There’s no reason why you should have all your paintings under your bed.”

# Q&A: EMMA ASH

*A former Strathmore intern shares highlights from last summer.*

by PJ Feinstein

At every Live from the Lawn concert this summer, you'll be welcomed by our enthusiastic interns. They play a vital role in ensuring the smooth operation of this free concert series, creating a memorable evening for both attendees and artists. Strathmore offers paid internships every summer across various departments.

We spoke with Emma Ash, a senior at Muhlenberg College studying Media and Communications, about her internship experience with our Programming team last summer.

**Why were you interested in Strathmore's summer internship program?** I wanted to develop and challenge my event planning and booking skills gained through working at my college radio station and planning a music festival at Muhlenberg. I was particularly struck by this internship because it mirrored my interests and passion to learn more about artist relations and the ins and outs of live music. I was looking to expand my tool kit for supporting live music (and eventually touring) in a nurturing and professional environment.

**Were you previously familiar with Strathmore?** I was! I attended CityDance Ballet Summer Intensive at Strathmore when I was in middle school. Having grown up in the area, Strathmore has been a household name, so I knew about the organization from a distance. Before interning, I was mystified by what the organization accomplished and stood for; I thought of Strathmore as an organization that just hosted classical music (not a bad thing!) and was unapproachable. This was not accurate at all. Strathmore was one of the most supportive, welcoming, and safest spaces I have been in. I was pleasantly surprised to learn how musically diverse their lineup is as well. Strathmore is saturated with creativity, kindness, and curiosity. I feel so grateful that I interned for an organization that challenged me and let me be my goofy self every day.

**What were some of your key responsibilities as the Programming intern?** Some of my responsibilities included preparing artist contracts and invoices, advancing shows and production sheets, doing hospitality runs, selling merchandise, and writing show recaps. I also happily worked at Live from the Lawn concerts, being the first face to greet artists, ensure their comfort, and escort them to the stage. It was awesome to work closely with artists and use my attention to detail [to help] prep and execute two shows a week. I also learned about nonprofit budgets, operated and calculated merch settlements, coordinated events such as the staff talent show, and handled various tasks behind the scenes at Strathmore's UkeFest.



**Can you describe a significant project or task you completed during your internship?** My internship concluded with a one-on-one presentation of artist research for future programming, where I gathered details like genre, label/agent info, previous shows, social media statistics, and estimated rates. It's exciting to think that an artist I pitched may be in a future Live from the Lawn! The tasks I completed as the Programming intern gave me a taste of A&R, live music production, and the booking agent lifestyle that I loved and want to continue immersing myself in.

**Were there any surprise takeaways from your time at Strathmore?** I improved my public speaking skills by introducing each band and Strathmore's guidelines to thousands of people at each Live from the Lawn concert. Also, with the help of Beth Radovsky on the Programming team, I learned how to play a few chords on the ukulele!

# LIVE *from the* LAWN

Liven up your Wednesdays with a dynamic lineup of *FREE* outdoor performances on the Strathmore campus starting at 7:30pm!

## THE BLUES! FEATURING MARK G. MEADOWS & ROCHELLE RICE

*Wed, July 10*

Entertaining and educational band performance explores the rich musical tradition of the blues through its stories and songs.

## THE SOUL CRACKERS

*Wed, July 17*

Memphis and Motown soul, featuring timeless songs by artists like Otis Redding, Average White Band, Martha and the Vandellas, Stevie Wonder, and many others.

## AMERICAN PATCHWORK QUARTET

*Wed, July 24*

Diverse award-winning artists reimagine traditional roots music through a contemporary lens.

**Member Night!** As a thank you, Stars and Circles members are invited to stop by the Strathmore tent for a free gift.

## PLENA LIBRE 4-TIME GRAMMY NOMINATED AFRO RICAN BAND

*Wed, July 31*

Puerto Rican *plena* and *bomba* music ignite audiences with vibrant percussion rhythms.

## EU FEATURING SUGAR BEAR

*Wed, Aug 7*

Legendary local go-go band packs dance floors with nostalgic chart-topping hits.

## UKEFEST FINALE

*Wed, Aug 14*

*7pm Strum Along, 7:30pm Concert*

Strathmore's 16th Annual UkeFest brings together internationally renowned ukulele players for a night of community and fun.

## LIAM PURCELL & CANE MILL ROAD

*Wed, Aug 21*

Billboard-charting band awakens the authentic bluegrass sound with bold originality.



RSVP today at [STRATHMORE.ORG/SUMMER](https://strathmore.org/summer)

Sugar Bear by VS Davis Photography, Plena Libre, Mark G. Meadows & Rochelle Rice, American Patchwork Quartet by Matt Carr,



# COOL CONCERTS *for kids*

Free family-friendly concerts on Thursdays at 7pm last 60 minutes, so your kids will be home for bedtime.

## 123 ANDRÉS

Thu, July 11

Grammy-winning duo packs positive vibes and interactive learning into their energetic bilingual music for the whole family.



## JAZZY ASH

Thu, July 18

Good old-fashioned fun with the first and only New Orleans-style jazz band for kids.



## MARSHA AND THE POSITRONS

Thu, July 25

DC-based “kindie” band ignites curiosity with upbeat jazz-flavored songs, perfect for singing and dancing along.



## DANCE PARTY WITH FYÜTCH

Thu, Aug 1

Entertaining and empowering hip-hop dance party about family, finding yourself, and history.

123 Andrés by Marcelo Quiñones, Jazzy Ash, Fyütch by Sam Popp, Marsha and the Positrons

Live from the Lawn is made possible in part through the generous support of



## Live from the Lawn Tips

**FREE!**  
RSVP for updates.

**PARKING**  
Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro garage.

**DINING** A variety of food and drinks from Strathmore Culinary Arts will be available for purchase on-site. Or you're welcome to BYO food and nonalcoholic drinks!

**SEATING** Low-rise chairs and small coolers welcome. No pets, please.

**WEATHER** In case of inclement weather, concerts are moved indoors. Check Strathmore's social media or visit [strathmore.org](http://strathmore.org) for updates.



# STRATHMORE *Scrapbook*



## CHUCK BROWN

*Bustin' loose at Strathmore!*

Born in the DC area in the 1970s, go-go music has become integral to the city's cultural identity. Strathmore has presented remarkable go-go artists throughout the years, including the "Godfather of Go-Go" Chuck Brown, both in the Music Center and at Live from the Lawn. This year's outdoor concert series brings go-go back to North Bethesda, with EU featuring Sugar Bear on August 9.



A repeat Strathmore performer, Chuck Brown's first Music Center show was in 2006.



## W'AIR ARE THEY NOW?

*Nistha Raj, Class of 2014*

With training in Western and Indian classical music, violinist Nistha Raj's compositions blend tradition with innovation, transcending cultural boundaries to unite global audiences. Recently, she shifted her focus from performing to being a cultural arts leader, cofounding the community platform District of Raga. In that role, she curates events like The Alaya Project, a recent show at AMP by Strathmore that explored the intersection of Carnatic Indian classical music with jazz and funk.

**How did Strathmore's Artist in Residence (AIR) program help advance your career?** It provided me with invaluable support and skills that enabled me to successfully launch and release my debut album to a sold-out crowd at the Mansion.

**What are a few specific skills that you learned?** So, launching an album is a very big endeavor, and it was new for me. Cathy Fink and the mentors guided me through that process, from reviewing the music that I had recorded and helping me get everything logistically together. There was also learning the business skills of being an artist. You know, there's a lot that sometimes gets overlooked like how to do your taxes, how to market yourself, and how to get the gig.

### **What sort of opportunities were made possible by being an AIR?**

When I was in the program, we all got a date to perform on Millennium Stage [at The Kennedy Center]. I forged a very strong relationship with Diana Ezrins, who was programming [that series] at the time . . . and we work to get together to this day. (Ed. Note: Ezrins is now Wolf Trap's director of programming.) She's been a huge part of how I grew my organization, District of Raga.

### **What upcoming project are you most excited about?**

Through my work with District of Raga, I curate events that showcase and preserve the performing arts culture of South Asia. I'm excited about expanding this work and our community, and I'm looking forward to the third season of a series of concerts that I curate and copresent in collaboration with Wolf Trap at the Barn, as well as presenting more concerts in partnership with Strathmore.



*This interview has been edited for length and clarity. Read our full interview with Nistha Raj at [Strathmore.org](https://www.strathmore.org) and watch her AIR performance here.*



# ARTISTS INSPIRING ARTISTS

*Exploring the collaborative growth between Arts and Social Justice Fellowship mentors and mentees.*

by Jessica Gregg

The distinct and transformative nature of Strathmore’s Arts and Social Justice Fellowship (ASJF), with core partner Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, is what attracted mentors Alexandra N. Sherman, Rashad Ali Muhammad, and Emon Surakitkason to the program—a concept each artist wished had existed when they were students.

Launched in 2022, ASJF pairs high school artists from Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC, with working artists who serve as mentors. These professionals work alongside program facilitators Tavish Forsyth and Blue Cavell-Allette to support the students in creating projects at the intersection of arts and social change. Having participated in solo and group exhibitions at Strathmore and other galleries, Sherman, Muhammad, and Surakitkason had the practical experience that mentors need.

In the wake of the pandemic, political discord, global environmental struggles, and escalating oppression, Sherman sees Strathmore’s fellowship as a source of light during these dark times, as art always does. “It just feels like an injection of hope to have a program

like this,” says Sherman, a painter and mixed media artist based in Round Hill, Virginia, who was excited to mentor two young visual artists.

Fellows receive a stipend to support their projects however they wish, an important provision for young artists who may lack financial resources, explains Sherman. It’s one of the ways she sees the program conveying an important message to its young participants: “We want to hear your voice.”

One of Sherman’s mentees, Jada King, created a sculpture and presentation about workplace pay inequality, and the other, Myla Leung, used multimedia, collage, and decoupage to address plastic pollution. Knowing that they might not have fully developed their own practices, Sherman encouraged them to start with sketching and writing. Later, she provided them with resources to complete their projects, including supply recommendations and video tutorials for their mediums.



Rashad Ali Muhammad



Emon Surakitkason



Alexandra N. Sherman



Jim Saah

As a mentor, he answered technical questions about the ways to use different media for various effects, but most of his role involved affirming the visions of these rising artists.

Surakitkoston adopted a similar mentoring style. Much of her advice centered on the empowerment and encouragement she believes young creatives need to thrive in a career that often feels unstructured. “Everyone needs to find their own voice,” she told her mentees. “What kind of artist do you want to be, and what do you want to say?”

She also instructed her mentees on discovering opportunities, such as approaching small businesses to

showcase their art, and the importance of tuning out distractions. “When I create, I only have myself to impress,” she says.

Surakitkoston’s black-and-white abstract paintings are designed to be timeless, inviting viewers to engage with her work no matter where they are. However, as she mentored her two students, she found herself considering adding color to her work—an idea that thrilled her yet made her anxious. “I didn’t want it to look like a rainbow,” she admits. Instead, she sought to use color to add depth and wonder to her pieces.

Recalling the advice she gave her mentees, “You can do whatever you want,” she began experimenting with color in her paintings.

“I was speaking to them, but they also taught me,” Surakitkoston reflects. “[My mentees] gave me as much as I gave to them.”



Jada King

At the end of the fellowship, which also prioritizes community-building and peer-to-peer learning, the student artists held a showcase of their work at Woolly Mammoth. “I was just blown away by the passion, energy, and dedication of these young people,” Sherman says.

“It was really impressive how professional and motivated they were,” agrees Muhammad. “The mentees were articulate and confident in their bodies as they shared what inspired them. I left rejuvenated and inspired to create new art.”

The opportunity to make a difference and the social justice component drew him to the program. Muhammad, a mixed media collagist, focuses his work on addressing diverse groups of people about shared human experiences. He sees ASJF providing similar permission to explore humanity, which is important for teenagers transitioning into adulthood and for young artists honing their craft.

**Don’t miss the Class of ’24 ASJF Showcase!  
Sat, June 22, 1pm at AMP**

*The Arts and Social Justice Fellowship is made possible with generous support from Dr. Deborah M. Smith and the Dr. Allen A.B. Herman Fund.*

*Strathmore is deeply grateful to the many individuals, corporations, and foundations who provide vital funding for our Bloom programs, which includes the Arts and Social Justice Fellowship, ensuring access for all.*

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## Artist in Residence

### KAIYLA GROSS

Paired with AIR donors Hope Eastman and Allen Childs<sup>♯</sup>, Bayo and Funke Oyewole<sup>♯</sup>, Victoria J. Perkins<sup>♯</sup>, and Helen Louise Pettis<sup>♯</sup>

Wed, June 12, 8pm

AIR vocalist's arrangements of favorite musical theater songs, from Broadway classics to contemporary showstoppers.

Wed, June 26, 8pm

R&B and gospel singer-songwriter fuses soulful and spiritual rhythms for a harmonious blend of old school classics, contemporary hits, and some originals.

AMP



Margot Schulman

Strathmore Children's Chorus Presents

### AND ALL THAT JAZZ 2024 SPRING CONCERT

Fri, June 7, 7:30pm

Jazz music from a global lens from six ensembles ages 7 through 18, featuring graduating seniors in their final concert with SCC.

MUSIC CENTER

Strathmore Presents

### THE SEASONS CHANGE US: CALLING TO THE SUN WITH HARI ALLURI

Thu, June 20, 7pm

In this series of creative writing workshops, accomplished contemporary authors offer perspectives on their craft and guide participants through a series of writing prompts.

ONLINE

## BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MUSIC CENTER

### BRUCH VIOLIN CONCERTO NO. 1 WITH JONATHAN CARNEY

Thomas Wilkins, conductor  
Jonathan Carney, violin

Sat, June 1, 8pm

Ninety years after Florence Price became the first Black woman to have a symphony played by a major orchestra, her Symphony No. 1 still stands out as a marvel of American identity.

### SHOSTAKOVICH SYMPHONY NO. 8

Jonathon Heyward, conductor  
Andrew Balio, trumpet

Thu, June 6, 8pm

Shostakovich sustained a quiet resistance against the brutal oppression of the Soviet Union under Stalin, burying his objections in symphonic elegance, as heard in the wartime Eighth Symphony.

### THE PINES OF ROME

Jonathon Heyward, conductor  
Christine Goerke, soprano

Sat, June 15, 8pm

Jonathon Heyward closes his debut season as BSO Music Director drenched in the unabashed emotions of Richard Strauss's swan song, sung by BSO Artist in Residence Christine Goerke.

● Music Center ● Mansion

Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras

## STRATHMORE SUMMER STRINGS

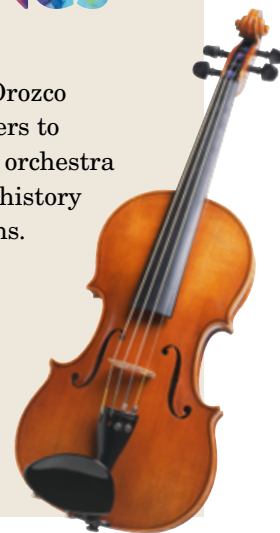
Mon-Fri, July 8-12, 2024

Directors Kristofer Sanz and Jorge Orozco lead this camp for young string players to enhance their musicianship through orchestra rehearsals, composition class, music history and theory, and sight-reading sessions.

ALL-STAR STRING INTENSIVE  
MUSIC CENTER

JR & SR CAMP (GRADES 3-6 & 6-8)  
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW

STRATHMORE.ORG/MCYO



## Save the date MONUMENTS

By popular demand, Strathmore is bringing back its 2020 campus-wide outdoor art installation, *Monuments*. This year's exhibition proudly showcases local climate heroes.

We look forward to connecting with our community this fall, starting on September 6.

Sign up to receive the latest news at [strathmore.org/email](mailto:strathmore.org/email).



Jim Saah

# THE JOY OF CHERISHED GIVING

by Noreen B. Friedman

“What’s in a name?” this famous Shakespearean quote ponders. Names can impart significant meaning, as exemplified by Strathmore ambassadors and Nigerian-born couple Bayo and Funke Oyewole, whose names roughly translate to “find joy” and “given to cherish,” respectively.

Funke spent her formative years in England while Bayo grew up in Nigeria. Both families instilled values emphasizing generosity and support for others. “My parents brought us up to give back and help others,” says Funke. “I always felt blessed and predisposed to do so.”

Individual pursuits eventually brought them to the DC area, where they started dating. Bayo embarked on a three-decade career at the World Bank, while Funke practiced international trade law at a private law firm

before joining him in working on economic development at the World Bank.

Together, the couple supports the Artist in Residence program and Bloom, a Strathmore program that enhances community access to the arts. Bayo has expanded his involvement by serving on the board of directors and has been instrumental in adding Strathmore as an eligible nonprofit under the World Bank Group’s matching gift program, which doubles employee contributions.

Beyond their financial contributions, the gregarious couple enjoys bringing friends to Strathmore performances. “It seems that every time, they love it and come back on their own,” exclaims Bayo. *Now this is truly the joy of cherished giving!*



Bayo Oyewole at AMPLify with Betty Scott, director of the Artist in Residence program; Gerson Lanza, AIR '22; and Becky Hill, AIR '21.



The Oyewoles enjoying time with their friends in the Comcast Lounge prior to the Ladysmith Black Mambazo concert, January 2024.



From world music to tribute bands, the Oyewoles joyfully promote Strathmore by inviting friends to performances across genres. Funke says, “We are proud to share what we have in our own backyard!”

**JOIN BAYO AND FUNKE IN MAKING A MEANINGFUL IMPACT! [STRATHMORE.ORG/SUPPORT](https://strathmore.org/support)**

Contact Heidi Onkst, Vice President of Advancement: 301.581.5133 or [honkst@strathmore.org](mailto:honkst@strathmore.org)

# 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL UKEFEST

Sat–Wed, Aug 10–14

Join world-renowned instructors and a community of ukulele players for classes, jam sessions, and more!

Register today!  
[STRATHMORE.ORG/UKE](http://STRATHMORE.ORG/UKE)



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### DIRECTIONS & METRO

Strathmore is located on Rockville Pike (Route 355), half a mile north of the Capital Beltway (I-495).

**M** Take Metro to Strathmore! The Music Center and Mansion at Strathmore are adjacent to the Grosvenor-Strathmore station on Metro's Red line.

Plan your trip by bus with Montgomery County Transit Services.

For complete driving directions and Metro, bus, and parking information, visit [strathmore.org/visit](http://strathmore.org/visit).

### PARKING

**For ticketed Music Center performances:** Complimentary parking is available in the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro garage. The entrance is located off Tuckerman Lane.

**For nonperformance Music Center events, including all Education Center events:** Metered parking is available on Tuckerman Lane, or park in the Metro garage, which requires a SmarTrip or credit card payment of \$5.20 Monday through Friday. Parking is free on weekends.

**For Mansion concerts, exhibitions, and events:** Limited free parking is available on a space-available basis in the Mansion lot. Enter at 10701 Rockville Pike.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Strathmore is committed to making our programs accessible for all patrons. To request accessible services or assistance, please visit [strathmore.org/access](http://strathmore.org/access) or email [access@strathmore.org](mailto:access@strathmore.org).

### JOIN & GIVE

To learn more about donating, or to become a member, visit [strathmore.org/give](http://strathmore.org/give) or call us at 301.581.5145.

## OUR MISSION

We amplify distinctive and diverse artistic voices and curate experiences to enrich *every* life and shape stronger communities.

Strathmore is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization.

### HOURS OF OPERATION

#### TICKET OFFICE HOURS

Located in the Music Center

5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, MD 20852  
301.581.5100

Mon–Fri, 10am–5pm

The Music Center ticket office is also open 3 hours prior to performances through intermission.

#### SCHEDULED SUMMER CLOSINGS:

Thu, July 4: Strathmore Administrative Offices and The Mansion at Strathmore will be closed.

Thu, July 4 and Mon, Sept 2: Music Center (including Ticket Office) will be closed.

Thu, Aug 1–Mon, Sept 2: The Mansion at Strathmore will be closed.

#### MANSION SHOP & GALLERIES

10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, MD 20852  
Tue–Fri, 12–4pm; Sat, 10am–3pm; Sun–Mon, Closed

#### MANSION TEA

Visit [strathmore.org/tea](http://strathmore.org/tea) for the schedule.

#### ALLEGRO KITCHEN MUSIC CENTER CAFÉ


Opens 90 minutes prior to Concert Hall performances.

### GROUP SERVICES

Strathmore welcomes groups of 15 or more at the Music Center, with personal service and special offers such as discounted pricing and waived fees.

Visit [strathmore.org/groups](http://strathmore.org/groups) or email [groups@strathmore.org](mailto:groups@strathmore.org).

### STAY CONNECTED

 @StrathmoreArts

# STRATHMORE NEWS

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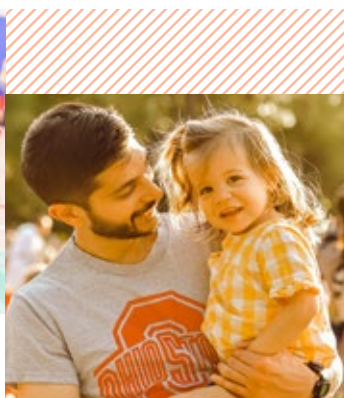
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# THE ARTS ARE UNITING

Experience the joy of connecting with your neighbors through the arts. Join us this summer for free music on the lawn, inspiring exhibitions, and in-depth education experiences.

**STRATHMORE.ORG**



Photos by David Stuck