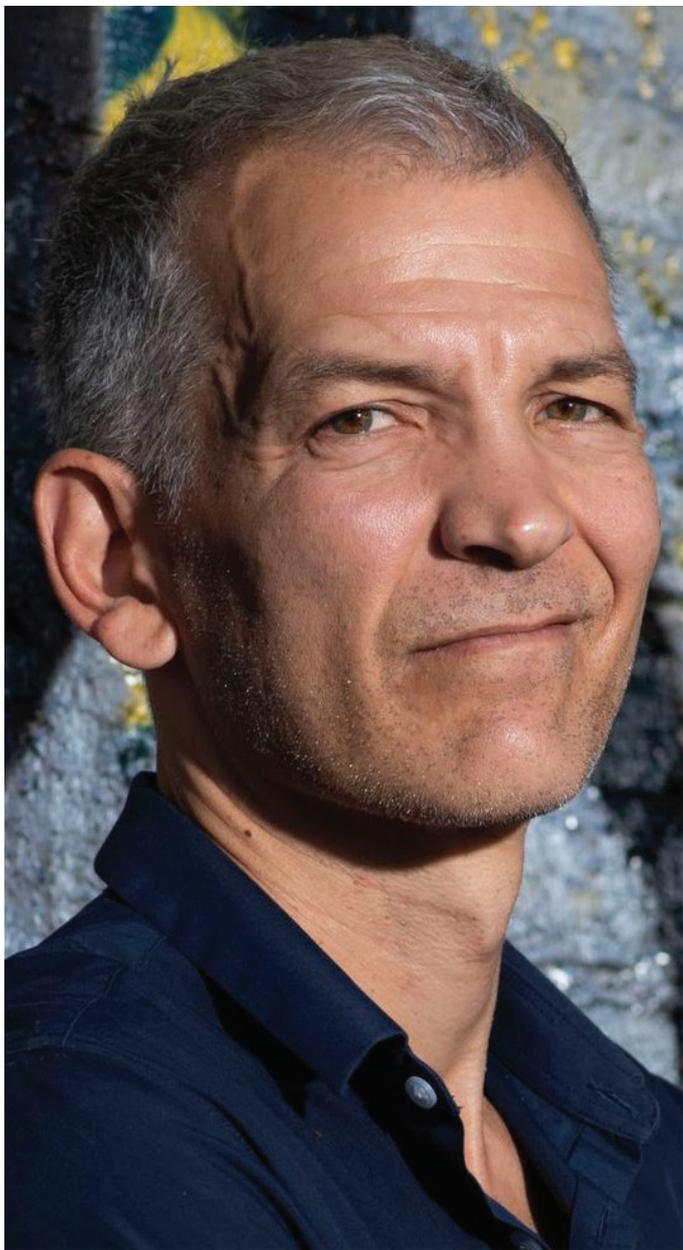


The Clarice presents

BRAD MEHLDAU TRIO



Sunday, November 19, 2023 • 7PM

INA & JACK KAY THEATRE

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

The Clarice presents

Brad Mehldau Trio

Brad Mehldau, piano
Larry Grenadier, bass
Jeff Ballard, drums

PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED FROM THE STAGE

This performance is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council and The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.



THE MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN
CAFritz FOUNDATION

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Every community owes its existence and strength to the generations before them, around the world, who contributed their hopes, dreams and energy into making the history that led to this moment.

Truth and acknowledgement are critical in building mutual respect and connections across all barriers of heritage and difference.

So, we acknowledge the truth that is often buried: We are on the ancestral lands of the Piscataway People, who are the ancestral stewards of this sacred land. It is their historical responsibility to advocate for the four-legged, the winged, those that crawl and those that swim. They remind us that clean air and pristine waterways are essential to all life.

This Land Acknowledgement is a vocal reminder for each of us as two-leggeds to ensure our physical environment is in better condition than what we inherited, for the health and prosperity of future generations.

SAFETY FIRST!

Your safety is paramount! For your own safety, look for your nearest exit. In case of an emergency, walk, do not run, to that exit. Please follow all instructions provided by Clarice staff and emergency first responders.

Brad Mehldau, piano

Grammy Award winning jazz pianist Brad Mehldau has recorded and performed extensively since the early 1990s. Mehldau's most consistent output over the years has taken place in the trio format. Starting in 1996, his group released a series of five records on Warner Bros. entitled *The Art of the Trio* (recently re-packaged and re-released as a 5-Disc box set by Nonesuch in late 2011). During that same period, Mehldau also released a solo piano recording entitled *Elegiac Cycle*, and a record called *Places* that included both solo piano and trio songs. *Elegiac Cycle* and *Places* might be called "concept" albums made up exclusively of original material with central themes that hover over the compositions. Other Mehldau recordings include *Largo*, a collaborative effort with the innovative musician and producer Jon Brion, and *Anything Goes*—a trio outing with bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Jorge Rossy.

His first record for Nonesuch, *Brad Mehldau Live in Tokyo*, was released in September 2004. After 10 rewarding years with Rossy playing in Mehldau's regular trio, drummer Jeff Ballard joined the band in 2005. The label released its first album from the Brad Mehldau Trio—*Day is Done*—on September 27, 2005. An exciting double live trio recording entitled Brad Mehldau Trio Live was released on March 25, 2008 (Nonesuch). On March 16, 2010, Nonesuch released a double-disc of original work entitled *Highway Rider*, the highly anticipated follow up to *Largo*. The album was Mehldau's second collaboration with renowned producer Jon Brion and featured performances by Mehldau's trio—drummer Jeff Ballard and bassist Larry Grenadier—as well as percussionist Matt Chamberlain, saxophonist Joshua Redman and a chamber orchestra led by Dan Coleman. In 2011, Nonesuch released *Live in Marciac*—a two CD release with a companion DVD of the 2006 performance, and *Modern Music*, a collaboration between pianists Brad Mehldau and Kevin Hays and composer/arranger Patrick Zimmerli. In 2012, Nonesuch released an album of original songs from the Brad Mehldau Trio—*Ode*—the first from the trio since 2008's live Village Vanguard disc and the first studio trio recording since 2005's *Day is Done*. *Ode* went on to garner a Grammy nomination. Nonesuch released the Brad Mehldau Trio's *Where Do You Start*, a companion disc to the critically acclaimed *Ode*, in the fall of 2012. Whereas *Ode* featured 11 songs composed by Mehldau, *Where Do You Start* was comprised of interpretations of 10 tunes by other composers, along with one Mehldau original. In 2013, Mehldau produced and performed on *Walking Shadows*, the acclaimed Nonesuch release from Joshua Redman. 2013 also saw a number of collaborative tours including a duo tour with mandolin virtuoso Chris Thile, piano duets with Kevin Hays and a new electric project with prodigious drummer Mark Guiliana entitled *Mehliana*. *Mehliana: Taming the Dragon*, the debut release by Mehliana, was released in early 2014. Mehldau's monumental and ambitious 10 Years Solo Live eight-LP vinyl box set was released to unanimous critical acclaim on October 16, 2015 (with CD and digital versions released in November). The set was culled from 19 live recordings made over a decade of the pianist's European solo concerts and was divided into four thematic subsets of four sides each: Dark/Light, The Concert, Intermezzo/Rückblick and E Minor/E Major. In 2016, Nonesuch Records released the Brad Mehldau Trio's Blues and Ballads—the ensemble's first new release since 2012's *Where Do You Start*—and the celebrated debut album of the Joshua Redman/Brad Mehldau Duo, *Nearness*, featuring recordings from their 2011 European tour. Both albums have received universal praise from critics and audiences alike, and both earned a Grammy nomination for Mehldau. After several years of performing live, labelmates Mandolinist/singer Chris Thile and Mehldau released their debut: Chris Thile & Brad Mehldau. In 2018, Nonesuch Records released both *After Bach*, an album that paired improvisations on Bach and Mehldau's previously commissioned solo piece *Three Pieces After Bach*, and the highly anticipated Brad Mehldau Trio studio recording *Seymour Reads the Constitution!* 2019 saw the release of the critically and commercially acclaimed conceptual recording *Finding Gabriel*—an album of harmonically rich vocal layers paired with strings, synthesizers, rock drums and improvisation—featuring a number of high profile guests including Ambrose Akinmusire, Kurt Elling, Becca Stevens, Gabriel Kahane and Mark Guiliana among others. The release won Mehldau his first Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Jazz Album.

Mehldau's musical personality forms a dichotomy. He is first and foremost an improviser, and greatly cherishes the surprise and wonder that can occur from a spontaneous musical idea that is expressed directly, in real time. But he also has a deep fascination for the formal architecture of music and it informs everything he plays. In his most inspired playing, the actual structure of his musical thought serves as an expressive device. As he plays, he listens to how ideas unwind, and the order in which they reveal themselves. Each tune has a strongly felt narrative arch, whether it expresses itself in a beginning, an end, or something left

intentionally open-ended. The two sides of Mehldau's personality—the improviser and the formalist—play off each other, and the effect is often something like controlled chaos.

Mehldau has performed around the world at a steady pace since the mid-1990s, with his trio and as a solo pianist. His performances convey a wide range of expression. There is often an intellectual rigor to the continuous process of abstraction that may take place on a given tune, and a certain density of information. That could be followed by a stripped down, emotionally direct ballad. Mehldau favors juxtaposing extremes. He has attracted a sizable following over the years, one that has grown to expect a singular, intense experience in his performance.

In addition to his trio and solo projects, Mehldau has worked with a number of great jazz musicians, including a rewarding gig with saxophonist Joshua Redman's band for two years, recordings and concerts with Pat Metheny, Charlie Haden and Lee Konitz, and recording as a sideman with the likes of Michael Brecker, Wayne Shorter, John Scofield and Charles Lloyd. For more than a decade, he has collaborated with several musicians and peers whom he respects greatly, including the guitarists Peter Bernstein and Kurt Rosenwinkel and tenor saxophonist Mark Turner. Mehldau also has played on a number of recordings outside of the jazz idiom, like Willie Nelson's *Teatro* and singer-songwriter Joe Henry's *Scar*. His music has appeared in several movies, including Stanley Kubrick's "Eyes Wide Shut" and Wim Wender's "Million Dollar Hotel." He also composed an original soundtrack for the French film "Ma Femme Est Une Actrice." Mehldau composed two new works commissioned by Carnegie Hall for voice and piano, *The Blue Estuaries* and *The Book of Hours: Love Poems to God*, which were performed in Spring 2005 with the acclaimed classical soprano Renee Fleming. These songs were recorded with Fleming and released in 2006 on the *Love Sublime* record; simultaneously, Nonesuch released an album of Mehldau's jazz compositions for trio entitled *House on Hill*. A 2008 Carnegie Hall commission for a cycle of seven love songs for Swedish mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter premiered in 2010. *Love Songs*, a double album that paired the newly commissioned song cycle, with a selection of French, American, English and Swedish songs that Mehldau and von Otter performed together, was released in late 2010 (on the Naïve label) to unanimous praise. In 2013, Mehldau premiered and performed *Variations on a Melancholy Theme*, a large format orchestral piece which was performed with both Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and Britten Sinfonia. Commissioned by Carnegie Hall, The Royal Conservatory of Music, The National Concert Hall and Wigmore Hall with the support of Andre Hoffmann (president of the Fondation Hoffmann) in 2015, Mehldau's *Three Pieces After Bach* were inspired by selections from Johann Sebastian Bach's seminal work, *The Well-Tempered Clavier*. In 2018, Mehldau premiered his Piano Concerto at the Philharmonie de Paris, commissioned by L'Orchestre national d'Île-de-France and Festival Jazz à la Villette Paris, L'Auditori de Barcelona, National Forum of Music, Wrocław, Poland (Jazztopad Festival), The Barbican Centre London and Britten Sinfonia, Philharmonie Luxembourg and Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg and the Los Angeles Philharmonic—Gustavo Dudamel Artistic Director. In 2019, Mehldau premiered his song cycle *The Folly of Desire* with tenor Ian Bostridge. The work was commissioned by Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Wigmore Hall, Stanford Live at Stanford University and Carnegie Hall.

Mehldau was appointed as curator of an annual four-concert jazz series at London's prestigious Wigmore Hall during its 2009-10 and 2010-11 seasons, with Mehldau appearing in at least two of the four annual concerts. In late January 2010 Carnegie Hall announced the 2010-11 season-long residency by Mehldau as holder of the Richard and Barbara Debs Composer's Chair at Carnegie Hall—the first jazz artist to hold this position since it was established in 1995. Previous holders include Louis Andriessen (2009–2010), Elliott Carter (2008–2009) and John Adams (2003–2007).

Larry Grenadier, bass

As one of the most admired, accomplished bassists working in jazz today, Larry Grenadier has been praised as "a deeply intuitive" musician by The New York Times and as an instrumentalist with a "fluid sense of melody" by Bass Player Magazine. Grenadier has created an expansive body of work in collaboration with many of the genre's most inventive, influential musicians—from early days playing with sax icons Joe Henderson and Stan Getz to what has been decades performing alongside pianist Brad Mehldau. He's had extended experiences working with the likes of Paul Motian and Pat Metheny and co-leads both the cooperative trio Fly (with Mark Turner and Jeff Ballard) and the quartet Hudson (with John Scofield, John Medeski and Jack DeJohnette). Over a performing and recording career that now spans three decades, it

has been not only Grenadier's instrumental virtuosity and instantly recognizable tone that have made him such an in-demand collaborator but also his uncommon artistic sensitivity, imagination and curiosity.

In February 2019, ECM Records released Grenadier's first album of solo bass. Titled *The Gleaners*, it presents a brace of originals by the bassist alongside pieces by George Gershwin, John Coltrane and Paul Motian, as well as a pair of pieces written especially for Grenadier by guitarist and fellow ECM artist Wolfgang Muthspiel. Grenadier also includes an instrumental interpretation of a song by his wife, and frequent collaborator, the singer-songwriter Rebecca Martin. "The process for making this record began with a look inward, an excavation into the core elements of who I am as a bass player. It was a search for a center of sound and timbre, for the threads of harmony and rhythm that formulate the crux of a musical identity," says Grenadier.

Of his performance style, Grenadier has observed: "I'm hyper-aware of the balance between a studied approach to music and a more primal, instinctual understanding of the way music works. Having access to technique is useful in being able to communicate and express yourself musically. But music is about intuition and emotion. Compassion, strength, flexibility and stamina are all important qualities in playing music. But the most important thing is the ability to listen." Despite his veteran status, "playing music is still a learning experience for me," he said. "I'm always working on the technical aspects of my playing, but at the same time, I know that what happens on stage between musicians isn't about that. The level of telepathy and intuition that exists in music, especially in jazz, is a constant reminder of what we're capable of, both inside and outside of music."

Jeff Ballard, drums

As a child, Jeff Ballard would lie in bed and listen to the music his father would play: Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Sérgio Mendes, Oscar Peterson and Milton Nascimento. "I remember feeling the power of a Basie big band shout chorus, which would then suddenly disappear into some quiet dancing riff," said Ballard, a native of Santa Cruz, California. "It was the swing in it that excited me the most. I also remember how it felt traveling through sounds of the jungle in a Milton Nascimento record. The drums, percussion and voice would sound as if they either came from the earth or were made of water. And I was so happy to hear the joy of Ella and Louis singing and playing together. I think that that early exposure has made me part of what I am today, especially in regard to my love for sound."

At the age of 25, Ballard began an educational journey no college could match. He went on the road for eight months annually from 1988 to 1990 with Ray Charles, backing one of music's biggest stars, perfecting his time feels and tempos from playing with Charles nightly on the bandstand for three years. In 1990, Ballard moved to New York and jumped into the transformative scene that was developing there at the time. He began collaborating with Kurt Rosenwinkel, Brad Mehldau, Mark Turner, Joshua Redman and Ben Allison, among others who were mixing jazz tradition with their own influences, ranging from Middle Eastern rhythms to electronica and modern hip hop.

Ballard also has performed and toured with Eddie Harris, Bobby Hutcherson, Buddy Montgomery, Lou Donaldson, Mike Stern, Joshua Redman, Pat Metheny and Danilo Pérez. He joined Chick Corea in 1999 and continues to play with the legendary keyboardist in his various projects. His present work continues with the Brad Mehldau Trio, as co-leader of collective group FLY (featuring Mark Turner, Ballard and Larry Grenadier) and with his own groups The Jeff Ballard Trio and Jeff Ballard Fairgrounds. On January 25, 2019, Jeff Ballard Fairgrounds released their debut album, *Fairgrounds*, on Edition Records. The music is filled with wide-open improvisations and originals touching on the blues, rock and roll, electronica and R&B. It can have the funkier grooves or a meditative minimalistic space, or it can go all the way over and outside to the unexpected world of free jazz, thus confirming Ballard as one of the most stylistically diverse drummers on the scene.

Wine & Dine at The Clarice!



We're delighted to offer a special menu at select performances this season, including tonight's!

Stop by Encore to purchase light fare and beverages including our new mezze platter and charcuterie tray offerings, soft drinks, wine, beer and a specialty cocktail!

Need more time?

Drinks are allowed inside our venues!

THE CLARICE PRESENTS 2023-24 SEASON

MUSIC

JAZZ JAM WITH THE HALL CP

Wed, Oct 25 • 7:30PM @ The Hall CP

Wed, Nov 29 • 7:30PM @ The Hall CP

Wed, Jan 31 • 7:30PM @ The Hall CP

Wed, Feb 28 • 7:30PM @ The Hall CP

Wed, Mar 27 • 7:30PM @ The Hall CP

Wed, Apr 24 • 7:30PM @ The Hall CP

Join our monthly jazz jam sessions led by D.C.-based saxophonist Elijah Balbed! The house band will play a set starting at 7:30PM. Bring your instrument! After enjoying their set, you'll have a chance to call a tune! Participation in our jazz jams is free—no tickets required and all levels welcome.

MUSIC

Sun, Nov 5 • 3PM

SAYEH-ROSHAN (CHIAROSCURO):

ALI KIAN YAZDANFAR, DOUBLE BASS,

KIMIA RAFIEIAN, PIANO &

FATEMEH KESHAVARZ, POET

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UMD ROSHAN INSTITUTE FOR PERSIAN STUDIES

This program blends ancient Persian poetry with new works for piano and double bass to create a unique interaction between eastern cultures in our western society.

MUSIC

Fri, Nov 17 • 8PM

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:

BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NO. 4

The BSO, The Clarice and the UMD School of Music announced a groundbreaking partnership for 2023-24 featuring extraordinary performances, unique educational experiences and meaningful community engagement. In the first of these events, Music Director Jonathon Heyward leads Beethoven's Symphony No. 4 and Unsuk Chin's *Subito con Forza*.

MUSIC

Sun, Nov 19 • 7PM

BRAD MEHLDAU TRIO

One of the most lyrical and intimate voices of contemporary jazz piano, Brad Mehldau has forged a unique path that embodies the essence of jazz exploration, classical romanticism and pop allure.

THEATER

Thu, Dec 7–Sat, Dec 9

NEHPRII AMENII: FOOD FOR THE GODS

A multimedia performance installation about “human value,” *Food for the Gods* is a three-part expression of rage and indifference inspired by the killings of Black men.

COMEDY

Fri, Jan 26 • 8PM

TIG NOTARO

The Emmy and GRAMMY-nominated stand-up comedian, writer, radio contributor and actor, as well as a favorite on numerous talk shows, including “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert” and “The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon” hosts a comedy show at The Clarice.

THEATER

Fri, Jan 26–Sat, Jan 27

INUA ELLAMS: SEARCH PARTY

In partnership with the UNDER THE RADAR Festival

Pick a word, any word. Prompted by audience suggestion and open conversation, Ellams searches through his archive, unearths refined or raw gold and presents his treasure in a spontaneous performance.

THEATER

Fri, Feb 2–Sun, Feb 4

QUEENS OF SHEBA • JESSICA L. HAGAN

In partnership with UNDER THE RADAR Festival

Turned away from a nightclub for being “too Black”, the Queens navigate the minefields of misogynoir, seeking power among the songs of Tina Turner and Diana Ross and Aretha Franklin, finding elevation in sisterhood, sweet relief in the riot of laughter and the shedding of tears.

MUSIC

Thu, Feb 1 • 8PM

EL LABERINTO DEL COCO

Always performing with a unique blend of sizzling musical ideas, the band is an Afro-Puerto Rican Bomba Fusion ensemble.

DANCE

Thu, Feb 8 • 7:30PM

MUSIC FROM THE SOLE: I DIDN'T COME HERE TO STAY

Music From The Sole celebrates tap's roots in the African diaspora and its connections to Afro-Brazilian dance and music and its lineage to forms like house dance and “passinho” (Brazilian funk).

MUSIC

Fri, Feb 9 • 8PM

MARY HALVORSON: AMARYLLIS

Guitarist and composer Mary Halvorson, “a singular talent” (Jazz Times), brings her sextet in a showcase of her many musical influences—from jazz to experimental.

FAMILY

Sat, Feb 10 • 10AM

89.7 WTMD'S SATURDAY MORNING TUNES: MINI MARDI GRAS WITH RUFUS ROUNDTREE & DA B'MORE BRASS FACTORY

Celebrate Fat Tuesday with the whole family with live music from one of Baltimore's best party bands: Rufus Roundtree & Da Bmore Brass Factory. Plus, Mardi Gras crowns, beads and mask-making; and a second line mini-parade through The Clarice's Grand Pavilion!

MUSIC

Fri, Feb 16 • 8PM

**BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:
MARIN ALSOP & TIME FOR THREE**

Marin Alsop, BSO Music Director Laureate and National Orchestral Institute + Festival Music Director at The Clarice, reunites with composer Kevin Puts to present his dazzling concerto for the improvising/vocalizing/barn-burning/genre-crossing talents of the GRAMMY Award-winning string trio Time for Three. Rounding out the concert are Haydn's "Fiery Symphony" and Ravel's perennial *Daphnis et Chloé* suite.

MUSIC

Sun, Feb 25 • 3PM

MICHELLE CANN, PIANO

Lauded as "technically fearless with...an enormous, rich sound" (La Scena Musicale), pianist Michelle Cann performs a program of works by Maurice Ravel, Franz Liszt and Florence Price.

MUSIC

Sat, Mar 2 • 8PM

BRIAN MARSELLA'S GATOS DO SUL

Pianist and composer Brian Marsella's Gatos do Sul (southern cats) channels Brazilian idioms such as samba, maracatu, baio and choro through a kaleidoscopic lens of modern jazz.

MUSIC

Thu, Mar 14 • 8PM

MESHHELL NDEGEOCELLO

A bass player above all else, Meshell Ndegeocello brings her warm, melodic groove to the stage. Join us as the D.C. area native sojourns into soul, R&B, jazz, hip-hop and rock—all bound by the search for love, justice, respect and resolution.

MUSIC

Fri, Mar 15 • 8PM

**BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & UMD
CONCERT CHOIR: ORFF'S CARMINA BURANA**

Prepare to be blown away by *Carmina Burana*, a rapturous and unsparing invitation to live life to the fullest, featuring BSO Music Director Jonathon Heyward, an all-star cast of operatic soloists and the UMD Concert Choir.

MUSIC

Fri, Apr 5 • 8PM

**ALLISON LOGGINS-HULL, ALICIA HALL MORAN
& GABRIELA MARTINEZ: DIAMETRICALLY
COMPOSED**

"Diametrically Composed" is a collection of newly commissioned works featuring flute, voice and piano exploring the duality of being a mother and an artist.

MUSIC

Fri, Apr 12 • 8PM

YING QUARTET & XAVIER FOLEY, DOUBLE BASS

Now in its third decade, the Grammy Award-winning Ying Quartet has established itself as an ensemble of the highest musical qualifications. They are renowned for combining brilliantly communicative performances with a fearlessly imaginative view of chamber music in today's world.

MUSIC

Sat, Apr 13 • 8PM

ALARM WILL SOUND: MUSIC FOR 18 MUSICIANS

With a long history of presenting works by seminal 20th-century icon Steve Reich, Alarm Will Sound returns to The Clarice to play the Pulitzer Prize winner's *Music for 18 Musicians*, one of the most influential minimalist works of all time.

MUSIC, THEATER, DANCE, ARTS & CRAFTS

Sat, Apr 27 • 10AM

MARYLAND DAY 2024

This annual campus-wide open house features artistic and creative performances, experiences and activities at The Clarice, and across the University of Maryland campus.

MUSIC

Sun, May 5 • 3PM

TESLA QUARTET: MUSICA UNIVERSALIS

The idea that the movements of heavenly bodies create universal harmonies—musica universalis—was both a scientific and spiritual belief propounded by great thinkers from Pythagoras to Kepler. In this program, the "technically superb" (The Strad) Tesla Quartet plays music about the universe intertwined with poetry about outer space.

FAMILY

Sun, May 11 • 9:30AM & 11:30AM

COMPAGNIA TPO: FARFALLE

In a brilliantly staged story, *Farfalle* loosely follows the life cycle of a butterfly—from egg to caterpillar. In this intimate, family-friendly show, each member of the audience participates in a variety of ways—from composing songs and lullabies to using parts of their bodies to embrace the five senses.

MUSIC

June 2024

NATIONAL ORCHESTRAL INSTITUTE + FESTIVAL

The National Orchestral Institute + Festival returns to The Clarice for another summer of thrilling orchestral performances in June 2024! Join us for a month of awe-inspiring music-making by the NOI Philharmonic and our extraordinary conductors, insightful masterclasses and open rehearsals plus our lively SPARK! dialogues. **Tickets go on sale in Spring 2024.**

TICKETS NOW ON SALE AT [THECLARICE.UMD.EDU](https://theclarice.umd.edu) OR 301.405.ARTS/