

Clarice Presents

MAVIS STAPLES



Friday, September 20, 2024 • 8PM

DEKELBOUM CONCERT HALL

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

Clarice Presents

MAVIS STAPLES

Selections 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
CAFRTZ FOUNDATION

ABOUT THE ARTIST

“I’m the messenger,” Mavis Staples says on the eve of her 80th birthday. “That’s my job—it has been for my whole life—and I can’t just give up while the struggle’s still alive. We’ve got more work to do, so I’m going to keep on getting stronger and keep on delivering my message every single day.”

That message—a clarion call to love, to faith, to justice, to brotherhood, to joy—lies at the heart of *We Get By*, Staples’ spectacular 12th studio album and first full-length collaboration with multi-GRAMMY Award-winner Ben Harper. Backed by her longtime touring band, Staples breathes extraordinary life into Harper’s compositions on the record, delivering roof-raising performances with both a youthful vigor and a commanding maturity. The arrangements here are spare but weighty, matched by Harper’s suitably lean and thoughtful production and Staples seizes the opportunity to showcase her remarkable and continued evolution as an artist, one still growing and exploring more than half a century into her storied career. ‘*We Get By*’ is undoubtedly a timely collection, arriving such as it does in the face of deep social divisions and heightened political tensions, but like everything Staples touches, it’s also larger than any particular moment, a timeless appeal to the better angels of our nature that’s universal in its reach and unwavering in its assurance of better things to come.

Hailed by NPR as “one of America’s defining voices of freedom and peace,” Staples is the kind of once-in-a-generation artist whose impact on music and culture would be difficult to overstate. She’s both a Blues and a Rock and Roll Hall of Famer; a civil rights icon; a GRAMMY Award-winner; a chart-topping soul/gospel/R&B pioneer; a National Arts Awards Lifetime Achievement recipient; and a Kennedy Center honoree. She marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., performed at John F. Kennedy’s inauguration, and sang in Barack Obama’s White House. She’s collaborated with everyone from Prince and Bob Dylan to Arcade Fire and Hozier, blown away countless festivalgoers from Newport Folk and Glastonbury to Lollapalooza and Bonnaroo, performed with The Band at *The Last Waltz*, and graced the airwaves on Fallon, Colbert, Ellen, *Austin City Limits*, *Jools Holland*, the GRAMMYS, and more. At a time when most artists begin to wind down, Staples ramped things up, releasing a trio of critically acclaimed albums in her 70s with Wilco’s Jeff Tweedy that prompted Pitchfork to rave that “her voice has only gained texture and power over the years” and People to proclaim that she “provides the comfort of a higher power.”

COMING UP

Clarice Presents
FALL 2024 EVENTS

MUSIC | Fri, Oct 18 • 8PM

RUDE RUTH: JULIAN RAGE, MARGARET GLASPY, JORGE ROEDER, DAVE KING

If there could ever be such a thing as an avant-garde supergroup, Rude Ruth is it. Acclaimed singer-songwriter Margaret Glaspy, outrageously talented guitarist Julian Lage, bassist Jorge Roeder and drummer Dave King unite for incisive and romantic folk-rock compositions.

COMEDY | Sun, Oct 20 • 8PM

MONÉT X CHANGE

Known for delivering energetic and show-stopping performances, “RuPaul’s Drag Race” sensation Monét X Change wows with her immaculate lip-syncing skills and comedic chops.

Accessibility: This event will include ASL interpretation.

DANCE | Mon, Oct 28 • 7:30PM

FAR FROM THE NORM: BLKDOG

BLKDOG pairs the hyper-energetic ideas of hip-hop with the fluidity of contemporary dance. It is as electrifying to witness as it is compelling to ponder. *BLKDOG* is a staggeringly physical reflection of our modern mental turmoil.

MUSIC | Sun, Nov 10 • 3PM

CASTALIAN STRING QUARTET

The Castalian String Quartet are a much-respected and much-awarded multinational string ensemble whose clever interpretations and robust sound have made them the talk of the classical world. Presenting works by Joseph Haydn, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Franz Schubert.

THEATER | Thu, Nov 14 & Fri, Nov 15 • 8PM

**THE JAVAAD ALIPOOR COMPANY:
THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION
OF THE WORLD**

This work “gleefully mashes up genres, smashing together the quiet authority of the murder mystery podcast, the intimacy of autobiographical storytelling and the visual spectacle of multimedia performance while simultaneously deconstructing each of these forms” (The Guardian)

MUSIC | Fri, Nov 15 • 8PM

**BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:
BARTÓK’S CONCERTO FOR ORCHESTRA**

In the second year of our partnership with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, BSO Music Director Jonathon Heyward leads the orchestra in Béla Bartók’s Concerto for Orchestra and Igor Stravinsky’s *Renard*.

MUSIC | Sat, Dec 7 • 7:30PM

STORM LARGE: HOLIDAY ORDEAL

Sultry dynamic vocalist Storm Large, singer with Pink Martini and The Balls, brings all the power and glory of her name for a breathtaking holiday performance.

MUSIC | Thu, Dec 12 • 7:30PM

**TIME FOR THREE:
HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

Defying convention and boundaries, Time For Three stands at the intersection of Americana, pop and classical. The trio featuring Charles Yang (violin, vocals), Nicolas “Nick” Kendall (violin, vocals) and Ranaan Meyer (double bass, vocals) will present special arrangements of holiday favorites.