

**For Immediate Release:**  
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**Contact:** Jennifer Philburn  
Williams Center for the Arts  
(610) 330-5027  
philburj@lafayette.edu

2015/16 Performance Series

**Mark Morris Dance Group, countertenor Philippe Jaroussky, actors Julian Sands and Paterson Joseph, jazz singer Cécile McLorin Salvant, the Takács Quartet and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra highlight the 2015/16 Performance Series at the Williams Center for the Arts**

The “A-list” roster includes jazz masters **Barry Harris, Bill Charlap and Bill Goodwin;** Belgium’s **Vox Luminis;** **PRISM** saxophone quartet; **Seán Curran Company;** taiko great **Kenny Endo;** Ireland’s **Danú;** and **Riyaz Qawalli**

*The Williams Center launches new Theater and Family series, which include Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night from Filter Theatre & the Royal Shakespeare Company, A Celebration of Harold Pinter directed by John Malkovich, and puppetry from the Cashore Marionettes and artist Robin Frohardt*

**EASTON, PA** – Director **Hollis Ashby** today announced plans for the 2015/16 season at the Williams Center for the Arts, the acclaimed presenting series founded in 1983 on the Lafayette College campus. Regarded as one of the leading performing arts centers in the region and nationally recognized for outstanding programming, the Easton-based series features the world’s most distinguished artists, emerging talents and newly created work. In this 32<sup>nd</sup> season and Ms. Ashby’s first as head of programming, the Williams Center for the Arts will inaugurate new Theater and Family series, expand the number of events and performances, and offer “first looks” at new productions and artists making their debut appearances on the cultural series. The season is comprised of 22 events in 24 performances across six series – Chamber Music, Jazz, World Stage, Dance, Theater and Family Matinees

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“The Lehigh Valley is rich in ideas and aspirations, a special place where the arts and artists flourish,” comments Hollis Ashby, Director of the Performance Series. “It’s a welcome atmosphere to build on a strong tradition of excellence by offering new experiences for an adventurous audience. The 2015/16 season does that with artists at the height of their powers and brand new work seen for the first time this season, and by broadening the range of work and the ways we access that artistry. Through encounters with diverse art forms, cultures and perspectives, the shared experience in the theater or concert hall brings us closer as a community, and I hope these experiences stay with us for a long time to come. I feel privileged to be a part of such an interesting, engaging and engaged community of arts-lovers, where the arts reside at the center of life.”

In addition to the performance schedule, the Williams Center for the Arts programs dozens of educational and community events annually, including pre- and post-performance talks, demonstration and master classes, and outreach programs in area schools, colleges and community centers, many of which are free and open to the public.

## CHAMBER MUSIC

The standard-bearer of classical/contemporary saxophone ensembles, **PRISM Quartet** opens the Williams Center 2015/16 Chamber Music series. Having commissioned over 200 new works, PRISM continuously reveals the instrument’s surprising agility in nuanced concerts performed without amplification. Their program includes such far-reaching 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century composers as Julia Wolfe, David Lang, Terry Riley, and John Adams, among others. (Sept. 27). Arguably the leading string ensemble of our time, the **Takács Quartet** brings the masterworks of Haydn, Shostakovich and Dvořák in a program that will substantiate *Gramophone* magazine’s verdict that the Takács “have the ability to make you believe that there’s no other possible way the music should go, and the strength to overturn preconceptions that comes only with the greatest performers” (Nov. 17). The **Orpheus Chamber Orchestra** returns with a program that traces the musical lineage from Haydn to Rachmaninoff, by way of Mozart, Arensky and Tchaikovsky. The young Georgian pianist **Khatia Buniatishvili** joins the orchestra for Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor (Jan. 29). Specializing in 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>-century vocal music, the

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Belgian ensemble **Vox Luminis** is acclaimed for their superb individual voices, clarity of sound, and flawless tonal quality in performances that are vital and radiant. Their Williams Center debut features music by the Bach family and Domenico Scarlatti's 10-part motet *Stabat Mater* (Feb. 12). The season closes with a rare opportunity to hear the "exceptionally pure voice" (*The New York Times*) of French countertenor **Philippe Jaroussky**, when he makes one of only two U.S. appearances in 2016. An artist whose distinct and uncommonly beautiful voice has taken the world's concert stages by storm, with pianist Jérôme Ducros M. Jaroussky will perform late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century *mélodies*—French art songs—devoted to the poetry of Paul Verlaine set to music by Debussy, Chausson, Fauré and Hahn, among others (May 8).

## JAZZ

The 2015/16 Jazz series welcomes a distinguished assemblage of musicians celebrated for their individualism and prodigious gifts. An eminent bebop statesman and a champion of the next generation, pianist **Barry Harris** has been a major force in the jazz world for over half a century. With Ray Drummond (bass) and Leroy Williams (drums), Harris will introduce two notable newcomers and First Place Thelonius Monk Competition winners, saxophonist **Jon Irabagon** (2008) and trumpeter **Marquis Hill** (2014) (Sept. 11). A highlight of the 2015/16 season will be the Williams Center debut of **Cécile McLorin Salvant**. Having swept the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Downbeat International Critics Poll (2014) in four categories—Jazz Album of the Year (*WomanChild*), Female Vocalist, Rising Star–Jazz Artist and Rising Star–Female Vocalist—McLorin Salvant has been crowned the heir to the "Big Three": Billie Holiday, Sarah Vaughan, and Ella Fitzgerald. With a distinct character and presence solely her own, at only 25 "Salvant has already achieved a level of success in the jazz world that is rare for players of any age" (*Downbeat*) (Oct. 16). For 30 years, the Alan and Wendy Pesky Endowment has brought notable musicians to Lafayette College to teach and perform over a full year. Three-time Grammy Award-winner and winner of France's Grand Prix du Disque, drummer **Bill Goodwin** will serve as Artist-in-Residence, and bring his quintet for a "Bill Goodwin Experience"—straight-ahead, free-form and always surprising (Feb. 20). The Jazz series is fulfilled when pianist **Bill Charlap**, one of the world's foremost exponents of the Great American Songbook, returns for a solo performance. "No matter how imaginative or surprising his take on a song is, he invariably zeroes in on its essence," attests *Time* magazine of this extraordinary performer (Apr. 30).

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## WORLD STAGE

From Colombia to Japan, South Asia to Ireland, the World Stage series cuts a venturesome path around the globe in 2015/16. The driving rhythms and rippling melodies of the *joropo* are the chief currency of **Cimarrón**, and a rousing entry for Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations. Led by harpist Carlos Rojas, the group has thrilled the world's music festivals, sharing this rich legacy from the cattle rearing, Llanos Orientales region of Colombia (Sept. 18). The 700-year-old musical form of *qawwali* – Sufi devotional music – is preserved and extended by **Riyaaz Qawwali**. With new songs and poetry from Hinduism, Sikhism, Islam and other religions, these multi-linguistic, multi-faith, multi-national musicians are sharing *qawwali* with new, enthusiastic audiences, and with it, a universal message of peace that transcends religious and political boundaries (Oct. 20). From historic County Waterford, **Danú's** virtuosic players on flute, tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion, bouzouki, and vocals (both Irish and English), have recorded seven critically acclaimed albums. One of Ireland's best-loved ensembles, Danú performs to standing room only crowds at home and on regular international tours (Mar. 5). A major figure in contemporary percussion and rhythm for four decades, **Kenny Endo** is arguably one of the most versatile musicians in taiko, crossing readily between the classical Japanese style and his own neo-classical, globally-inspired form. He brings his Contemporary Ensemble, with accompaniment on vibes, ukulele, flute, koto and additional drums for an afternoon of heart-pounding entertainment (Mar. 13).

## DANCE

The 2015/16 dance schedule commences with the Williams Center debut appearance of **Mark Morris Dance Group**, “the most transportingly natural performers in the world” (*The New York Times*). A prolific artist with an infinite capacity to capture the range of human emotion, **Mark Morris's** insightful musicality is fully articulated in a program that features *Words* (2014) set to Felix Mendelssohn's “Songs without Words”; *A Wooden Tree* (2012) featuring the poetry and music of Ivor Cutler; and *Grand Duo* (1993) set to Lou Harrison's arresting “Grand Duo for Violin and Piano”, accompanied by live musical performance (Sept. 16). When **Seán Curran Company** traveled to the Kyrgyz Republic in 2012, they encountered the “beautifully strange and unfamiliar” mountain music of Bishkek. Bringing

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together American modern dance and centuries-old Kyrgyz music, Seán Curran and composer **Nurlanbek Nishanov** conceived the new evening-length work *Dream'd in a Dream*. Performed with live musical accompaniment by **Ustatshakirt Plus Ensemble**, *Dream'd in a Dream* arrives in Easton following its premiere at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (Oct. 14). Since its founding in 2007, **BODYTRAFFIC** has surged to the forefront of the dance world and put Los Angeles on the map as an epicenter for contemporary dance. With an intrepid, pioneering spirit, founders and directors **Lillian Barbeito** and **Tina Finkelman** are dedicated to mounting the most original, distinctive, and diverse choreography on the international dance scene. With such visionaries as Kyle Abraham, Barak Marshall, Hofesh Shechter and Victor Quijada, BODYTRAFFIC's dancers are nimble interpreters of diverse viewpoints. The program includes Richard Siegal's exhilarating O2JOY, set to great American jazz standards (Feb. 24).

## THEATER

From the sublime to the side-splitting, the Williams Center's inaugural theater series offers a panoramic range of dramatic ideas. In 2005, Nobel Prize-winning poet and playwright **Harold Pinter** asked actor **Julian Sands** (*A Room with a View*, *Impromptu*, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*) to fill in at a scheduled poetry reading, then the two worked closely and at length to arrive at Pinter's precise meaning and interpretation. The collaboration became the basis for *A Celebration of Harold Pinter*, a penetrating, humorous and revelatory show, directed by **John Malkovich**, in which poetry, prose and personal stories capture the soul of the husband, political activist and mortal (Oct. 6). Born on a slave ship in 1729, the life of Charles Ignatius Sancho was full of surprising, moving and amusing events. *Sancho: An Act of Remembrance* is the true story of an African man who became a writer, actor, composer and businessman—and whose portrait was painted by Thomas Gainsborough. Written and performed by actor **Paterson Joseph** (*The Leftovers* - HBO, *The Hollow Crown* - BBC), this *tour de force* premieres at Lafayette College prior to its Brooklyn Academy of Music run (Dec. 14).

From the Royal Shakespeare Company's Complete Works Festival comes **Filter Theater's** riotous and irreverent take on *Twelfth Night*. Filter brings sound and music center stage to illuminate Shakespeare's text, resulting in a highly accessible, anarchic staging of one of the Bard's most-beloved comedies. Mayhem and melancholy unfold in this lovely and lawless

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Illyria against a folk, jazz and heavy metal backdrop so transporting “you leave feeling slightly changed yourself” - (*Metro*, UK) (Feb. 2). Masters of short-form theater, the **New York Neo-Futurists** are an ensemble of dynamic writers/performers/directors, best known for their critically acclaimed, energetic show of original plays, *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*. A non-illusory collage of the comic and tragic, the political and the personal, the visceral and experimental, 30 plays in 60 minutes are performed in the “now”—each show a one-of-a-kind experience as the audience decides the sequence of the plays (Mar. 30).

The art of **puppetry** is a discrete branch of theater with legions of devotees. The Williams Center 2015/16 theater schedule includes a mini-series devoted to two distinct artists, **Joseph Cashore** and **Robin Frohardt**. The **Cashore Marionettes** are unmatched in grace, refinement of movement and skillful storytelling. Joseph Cashore’s breathtaking creations come alive in scenes taken from everyday life that are humorous, poignant and utterly fascinating. At 2:00 p.m. *Simple Gifts*, a lyrical study on what it is to be human, is set to music by Beethoven, Vivaldi, Strauss and Copland. At 8:00 p.m. *Life in Motion* deepens the impact with additional vignettes of emotional gravity and insight (Nov. 21). In Robin Frohardt’s *The Pigeoning*, bunraku-style puppetry, a live musical score and lo-fi special effects conspire to create a darkly comedic yet heartfelt tale about the illusion of safety and control. *The Pigeoning* takes a look at the divide between man and nature at time when listening to the animals may just be our best bet (2:00 and 8:00 p.m., Feb. 27).

### FAMILY MATINEES

Created to introduce children to a wide range of genres, the **Williams Center Family Matinees** invites young people and their grownups to experience diverse music, dance and theater together. The ideal entrée to the varied world of the performing arts, Family Matinees include “Information & Discussion” guides mailed in advance and receptions in the lobby follow the show. Two shows in 2015/16 are featured Family Matinees: (1) **The Cashore Marionettes** 2:00 p.m. performance of *Simple Gifts* Saturday, Nov. 21; and (2) Robin Frohardt’s *The Pigeoning* at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 27. Admission is affordably priced at \$6 for children under 16 years of age, and \$19 for adults.

## TICKETS AND OTHER INFORMATION

The Williams Center for the Arts Performance Series offers increased subscription packages and new discounts this year. Current subscribers are guaranteed to keep their current seats by renewing their subscriptions from May 15 to June 15; new series subscriptions go on sale June 15; and single tickets and Choose-Your-Own subscriptions go on sale July 6. Series subscription packages receive 20% discount off single ticket prices, and a 10% discount on additional single tickets purchased throughout the season; and new Choose-Your-Own subscriptions offer 10% discount for packages of 4 events; and 15% discount for packages of 5 or more events. Groups of 15 or more receive a 15% discount. Current subscribers will be mailed renewal information; new subscription and single ticket orders may be placed online at [williamscenter.lafayette.edu](http://williamscenter.lafayette.edu); mailed; faxed to 610-330-5642, or by calling 610-330-5009. For more information call the Williams Center for the Arts 610-330-5009, email a brochure request to [williamscenter@lafayette.edu](mailto:williamscenter@lafayette.edu) or visit the web site at [www.williamscenter.lafayette.edu](http://www.williamscenter.lafayette.edu).

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**Calendar editors, please note:**

**WILLIAMS CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
**2015/16 Season – Calendar of Events**  
<http://williamscenter.lafayette.edu/>

**Venue:** All events - Williams Center for the Arts, 317 Hamilton Street at High Street  
Lafayette College Campus, Easton, PA 18042

**Tickets:** Williams Center Ticket Office, (610) 330-5009  
Hours: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. weekdays  
Plus: One hour prior to performance start times  
On-line at [williamscenter.lafayette.edu](http://williamscenter.lafayette.edu)  
By email at [williamscenter@lafayette.edu](mailto:williamscenter@lafayette.edu)

SEPTEMBER 2015

**Friday, September 11, 8:00 p.m.**

*Jazz*

**Barry Harris Trio**

**Program:**

TBA, with Barry Harris (piano), Ray Drummond (bass), Leroy Williams (drums); Jon Irabagon (saxophone) and Marquis Hill (trumpet)

**Tickets:** \$21 each; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions.

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**Wednesday, September 16, 8:00 p.m.**

*Dance*

**Mark Morris Dance Group**  
**Musicians – to be announced**

**Program:**

*Words* (2014), music by Felix Mendelssohn, “Songs without Words”  
*A Wooden Tree* (2012), words and music by Ivor Cutler  
*Grand Duo* (1993) music by Lou Harrison, “Grand Duo for Violin and Piano.”  
All choreography by Mark Morris

**Tickets:** \$25; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions.

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**Friday, September 18, 8:00 p.m.**

*World Stage*

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## **Cimarrón**

### **Program:**

From the Llanos Orientales region of Colombia, Cimarrón performs the festive *zoropo*, on harp, bandola, cuatro, bass, cajon, maracas and high-pitched voices.

**Tickets:** \$19; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions.

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**Sunday, September 27, 3:00 p.m.**

*Chamber Music*

**PRISM Quartet**

### **Program:**

Saxophone quartet music, from 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century composers

**Tickets:** \$23; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions.

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OCTOBER 2015

**Tuesday, October 6, 8:00 p.m.**

*Theater*

**Julian Sands / *A Celebration of Harold Pinter***

**Directed by John Malkovich**

### **Program:**

The poetry, prose and personal observations of Nobel Prize-winning playwright and poet Harold Pinter.

**Tickets:** \$31; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions.

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**Wednesday, October 14, 8:00 p.m.**

*Dance*

**Seán Curran Company**

**Ustatshakirt Plus Ensemble**

### **Program:**

*Dream'd in a Dream* (2015), music by Ustatshakirt Plus, choreography by Seán Curran.

**Tickets:** \$23; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions.

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**Friday, October 16, 8:00 p.m.**

*Jazz*

**Cécile McLorin Salvant**

**Program:**

Rising star jazz vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant and her ensemble make their Williams Center debut.

**Tickets:** \$25; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions.

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**Tuesday, October 20, 8:00 p.m.**

*World Stage*

**Riyaz Qawwali**

**Program:**

New and traditional *qawwali* – Sufi devotional music -- performed by Riyaz Qawwali.

**Tickets:** \$19; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions.

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NOVEMBER 2015

**Tuesday, November 17, 8:00 p.m.**

*Chamber Music*

**Takács Quartet**

**Program:**

Haydn / String Quartet in C major, Opus 74, No. 1

Shostakovich / String Quartet No. 3 in F major, Op. 73

Dvořák / String Quartet No. 14 in A-flat major, Op. 105, B. 193.

**Tickets:** \$29; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions.

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**Saturday, November 21, 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.**

*Theater & Family Matinees*

**The Cashore Marionettes**

**Program:**

2:00 p.m. *Simple Gifts* [Family Matinee]

8:00 p.m. *Life in Motion*

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**Tickets:** \$6 children 16 and under; \$19 adults; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions (applicable to adult tickets only).

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DECEMBER 2015

**Monday, December 14, 8:00 p.m.**

*Theater*

***Sancho: An Act of Remembrance***

**Produced in association with the Oxford Playhouse**

**Written and performed by Paterson Joseph**

**Co-directed by Simon Godwin**

**Music by Ben Park**

**Program:**

The life of 18<sup>th</sup>-century black Briton Charles Ignatius Sancho, written and performed by Paterson Joseph.

**Tickets:** \$29; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions.

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JANUARY 2016

**Friday, January 29, 2016, 8:00 p.m.**

*Chamber Music*

**Orpheus Chamber Orchestra**

**Khatia Buniatishvili, piano**

**Program:**

Haydn / Symphony No. 1 in D major

Mozart / Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor, K.466

Arensky / Variations on a Theme by Tchaikovsky

Rachmaninoff / Suite No. 2 for Two Pianos, Opus 17 (arr. Paul Chihara)

**Tickets:** \$33; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions.

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FEBRUARY 2016

**Tuesday, February 2, 8:00 p.m.**

*Theater*

**William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night***

**Filter Theatre, in association with the Royal Shakespeare Company**

**Directed by Sean Holmes; Music by Tom Haines and Ross Hughes**

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**Program:**

William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, liberally edited and performed with abandon by Filter Theatre.

**Tickets:** \$31; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions.

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**Friday, February 12, 8:00 p.m.**

*Chamber Music*

**Vox Luminis**

**Program:**

Scarlatti / *Te Deum* and *Stabat Mater*

J.L. Bach / "Das ist meine Freude"

J.C. Bach / "Der Mensch vom Weibe geboren"

J.S. Bach / "Jesu meine Freude"

**Tickets:** \$23; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions.

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**Saturday, February 20, 8:00 p.m.**

*Jazz*

**The Bill Goodwin Experience**

**Program:**

Drummer Bill Goodwin – Pesky Artist-in-Residence – brings his quintet for straight-ahead and free form jazz.

**Tickets:** \$21; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions.

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**Wednesday, February 24, 8:00 p.m.**

*Dance*

**BODYTRAFFIC**

**Program:**

*O2JOY* (2012) set to the music of Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Glenn Miller, and Oscar Peterson, choreography by Richard Siegal

Other works TBA

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**Tickets:** \$23; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions

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(more)

**Saturday, February 27, 2:00 p.m.** [Family Matinee] **& 8:00 p.m.**

*Theater & Family*

***The Pigeoning***

**Written and Directed by Robin Frohardt**

**Music by Freddi Price**

**Program:**

Bunraku-style puppetry spins the story of office worker Frank, and looks at the divide between man and nature at a time when listening to the animals may just be our best bet.

**Tickets:** \$6 children 16 and under; \$19 adults; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions (applicable to adult tickets only).

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MARCH 2016

**Saturday, March 5, 8:00 p.m.**

*World Stage*

**Danú**

**Program:**

Traditional and new Irish music from Country Waterford's Danú.

**Tickets:** \$23; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions

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**Sunday, March 13, 3:00 p.m.**

*World Stage*

**Kenny Endo Contemporary Ensemble**

**Program:**

Taiko and percussion master Kenny Endo brings his Contemporary Ensemble for a globally-inspired take on Japanese style drumming and jazz.

**Tickets:** \$23; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions

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**Wednesday, March 30, 8:00 p.m.**

*Theater*

**The New York Neo-Futurists**

**Program:**

The New York Neo-Futurists mount 30 plays in 60 minutes in their award-winning show, *Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind*.

**Tickets:** \$29; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions

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APRIL 2016

**Saturday, April 30, 8:00 p.m.**

*Jazz*

**Bill Charlap**

**Program:**

One of the great exponents of the American Songbook, pianist Bill Charlap appears for a rare solo performance.

**Tickets:** \$25; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions

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MAY 2016

**Sunday, May 8, 3:00 p.m.**

*Chamber Music*

**Philippe Jaroussky**, countertenor

**Jérôme Ducros**, piano

**Program:**

French countertenor Philippe Jaroussky and pianist Jérôme Ducros perform late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century *melodies* devoted to the poetry of Paul Verlaine set to music by Debussy, Chausson, Fauré, Hahn, Saint-Saens, Charbrier and others, from their recent recording, *Green*.

**Tickets:** \$29; or 20% discount on season series subscriptions

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