

**For Immediate Release:
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2016/17 Performance Series

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, Hiromi: The Trio Project, pianist Louis Lortie, clarinetist David Krakauer with A Far Cry, Company Wang Ramirez, Benjamin Bagby's *Beowulf* and PRI's "Selected Shorts" highlight the Williams Center for the Arts' 34th season

2016/17 season includes violinist **Vadim Guzman** with **Orpheus Chamber Orchestra**; France's **Quatuor Ebène**; jazz musicians **Ambrose Akinmusire, Marianne Solivan** and **Stephane Wrembel**; and **Ensemble Basiani** and **Hossam Ramzy** on the world stage

Theater, film and family presentations from **L.A. Theatre Works, Manual Cinema, Tanya Tagaq, Satori** and **David Holt** are also featured

EASTON, Pa. — Debuts by choreographers **Helen Simoneau, Nora Gibson** and **Raphael Xavier**, an evening-length work by **Bill T. Jones**, multidimensional performances by Inuit throat singer **Tanya Tagaq** and Chicago's "live cinema" architects **Manual Cinema**, the premiere of a concerto for sitar, chorus and orchestra from composer **Hasu Patel**, and the dynamic jazz pianist **Hiromi** are among the 23 exceptional events announced today by Williams Center for the Arts Director **Hollis Ashby** for the 2016/17 season. The Easton, Pa.-based presenting series on the Lafayette College campus, nationally recognized for outstanding programming, annually features the world's most distinguished artists, emerging talents and newly created work. In this 34th season, the Williams Center performance series comprises six series – Chamber Music, Jazz, World Stage, Dance, Theater and Family Matinees.

"The Williams Center holds a unique place here in the Lehigh Valley," comments Hollis Ashby, Artistic and Executive Director of the Performance Series, "and the Lehigh Valley has a distinct character of its own. It is a region that values education – exemplified by the strong presence of institutions of higher learning – it is home to diverse peoples, interests, ideas and, importantly, a populace that cherishes a sense of community. Our goal is to bring people together to experience the richness of human

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expression in the arts. No other endeavor contributes to our sense of well-being, our understanding of our fellow man, or the growth of our perspective than communal engagement with music, dance and theater. The 2016/17 season, with its broad scope of artists and artistry, offers enlightenment and entertainment at every turn.”

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, demonstrations 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

French-Canadian pianist **Louis Lortie** makes his Williams Center debut on the opening concert of the Chamber Music series. With command of one of the broadest repertoires of any pianist on any stage, Lortie will perform an all-Chopin program of etudes and preludes, part of a complete works recording project on the Chandos label that *Fanfare Magazine* describes as “Chopin playing of sublime genius” (Oct. 1). Founded in Boston in 2007, **A Far Cry** is an orchestra that “brims with personality” (*The New York Times*). Their program, drawn from their Grammy-nominated recording “Dreams and Prayers” and spanning three faiths, explores music as a connection between man and the divine, and features the works of 12th-century mystic Hildegard von Bingen, Beethoven and Mehmet Ali Sanlikol. The venturesome **David Krakauer**, widely regarded the leading clarinet musician of our time, joins A Far Cry as soloist for Osvaldo Golijov’s “The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind” (Nov. 16). **Orpheus Chamber Orchestra** premieres a new work by composer Michael Hersch as part of their *American Notes* commissioning initiative, and offers their first performance of Tchaikovsky’s only Violin Concerto to highlight their annual Williams Center appearance. The concert features the return engagement of Ukrainian-born Israeli violinist **Vadim Gluzman**, who last appeared with Orpheus in 2011 (Feb. 3). Cleveland-based **Apollo’s Fire** has emerged as “one of the brightest lights of period-instrument playing ...arguably the most distinctive in sound and memorable in style,” trumpets London’s *Classical Music Magazine*. Led by conductor and harpsichordist **Jeannette Sorrell**, the orchestra makes its Williams Center debut with “An Afternoon at Bach’s Coffeehouse,” featuring Brandenburg Concertos Nos. 4 and 5, Telemann’s *Don Quixote* suite and Sorrell’s own arrangement of Vivaldi’s *La Folia* (Feb. 26). France’s **Quatuor Ebène** has built a reputation for nimble-footed interpretation across many styles, enhancing performances of classic chamber repertoire with regular workouts of jazz, pop and film score arrangements. Their theory: free association with diverse styles brings excitement to all music. At their Williams Center debut, Quatuor Ebène will perform works by Mozart, Beethoven and Ravel (Mar. 30).

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The Chamber Music series includes an interdisciplinary, multi-artist experience inspired by the evanescent beauty of nature. *Harmonious Visions: Reflections on Nature Through the Fabric of Sight and Sound* is an absorbing encounter between art and music, and features *Between Here and Not Here*, a new work by composer **Frances White** and artist **Jim Toia**, as well as **John Glover's** *Life Cycles*, set against the paintings of **Mark Mastroianni**. Pianist **Molly Morkoski**, violist **Liuh-Wen Ting**, and flutist **Barry Crawford** perform. *Harmonious Visions* is free and open to the public; advance tickets are required (Oct. 22).

JAZZ

Elite practitioners and specialists come together for a year of far-reaching musical exploration in the 2016/17 Jazz series. Recipient of a Doris Duke Impact Award (2014), the Grand Prix de l'Académie du Jazz (2014), First Prize Winner of the Thelonious Monk Competition (2007), and named Trumpet Player of the Year by *DownBeat* Critics Poll (2012), **Ambrose Akinmusire** is a swiftly ascending comet in the jazz firmament. Heir, but not slave, to the spirit of post-bop, Akinmusire opens the 16/17 season with his quartet (Sept. 16). Since the release of her debut Telarc CD "Another Mind" (2003), jazz pianist **Hiromi** has electrified audiences and critics alike, with an energy that encompasses and eclipses the boundaries of jazz, classical and pop parameters, taking improvisation and composition to new heights of complexity and sophistication. With her critically-acclaimed **Trio Project**, featuring contrabass guitarist **Anthony Jackson** and drummer **Simon Phillips**, she is a force to be reckoned with (Nov. 5). "Her sense of swing and fluent phrasing are cool and natural as an underground spring" (NPR) is a pitch-perfect description of the luminous vocalist **Marianne Solivan**. A regular at New York's Bobo, Smoke, and Small's Jazz Club, Solivan will take the stage with her 12-piece **Big Band** and selections from her critically acclaimed CDs "Spark" (2014) and "Prisoner of Love" (2012) (Feb. 11). French-born guitarist and composer **Stephane Wrembel** honed his craft among Gypsy campsites in the French countryside, yet he brings a world vision to his music. Hailed "a revelation" by *Rolling Stone*, his astonishing playing can be heard in Woody Allen's *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* and the theme track of *Midnight in Paris*, "Bistro Fada." Now residing stateside, **Stephane Wrembel and His Band** make regular stops at the most prestigious jazz venues, to the delight of enthusiasts from coast to coast (Apr. 12).

WORLD STAGE

Transfixing Egyptian drumming and the exhilarating dance rhythms of the Middle East are the currency of **Hossam Ramzy**, the master *darbuka* player considered the oracle of world percussion by the likes of Peter Gabriel, Robert Plant and Jimmy Page. With "Egyptian Baladi & Blues," Ramzy and his

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cohort trade in the urbanized folk music tradition of Cairo's back streets, adding blues and jazz improvisation that surpasses all expectation (Sept. 20). From the Republic of Georgia, **Ensemble Basiani**, the 12-member, all-male choir of the Tbilisi Holy Trinity Cathedral Church, performs the exquisite, polyphonic choral tradition of Eastern Europe. Their repertoire spans the 7th to 13th centuries, and embraces the hymns, monastic chants, ballads, and folk and work songs of their homeland (Oct. 26). Inuit throat singer **Tanya Tagaq** reclaims the 1922 silent documentary *Nanook of the North* with an original score performed live with percussionist Jean Martin and violinist Jesse Zubot. Drawing on her childhood on Nunavut's Victoria Island and her mother's Inuk heritage, Tagaq's sense of the sound of the Arctic transforms the film experience, delivering fearsome, elemental utterances that are visceral, physical, heaving, breathing and alive (Feb. 18). The 2016/17 **Pesky Artist-in-Residence** will be composer and sitar player **Hasu Patel**, a specialist in the *Gayaki Ang* (vocal) style in which the sitar replicates the nuances of the human voice. The program features the world premiere of *Swara Leela*, the first concerto ever composed for sitar, tabla, chorus and orchestra, based on the raga *Yaman Kalyan*, as well as Patel's *Mangal Dhwani* for sitar, tabla and orchestra. The **Lafayette College Concert Chorus** joins her, and performs additional music from China, Japan and Indonesia (Apr. 29).

DANCE

The 2016/17 Dance series opens with a new evening-length work by one of the most ingenious and celebrated artists of 20th and 21st centuries – **Bill T. Jones**. In *Analogy/Dora: Tramontane* Jones continues his exploration of how text, storytelling, movement and music collide and re-combine to create a new experience. Based on the oral history of 95-year-old Dora Amelan, a French Jewish nurse and social worker, the piece chronicles her early life and her survival during WWII in 25 episodes. It is a portrait of perseverance and hope, movingly portrayed by the **Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company**, with the original score and soundscape by composer **Nick Hallett** performed live (Oct. 18). As an anchor for the **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's** distinguished **Choreographers on Campus** program, Lafayette College has incubated vital new work and fostered artistic collaboration at colleges throughout the Lehigh Valley. The **Choreographers on Campus Showcase** features performances from three rising and notable choreographers and includes: **Nora Gibson's** *2^57,885,161 -1*, an abstract ballet built around the opacity of prime number theory, in collaboration with Lafayette College mathematician **Derek Smith**; *Land Bridge* by French-Canadian artist **Helen Simoneau**, inspired by the endangered caribou; and excerpts from **Raphael Xavier's** *Point of Interest*, which explores the sustainability of the aesthetics of breaking (Nov. 18). “This duo married immaculate technique with an acute understanding of spatial tension,” reported *The Times* of London of **Company Wang Ramirez's** *Monchichi*, the breakout hit of New York's 2014 Fall for Dance Festival. Winners in the Outstanding Performance category at the 2013

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Bessie Awards, renowned French-Spanish B-boy **Sébastien Ramirez** and ballet-trained Korean-German **Honji Wang** have gained the inside track on notions of origin and identity in a globalized world. *Monchichi* is an apotheosis of the relationship with the “other” and how we bridge the divide (Mar. 4).

THEATER

The Williams Center’s new Theater series travels far afield in 2016/17 with stories from the 5th to the 21st centuries. True to its name, inventive Chicago-based **Manual Cinema** creates large-scale cinematic immersions using handmade technologies: shadow puppetry, overhead projectors, actors in profile, live feed cameras, multichannel sound design and an onstage music ensemble create cinematic wonderment, in real time, all within audience view. Set in a New England gothic landscape, *Ada/Ava* is a story of mourning, melancholy, self and other, rooted in the nascent days of cinema when silent films were a limitation of technology, but not of the imagination (Oct. 6). “**Selected Shorts**,” Public Radio International’s popular series and podcast, produced by New York’s Symphony Space and WNYC Radio, brings literature to life with readings by notable stage, screen and television actors. The experience is spellbinding, rewarding and unforgettable when short stories are delivered by such compelling actors as Jane Curtin, Cynthia Nixon, David Strathairn or BD Wong...you never know who is going to appear (Nov. 3). **Benjamin Bagby**, one of the world’s leading practitioners of historically informed music and theater, and the founder of the acclaimed medieval music ensemble Sequentia, has accomplished the near-impossible: with assiduous excavation and reconstruction, he brings the 11th-century epic poem *Beowulf* to life. Performed in the original Anglo Saxon and accompanying himself on medieval harp, Bagby dramatizes the gripping 5th century account of hero Beowulf’s single-handed conquest of the monster Grendel, coming “as close to holding hundreds of people in a spell as ever a man has...That is much too rare an experience in theater” (*The New York Times*) (Mar. 24). On the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day 2017, and as politics continue to infiltrate human rights and social justice issues worldwide, **L.A. Theatre Works** stages one of the great courtroom dramas of all time, **Abby Mann’s *Judgment at Nuremberg***. Renowned for its international broadcast series, L.A. Theatre Works takes to the road in this fully-staged production that asks how compassion can become secondary to the rule of law, how human rights are compromised during times of conflict, and how politics play a role in dealing with genocide – relevant questions, even today (Apr. 22).

FAMILY MATINEES

Williams Center Family Matinees invite 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 and receptions in the lobby. Conquering

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heroes, mischievous goblins, a monstrous centipede and a snow bride are among the characters in *Shadows of the Samurai: Tales of Old Japan*. In five traditional folk and supernatural tales, *Shadows of the Samurai* combines music, art, and theater in a contemporary performance of centuries-old stories told through Kabuki theater effects with Japanese music on *shakuhachi* (bamboo flute), Asian percussion, and live-action mime, shadow puppetry, and narration against original artwork. Lehigh Valley-based ensemble **Satori**, featuring Nora Suggs (*shakuhachi*), Larry Stockton (percussion), William Christine (artist) and Mark McKenna (actor/narrator), performs (Oct. 15). Four-time Grammy Award-winner **David Holt** is a musician, storyteller and historian who has spent 40 years collecting the *Songs and Stories of Appalachia*. He learned this treasure trove of music directly from greats like Doc Watson, Roy Acuff, Tommy Jarrell, Etta Baker and Grandpa Jones, and was the host of popular television programs including PBS's "Folkways" and "Great Scenic Railway Journeys." David Holt brings American folk art to life with a throng of acoustic instruments and the priceless stories of his travels (Feb. 25).

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The Williams Center for the Arts is supported by the NEA, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Dexter and Dorothy Baker Foundation and The Friends of the Williams Center.

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TICKETS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Subscription packages and discounts are available to season subscribers, and current subscribers are guaranteed to keep their seats by renewing subscriptions from June 1–21; new series subscriptions go on sale June 22; single tickets and Choose-Your-Own subscriptions go on sale July 5. Series subscription packages receive 20% discount off single ticket prices, and a 10% discount on additional single tickets purchased throughout the season; 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; mailed; faxed to 610-330-5642, or placed by phone by calling 610-330-5009. The 2016/17 website will go live May 10. For more information, call the Williams Center for the Arts at 610-330-5009, email a brochure request to williamscenter@lafayette.edu or visit the website at williamscenter.lafayette.edu.

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Calendar editors, please note:

WILLIAMS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
2016/17 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
Online at williamscenter.lafayette.edu
By email at williamscenter@lafayette.edu

SEPTEMBER 2016

Friday, September 16, 8:00 p.m.

Jazz

Ambrose Akinmusire Quartet

Program: Award-winning trumpet player Ambrose Akinmusire opens the 2016/17 Williams Center season with his quartet, featuring Sam Harris (piano), Harish Raghavan (bass), and Justin Brown (drums).

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

Tuesday, September 20, 8:00 p.m.

World Stage

Hossam Ramzy
Egyptian Baladi & Blues

Program: Egyptian *baladi*, Middle Eastern dance music, blues and jazz improvisation from world percussionist Hossam Ramzy and his band.

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

OCTOBER 2016

Saturday, October 1, 8:00 p.m.

Chamber Music

Louis Lortie, piano

Program:
Chopin / Etudes Op. 10, Etudes Op. 25; and Preludes, Op. 28

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

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Thursday, October 6, 8:00 p.m.

Theater

Manual Cinema

Program: Live cinematic experience produced with handmade technologies, Manual Cinema's debut program features *Ada/Ava* (2013).

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

Saturday, October 15, 2:00 p.m.

Family Matinees

Satori

Program: *Shadows of the Samuai: Tales of Old Japan:* Centuries-old Japanese folk stories and tales of the supernatural come to life through music, art, mime, puppetry, and narration.

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

Tuesday, October 18, 8:00 p.m.

Dance

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company

Program:

Analogy/Dora: Tramontane (2015) / choreography by Bill T. Jones and Janet Wong, design by Bjorn Amelan, music by Nick Hallett, performed live.

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

Saturday, October 22, 8:00 p.m.

Chamber Music and Art

Harmonious Visions: Relections on Nature Through the Fabric of Sight and Sound

Molly Morkoski (piano), Liuh-Wen Ting (viola) and Barry Crawford (flute)

Program:

Between Here and Not Here (2016) / music by Frances White, art by Jim Toia
Life Cycles (2012) / music by John Glover, art by Mark Mastroianni, video by Rob Dietz

Tickets: Admission is free; advance tickets are required and available through the Williams Center for the Arts ticket office.

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Wednesday, October 26, 8:00 p.m.

World Stage
Basiani

Program: 12-member, all-male choir of the Tbilisi Holy Trinity Cathedral Church, performs polyphonic hymns, monastic chants, ballads, and folk and work songs from the Republic of Georgia, spanning the 7th to 13th centuries.

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

NOVEMBER 2016

Thursday, November 3, 8:00 p.m.

Theater
Selected Shorts

Program: Public Radio International's popular series and podcast "Selected Shorts" brings literature to life with readings by notable stage, screen and television actors. Recorded for future broadcast.

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

Saturday, November 5, 8:00 p.m.

Jazz
Hiromi: The Trio Project

Program: Jazz pianist Hiromi brings her critically-acclaimed Trio Project, featuring contrabass guitarist Anthony Jackson and drummer Simon Phillips.

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

Wednesday, November 16, 8:00 p.m.

Chamber Music
A Far Cry
David Krakauer, clarinet

Program:
"Dreams and Prayers:"
von Bingen / *O ignis Spiritus paracliti*
Sanlikol / *Vecd*
Golijov / *The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind*, with David Krakauer, clarinet
Beethoven / "Heiliger Dankgesang" from Quartet in A minor, Op. 132

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

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Friday, November 18, 8:00 p.m.

Dance

Choreographers on Campus Showcase:

Helen Simoneau Danse

Nora Gibson Contemporary Ballet

Raphael Xavier

Program:

Land Bridge (2016, excerpt) / choreography by Helen Simoneau, music by Nathalie Joachim

2^57,885,161 -1 (2015) / choreography by Nora Gibson, music by Michael Reiley

Point of Interest (2015, excerpts) / choreography by Raphael Xavier, music by Raphael Xavier

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

FEBRUARY 2017

Friday, February 3, 2017, 8:00 p.m.

Chamber Music

Orpheus Chamber Orchestra

Vadim Gluzman, violin

Program:

Chabrier / *Idylle and Danse Villageoise*

Tchaikovsky / Violin Concerto

M. Hersch / Premiere

Mendelssohn / Symphony No. 3, "Scottish"

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

Saturday, February 11, 8:00 p.m.

Jazz

Marianne Solivan & The Big Band

Program: Jazz vocalist Marianne Solivan brings her 12-piece Big Band for an evening of standards and original music.

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

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Saturday, February 18, 8:00 p.m.

World Stage

Tanya Tagaq – *Nanook of the North*

Program: Inuit punk throat singer Tanya Tagaq performs a live composed and improvised score with percussionist Jean Martin and violinist Jesse Zubot to the 1922 silent documentary *Nanook of the North*.

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

Saturday, February 25, 2:00 p.m.

Family Matinees

David Holt

“Songs and Stories of Appalachia”

Program: Four-time Grammy Award-winner David Holt performs the music, songs and stories of Appalachia that he has been collecting for 40 years.

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

Sunday, February 26, 3:00 p.m.

Chamber Music

Apollo’s Fire

Jeannette Sorrell, harpsichord and conductor

Program:

Telemann / *Don Quixote* Suite (selections)

J.S. Bach / Brandenburg Concerto No. 4

Bach / Brandenburg Concerto No. 5

Bach / Allemande from Cello Suite No. 6

A. Vivaldi-arr. Sorrell / *La Folia* (Madness)

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

MARCH 2017

Saturday, March 4, 8:00 p.m.

Dance

Company Wang Ramirez

Program:

Monchichi (2013) / choreography by Sébastien Ramirez and Honji Wang, music by Ilia

Koutchoukov alias Everydayz /+∞, Carlos Gardel, Alva Noto, Nick Cave and Warren Ellis

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

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Friday, March 24, 8:00 p.m.

Theater

Benjamin Bagby, *Beowulf*

Program: Benjamin Bagby performs the epic poem *Beowulf* in Old English, accompanied with medieval harp. Performed in the original Anglo Saxon with modern English supertitles.

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

Thursday, March 30, 8:00 p.m.

Chamber Music

Quatuor Ebène

Program:

Mozart / Quartet in D minor, K. 421

Beethoven / Quartet in F minor, Op. 95, “Serioso”

Ravel / Quartet in F major

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

APRIL 2017

Wednesday, April 12, 8:00 p.m.

Jazz

Stephane Wrembel & His Band

Program: French-born guitarist Stephane Wrembel and his band perform in multifaceted styles, influenced by Gypsy campsites and African shores.

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

Saturday, April 22, 8:00 p.m.

Theater

L.A. Theatre Works

Judgment at Nuremberg

Program: L.A. Theatre Works takes their live radio-theater–style performance on the road in a fully staged production of Abby Mann’s absorbing courtroom drama *Judgment at Nuremberg*.

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

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Saturday, April 29, 8:00 p.m.

World Stage

Hasu Patel, sitar

Vishal Nagar, tabla

Lafayette College Concert Chorus

Program:

Patel / *Swara Leela* (“Divine Play of Notes”)

Patel / *Mangal Dhwani* (“Auspicious Sound”)

Additional works from China, Japan and Indonesia to be announced

Tickets: Admission is free; advance tickets are required and available through the Williams Center for the Arts box office.

– End –