VISUAL + PERFORMING + LITERARY ARTS

SPRING 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Cover image: Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, Photographer: Carol Rosegg
CALENDAR OF EVENTS  SPRING 2020

THE NJCU CENTER FOR THE ARTS BRINGS THE UNIVERSITY’S CULTURAL OFFERINGS TOGETHER UNDER ONE CREATIVE UMBRELLA.

WITH NEW YORK CITY just across the river, the NJCU Center for the Arts is a cultural hub of North Jersey, hosting guest artists and speakers in the performing, visual, film, and literary arts, alongside student presentations. We look forward to seeing you at events on campus and in the community.

The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass
Saturday, February 22, 8:00 p.m.
Margaret Williams Theatre
Tickets $35

The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass is composed of some of America’s top brass musicians who perform music ranging from the streets of New Orleans to Baroque to pop. Come celebrate Mardi Gras with us!

This engagement of Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass is made possible through the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Time Remembered: A Musical Documentary Remembering Bill Evans with the Joel Zelnik Trio
Joel Zelnik – Piano
Gary Mazzaroppi – Bass
David Cox – Drums
Saturday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.
Ingalls Recital Hall
Tickets $25

This screening of the documentary, Time Remembered, about the late/great jazz pianist Bill Evans, is hosted by pianist Joel Zelnik and his trio. They will perform a pre-screening concert featuring the music of Bill Evans.

Bill Evans (1929-1980) was one of the most important and influential pianists and composers in the history of jazz. From the early 1950s, when he first found work as a sideman, through the dozens of albums he released as a leader, his impact has been incalculable—Evans fundamentally altered the sound of piano trio jazz forever.

W.E.B. Du Bois: A Man For All Times
Written & Directed by Alexa Kelly
Featuring Brian Richardson as Dr. Du Bois
Created and developed by Pulse Ensemble Theatre
Thursday, April 2 and Friday, April 3, 8:00 p.m.
West Side Theatre
Tickets: $25, Students $5

An emotion packed play about the life and times of Civil Rights Activist W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963). With this riveting drama we are transported into Du Bois’ private and political world. An inspirational journey through almost one hundred years in this great man’s life. An experience both humorous, touching and enlightening.

Presented by JCTC and NJCU’s Center for the Arts, with additional funding from the I Love Greenville Community Partnership.
Svetlana: Night at the Movies
Saturday, April 4, 8:00 p.m.
Margaret Williams Theatre
Tickets $30

Svetlana is “Astrud Gilberto via Moscow”, a Russian-born critically acclaimed American jazz vocalist. Her new record and concert program, Night at the Movies is Svetlana’s love affair with movies and dreaming. Svetlana’s stellar band includes: Willem Delisfort—piano, Charlie Caranicas—trumpet, Christopher McBride—sax, Adi Meyerson—bass and Henry Conerway, III—drums.

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players Trio: The Jungle Book
Saturday, April 11, 2:00 p.m.
Margaret Williams Theatre
Tickets $20, Children under 17: $12

In a playful and humorous manner, NJSO’s version of Kipling’s The Jungle Book—featuring a string ensemble—introduces young audiences to classical master works and to various styles of music.

The Cashore Marionettes: Simple Gifts
Saturday, May 9, 2:00 p.m.
Margaret Williams Theatre
Tickets $20,
Children under 17: $12

The program Simple Gifts is a series of touching portrayals and poignant scenes from everyday life set to stunning music by such composers as Vivaldi, Strauss, Beethoven and Copland.
Carolyn Dorfman Dance: 
The Legacy Project
Thursday, January 23, 9:45 a.m.
Margaret Williams Theatre
Grades 4–12
Links: History, Social Studies, Dance & Holocaust studies

A celebrated body of compositions that merge live dance, multimedia presentation and interactive dialogue to honor faith, survival and renewal as the cornerstones of Eastern European roots and Jewish heritage. As a child of Holocaust survivors, Dorfman reveals her heritage through dance stories that explore immigration and equality and interweave the common threads of our humanity. In honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, the show explores the rich tapestry of human experience and tradition.

Charlotte Blake Alston
Thursday, February 13, 9:45 a.m.
Margaret Williams Theatre
Grades K–5, and story lovers of all ages
Links: African Studies, English, Global Connections

Enjoy a morning of storytelling and song with Charlotte Blake Alston, an internationally recognized artist who breathes life into traditional and contemporary stories from African and African-American oral and cultural traditions. Her solo performances are enhanced with traditional instruments such as djembe, mbira, shekere and the 21-stringed kora. A featured artist on Carnegie Hall’s Family Concert Series since 1996, Charlotte is a recipient of the Zora Neale Hurston Award, the highest award from the National Association of Black Storytellers.

The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass
Thursday, February 20, 9:45 a.m.
Margaret Williams Theatre
Grades 2–12
Links: Music, Social Studies, History

The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass is comprised of some of America’s top brass musicians who perform music ranging from the streets of New Orleans to Baroque to pop. Come celebrate Mardi Gras with us!

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NJCU Athletics Rising Knight Institute’s 2nd Annual Leadership Symposium presents Eric LeGrand: Leadership Through Adversity

Wednesday, April 22
3:00–4:00 p.m.
Margaret Williams Theatre

Eric LeGrand, former defensive tackle for the Rutgers University Scarlet Knights football team, suffered a severe spinal cord injury and was left paralyzed by a crushing on-field tackle during a heated game with Army. Eric’s book Believe is a remarkable, true account of a courageous young athlete whose unshakable faith, spirit, positive outlook, and rousing motto, “BELIEVE!” would serve as inspiration to legions of fans—and as motivation in his own quest to walk again. Eric’s story received national attention, heavily covered by ESPN and Sports Illustrated. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers signed Eric to a symbolic contract as an undrafted free agent in May 2012. In 2017, LeGrand was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame as the third recipient of the Warrior Award. Students will hear how Eric overcame the odds and became a leader and a role model.

Tales From the Garden

Wednesday, April 29, 9:45 a.m.
Margaret Williams Theatre
Grades 1–6, Links: Social Studies, History

A fun-filled journey through the rich history of the Garden State from its original settlers to its many legends—as well as some of the more unique roles New Jersey has played in American history. This production meets N.J. Department of Education Core Standards. A great way to enhance your unit on New Jersey.

Nai-Ni Chen: The Art of Chinese Dance

Thursday, May 14, 9:45 a.m.
Margaret Williams Theatre
Grades: 1–6, Links: Social Studies, Dance, History & World Cultures

A multicultural, interactive dance program, with dazzling costumes and fantastic props. The Nai-Ni Chen dancers bring young people on a journey to explore one of the most ancient cultures in the world. With detailed narration about the background and inspiration of each dance, audiences experience the history, geography and the basic practice of traditional Chinese dance. Selected audience members are invited on stage to learn how to dance with silk ribbons.

Photograph: Carol Rosegg
The Addams Family

March 20, 21, 27, 28 at 7:30 p.m., March 22 and 29 at 3:00 p.m.
Margaret Williams Theatre, Tickets $15, students $5

*The Addams Family*, a comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family, features an original story that is every father’s nightmare: Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family—a man her parents have never met. And if that wasn’t upsetting enough, Wednesday confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he’s never done before—keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday’s “normal” boyfriend and his parents.

Music@One: Turkish guitar virtuoso Celil Refik Kaya

Wednesday, March 4
Recital at 1:00 p.m., Master Class at 2:00 p.m.
Ingalls Recital Hall
Free Admission with RSVP

Turkish guitarist Celil Refik Kaya has received high accolades for his accomplishments: youngest player to win First Prize in the 2012 JoAnn Falletta International Guitar Concerto Competition with the Buffalo Philharmonic, and prize winner of many international guitar competitions. Dr. Kaya is also known as a composer; he has more than 100 pieces including works for orchestra, solo guitar, violin, piano, string trio, duets and other formats.

Moving Star Vocal Ensemble

Wednesday, April 1, 1:00 p.m.
Ingalls Recital Hall
Free Admission with RSVP

Moving Star explores the transformative power and possibilities of the human voice through the synthesis of improvisation and composition. Moving Star is a collective of singers, composers, and vocal improvisers that create immersive, interactive experiences inviting self-expression in their listeners.

New Jersey Day of Percussion

Saturday, April 4, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Ingalls Recital Hall and Rossey Hall, Room 105
Free Admission with RSVP

Guest artists include: Colin McNutt, Rolando Morales-Matos, Juan Mendoza, David Mancuso and more. Percussion ensembles, concerts, clinics, door prizes, food will be sold. Professional development certificates available.

A Beethoven 250th Year Celebration

Sunday, May 3, 3:00 p.m.
Margaret Williams Theatre
Free Admission with RSVP

The NJCU Concert Chorale and Orchestra, conducted by Robert Prowse, will be joined by the Oratorio Choir of West Side Presbyterian Church, from Ridgewood, NJ, directed by Deborah Holden-Holloway, in a celebration of Beethoven’s 250th year. The concert will feature a performance of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony (“Ode to Joy”).
The NJCU Jazz Orchestra
Gabriel Alegria, Artistic Director

Friday, April 10, 8:00 p.m.
Margaret Williams Theatre
Special Guest TBA
$15 General / $5 Students

NJCU’s Jazz Ensemble and Orchestra have achieved national acclaim over the last eighteen years. This year is no exception! Don’t miss your chance to see these talented students perform.

Symphony Winds and Percussion Spring Concert

Tuesday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.
Margaret Williams Theatre
Free Admission with RSVP


NJCU Spring Jazz Fest

Saturday, April 25, 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
West Side Theatre
$20 General / $5 Students and Seniors

One Stage, eight bands. Family Friendly. Faculty and Student showcase, featuring the best and brightest of the NJCU talent pool.

Musical Theatre Workshop: Jukebox Musicals

Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m.
West Side Theatre
Free Admission with RSVP

The performance will include selections from some of Broadways greatest Jukebox Musicals.
EXHIBITIONS
ART DEPARTMENT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
SPRING 2020

Exhibitions

Neighbors Near and Far: Ibou Ndoye
Tuesday, January 21–Tuesday, March 3
Reception: Tuesday, February 4, 4:30–7:30 p.m.
The Harold B. Lemmerman Gallery

Ibou Ndoye’s paintings are populated with the “neighbors” of his homeland Senegal, as well as his adopted homes, Hoboken and Jersey City. They wrestle, play music, and dress in colorful garments, for example. During his recent visit to Senegal, after eighteen years of living in the United States, he rediscovered his artistic and cultural roots and expresses them through dynamic forms and colors.

Uprooted: Adebunmi Gbadebo
Thursday, January 30–Thursday, March 5
Reception: Wednesday, February 19, 4:30–7:30 p.m.
The Visual Arts Gallery
Free Admission with RSVP

Rejecting traditional art materials which have defined the white art history, the Newark-based artist, Adebunmi Gbadebo chose human hair as her primary medium. Varied strands of hair comprise a striking sculpture climbing up a wall. Hair is also embedded in her recent paper pulp works printed with images referencing her ancestral history. Even though having been “uprooted,” these pieces of hair carry DNAs of the people and symbolizes resisting African diaspora.

Boundless Light: Sunil Garg
Tuesday, March 17–Friday, April 17
Reception: Wednesday, March 18, 4:30–7:30 p.m.
The Visual Arts Gallery
Free Admission with RSVP

Using light, form, color, and movement, Sunil Garg creates site-specific installations to turn NJCU’s Visual Arts Gallery into a multi-sensory environment which visitors can freely explore. Through Garg’s artistry, ordinary materials such as paper, chicken wire, and PVC are morphed into ethereal matter, constantly changing impressions, and reflecting colored lights. Although technologies enable this environment, they are almost invisible and visitors can get lost within a limitless space.

Ibou Ndoye, The Wrestler, 2016, mixed media on canvas
Sunil Garg, Hanging Garden, 2020, foam boards and programmed RGB lights
**Simulacrization: Rachel Kehoe**

Monday, April 20–Friday, May 1  
Reception: Thursday, April 23, 4:30–7:30 p.m.  
The Visual Arts Gallery  
Free Admission with RSVP  

*Simulacrization* is an exhibition of work by Rachel Kehoe which examines the invasion of targeted advertisements on social media. Kehoe uses mixed media and installation to portray the amassment of user data collected by tech companies.


**Painted Stitches: Julie Marie Seibert**

Monday, April 20–Friday, May 1  
Reception: Thursday, April 23, 4:30–7:30 p.m.  
The Harold B. Lemmerman Gallery  
Free Admission with RSVP

*Painted Stitches* pays homage to dynamic women of color who have worked towards socio-political shifts. The thread serves as mark making, employing a painterly texture rather than utilizing traditional embroidery techniques for the stitch work.

Julie Marie Seibert, *Ilhan Omar*, 2019, cotton thread on canvas

**Common Language: Dahlia Elsayed**

Tuesday, March 17–Friday, April 17  
Reception: Tuesday, March 24, 4:30–7:30 p.m.  
The Harold B. Lemmerman Gallery  
Free Admission with RSVP

*Common Language* presents a series of works on paper and a site-specific ceramic installation by artist Dahlia Elsayed. Her allegorical landscapes use a symbolic vocabulary rooted in cartography, comics, and cosmology. Through Elsayed’s visual narrative, the exhibition explores the possibilities of transcultural visual communication, the potentials and limits of language, and the ways in which image and text modify each other for alternative meanings.

Dahlia Elsayed, *Family Portrait Before Some People Leave*, 2018, ceramic sculpture

**NJCU BFA Thesis Exhibition**

Monday, May 4–Friday, May 15  
The Visual Arts Gallery, Gilligan Student Union Building Gallery, and The Harold B. Lemmerman Gallery  
Reception: TBA  
Free Admission with RSVP

Featuring works of over twenty students who are to graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, this exhibition celebrates diversity and creativity of their expressions.
DR. DONNA CONNOLLY  
Area Coordinator of Vocal Studies  

Vocal Health: Helping singers explore the present and experience the self with greater efficiency  

Tuesday, February 11  
4:30–7:30 p.m.  
Margaret Williams Theatre  
Registration: $50; Students and Seniors $25  

This class is designed to help each singer body map efficiently, experience core breathing and maximize their sound through exploration of resonance.  

Soprano, Donna Zapola-Connolly, has garnered acclaim in her international career from locales as diverse as Bangkok, Cairo, Manila, Hong Kong and Korea, as well as the major opera and concert houses in New York City and around the US. Appearing with Opera Theatre of St. Louis’ acclaimed production of Il Viaggio a Reims, she has appeared as Violetta in La Traviata in Manila, Micaela in Carmen in Cairo, Agnese in Opera Orchestra of New York’s concert of Bellini’s Beatrice di Tenda conducted by Eve Queler, and under the direction of Leonard Slatkin with the St. Louis Symphony in New York’s Lincoln Center.  

She toured the US as Violetta in La Traviata with the New York City National Company and the Western Opera Theater touring company from San Francisco Opera. Dr. Connolly has toured and performed extensively in the Middle and Far Eastern countries. Among many awards, she recently was selected for the distinguished Voice Internship at Mount Sinai’s Grabscheid Voice Center in New York City, under the leadership of Dr. Peak Woo.

MARC DALIO  
Area Coordinator of Musical Theatre Studies & Professor of Voice  

Beyond the Page  

Tuesday, May 5  
4:30–7:30 p.m.  
Margaret Williams Theatre  
Registration: $50; Students and Seniors $25  

This course explores the objectives and actions within the lyrics of songs. Singers delve into “What are we doing?”, “To whom are we speaking?”, “How do we create our stories?” and “What is our job as a performer?”.  

Marc G. Dalio’s award winning stage credits include: Gaston and Beast, in the Broadway National Tour and German Permiere’s of Disney’s Beauty and the Beast, Broadway National Tour of Les Miserables (Marius), International Company of Miss Saigon (Chris) Regional leading roles in Songs for a New World, South Pacific, Romance Romance, I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change, Aida, And the World Goes Round, Miss Saigon, the American Premiere of Metropolis, West Side Story, Disney’s Beauty and the Beast, Pippin, South Pacific, Noises Off, and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Most recently, Marc was seen as Father in the critically acclaimed Children of Eden with New Jersey City University. Marc’s voice can be heard on the Original German Cast Recording of Disney’s Beauty and the Beast as Gaston, Imagination Productions’ Godspell as Judas, as well as Send Me an Angel by DJ Cosmos/Mythos, Angel Falls by Ayia, Always Running by the Euphonics and A Wish for Christmas, a CD benefiting the Make a Wish Foundation. He is also the lead singer/piano man for New York State of Mind: The Music of Billy Joel (facebook. newyorkstateofmindband).
RENT OUR THEATRES!

Consider hosting your next performance or event at the NJCU Center for The Arts. Our 1,000-seat Margaret Williams Theatre is an ideal venue for concerts of all genres, dance and music recitals, and benefit events; while our West Side Theatre, a flexible seating blackbox with a typical capacity of around 100, is perfect for smaller dramatic performances.

For questions, and information about availability and rental rates, please email Anna Carhart, theater manager, at acarhart@njcu.edu.

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