

WEIS CENTER

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

2024-25 SEASON
PERFORMANCES



Bucknell
UNIVERSITY



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to the Weis Center's 2024–25 Season

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TICKETS

For ticket prices and additional information, please visit Bucknell.edu/WeisCenter in late summer, or scan this QR code.

Subscriptions for five or more performances, which receive a 20% discount, will go on sale July 8.

Single tickets will go on sale Aug. 8.

Orders will be accepted online at Bucknell.edu/BoxOffice, by phone at 570-577-1000, and by mail order form.

Email ticketing questions to tickets@bucknell.edu.

All performances take place in the Weis Center Concert Hall unless noted otherwise.

Ryan Maxwell Photography



Marie Noëlle Pillon

CONSIDER A GIFT TO THE WEIS CENTER

Your donations enable us to bring the world's finest performing artists to the campus, community and region — while keeping ticket prices affordable. We use one-hundred percent of gifts to fund programming and residency activities.

Donors to the Weis Center are acknowledged as contributors to Bucknell University and receive receipts from the University for these potentially tax-deductible donations. Contributions of \$100 or more will be listed in all Weis Center digital programs for one full year.

For information about personal and corporate giving levels and benefits, please contact Lisa Leighton at 570-577-3727 or Lisa.Leighton@bucknell.edu.

FALL 2024

BLUEGRASS

Sierra Hull

Friday, Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Sierra Hull is widely regarded as a master of the mandolin. She is a two-time Grammy-nominated artist and songwriter, recognized for her most recent projects, *25 Trips* (2020) and *Weighted Mind* (2016), and is also the six-time recipient of the International Bluegrass Music Association's Mandolin Player of the Year, the first woman to ever receive this distinction.

CLASSICAL

Orpheus Chamber Orchestra with pianist Garrick Ohlsson

Thursday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m.

For five decades Orpheus Chamber Orchestra has been delighting audiences worldwide with a sound that reflects a capacity to create collaboratively. With Garrick Ohlsson, the group will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 9 (Jeunehomme), along with Brahms' Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel, Op. 24. Additionally, composer and six-time Grammy-winner Billy Childs infuses classical traditions with his jazz roots in a new work performed by Orpheus.

CONTEMPORARY CIRQUE

Machine de Cirque

Ghost Light: Between Fall and Flight

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 7 p.m.

Award-winning Guinness World Record-holder Maxim Laurin performs a spectacular duet with Guillaume Larouche on a spinning teeter board that brings audiences into the elusive world between fall and flight. *Ghost Light* features a blend of breathtaking acrobatic feats, poignant choreography and a saturated lighting design.



Neda Navaee



Emmanuel Burtiel





AMERICANA

Charly Lowry

Thursday, Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Charly Lowry, a musical powerhouse from Pembroke, N.C., is proud to be an Indigenous woman belonging to the Lumbee/Tuscarora tribes. She is passionate about raising awareness around issues that plague underdeveloped and underserved communities.



Gael Della Valle



CONTEMPORARY CIRQUE

Cirque Kikasse

Saturday, Oct. 19; 12 noon & 4 p.m. | Weis Center Plaza
FREE, tickets not required.

Cirque Kikasse presents *SANTÉ!*, a dynamic circus show with high-level acrobatics, contagious energy and breathtaking balances, all on an extraordinary food-cirque truck. The performers arrange furniture that turns into a balancing tower 30 feet off the ground, playfully and inefficiently clean the truck and trampoline and react to an overflowing popcorn machine. This fun concept will give thrills to even the most seasoned in the audience.

JAZZ/SAXOPHONE

Lakecia Benjamin Quartet

Thursday, Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m.

One of the most sought-after and revered saxophonists in the world, Lakecia Benjamin was voted 2020 DownBeat Critics Poll's Rising Star, alto saxophone, and Up and Coming Artist of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association. Known for her charisma and dynamism as a player and as a composer, she has an inimitable skill of fusing traditional conceptions of jazz, hip-hop and soul. Her latest album, *Phoenix*, was nominated for three Grammy awards.



CONTEMPORARY DANCE
RUBBERBAND:
Ever So Slightly

Tuesday, Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m.

Los Angeles native Victor Quijada brings together classical dance composition and West Coast hip-hop like no one before him. Bursting onto the scene with his Montreal-based company in 2002, Quijada's dance technique, the RUBBERBAND Method, is taught in some of the most prestigious dance schools and conservatories from Los Angeles to London. *Ever So Slightly* explores the behavioral mechanisms and reflexes we develop against the ceaseless flow of irritants that bombard us in our daily lives. Most of us long for calm and resilience and ask how do we get to a zone where noise and aggressiveness no longer have a place?

CLASSICAL

Quartetto di Cremona

Sunday, Nov. 3, 4 p.m.

Winner of the 2019 Franco Buitoni Award, Quartetto di Cremona is among the world's preeminent string quartets, noted for its lustrous sound, refined musicianship and stylistic versatility. According to *The Strad*, its Lincoln Center debut in 2022, "was distinguished by splendid balance, abundant color and a relaxed mastery of all the musical elements."

JAZZ/PIANO

Sean Mason

Thursday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m.

When Sean Mason speaks about music, the notes fall into place. The cadence of his ideas unfolds with deliberate tempo, each exploring and resolving tension like an inspired chord progression. On his debut album, *The Southern Suite*, he emerges as a guiding luminary, shining his introspective command as both a pianist and composer through the historic lens of jazz to create a work that distills the essence of the genre for our time, even as it points the way forward.



Nikolaj Lund





BLUEGRASS

Sister Sadie

Friday, Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m.

Sister Sadie is a wildfire of raging hot bluegrass combined with breathtaking instrumental drive and awe-inspiring vocals. Comprised of original members Deanie Richardson (fiddle) and Gena Britt (banjo and vocals), and newcomers Jaelee Roberts (guitar and vocals), Dani Flowers (guitar and vocals) and Maddie Dalton (acoustic bass and vocals), Sister Sadie has combined the varied talents of each woman in the lineup to create something that is far more than the sum of its parts.

PUPPETRY/THEATRE

MAROONED! A Space Comedy

Saturday, Nov. 16, 4 p.m.

Appropriate for all ages.

Alex and Olmsted's Jim Henson Foundation grant-awarded *MAROONED! A Space Comedy* is an innovative new puppet show that features music from the Voyager Golden Record and takes place at the outer reaches of space. An astronaut crashes on an uncharted planet. Will she be able to survive strange creatures, an anomalous atmosphere and isolation in order to find her way home? See for yourself in *MAROONED!*



Guy Thompson



DELTA BLUES

Tab Benoit

Saturday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.

Tab Benoit is a Grammy-nominated singer, songwriter and guitarist who has built a remarkable 30-plus year career on the foundation of his gritty and soulful Delta-swamp blues. He's acquired a devoted legion of fans along the way as well as five Blues Music Awards, including B.B. King Entertainer of the Year (twice), and an induction into The Louisiana Music Hall of Fame.



SPRING 2025

WORLD MUSIC/FLAMENCO

Pablo Giménez Spanish Ensemble

Friday, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m.

Pablo Giménez is a flamenco and classical guitarist who performs as a soloist, in chamber music ensembles and as an accompanist for flamenco dance and song. He is also the artistic director and guitarist of the Pablo Giménez Spanish Ensemble and flamenco company Corazon de Granada.

GOSPEL QUARTET

Kings Return

Saturday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.

Dynamic and soothing four-piece vocal group Kings Return takes pride in crafting a diverse yet supremely cohesive a cappella sound. The blend of their unique vocal timbres is so rich and smooth that, at times, it sounds more like a full choir than four men. Their brand of rhythm and blues is entwined with free moments of jazz, soulful bursts of gospel and bright touches of pop — all built on a solid, classical foundation.

WORLD MUSIC/BRAZILIAN PIANIST

Heloísa Fernandes Quartet

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.

The work of Brazilian pianist and composer Heloísa Fernandes encompasses literature, poetry, nature and the classical, jazz and Brazilian musical worlds for creations with rhythmic vitality and melodic delicacy. As an improviser, she searches for emotional depths and soars with joy. In addition to herself, the quartet includes Toninho Carrasqueira (flute), Sidiel Vieira (bass) and Ari Colares (percussion).





BLUEGRASS

Henhouse Prowlers

Friday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Founded nearly two decades ago, this Chicago-bred quartet finds itself at the intersection of performance, diplomacy and education. Onstage, the group's performances give audiences a sense of how much they love what they do. In recordings — including 2023's *Lead and Iron*, released via Dark Shadow Recording — the band explores their collective life experiences through songwriting and intricate instrumentation. While bluegrass is the undeniable foundation of the Henhouse Prowlers' music, the band bends and squeezes the traditional form into a keenly developed sound all its own.

JAZZ

Nate Smith

Friday, Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Nate Smith is a drummer, composer and producer from Chesapeake, Va. His visceral, instinctive and deep-rooted style of drumming has led to three Grammy nominations. Smith fuses his original compositions with an eclectic mix of music, including everything from jazz to rhythm and blues and hip-hop to pop. His latest album, *Kinfolk 2: See the Birds*, is the highly anticipated follow up to his 2017 Grammy Award-nominated album, *Kinfolk: Postcards From Everywhere*. Smith's videos have been viewed by millions of people, underscoring his popularity as one of the most influential drummers of his generation.



CLASSICAL

Esmé Quartet

Friday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.

Praised for its warm sound and powerful stage presence, the Esmé Quartet was formed in 2016 at the Hochschule für Musik in Cologne, Germany, by four musicians who had been friends since their youth. The Esmé Quartet brings together four brilliant and distinct musical personalities to form a cohesive, close-knit group that is passionately dedicated to the string quartet repertoire.



WORLD MUSIC/UKRAINE

DakhaBrakha

Thursday, March 20, 7:30 p.m.

DakhaBrakha is a world music quartet from Kyiv, Ukraine. Reflecting fundamental elements of sound and soul, Ukrainian “ethno-chaos” band DakhaBrakha creates a world of unexpected new music. The group is original, outstanding and authentic at the same time, and its name means give/take in the old Ukrainian language. Accompanied by Indian, Arabic, African and Ukrainian traditional instrumentation, the quartet’s astonishingly powerful and uncompromising vocal range creates a trans-national sound rooted in Ukrainian culture.

BALLET

Houston Ballet II

Friday, March 28, 7:30 p.m.

Houston Ballet II is the second company of Houston Ballet, America’s fourth largest ballet company. Comprised of a stellar array of young dancers from around the world, Houston Ballet II is under the direction of Artistic Directors Julie Kent and Stanton Welch AM. They will perform: Grand Pas de Deux from Don Quixote, Act II, A Dance in the Garden of Mirth and Sleeping Beauty, Act III.



Vitaliy Yurasov



Jacob Lewis Lovendahl



Amitava Sarkar

CLASSICAL

Neave Trio

Sunday, March 30, 2 p.m.

Since forming in 2010, the Grammy-nominated Neave Trio, including violinist Anna Williams, cellist Mikhail Veselov and pianist Eri Nakamura, has earned enormous praise for its engaging, cutting-edge performances. *Gramophone* praised the trio’s “taut and vivid interpretations,” while *The Strad* called out the musicians’ “eloquent phrasing and deft control of textures” and *BBC Music Magazine* described the performances as balancing “passion with sensitivity and grace.”

WORLD MUSIC

Zakir Hussain and Masters of Percussion

Thursday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.

Zakir Hussain is appreciated both in the field of percussion and in the music world at large as an international phenomenon and one of the greatest musicians of our time. A classical tabla virtuoso of the highest order, his consistently brilliant and exciting performances have established him as a national treasure in his own country, India, and as one of India's reigning cultural ambassadors.

BLUES

Ruthie Foster

Friday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.

Renowned for her ability to weave together a tapestry of diverse musical influences ranging from gospel and blues to folk and soul, Ruthie Foster's musical odyssey has taken her from singing in churches in rural Texas to earning multiple Grammy nominations, gracing the stage of New York's Beacon Theatre with the Allman Brothers, and collaborating with icons such as Susan Tedeschi and Derek Trucks. With her milestone tenth studio album, *Mileage*, released by the legendary Sun Records, Foster continues to tell stories that reflect her personal triumphs, losses and the universal human experience.

Curricular Connections

Many of the performances presented at the Weis Center feature additional programming where Bucknell's faculty and students can connect with visiting artists through masterclasses, pre-show talks, class visits and community meals. These active-learning opportunities support the core values of a liberal arts curriculum as they engage students with real-world problems and ideas, challenge students to think critically and increase cultural intelligence. Curricular Connections with artists are designed to enrich the educational experience at Bucknell by expanding the walls of the classroom. Please contact Rachel Martine at Rachel.Martine@bucknell.edu for more information or to organize a class connection.

