

Harris Theater for Music and Dance Announces 2024-25 Season

Twyla Tharp 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee
Featuring Chicago's celebrated Third Coast Percussion

US Premiere of *Scott Joplin's Treemonisha* — *A Musical Reimagining*

Joyce DiDonato + Kings Return

Carnival of the Animals featuring Marc Bamuthi Joseph and Wendy Whelan

Chicago, IL, April 25, 2024 – The Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater for Music and Dance today announced its *Harris Theater Presents (HTP)* season for 2024-25. Building on the success of its milestone 20th anniversary season, the Harris welcomes innovative North American artists in 23 performances featuring two commissioned new works, a US Premiere, Chicago debuts, and world-renowned and emerging talent in music and dance that forwards the Theater's artistic philosophy of fostering creative opportunities for conversation and collaboration while providing a state-of-the-art home for 30 local midsize arts organizations.

The *HTP Mainstage* series' focus is on storytelling – distinctly, uniquely American stories. From honoring American dance icon **Twyla Tharp** on her 60th anniversary to reimagining Scott Joplin's ragtime-era opera *Treemonisha*, to honoring the Theater's ongoing relationship with opera star **Joyce DiDonato** with Texas-based a cappella group **Kings Return** or exploring the communities of African American, Chinese, Irish, and Indigenous workers that built the US Transcontinental Railroad with Silkroad Ensemble's *American Railroad*, to using the January 6th, 2021 insurrection as a starting point for a new multi-discipline work set to a reimagined score of Camille Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*, the series dives into historical, political, and human themes with creativity and innovative artistry.

"This season marks a vibrant celebration of music and dance, as many of our programs blend creative disciplines, styles, and genres on stage. I'm thrilled for our audiences to witness these exceptional collaborations and the unique programming that distinguishes us in Chicago," remarked Lori Dimun, the President and CEO of the Harris Theater. "This season's lineup enables us to strengthen our community engagement efforts by weaving connections between visiting and local artists and their communities. Through master classes, conversations, residencies, and

community classes, we delve deeper into the artistic work and practices of our visiting artists, fostering shared experiences that extend far beyond our venue's four walls."

The **HTP Mainstage** dance series is anchored by a Chicago stop on the cross-country tour of legendary choreographer Twyla Tharp. **Twyla Tharp's 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee** includes her Olivier-nominated work set to Beethoven's notoriously challenging score, **Diabelli Variations**, and a new work by Philip Glass performed live with local ensemble Third Coast Percussion. **Carnival of the Animals**, a co-commission produced by SOZO, is an evening-length interdisciplinary work of spoken word, dance, and music merging the talents of Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Wendy Whelan, and Francesca Harper. This production features live music onstage and re-frames Saint-Saëns' classic work, with composer Sugar Vendil reworking the piece 100 years after its original publication. Also in this series is the Chicago debut of Philadelphia-based **BalletX** and Minneapolis-based **Ragamala Dance Company** with a new work, *Children of Dharma* by acclaimed Bharatanatyam choreographers Aparna Ramaswamy, Raneer Ramaswamy, and Ashwini Ramaswamy.

The **HTP Mainstage** music series welcomes back Grammy Award-winning **Silkroad Ensemble**, now under the direction of Grammy Award-winning folk musician, Rhiannon Giddens. **American Railroad** features an original score telling the immigrant stories during the creation of the US Transcontinental Railroad to "re-contextualize" the railroad through music. The Toronto-based company Volcano brings a new interpretation of Scott Joplin's opera **Treemonisha**, featuring an all-Black cast and creative team in this US premiere of the fully staged work of this post-Slavery tale reimagined for the 21st century. "This work is about the things we were told separated us, and how we internalized them. It is about the remnants of memory, trauma, love, and joy, but most of all it is about Black women and their extraordinary ability to survive," said writer and creator, Leah-Simone Bowen. In addition, the series features a festive vocal collaboration just in time for the holidays between opera singer **Joyce DiDonato** and a cappella group **Kings Return** with Grammy Award-winning pianist Craig Terry playing arrangements of both popular and spiritual music.

The **Family Series** presents a new sensory-friendly work by guitarist and composer, **Kaki King**, co-commissioned by the Harris Theater. Created to be accessible to neurodivergent audiences and designed to be interactive, **BUGS** incorporates music, field recordings of insect sounds, video, special effects, and lots of bugs! This series also includes special matinee performances of **Ragamala Dance Company's Children of Dharma** and a unique collaboration between local jazz vocalist **Dee Alexander** and tap dancer **Jumaane Taylor**.

The **Chamber Music Series** brings back **The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center**, beginning in the fall with *Virtuoso Winds* — a program that brings together wind instruments and piano in a kaleidoscope of sonic colors. A beloved holiday tradition continues with the complete *Brandenburg Concertos* in December. In the spring, CMS brings masterworks by Schubert, Strauss, Tchaikovsky, and others, performed by a stunning lineup of artists.

The ***Mix at Six Series*** continues to thrill the happy hour crowd with four early evening concerts featuring acclaimed bass-baritone **Davóne Tines** and the Black chamber music collective **D-Composed, LADAMA** — a group of three women, virtuosic musicians, and educators from different countries and cultures of the Americas, as well as local artists **Dee Alexander and Jumaane Taylor**, and **Isaiah Collier + the Chosen Few**.

In the ***Beyond the Aria Series***, now in its 10th season, the Harris again partners with the Lyric Opera of Chicago and their Ryan Opera Center to bring casual, cabaret-style performances to the picturesque, yet intimate Pritzker Stage. In four concerts, opera stars collaborate with series Artistic Director, Craig Terry, to curate evenings filled with songs that span eras and range from the romantic to rock and roll.

Throughout the season, *Harris Theater Presents* artists will offer masterclasses, residencies, and audience enrichment opportunities in collaboration with education and community partners as well as Resident Companies around the city.

The Harris is excited to create deeper residencies for their partners, including a multi-day collaboration with the Poetry Foundation and the Boys and Girls Club of Chicago around the Chicago debut of *Carnival of the Animals*, exploring the world of *Children of Dharma* through a cooking demonstration, and vocal workshops led by artists of *Scott Joplin's Treemonisha*. Educational materials will be constructed for audiences and partners alike and the organization will continue to expand the definition of engagement by developing partnerships across the greater Chicago community.

Leadership support for the 2024-25 season is provided by: Irving Harris Foundation and Joan W. Harris, Abby McCormick O'Neil and D. Carroll Joynes, Chauncey and Marion D. McCormick Family Foundation, Harris Family Foundation and Caryn and King Harris, Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols Family Foundation and Alexandra C. Nichols, ITW, and Peoples Gas Community Fund.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2024-25 HTP MAINSTAGE, MIX AT SIX, FAMILY SERIES, AND CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES ON SALE NOW

Subscriptions are on sale now, available online or through the Harris Theater Box Office. Subscribers save up to 40% on tickets when purchased by May 16 and also receive unique benefits to enhance the experience and convenience of their time at the Harris including fee-free ticket exchanges, restaurant partner discounts, and access to special events with artists throughout the season.

The Harris Theater Box Office is open for phone support 12-5 p.m., Monday through Friday on non-performance days, and extended hours on performance days. To reach the Box Office, call 312.344.7777 or email info@harristheaterchicago.org. The box office is not currently available for walkup.

2024-25 AT A GLANCE:

Harris Theater Rooftop performance

Saturday, September 7, 2024

More details to be announced.

Davóne Tines and D-Composed, program to be announced

Mix at Six

Tuesday, October 1, 2024 / 6:00 PM

Acclaimed bass-baritone Davóne Tines heralded as “[one] of the most powerful voices of our time” (*Los Angeles Times*) joins forces with the Black chamber music collective D-Composed in a special program.

Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Wendy Whelan, Francesca Harper

Carnival of the Animals: A SOZO Production

HTP Mainstage

Saturday, October 19, 2024 / 7:30 PM

Marc Bamuthi Joseph, (spoken word artist and cultural strategist), Wendy Whelan (dancer and associate artistic director of the New York City Ballet), and Francesca Harper (artistic director of Ailey II), team up to present an evening-length concert with dance, poetry, and music, set to a reinvented score of the Saint-Saëns classic, *Carnival of the Animals*. A century after the music was originally published, composer Sugar Vendil creates a fresh take on the familiar musical variations combined with movement and text tackling underlying political themes surrounding the January 6th, 2021 insurrection.

LADAMA

Mix at Six

Wednesday, October 30, 2024 / 6:00 PM

LADAMA is an ensemble of women musicians from across the Americas who strive to engage youth in their respective communities in the process of music-making, composition, and audio production through collaboration and performance workshops.

Silkroad Ensemble with Rhiannon Giddens

American Railroad

HTP Mainstage

Thursday, November 7, 2024 / 7:30 PM

Under the direction of Pulitzer Prize and Grammy Award-winning musician, Rhiannon Giddens, Silkroad Ensemble returns to the Harris with its newest initiative, *American Railroad*. Featuring original music, *American Railroad* tells a tale of immigrant communities – African American, Chinese, Indigenous, Irish, and other – and the creation of the US Transcontinental Railroad, re-contextualizing the railroad and the intersection of cultures it brings together in a uniquely American story.

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center: *Virtuoso Winds*

Chamber Music Series

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 / 7:30 PM

This outstanding collection of internationally renowned wind players, joined by CMS favorite Anne-Marie McDermott, offers ensemble classics from the 18th through 20th centuries. All the instruments gather for Poulenc’s effervescent Sextet, which he described as “an homage to the wind instruments I have loved from the moment I began composing.”

BalletX

Mixed Repertoire

HTP Mainstage

Thursday, November 21, 2024 / 7:30 PM

Recognized internationally as a home for creation, innovation, and inclusion, Philadelphia’s premier contemporary ballet, BalletX, inspires human connection through extraordinary dance experiences. Hailed as an “epicenter of creation” by *Dance Magazine* and a “place of choreographic innovation” by *The New Yorker*, the trailblazing company makes its Harris Theater debut with a groundbreaking program that expands the vocabulary of ballet. The company will present a mixed repertory program featuring the Chicago premiere of Jennifer Archibald’s *Exalt*, a dynamic fusion of traditional ballet and pulsating house music.

Kaki King

BUGS

Family Series

Saturday, November 30, 2024 / 2:00 PM

BUGS, is a new piece by Kaki King that brings visuals, music, special effects, and real insect sounds together to create a fun, interactive story about creepy, crawling critters. This sensory friendly performance is made for a neurodivergent audience — wireless headphones will be available for children who prefer to listen at a lower volume and move their bodies — incorporating live guitar music, audio samples of bugs in their natural habitat, and real-time fun!

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center: *Brandenburg Concertos*

Chamber Music Series

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 / 7:30 PM

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center returns to Chicago for its annual holiday tradition at the Harris. Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos*, each written for a different collection of instruments, show off the composer's inventiveness and the musicians' virtuosity. Celebrate the holiday season with all six of these unique, exuberant works.

Joyce DiDonato and Kings Return with Craig Terry

KINGS ReJOYCE!

HTP Mainstage

Friday, December 13, 2024 / 7:30 PM

American opera singer, Joyce DiDonato, joins vocal forces with pianist and artistic director of the Theater's *Beyond the Aria* series, Craig Terry, as well as Texas-based vocal group Kings Return for an eclectic and festive program just in time for the holidays. The artists will perform separately and together creating a new vocal collaboration for the Chicago audience.

Dee Alexander + Jumaane Taylor

Mix at Six

Friday, February 7, 2025 / 6:00 PM

Jazz diva Dee Alexander teams up with tapper and Chicago Human Rhythm Project artistic director Jumaane Taylor for an upbeat collaboration featuring two Chicago homegrown talents, bringing Alexander's "It's All About Love" and Taylor's "Supreme Love" — just in time for Valentine's Day.

Dee Alexander + Jumaane Taylor

Family Series

Saturday, February 8, 2025 / 2:00 PM

Jazz diva Dee Alexander teams up with tapper and Chicago Human Rhythm Project artistic director Jumaane Taylor for an upbeat collaboration featuring two Chicago homegrown talents, bringing Alexander's "It's All About Love" and Taylor's "Supreme Love" to audiences of all ages — just in time for Valentine's Day.

Isaiah Collier + the Chosen Few

Mix at Six

March 11, 2025 / 6:00 PM

Coming out of the vibrant Chicago scene, multi-instrumentalist, composer, curator, activist, and educator Isaiah Collier has made a name for himself in music. *Cosmic Transitions*, his 2021 release with his band the Chosen Few, earned a five-star review from *Downbeat* and multiple Album of the Year accolades, amongst other praises.

Ragamala Dance Company

Children of Dharma

Created by Aparna Ramaswamy, Ranee Ramaswamy, and Ashwini Ramaswamy

HTP Mainstage

Friday, March 21, 2025 / 7:30 PM

Described as “soulful, imaginative, and rhythmically contagious” by *The New York Times*, Ragamala Dance Company presents *Children of Dharma*. The Ramaswamys’ iconic synthesis of poetic movement and lush visual imagery reveals the rippling effects of dharma, or “right action” wordlessly through the body. Featuring scenic and light design by famed French artist Willy Cessa, *Children of Dharma* illustrates the emotional, moral, and physical consequences exacted on and outside an epic battlefield.

Ragamala Dance Company

Children of Dharma

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Family Series

Saturday, March 22, 2025 / 2:00 PM

Children of Dharma transports viewers to a mythic world of warfare, magic, and beauty. The dancers embody the rippling effects of dharma, or “right action” in a multidisciplinary experience that incorporates a literary epic, South Asian cultural history, original music and Bharatanatyam choreography.

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center: *Schubert's Trout Quintet*

Chamber Music Series

Tuesday, March 25, 2025 / 7:30 PM

Schubert's "Trout" Quintet not only demonstrates his genius for melody and lyricism, but also features a distinct combination of instruments: only one violin and the addition of double bass. The richness of the low strings can also be heard in Mozart's *Adagio and Fugue*, which deepens the string quartet's tonal range.

Twyla Tharp 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee

Diabelli + New Work with music by Philip Glass featuring Third Coast Percussion

HTP Mainstage

Thursday, April 10, 2025 / 7:30 PM

Saturday, April 12, 2025 / 2:00 PM

World-renowned choreographer Twyla Tharp stops at the Harris on her US tour celebrating her 60th anniversary. Her notable wit, complex structural ideas, and musicality are at the forefront in this program featuring the Olivier-nominated *Diabelli Variations*, set to Beethoven's difficult score. Also featured is a new work danced to Philip Glass's *Aguas da Amazonia*, which will be performed live by Chicago's Grammy Award-winning percussion ensemble, Third Coast Percussion.

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center: *Tchaikovsky's Souvenir de Florence*

Chamber Music Series

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 / 7:30 PM

After beginning with Bach, who used six voices to compose his fugue-on-demand for Frederick the Great, the group splits for Classical and Romantic string trios, before re-combining in Strauss's Sextet from *Capriccio* and Tchaikovsky's blockbuster *Souvenir de Florence*.

Volcano

Scott Joplin's Treemonisha – A Musical Reimagining

HTP Mainstage

Friday, May 2, 2025 / 7:30 PM, US Premiere of fully staged work

Saturday, May 3, 2025 / 7:30 PM

Sunday, May 4, 2025 / 2:00 PM

Scott Joplin's Treemonisha is an imaginative retelling of Scott Joplin's c. 1911 opera by a team of internationally acclaimed Black women artists, including Grammy winner Jessie Montgomery, Chicago Symphony Orchestra's 2024 Mead Composer-in-Residence, and 2-time Grammy Award-nominee Jannina Norpoth, with story and libretto by Leah-Simone Bowen with co-librettist Cheryl L. Davis. This reimagined version centers the character of an extraordinary young woman named Treemonisha, in an 1880s community split by different visions of America. It features an all-Black cast and orchestra, directed by Weyni Mengesha and conducted by Jeri Lynne Johnson. The Friday performance will be the US premiere of the fully staged work.

2024-25 HARRIS THEATER PRESENTS: SERIES AND ARTISTS

HTP MAINSTAGE

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FAMILY SERIES

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Davóne Tines and D-Composed

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BEYOND THE ARIA SERIES

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About the Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater for Music and Dance

The Harris Theater is Chicago's home for music and dance, connecting diverse audiences with artists from across the city, the nation, and the world. An anchor institution of Millennium Park and the first multi-use performance venue built in downtown Chicago since 1929, the Harris was established in 2003 to create a much-needed home for the city's vibrant community of midsize performing arts organizations. Today, the nonprofit Harris Theater features some of the most diverse arts and culture offerings in the city, from its Chicago-based Resident Companies to the world-renowned visiting artists who perform on its stage through the *Harris Theater Presents* series.

The Harris represents a distinctive model for artistic excellence, collaboration, and creative symbiosis, making the performing arts relevant and accessible to the widest possible audience. Acting as both a home base for and a supportive partner of its Resident Companies, the Harris provides state-of-the-art performance space and ongoing support to nearly 30 Chicago-based performing arts organizations. Its 1,500-seat multi-use theater brings innovative and boundary-pushing productions from more than 32 countries across six continents to Chicago, creating unique opportunities for dialogue between Chicagoans and the world's leading artists, thinkers, and innovators. The organization's signature *Harris Theater Presents* series has featured acclaimed artists and ensembles including Joyce DiDonato, Batsheva Dance, The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, New York City Ballet, English National Ballet, Joshua Bell, Monteverdi Choir and Orchestras, Angélique Kidjo, and Paris Opéra Ballet. The Theater's education and community engagement initiatives build bridges between artists and community members, providing master classes, artist talks, and free tickets for more than 35 partner organizations throughout Chicago.

To learn more about the Harris Theater, Chicago's home for music and dance in Millennium Park, visit harristheaterchicago.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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Media Contacts:

Kari Shaffer

Vice President of Marketing and Sales

kshaffer@harristheaterchicago.org

312.334.2454

Adriana Prieto

Director of Marketing

aprieto@harristheaterchicago.org

312.682.6219