



## Harris Theater for Music and Dance Announces 2025–26 Season

Five Performances by The Joffrey Ballet Include a World Premiere

Silkroad Ensemble with Rhiannon Giddens Returns to the *HTP Mainstage Series*

April 28, 2025

[PHOTOS AVAILABLE HERE](#)

Chicago, IL — The Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater for Music and Dance announces the 2025–26 season of its *Harris Theater Presents (HTP)* series. Launched in 2006, *HTP* continues to bring world-class artists to Chicago to tell stories of human experiences from a multitude of perspectives. *HTP* includes a variety of productions spanning multiple genres of music and dance, with artists hailing from around the globe. The Harris Theater is proud to be a home in Chicago for each of these artists and companies, from those performing in our city for the first time to those in long-standing partnerships, including Harris Theater Resident Companies.

“Like most artistic endeavors, a presented season is years in the making — full of dreaming and trust built between artists and presenters,” explained Lori Dimun, President and CEO of the Harris Theater. “As a still-young and evolving institution, the Harris Theater has the freedom to shape each season with intention — to pursue bold ideas, amplify new voices, and respond to the diverse and growing audiences who come through our doors. Every artist, company, and ensemble in the 2025–26 season has come to offer something truly special. There’s magic in that. What you will experience is a gift from each artist and from the Harris Theater — an experience curated just for you, our Chicago audiences. I couldn’t be more excited to share this season.”

A major highlight of the season is the appearance of **The Joffrey Ballet** on November 6–9, 2025. In a program titled ***Joffrey at the Harris: Matters of the Heart***, the Joffrey brings two important works to the *HTP Mainstage* series: the world premiere of ***Wabash & You*** (set in Chicago, with choreography by **Chanel DaSilva** and music by **The Main Squeeze**), and the critically acclaimed ***Broken Wings*** (inspired by the life and art of Frida Kahlo, with choreography by **Annabelle Lopez Ochoa** and music by **Peter Salem**). Both works draw on themes of love and resilience, expressed through the Joffrey’s expert artistry. Other *HTP Mainstage* dance programs include the US premiere of ***Nomad***, created by **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui**, artistic director of the Antwerp-based dance company **Eastman**; ten local dance companies joining forces under the auspices of the **Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project**; and a collection of works from Brooklyn’s **GALLIM** and its award-winning artistic director **Andrea Miller**.

In addition to robust dance programming, *HTP Mainstage* continues to bring some of today’s most innovative musical leaders to Chicago. The Harris Theater is honored to welcome back

the Grammy Award–winning **Silkroad Ensemble with Rhiannon Giddens** for ***Sanctuary: The Power of Resonance and Ritual***. Combining music from such diverse traditions as Sicilian tarantella, Moroccan Gnawa, Indian Classical, and American old-time, the program explores the power of trance to forge stronger human connections in an increasingly fractured world. A similar spirit of adventurous combination imbues **Steve Hackman's *Beethoven X Beyoncé***, a mashup of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony with Beyoncé's greatest hits that revels in the commonalities of all great dance music. This high-energy program features the **Chicago Philharmonic**, a Resident Company of the Harris.

For its ***Chamber Music Series***, the Harris Theater welcomes back the **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center**, a long-time partner which brings its “enviable roster” (*The New York Times*) of musicians to Chicago for four programs, including the annual December holiday performance of the complete *Brandenburg Concertos*. In the fall concert, the viola takes the spotlight, with works by Beethoven, Mozart, and Brett Dean that add an extra viola to the standard string quartet format to create rich sonorities. The *Chamber Music Series* continues in the spring with piano trios by Shostakovich and Schubert, and concludes with an all-French program in May.

The ***Mix at Six*** series offers engaging, innovative programming at an affordable price on weeknights, making for some of the most anticipated events in Chicago's cultural landscape. This season, three early-evening programs include a performance by **Damon Locks's Black Monument Ensemble**, a Chicago-based multi-generational collective of artists, musicians, and dancers. In her Chicago debut, two-time Jazz FM Vocalist of the Year **Zara McFarlane** performs a tribute to jazz legend Sarah Vaughan. And composer, conductor, vocalist, and multi-instrumentalist **Angel Bat Dawid** premieres ***The Souls of Black Folk Suite***, an original work based on the treatise by W. E. B. Du Bois, featuring musicians from **The Great Blk Music Infinity Ensemble** and **D-Composed String Ensemble**.

Now in its 11th year, the Harris Theater's ***Beyond the Aria*** series brings cabaret-style performances to the intimate Pritzker Stage in collaboration with **Lyric Opera of Chicago** and their **Ryan Opera Center**. In four programs throughout the season, opera stars and series Artistic Director **Craig Terry** curate evenings filled with songs spanning centuries and styles. Dates and artists will be announced this summer.

A reimagined *Family Series* will also be announced later this summer. The new iteration of the series will allow kids to get up close and personal to the music in the welcoming “No Shushing Allowed” environment that Harris Theater families know and love from seasons past.

Leadership support for the 2025–26 *Harris Theater Presents* 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, The Harris Family Foundation, Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols Family Foundation and Alexandra C. Nichols, Jack and Sandra Guthman, ITW, Gregory J. O'Leary and Patricia A. Kenney, William Blair & Company and Alaina Anderson, Gail Eisenhart Belytschko, Pamela Crutchfield, and Ted A. Grady and Dr. Ross Slotten.**

*Joffrey at the Harris: Matters of the Heart* is generously supported by **Courtney C. Shea and Penelope R. Steiner.**

## **Subscriptions for 2025–26 HTP Mainstage, Mix at Six, 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 22, 2025, 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 12:00–5:00 PM, 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](mailto:info@harristheaterchicago.org). The box office is not currently available for walkup.

### **2025–26 Season at a Glance**

#### **Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project**

##### ***Unbound: Shattered Frames, Endless Visions***

###### *Mainstage*

Saturday, August 23, 2025 / 6:00 PM

The season begins with the premiere of *Unbound: Shattered Frames, Endless Visions*, brought to the Harris Theater by the Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project — a multi-year project housed at the University of Chicago’s Logan Center for the Arts that celebrates the historic impact of Black dance in Chicago. This performance features artists from ten Chicago-based dance companies: The Chicago Multicultural Dance Company and Hiplet Ballerinas, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, The Era Footwork Collective, Forward Momentum Chicago, Joel Hall Dancers & Center, M.A.D.D. Rhythms, Move Me Soul, Muntu Dance Theatre, NAJWA Dance Corps, and Praize Productions, Inc.

#### **Damon Locks’s Black Monument Ensemble**

###### *Mix at Six*

October 24, 2025 / 6:00 PM

The Black Monument Ensemble, a Chicago-based multi-generational collective of artists, musicians, and dancers led by multimedia artist and activist Damon Locks, kicks off the *Mix at Six* series with an evening of music that is at once uplifting, anthemic, and highly animated.

#### **Joffrey Ballet**

##### ***Joffrey at the Harris: Matters of the Heart***

###### *Mainstage*

Thursday, November 6, 2025 / 7:30 PM

Friday, November 7, 2025 / 7:30 PM

Saturday, November 8, 2025 / 2:00 PM

Saturday, November 8, 2025 / 7:30 PM

Sunday, November 9, 2025 / 2:00 PM

The Joffrey Ballet, one of the leading ballet companies in the United States, performs the world premiere of *Wabash & You*, a love story set in Chicago. Also on the program is the Joffrey premiere of *Broken Wings*, based on the life and art of Frida Kahlo, and which *Bachtrack* calls “a ballet you’ll want to see again and again, one that illuminates, empowers and soars.”

**Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center**

***Mozart's Viola Quintet in C Major***

*Chamber Music Series*

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 / 7:30 PM

From Vaughan Williams's *Phantasy Quintet* to Brett Dean's haunting *Epitaphs*, the works on this program explore the rich sonorities created when an extra viola joins the standard string quartet formation. The performance culminates in Mozart's joyful and uplifting C-major Quintet.

**Steve Hackman**

***Beethoven X Beyoncé***

*Mainstage*

Thursday, November 20, 2025 / 7:30 PM

Steve Hackman, known for his genre-blending explorations of classical and popular music, performs *Beethoven X Beyoncé*, a mashup of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony with Beyoncé's greatest hits. An artist who is committed to celebrating great music of all varieties, Hackman has been praised for his "innovative brilliance and style reminiscent of the late, great maestro Leonard Bernstein" (*On the Aisle*). The Chicago Philharmonic, a Harris Theater Resident Company, joins Hackman and three powerful female soloists — accompanied by a guest drummer, guitarist/keyboardist, and bassist — for this unique program.

**Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center**

***Brandenburg Concertos***

*Chamber Music Series*

Thursday, December 4, 2025 / 7:30 PM

The annual Harris Theater tradition returns with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center performing all six *Brandenburg Concertos* by Johann Sebastian Bach. A rich variety of instrumentations combine to create an expressive palette unparalleled in the Baroque era. These works have become a touchstone for audiences of all walks of life to embrace strength and hope at year's end.

**GALLIM**

***Bodies of Matter***

*Mainstage*

Thursday, February 5, 2026 / 7:30 PM

Founded in 2007 by groundbreaking choreographer Andrea Miller, New York-based dance company GALLIM stimulates the imagination of worldwide audiences through performance, education, and innovation in dance. GALLIM's critically acclaimed performance history includes interdisciplinary dance-theater, site-specific works, and collaborations in film, theater, fashion, music, and brands. Miller is known for her exploration of the essential elements of human behavior and the alchemy of movement and performance.

**Angel Bat Dawid**

*Mix at Six*

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 / 6:00 PM

Composer, conductor, vocalist, and multi-instrumentalist Angel Bat Dawid premieres *The Souls of Black Folk Suite*, an original work featuring an incredible cast of musicians from The Great Blk Music Infinity Ensemble and D-Composed String Ensemble. The 14-movement suite sets to music the themes found in each chapter of the famous treatise by W. E. B. Du Bois.

**Silkroad Ensemble with Rhiannon Giddens**  
***Sanctuary: The Power of Resonance and Ritual***

*Mainstage*

Sunday, March 15, 2026 / 2:00 PM

The Grammy Award-winning Silkroad Ensemble, led by Rhiannon Giddens, returns to the Harris Theater. In their latest project, *Sanctuary: The Power of Resonance and Ritual*, the ensemble explores the ways in which various musical traditions use trance to build stronger human connections. Featured musical styles include Sicilian tarantella with Mauro Durante and Francesco Turrisi, Moroccan Gnawa with Mehdi Nassouli, Indian Classical music with Sandeep Das, and American old-time with Rhiannon Giddens, among others.

**Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center**  
***Brahms, Shostakovich, and Schubert***

*Chamber Music Series*

Thursday, March 26, 2026 / 7:30 PM

Works by Brahms, Shostakovich, and Schubert illustrate the power of small ensembles. From a Brahms sonata for violin and piano to a pair of piano trios by Shostakovich and Schubert, these pieces astonish with their expressive power and profound beauty. Pianist Wu Han and cellist David Finckel, CMS Artistic Directors, are joined on stage by violinist Benjamin Beilman.

**Zara McFarlane**

*Mix at Six*

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 / 6:00 PM

Award-winning singer-songwriter Zara McFarlane is known for her unique sound that blends jazz, reggae, folk, and nu-soul. Praised for her “earthy yet silken voice” (*DownBeat*), she continues to shape the future of contemporary jazz and beyond. In her Chicago debut, McFarlane performs music from her most recent album, *Sweet Whispers: Celebrating Sarah Vaughan*, which pays tribute to the American jazz legend, nicknamed “The Divine One.”

**Eastman / Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui**  
***Nomad***

*Mainstage*

Thursday, April 23, 2026 / 7:30 PM

With *Nomad*, the Belgian-Moroccan choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui pieces together a mosaic drawn from the animate and inanimate elements of the desert. The musical landscape transports us to the Middle East and Central Africa, with compositions by Basement Jaxx artist Felix Buxton, Congolese singer Kaspary N'dia and Cherkaoui himself. Performed in its US premiere at the Harris Theater, the work shows glimpses of the adaptability of creatures living in harsh conditions, the fluidity of sand dunes and the ever-changing winds, the constant search for water and safety, for consolation that guides the human quest for spirituality. The life of the desert becomes a metaphor for togetherness and symbiosis, keys to surviving in an arid world.

**Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center**  
***Saint-Saëns, Vieuxtemps, and Fauré***

*Chamber Music Series*

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 / 7:30 PM

This program celebrates chamber music masterworks from 19th-century France. Saint-Saëns's elegantly crafted Piano Trio No. 1 and Vieuxtemps's Viola Sonata are filled with lyrical beauty,

and Fauré's beloved Piano Quartet No. 1 brings the program to a powerful close with its sweeping emotional range.

**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 and supportive partner for 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](http://harristheaterchicago.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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