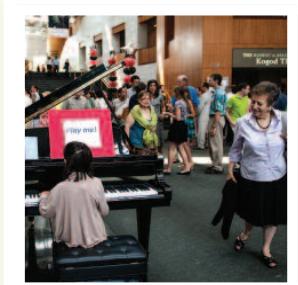


# CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

EXTRAORDINARY MINDS . EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

## ABOUT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



Since it opened in 2001, the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center has become a cultural force in the metropolitan Washington, DC area, known for adventuresome programming and a commitment to experiences that take audiences beyond the stage and into the creative process. We present diverse perspectives in dance, theatre, music and interdisciplinary art in nearly one thousand events a year. Performances, residencies, workshops, dialogues and other activities give our community — both on- and off-campus — numerous opportunities to dig deeper and open up the world of ideas.

### OUR MISSION

The Center is committed to transforming lives through sustained engagement with the arts.

- The Clarice Smith Center is, first and foremost, a place for learning, exploration and growth.
- At the Clarice Smith Center, great work happens both on-stage and off-stage.
- Diverse perspectives from diverse peoples are vital to our purpose.
- Artists create value for our programs when they are both skilled at and committed to engaging in learning, exploration and growth.
- We are committed to presenting unfamiliar, unpredictable and developing work.
- We value big experiences more than big numbers.
- Not only has our audience chosen us, we've chosen them.

### PERFORMANCES

Our programming includes provocative new work and time-honored classics. But whether a work was created last week or 300 years ago, it is presented in a way that sparks dialogue and reflection. We aim to create an atmosphere that allows people to see the world in a new way. The Center also encourages the community to learn about — and participate in — the creative process. Many of our programs, and especially our extended residencies, are designed to forge meaningful relationships between guest artists, faculty, students and the wider community.

### ENGAGEMENT

By providing up-close access to some of the most creative minds working in the arts and humanities today — including artists, scholars and experts in culture, history, science and more — engagement events provide deeper context for performances and connect artistic presentation with ideas from other fields.

Throughout each season, we offer multiple opportunities to engage:

- **CREATIVE DIALOGUES:** These free moderated discussions feature artists, scholars and experts who explore the big questions inherent in any work of art.
- **PERFORMANCE/ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** Combining performance and audience interaction, these free events give patrons a chance to listen, learn and gain a new outlook on an artist and his or her work.
- **PRE-PERFORMANCE DISCUSSIONS AND POST-PERFORMANCE TALK BACKS:** At specific performances, artists open up to the audience through informed and informal give-and-take.
- **STORY BOOTH AND ONLINE FEEDBACK:** We want to know what our audiences think about what they've experienced here, so we ask them in person and online, then share their thoughts via our website.
- **ARTIST BLOGS AND INTERVIEWS:** Artists who perform here are encouraged to give audiences a deeper understanding of their work through interviews and blog posts.
- **STUDENT BLOGS:** University of Maryland students who attend performances share their reactions and insights on a regular basis in our online student blogs.

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## ABOUT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



### COMMISSIONED WORK

The Center supports the growth and renewal of the performing arts by commissioning and presenting the work of living artists in music, dance and theatre. Throughout its history, the Center has commissioned new works in dance, opera, music, theatre and multi-media. Many of the artists who create new work with the Center's support also participate in extended residencies that give students and the community opportunities to better understand the creative process and further explore the ideas behind the work.

### RESIDENCIES

Every season, our visiting artists engage in activities beyond the stage, including residencies that serve the goals of learning, exploration and growth. During their time at the Center, they may work with students from the School of Music and the School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies; collaborate with other artists to create or refine new work; engage with the community; or further develop their own creative ideas.

### ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND LIBRARY

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center houses the UMD School of Music, the UMD School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies and the Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library.

#### UMD SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The University of Maryland School of Music emphasizes the importance of the combined scholar, performer, educator and arts advocate in the 21st century. With more than 30 performance ensembles — including orchestral, choral, chamber, jazz, opera, band and world music — the School of Music presents more than 300 public performances each year and takes an innovative approach to both performance training and concert presentation.

#### UMD SCHOOL OF THEATRE, DANCE, AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

The unique structure of the School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies fosters the development of innovative ideas and new initiatives across disciplines. In this recently created School, which debuted in fall 2010, the degree programs in dance and theatre retain their individuality while enabling landmark creativity and scholarship to flourish through inter-disciplinary interaction between faculty, staff and students.

#### MICHELLE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS LIBRARY

The Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library (MSPAL) is the central location on the College Park campus for music, theatre and dance materials including 56,000 books, 156,000 musical scores, 130,000 audio and video recordings, 4,500 microform titles and 281 active journal subscriptions. MSPAL's public spaces include a spacious main reading room, a separate reading room for special collections, a lounge-style study room, a seminar room and a group study room. The Library is home to the International Piano Archives at Maryland, the world's most extensive concentration of piano recordings, books, scores, programs and related materials, including the archival papers of many great keyboard artists. It is also home to numerous scholar and performer collections, including the Jim Henson Works and the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange Archives.