



North Carolina Museum of Art

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 18, 2022

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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**North Carolina Museum of Art Celebrates Anniversary Outdoor Performing Arts and Film Season with Juneteenth Weekend and New Series Jazz at the NCMA**

**Raleigh, NC**—This June—as part of its 25th anniversary season of the Joseph M. Bryan, Jr., Theater in the Museum Park—the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) will host a special Juneteenth weekend of activities and performances, featuring Grammy, Stellar, and Dove Award-winning artists; a screening of the documentary *Summer of Soul*; and the kickoff of the new series Jazz at the NCMA. The performances are part of the Museum’s Outdoor Performing Arts and Film series, presented by First Citizens Bank.

“Our campus is alive this summer with music, film, and dance,” said Museum Director Valerie Hillings. “We are excited to host our second annual Juneteenth weekend and kick off a new series celebrating jazz music outside in the Museum Park.”

Curated by Moses T. Alexander Greene, Jazz at the NCMA showcases the art form of jazz, often considered “America’s classical music.” This inaugural season includes 10-time Grammy-winning a cappella group Take 6, Latin jazz legend Arturo O’Farrill, interpretations of swing by vocalist Veronica Swift, emotionally searing songs of North Carolina native Nina Simone performed by Grammy-winning vocalist Ledisi, and more.

“Jazz at the NCMA emerged from Museum visitor requests for more live jazz on our campus,” said Greene, director of performing arts and film. “Through these performances we hope concertgoers will experience joy and the transcendent power of one of America’s greatest exports to the world.”

**Juneteenth Weekend**

**[Juneteenth Joy: A Celebration of Freedom and Gospel Music](#)**  
**Friday, June 17, 7 pm**

Tickets on sale now, from \$50 for Members and \$55 for Nonmembers

This special event features Grammy- and Dove-nominated artist Kelontae Gavin; Grammy and Stellar Award-



(continued)

winning vocalists Kierra Sheard and Le'Andria Johnson; and Grammy, Stellar, and Dove Award-winning gospel music legends Bishop Hezekiah Walker and Fred Hammond.

### **Kelontae Gavin**

Whether you know the 21-year-old gospel music sensation Kelontae Gavin as the viral "Cafeteria Singer," a *Billboard*-charting artist, or a Stellar and Dove Award nominee, chances are you don't know his full story. Gavin's first album, *The Higher Experience*, was released in April 2018. It debuted at number two on *Billboard*'s Top Gospel Albums chart. "No Ordinary Worship" spent nearly a year on the Gospel Airplay chart. In 2019 Gavin was nominated for four Stellar Awards and nominated for a Dove Award (for New Artist of the Year).



### **Kierra Sheard**

Kierra Sheard is no stranger to breaking new ground. After all, the young dynamo grew up with two gospel barrier-breakers as role models: mother Karen Clark Sheard, a member of legendary group the Clark Sisters, and grandmother/Clark matriarch Dr. Mattie Moss Clark. Now the Grammy and Stellar Award-winning artist is back with her first project in five years. Released on her family's Karew Entertainment label, the highly anticipated album has already produced the genre-blurring hits "Don't Judge Me," featuring Missy Elliott, and "It Keeps Happening."

### **Le'Andria Johnson**

Grammy Award-winning recording artist Le'Andria Johnson has taken the gospel music scene by storm since being crowned the season three winner of BET's Sunday Best in 2010. In 2011 Johnson received her first Grammy Award for Best Gospel/Contemporary Christian Music performance for her debut single, "Jesus." In 2019 she released the prolific song "Deliver Me" with Grammy and Stellar Award-winning producer and recording artist Donald Lawrence. They earned a *Billboard* No. 1 hit with "This Is My Exodus (Deliver Me)."

### **Hezekiah Walker**

Hezekiah Walker's signature sound has set an international standard in gospel music. Walker, the multiple Grammy Award-winning, newly inducted Gospel Music Hall of Famer, continues to uplift the masses with inspirational songs that focus on maintaining faith and overcoming life's daunting moments. He has earned multiple music awards and two

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Grammys for Best Gospel Album for *Live in Atlanta at Morehouse College* in 1994 and *Love Is Live!* in 2001.

### **Fred Hammond**

For more than 40 years, music lovers around the world have known Grammy Award-winning artist Fred Hammond as a gifted vocalist, songwriter, musician, producer, and arranger. But as his peers and supporters alike have so reverently declared, he is without debate the architect behind the creation of a genre of gospel music called Urban Praise and Worship. As a result Hammond has become one of the most respected names in the music industry. *Essence* magazine (2017 Collector's Edition) named him one of the 50 greatest male singers of all time.

### **Juneteenth Joy: The Sound, Fashion, and Cinema of Freedom**

**Saturday, June 18**

**Brian Dawson DJ set and dance party, 6 pm**

**Film screening, 8:30 pm**

Tickets on sale now, \$10 for Members and \$12 for Nonmembers

Join the NCMA to celebrate Black culture, wear iconic 1960s fashions, and remember the music of a people as they fought for civil rights in the United States. This outdoor event features a dance party with grooves by DJ Brian Dawson from all soul genres followed by a screening of the Oscar-winning documentary *Summer of Soul*, directed by Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson.

### **Jazz at the NCMA**

Tickets for all shows go on sale Thursday, May 19, at 10 am for Members and Friday, May 20, at 10 am for Nonmembers

### **Jazz at the NCMA presents: Ledisi Sings Nina, with Special Guest Al Strong**

**Thursday, June 23, 7:30 pm**

Tickets from \$44.50 for Members and \$49.50 for Nonmembers

Powerhouse vocalist Ledisi takes on legendary singer and musician Nina Simone's emotionally searing, socially conscious songs on *Ledisi Sings Nina*, nominated for Outstanding Jazz Album (NAACP Image Awards). Join this 2021 Grammy Award-winning singer for a soul-stirring tribute to a true North Carolina treasure. Lidisi is joined by special guest Al Strong, a



two-time Grammy-nominated trumpet player, composer, recording artist, and educator, and cofounder of the Art of Cool nonprofit, which spawned the original Art of Cool Music Festival in Durham, NC, and the StArt of Cool youth summer camp.

### **Jazz at the NCMA presents: Jonathan Butler, with Special Guest Avery Sunshine**

**Thursday, June 30, 7:30 pm**

Tickets from \$31.50 for Members and \$35 for Nonmembers

Born in South Africa under the shadow of apartheid and raised in poverty, singer-songwriter and guitarist Jonathan Butler was the first Black artist to be played on white South African radio and to appear on national television. His first single won the South African equivalent to a Grammy and his commitment to his craft came to fruition with his self-titled debut album, which received a Grammy nomination for the pop hit "Lies." Special guest Avery Sunshine, most known for the #1 *Billboard* chart hit single "Call My Name" from her critically heralded sophomore project *The Sunroom*, was awarded ASCAP's Rhythm and Soul Song of the Year Award.

**Jazz at the NCMA presents: Take 6, with Special Guest Najee**  
**Thursday, July 7, 7:30 pm**

Tickets from \$31.50 for Members and \$35 for Nonmembers

Jazz at the NCMA is excited to welcome 10-time Grammy Award-winning a cappella group Take 6 for an evening of straight-ahead jazz, pop, adult R&B, doo-wop, and the blues. Multiplatinum saxophonist and flutist Najee kicks off the night with the best in contemporary jazz stylings.

**Jazz at the NCMA presents: Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble, with Special Guest Veronica Swift**  
**Thursday, July 14, 7:30 pm**

Tickets from \$31.50 for Members and \$35 for Nonmembers

Proclaimed by the *New York Times* as the "leader of the 'first family of Afro-Cuban jazz,'" pianist, composer, and educator Arturo O'Farrill began with the Carla Bley Band and continued as a solo performer with a wide spectrum of artists, including Dizzy Gillespie, Lester Bowie, Wynton Marsalis, and Harry Belafonte. Special guest Veronica Smith recorded her first album, *Veronica's House of Jazz*, when she was only nine years old. On *This Bitter Earth*, her most recent album, Swift covers multiple genres, including jazz, American musicals, vintage R&B, and contemporary rock.



**Additional Outdoor Performing Arts and Film Season dates**

Juneteenth weekend and Jazz at the NCMA are part of the Museum's 2022 Outdoor Performing Arts and Film season spanning concerts, film, and dance, on sale now. See the season below and learn more at [ncartmuseum.org/performances](https://ncartmuseum.org/performances).

**Concerts**

[The NCMA and Cat's Cradle present Old Crow Medicine Show with Gangstagrass](#), Friday, May 20

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[Herbie Hancock](#), Sunday, May 29

[The Mavericks with Maggie Rose](#), Wednesday, June 8

[Stephanie Mills with Special Guest Will Downing, presented in Association with the African American Cultural Festival of Raleigh & Wake County](#), Friday, September 2

[The NCMA and Cat's Cradle present Lake Street Drive with The Dip](#), Wednesday, September 14

[The NCMA and Cat's Cradle present Watchhouse with Allison De Groot and Tatiana Hargreaves](#), Saturday, October 1

[The NCMA and Come Hear NC present Music at the Museum Festival](#), Saturday, October 8

### **Film**

[Encanto](#), Friday, June 24

[Soul](#), Saturday, June 25

[Spider-Man: No Way Home](#), Friday, July 8

[Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings](#), Saturday, July 9

[Dune \(2021\)](#), Saturday, July 23

[Judas and the Black Messiah](#), Saturday, July 30

[Nightmare Alley](#), Saturday, August 6

[Nomadland](#), Saturday, August 13

[West Side Story \(2021\)](#), Saturday, August 27

### **Dance**

[NCMA Groove: The Joy of Soul](#), Sunday, July 17

[Choreographers Spotlight Series, sponsored by Carolina Ballet](#), Friday, August 26

[NCMA Groove: The Joy of Latinx Music](#), Sunday, September 18

### **Sponsors**

Season Presenting Sponsor: First Citizens Bank



Supporting sponsor: Robert and Mercedes Eichholz Foundation

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Media sponsor: WUNC

**Image Captions (top to bottom):**

Joseph M. Bryan, Jr., Theater in the Museum Park

Juneteenth Joy performers

Jazz at the NCMA performer Ledisi

Jazz at the NCMA performer Arturo O’Farrill

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**About the North Carolina Museum of Art**

The North Carolina Museum of Art’s collection spans more than 5,000 years, from antiquity to the present, making the institution one of the premier art museums in the South. The Museum’s collection provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The 164-acre Museum Park showcases the connection between art and nature through site-specific works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing special exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The Museum is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh and is home to the People’s Collection. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, under the auspices of Governor Roy Cooper; an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, guided by the direction of Secretary D. Reid Wilson; and led by Director Valerie Hillings.