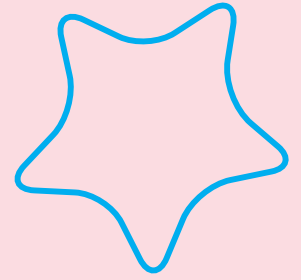


2025-2026  
PROGRAM



THE PARAMOUNT THEATER

# ARTS EDUCATION

LA MALETA DE MAEBELLE  
123 ANDRÉS: AROUND THE AMERICAS  
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
DRUM TAO ✕ SECRETS OF SPACE  
WIND IN THE WILLOWS  
A FAIRY TALE GATHERING  
★ SING ME A STORY ☁️  
STEP AFRIKA! 🌟 HARE & TORTOISE



215 East Main Street, Charlottesville, VA 22902

# REGISTRATION & RESOURCES

Scan the QR code below or visit  
**[theparamount.net/education](https://theparamount.net/education)**  
for easy access to information about:

**How to register**

**Pricing & deadlines**

**Program resources**

to share with students before &  
after each performance

**Show day details**

like directions, parking, and theater etiquette

SCAN ME!



**Registration opens on Tuesday, August 19 at 12 PM.**

Advance reservations are required.  
Tickets are \$8.50 for students and adults.  
Financial assistance is available.  
All programs are 60 minutes unless otherwise noted.

## QUESTIONS?

### Program

Cathy von Storch, *Education & Outreach Manager*  
434-293-1000 | [cathyvonstorch@theparamount.net](mailto:cathyvonstorch@theparamount.net)

### Registration/Payment

434-979-1333  
[boxoffice@theparamount.net](mailto:boxoffice@theparamount.net)



# LARGEST CLASSROOM

## FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

### LOCAL EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS REMARK

*"Participating in The Paramount's Arts Education programs allows students to witness and experience the stories and artistic expressions of others, exposes students to different cultures and ways of life, and helps them gain a broader perspective on the world and understand the wider human experience. Empathy and critical thinking are fostered, and students develop a deeper appreciation for the arts."*

**Aaron Eichorst**

Coordinator of Fine & Performing Arts, Charlottesville City Schools

*"The Paramount provides opportunities for students to connect their experience of performing arts events to their learning in the classroom, to one another, and to the fabric of our community. There is no comparison to the joy and energy that children share when attending these events together and in a space that holds such cultural history."*

**Dama Schneider**

Curriculum Coordinator, Visual and Performing Arts, Albemarle County Public Schools

*"Thank you for an opportunity to learn about Africa and I loved watching this amazing show and interacting at The Paramount! Watching the show was like looking at the sunset, all the colors bending this way and that. It was incredible!"*

**5th Grade Student**

Agnor Elementary



# 2025-2026 Arts Education Season

The Paramount believes that a **passion for the performing arts begins at an early age**. We are committed to presenting the finest arts education performances for area school children. The support and generosity of our Arts Education partners allow The Paramount to make these programs **accessible to ALL children** in Central Virginia by offering performances at a reduced cost or free of charge.

The Mission of The Paramount Theater Arts Education Program is to **foster appreciation, understanding, and love of the performing arts**. The Arts Education Program provides the opportunity for all students to experience live performing arts in the beautifully restored historic Paramount Theater.



Glass Half Full Theatre from Austin, TX

## LA MALETA DE MAEBELLE (MAEBELLE'S SUITCASE)

**Thursday, October 30**  
**10:15AM and 12:15PM**

GRADES K – 3



A bilingual adaptation of a beloved *Reading Rainbow* picture book by Tricia Tusa. Maebelle lives in her treehouse and is an incredible hat maker. She's been working hard ahead of the town's annual hat contest when she befriends Binkle, a bird with a migration dilemma. He's trying to carry too much on his flight south for the winter! As Maebelle generously offers her cherished suitcase from her own migration from Colombia, they delve into profound reflections on the significance of our possessions and memories. Maebelle and Binkle help each other discover the beauty of remembrance and the liberating power of letting go. An enchanting tale that celebrates friendship, cultural heritage, and the universal lessons found within the stories of our lives.

SOL Connections to *English*: K.C.1 (A), K.C.2 (A,B,C,D), 1.C (A), 1.C.2 (A,B,C,D), 2.RV.1 (A, H), 2.RL.1 (A,B,C), 2.RL.3 (B), 2.C.1 (A), 2.C.2 (B), 3.RL.1 (A,B,C), 3.C.1 (A); SOL Connections to *Science*: 2.4, 3.4; SOL Connections to *Fine Arts* (Theatre Arts): K.1, K.2, K.3, K.4, K.5, K.6, K.12, K.14, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 2.6, 3.6; Curriculum Connections to the concepts of cultural heritage and traditions, Spanish language, migration (animal and human), friendship, bravery, resilience, imagination, believing in yourself and helping others.

**Sponsored by:**  
**Mary Jae Abbitt**

## 123 ANDRÉS: AROUND THE AMERICAS

**\*Monday, December 1  
10:15AM & 12:15PM**

GRADES K – 4

Andrés and Christina are the GRAMMY and Latin Grammy-award winning music duo 123 Andrés (*Uno Dos Tres Andrés*) with a passion for using music to promote learning. In *Around the Americas*, they take students on a lively, interactive musical journey through the Americas, exploring geography, language, and Latino culture along the way. Andrés and Christina, both native Spanish speakers, incorporate language seamlessly, empowering students to sing and learn in both Spanish and English, while encouraging open and curious minds about people, cultures, and languages that may be different from their own.

SOL Connections to *History and Social Science* (Geography): K.6, 1.6, 2.11, 3.2; SOL Connections to Fine Arts (Dance Arts): DA K.1, K.2, K.5, K.6, K.11, 1.13, 1.15, 2.6, 2.11, 2.13, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 4.3, 4.15; (Theatre Arts): K.5, K.9, K.11, 1.11, 2.5, 2.11, 3.3, 4.9, 4.11, 4.12; Curriculum Connections to the concepts of achievement, teamwork, cultural awareness, Latin music, Spanish language, American Sign Language (ASL), rhythm, dance, and geography of the Americas.

**\*PUBLIC PERFORMANCE:  
Sunday, November 30, 4:00PM**



**Sponsored by:  
Mary Jae Abbitt  
Bank of the James**



Theater Unspeakable from Chicago, IL

## THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TOUR

**Monday, January 26  
10:15AM & 12:15PM**

**(Includes Post-Performance Q&A)**

GRADES 5 – 11

Seven actors, two feet off the ground, sharing 21 square feet of space manage to recreate the entire American fight for independence from Lexington to Yorktown! An incredible feat of imaginative physical theater, the spirited and multicultural ensemble from Chicago's award-winning Theater Unspeakable conveys a vast historic cast of characters and a thrilling amount of drama. With lightning speed, they jump from patriot to loyalist to George Washington to King George III, and consider the roles women played in the war, all via amazing physical and vocal dexterity, brilliant humor, and a dash of derring-do!

SOL Connections to *History and Social Science*: VS.5 (A,B,C,D), USL 6 (B,C,D,E), USII (A,B,C,D,E,F), VUS.4 (D), VUS.5 (A,B,C,D,E); SOL Connections to *English*: 5.RI.1 (B), 6.RL (C), 7.RV (A), 7.C.1, 8.RV (A), 8.C.1 (A), 9.RL, 10.C.1 (A), 11.RL.3 (A), 11.RI; SOL Connections to *Fine Arts* (Theatre Arts): 4.16, 5.6, 5.11, 6.3 (B), 6.10, 6.11, 6.16 (A), 7.3 (A,B,C), 7.4, 7.6, 7.7, 8.6, 8.16 (C); Curriculum Connections to the concepts of Physical Theatre (movement-based narrative), mime-based choreography, teamwork, epic time period (timeline, people, and events), basic human rights and personal freedom.

**Sponsored by:  
Virginia Cenedella**



## DRUM TAO

**\*Thursday, January 29  
10:30AM**

GRADES 4 & UP

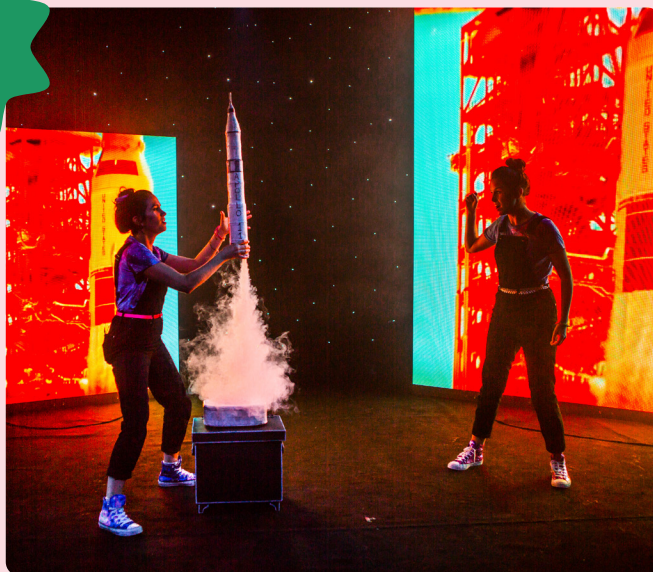
DRUM TAO is the world's foremost group of performers in Japanese taiko drumming. Hailed for its fiery and athletic drumming routines, the group performs with impeccable syncopation on a wide assortment of drums, spanning handheld snare drums to Odaiko drums that can weigh up to 3 tons. A celebration of Japanese culture, DRUM TAO also highlights Japan's art forms of flute, marimba, harp and more. Blending drumming with dynamic choreography, vibrant sets and contemporary costuming, the group presents an electrifying performance experience that will transport audiences to a world of beauty, tradition, and awe-inspiring talent.

SOL Connections to *English*: 4.RI.3 (A), 5.RI.3 (A), 7.C.1 (A); SOL Connections to *History and Social Science*: WG 8 (A), WG 9 (A), WG 14 (A); SOL Connections to *Fine Arts* (Dance Arts): 4.3, 4.4, 4.15, 5.15, 5.16, 6.6, 7.6, 7.7, DI.3, DI.4, DIII.6; (Theatre Arts): 4.6., 5.6, 6.6, 6.12, 8.12, TI.11; (Music): 4.6, 4.7, 5.6, 6.6 (A, B), 7.6 (A), 8.6 (A), HM 3 (A,B); Curriculum Connections to the concepts of cultural awareness, traditional Japanese dance styles, choreography, rhythm, costumes, Martial Art of Drumming, discipline, achievement, call and response.

**\*PUBLIC PERFORMANCE:  
Thursday, January 29, 7:00PM**



**Sponsored by:  
Virginia Cenedella  
\*The FUNd at CACF**



Cahoots NI, from Belfast, Northern Ireland

## SECRETS OF SPACE

**Tuesday, February 10  
10:15AM and 12:15PM**

GRADES 2 – 5



Suni and Mae are dreamers. As young girls, they dreamt about journeying far beyond our solar system, singing among the stars and discovering all that was unknown to them: the secrets of space. Using magical illusions and a cutting-edge digital LED wall, Suni, Mae, and the audience embark on an interactive journey across the galaxy. The wonders of outer space are explored with dazzling imagery and key ideas and inventions in science, technology, and engineering. Developed with space industry experts and packed with STEAM connections, *Secrets of Space* is perfect for elementary students eager to blast off into learning!

SOL Connections to *English*: 2.RL.1 (A,B,C), 3.RL.1 (A), 4.RL.1 (A), 5.RI.3 (A); SOL Connections to *Science*: 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.5, 4.6, 5.2, 5.3; SOL Connections to *Math*: 2.PS.1, 3.PS.1, 4.PS.1, 5.PS.1; SOL Connections to *Computer Science*: 2.IC.1, 3.DA.1, 4.CSY.1, 5.IC.3; SOL Connections to *Fine Arts* (Music): 2.3 (D), 3.3 C, 4.3 (C,G), 5.3 (C); Curriculum Connections to the concepts of digital technology and design, space and exploration, planets, gravity, atmospheric pressure, light, refraction, environment, self- and social-awareness, curiosity, and growth mindset.

**Sponsored by:  
Sheila H. McCarthy**

Theatre Heroes from Austin, TX

## WIND IN THE WILLOWS

**Wednesday, February 25**  
**10:15AM and 12:15PM**

**65 Minutes**

**(Includes Post-Performance Q&A)**

**GRADES 3 – 7**



Journey into the Wild Wood on this multi-media adventure based on Kenneth Grahame's beloved children's novel. *Wind in the Willows* mixes classic storytelling with projected illustrations to tell the trials of Mole and Rat on an all-night race against time as they venture through the hidden wonders of the forest to find the young Otter before it's too late. This production uses 180-degree projection that surrounds the performer and provides scenic elements throughout the show, while underscoring music and soundscapes set the mood. Experience the magic and mystery as award winning actor Noel Gaulin plays all the fabled characters. From the team who brought us *Call of the Wild* (2018) comes a world-premiere production of this classic story.

SOL Connections to *English*: 3.R.1 (A), 4.RL (A,B,C), 4.RI.3 (A), 5.RL.1, 3.R.1 (A), 4.RL (A,B,C), 4.RI.3 (A), 5.RL.1, 5.RL.2 (A,B), 5.RL.3 (A), 6.RL, 6.C.1, 7.RL.1, 7.C.1; SOL Connections to *Science*: 3.4 (A,B), 3.8 (A), 4.3 (A,C,D), 5.2 (B), 6.7 (A,B,C,D), 6.9 (A), LS.5 (C), LS.6 (A,D); SOL Connections to *Fine Arts* (Theatre Arts): 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.10, 4.1, 4.4, 4.10, 4.11, 4.16, 5.12, 6.3 (A,B), 6.4, 7.3 (A, B), 7.4; Curriculum Connections to the concepts of dramatic performance & technology, animals and the environment, adapting to new circumstances, resilience, endurance, survival, creativity and innovation.

**Sponsored by:**  
**Sheila H. McCarthy**  
**Betty and Jim Phelan**

Charlottesville Ballet

## A FAIRY TALE GATHERING

**\*Friday, March 13**  
**10:15AM**

**GRADES Pre-K – 2**

Created by Charlottesville Ballet Co-Founder Emily Hartka, *A Fairy Tale Gathering* is a narrated interactive ballet designed especially for young audiences in Pre-K – Grade 2. Join Fairy Godmother as she hosts a whimsical tea party filled with music, movement, and fun. Meet Cinderella as she dreams of the ball. Help the Prince wake up his Sleeping Beauty. Look for Snow White, Little Red Riding Hood, the Sugar Plum Fairy and other beloved fairy tale characters brought to life through the magic of dance! During the performance, audience members will learn basic ballet steps and explore classical music from the excerpted ballets (composers like Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, and Delibes). This original ballet features Charlottesville Ballet's professional Company Artists alongside a cast of local students!



Connections to Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards: PL1.1, PL2.1, PL3.1, SED2.1, SED2.2, SED2.5, CLLD1.2, CLLD2.3, HPD1, HPD1.1, CD2.1, CD2.2, CD2.3, CD4.1, CD4.2, CD4.3; SOL Connections to *English*: K.C.1, K.C.2 (A,B,C,D), 1.C.1, 1.C.2, 2.C.1 (A), 2.RL.3 (C); SOL Connections to *Fine Arts* (Dance Arts): K.3, K.4, K.5, K.8, K.9, K.11, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 1.16, 1.18, 2.3, 2.11, 2.18; (Music): K.7, 1.5, 1.6, 2.4, 2.5, 2.17 (A); (Theatre Arts): K.1, K.2, K.12, 1.3, 1.4, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.15, 2.16; Curriculum Connections to the concepts of classical music and dance, folktales, storytelling through narration and movement, team work, imagination and creativity.

**\*PUBLIC PERFORMANCE:**  
**Saturday, March 14**

**Sponsored by:**  
**Sheila H. McCarthy**



# ACHIEVE YOUR DREAMS WITH A TEAM



## SING ME A STORY: ACHIEVE YOUR DREAMS WITH A TEAM!

Presented by the Charlottesville Opera and  
The Paramount Theater

**Tuesday, March 24**  
**10:15AM & 12:15PM**

**(Includes Post-Performance Q&A)**

**GRADES 3 – 8**

**FREE** to registered students & teachers

Charlottesville Opera is proud to partner with The Paramount Theater to present **Sing Me a Story: Achieve Your Dreams with a Team!**, the third and final installment of the original *Sing Me a Story* series.

Born from the inspiring collaboration between Charlottesville Opera and The Paramount's technical team, *Sing Me a Story* highlights the magic that happens when artistry and technical expertise come together. Supported by The Paramount's talented technical team, the series introduces students to the world of opera and musical theater through engaging stories, interactive moments, and live music.

### A CELEBRATION OF CREATIVE TEAMWORK

*Sing Me a Story: Achieve Your Dreams with a Team!* explores the joys and challenges of working together, demonstrating how communication, collaboration, and mutual respect can turn big dreams into unforgettable performances. With a fresh cast of singers and a mix of opera and musical theater favorites, students will witness firsthand how the arts bring people together across disciplines and experiences.

As with previous installments, this 60-minute performance brings students behind the scenes to meet the individuals such as singers, designers, instrumentalists, and technicians who make theatrical storytelling come alive. Students will leave not only entertained but also empowered to pursue their passions, whether on stage or behind the scenes.

SOL Connections to *Fine Arts* (Dance Arts): 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.13, 3.14, 3.18, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.9, 4.10, 4.13, 4.14, 4.18, 5.2, 5.4, 5.6, 5.7, 5.13, 5.15, 5.18, 6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.14, 7.1, 7.3 (A,B), 7.4, 7.6, 7.9, 7.10, 7.14, 7.15, 8.4, 8.6, 8.9, 8.10, 8.13, 8.14, 8.15; (Music): 3.3 (E), 3.5 (B), 3.9, 4.3 (D,G), 4.4, 4.6, 4.7, 5.6 (B), 5.7, EI.3 (C), EI.5 (A,C), EI.6 (A,B), EI.9, 6.7, 6.9, 7.3, 8.3 (A), 8.4, 8.9; (Theatre Arts): 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.15, 3.16, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7, 4.9, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 4.16, 5.2, 5.6, 5.9, 5.10, 5.12, 6.2, 6.3 (B), 6.5, 6.7, 6.9, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.7, 7.9, 7.10, 8.4, 8.5, 8.7, 8.10 Curriculum Connections to the concepts of: communication of stories and emotions through music; historical context and culture of an opera; collaboration and cooperation; opera as storytelling through music, drama, and sometimes dance; merging music, narrative, and technical artistry; vocal performance, orchestration, stage design, and costume design; lighting design through mathematics and science; human emotions and relationships; themes, characters, and historical settings; arias, duets, and trios; singers preparing for careers in opera.

### With Deep Gratitude to The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation

Charlottesville Opera extends its heartfelt thanks to **The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation**, whose generosity makes this entire program possible. Because of their continued commitment to arts education and community engagement, all *Sing Me a Story* performances at The Paramount Theater are offered **completely free of charge** to schools and students.

Their visionary support ensures that thousands of young people from across Central Virginia can experience the wonder of live opera and theater, many for the very first time. This partnership reflects the Foundation's enduring belief in the power of the arts to educate, unite, and inspire.



THE  
JOSEPH AND ROBERT  
CORNELL MEMORIAL  
FOUNDATION



## STEP AFRIKA!

**\*Monday, April 20**  
**10:15AM and 12:15 PM**

GRADES 4 & UP

*Step Afrika!* is the world's first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping — a polyrhythmic, percussive dance form that uses the body as an instrument. Founded in 1994, *Step Afrika!* blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities; traditional West and Southern African dances; and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a cohesive, compelling artistic experience. Performances integrate songs, storytelling, history, and audience participation, while demonstrating life skills of teamwork, discipline, and commitment. The blend of technique, agility, and pure energy makes each performance unique, leaving the audience with their hearts pounding. *Step Afrika!* is featured prominently at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture with the world's first stepping interactive.



SOL Connections to *English*: 4.RL.3 (C), 5.RL.1 (A), 6.RV.1 (A), 7.RL.3 (A), 8.RV.1 (H); SOL Connections to *History and Social Science*: WG.8 (A,B,C), WHI.8; SOL Connections to *Fine Arts* (Dance Arts): 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.18, 5.5, 5.6, 6.4, 6.6 (A), 7.16, 8.6, DI.3 (A,B), DI.4, DI.5, DI.6, DI.7, DII.3, DII.4, DIII.6; (Music): 4.6, 4.7, 5.7, 6.6, 6.16, 7.6, 8.6, MIB.6; (Theatre Arts): 4.9, 5.6, 6.6, 7.6, 7.7, 8.6, TI.6, TII.6; Curriculum Connections to the concepts of stepping, teamwork, discipline, commitment, achievement, cross-cultural understanding, rhythm and polyrhythm, dance styles and choreography.

**\*PUBLIC PERFORMANCE:**  
**Sunday, April 19, 7:00PM**

**Sponsored by:**  
**Virginia Cenedella**

**Sponsored in part by:**  
**Bank of the James**

Tutti Frutti Productions from Leeds, England

## HARE & TORTOISE

**Monday, May 4**  
**10:15AM & 12:15PM**

GRADES Pre-K – 2



Two unlikely friends — the speedy, confident Hare and the calm, steady Tortoise — meet for the greatest race on Earth. A race filled with suspense, surprises, and a nail-biting, medal-winning finish. Ready... Steady... Is it time to GO? This playful and imaginative adaptation of Aesop's classic fable is brought to life on stage in a vibrant performance. With three talented actors-musicians and a whole lot of energy, the story unfolds across the seasons — from the blossoming days of sunny spring through to the icy sparkle of winter. This heartwarming tale explores patience, friendship, and what it means to grow up.

SOL Connections to Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards: PL1.1, PL2.1, PL3.1, SED2.1, SED2.2, SED2.4, SED2.5, SED3.4, CLLD1.2, CLLD2.3, HPD1, HPD1.1, CD2.1, CD2.2, CD2.3, CD4.1, CD4.2, CD4.3; SOL Connections to *English*: K.C.1, K.C.2 (A,B,C,D), 1.C.1, 1.C.2, 2.C.1 (A), 2.RL.3 (C); SOL Connections to *Science*: K.9 (B,C), K.C.2 (A,C,D), 1.C.2 (D), 1.7 (B), 2.7 (A,C); SOL Connections to *Fine Arts* (Music): K.7, 1.5, 1.6, 2.4, 2.5, 2.17 (A); (Theatre Arts): K.1, K.2, K.12, 1.3, 1.4, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.15, 2.16; Curriculum Connections to the concepts of fables and morals, personification, the natural environment, seasons of the year, friendship, and imagination.

**Sponsored by:**  
**Sheila H. McCarthy**

# THANK YOU TO OUR ARTS EDUCATION PARTNERS

Our Arts Education Partners have made it possible for over 241,950 students and teachers from all over Central Virginia to attend live performing arts at The Paramount Theater since 2004. The Paramount believes that performing arts are an essential part of every child's education, and we know that as students enter this historic Theater, for many it is their first exposure to live theater, a powerful human experience that can be life changing and one they all deserve to know.

To ensure ALL students are able to attend a performance, EVERY ticket is subsidized by the generosity of our Arts Education Partners.

Please consider joining us!

## 2025-26 ARTS EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mary Jae Abbitt & Sheldon Anderson, *Co-Chairs*  
Lisa Cogswell • Ardee Dimberg • Amanda Jones • Sherry Kraft  
Kathy Mallory-Watson • Betty Phelan • Karyl Reynolds  
Cathy von Storch, *Staff Liaison*

## PRESENTING SPONSOR OF THE 2025-26 ARTS EDUCATION SEASON



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