



25/26 SEASON

Newman Center Presents



Robert & Judi Newman Center
for the Performing Arts



Letter from the Executive Director



Photo: Bill Wadman

Dear Friends,

It is such a thrill to share the 2025-2026 Newman Center Presents season with you. Revealing the next season of compelling, powerful, and thought-provoking performances is one of my favorite moments of the year.

Whether it's the iconic Branford Marsalis Quartet, global music sensation Fatoumata Diawara, or the virtuoso mandolinist Chris Thile, Newman Center Presents brings talent from around the world you will not find anywhere else in Denver. Many artists, such as Sunny Jain, La Santa Cecilia, and Ephrat Asherie, refuse to be confined to a given genre, instead forging their own path to create singular performance styles. Their melding of styles and genres from around the globe are uniquely American and reflect the best of our country.

Our vision to be the cultural anchor of a dynamic, thriving 21st-century Denver starts with you. We draw inspiration from the cultures found in our community, and bring less-represented traditions to share with our audiences. We cultivate programming that reflects local and national conversations, inspires our patrons, and shines a light on voices and talents that might not otherwise be showcased.

One of my favorite experiences is spending time in the Joy Burns Plaza, connecting with audience members who have been transformed by their experience and are brimming with excitement, lingering long after the performance has ended. As you consider this season's offerings, I challenge you to consider purchasing tickets to see an artist or two who might be new to you. You never know when that bolt of inspiration might strike. We can't wait to go on this journey with you.

Warmly,

Aisha Ahmad-Post

2025-2026 NEWMAN CENTER PRESENTS SEASON

All performances will be at
7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

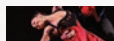
EXPERIENCE THE SEASON

Scan the QR codes for a
video/auditory experience of
the 2025-26 Newman Center
Presents Season



Darcy James Argue's Secret Society

Saturday, 10.4.2025



Ballet Hispánico

Saturday, 10.11.2025



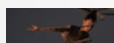
Branford Marsalis Quartet: *Belonging Tour*

Friday, 10.17.2025



Sunny Jain's *Wild Wild East*

Saturday, 11.8.2025



Hung Dance: *Birdy*

Wednesday, 11.19.2025



Bria Skonberg: *Jingle Bell Swing*

Wednesday, 12.10.2025



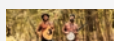
Chris Thile

Thursday, 1.15.2026



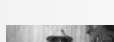
La Santa Cecilia

Friday, 1.23.2026



The Okee Dokee Brothers

Sunday, 1.25.2026*



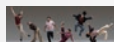
Don Was & the Pan-Detroit Ensemble Celebrates
the 50th Anniversary of *Blues for Allah*

Thursday, 1.29.2026



Meshell Ndegeocello

Friday, 2.13.2026



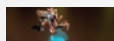
Ephrat Asherie Dance with Arturo O'Farrill: *Shadow Cities*

Thursday, 2.19.2026



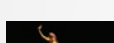
Mandy Patinkin in Concert with Adam Ben-David on Piano

Friday, 2.27.2026



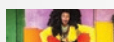
Cirque Kalabanté: *Afrique en Cirque*

Thursday, 3.12.2026



MOMIX: *Alice*

Saturday, 3.21.2026
Sunday, 3.22.2026*



Fatoumata Diawara

Thursday, 4.2.2026



Ranky Tanky and Lisa Fischer

Tuesday, 4.7.2026

* 2pm Matinee Show

Make the Newman Center Your Home for the Performing Arts

Lock in must-see performances with subscription packages that offer flexibility, savings, and connection.

2025-2026 Subscription Packages

PACKAGE	PERFORMANCES & DATES		SAVINGS
Director's Choice 9	Branford Marsalis 10.17.25 (Jazz)	Meshell Ndegeocello 2.13.26 (Jazz)	20% Best Deal!
	Hung Dance 11.19.25 (Dance)	Mandy Patinkin 2.27.26 (Special Attraction)	
	Bria Skonberg 12.10.25 (Holiday)	MOMIX 3.22.26 (Dance)	
	Chris Thile 1.15.26 (Bluegrass)	Fatoumata Diawara 4.2.26 (Global)	
	La Santa Cecilia 1.23.26 (Global)		
Director's Choice 5	Hung Dance 11.19.25 (Dance)	Meshell Ndegeocello 2.13.26 (Jazz)	15%
	Bria Skonberg 12.10.25 (Holiday)	Fatoumata Diawara 4.2.26 (Global)	
	Chris Thile 1.15.26 (Bluegrass)		
Jazz	Darcy James Argue 10.4.25	Don Was and the Pan-Detroit Ensemble 1.29.26	15%
	Branford Marsalis 10.17.25	Ranky Tanky & Lisa Fischer 4.7.26	
Dance	Ballet Hispánico 10.11.25	Ephrat Asherie and Arturo O'Farrill 2.19.26	15%
	Hung Dance 11.19.25	MOMIX 3.21.26	
Global Roots	Sunny Jain 11.8.25	Fatoumata Diawara 4.2.26	15%
	La Santa Cecilia 1.23.26		
Mix 4	Select at Least Four Performances		15%

* exclusions may apply

The Director's Choice series is a curated selection of either five or nine Newman Center Presents performances.

If you want to dive into a specific genre, check out the jazz, global roots, or dance series. If you need more flexibility of dates, create your own package with our popular Mix 4 option for a 15% discount. Subscribers also save 15% on all individual tickets bought throughout the season.

BENEFITS

- + Unlock up to 20% off in Savings
- + Access Complimentary Onsite Parking
- + Enjoy Priority Seating
- + Join a Community of Art Advocates
- + Support National and International Artists
- + Receive Invitations to Events & Exclusive Experiences

Starting at \$77  newmancenterpresents.com/subscriptions  303.871.7720  newmanboxoffice@du.edu

DID YOU KNOW?

*Studies Show Arts Attendance
Boosts your Well-Being by up to 25%**



** Source*

Dance Series

Ballet Hispánico

Saturday, October 11, 2025



Led by Artistic Director Eduardo Vilaro, Ballet Hispánico is the nation's premiere Hispanic and Latine dance organization and the largest cultural institution of its kind in the United States. The company's long-awaited return to the Newman Center will feature a mixed repertory program by some of the company's favorite choreographers, including Annabelle Lopez Ochoa.



Hung Dance: *Birdy*

Wednesday November 19, 2025

Founded in 2017 by LAI Hung-chung, Taiwan's Hung Dance blends Peking Opera, Tai Chi, and contemporary dance. Their award-winning work "Birdy"—seen in 21 sold-out shows at Avignon OFF and the 91st ADF—features the symbolic Ling Zi and Rattan pole, exploring freedom, constraint, and identity with poetic power.



Ephrat Asherie Dance with Arturo O'Farrill: *Shadow Cities*

Thursday, February 19, 2026



In a thrilling collaboration between GRAMMY®-winning pianist/composer Arturo O'Farrill and choreographer Ephrat Asherie, ***Shadow Cities*** creates a world rooted in a unique intersection of street and club dances. Asherie's dynamic movement phrases coupled with O'Farrill's boundless compositions invite audiences into a vibrant performance space that celebrates the beauty, joy and vastness of the in-between.



MOMIX: *Alice*

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Founded by Moses Pendleton (Pilobolus), MOMIX blends dance and acrobatics, creating unique, immersive performances. *Alice* reimagines Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* with movement, acrobatics, and illusions, pushing the boundaries of contemporary dance. The work embodies the whimsy and absurdity of Carroll's children's story offering a mesmerizing reimagination of the beloved literary classic.

Jazz Series

Darcy James Argue's Secret Society

Saturday, October 4, 2025

Latin GRAMMY winner and Guggenheim Fellow Darcy James Argue is “one of the top big band composers of our time” (*Stereophile*) with an uncanny “ability to combine his love of jazz’s past with more contemporary sonics” (*Pitchfork*). As bandleader of the acclaimed Secret Society, celebrating their 20th anniversary this year, Argue blends jazz with contemporary classical and experimental elements through intricate compositions and dynamic performances.

Branford Marsalis Quartet *Belonging Tour*

Friday, October 17, 2025



The Branford Marsalis Quartet has earned global acclaim for their virtuosic mastery. Whether performing original works or reinterpreting jazz standards, the quartet concerts offer unforgettable experiences that showcase the depth of Marsalis’ artistic vision. Marsalis’ influence also extends beyond jazz – he plays with classical orchestras, composes for film and Broadway, and has toured with iconic artists such as Sting and the Grateful Dead.

Don Was & the Pan-Detroit Ensemble

Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of Blues for Allah

Thursday, January 29, 2026



Don Was is President of the venerated jazz label, Blue Note Records. Don Was and the Pan-Detroit Ensemble celebrates the 50th anniversary of *Blues for Allah*, the timeless Grateful Dead album. The ensemble will play the album in its entirety to celebrate its profound influence over the last half of a century.



Meshell Ndegeocello

Friday, February 13, 2026

Meshell Ndegeocello has thrived in music for over 35 years, blending genres like soul, jazz, and hip-hop. Known for her unique voice and deep bass grooves, she challenges expectations of women, queer artists, and black musicians. Her GRAMMY-winning albums and collaborations reflect her commitment to love, justice, and artistic freedom.



Ranky Tanky & Lisa Fischer

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Ranky Tanky, the GRAMMY-winning group reviving Gullah music with jazz, blues, and gospel, joins forces with powerhouse vocalist Lisa Fischer, known for her stunning vocals with The Rolling Stones and *20 Feet from Stardom*. Together, they deliver a soul-stirring performance, blending deep-rooted traditions with electrifying, contemporary energy.

Sunny Jain's *Wild Wild East*

Saturday, November 8, 2025

Sunny Jain is a composer, drummer, and dhol player best known for founding the pioneering Bhangra-jazz-rock band Red Baraat. His project *Wild Wild East* sources inspiration from Bollywood classics, Punjabi folk traditions, jazz improvisation, and rollicking psychedelic styles described as “furiously propulsive” by *The New York Times*. Sunny appeared as “Mr. Tambourine Man” in *A Complete Unknown*, starring Timothée Chalamet.



La Santa Cecilia

Friday, January 23, 2026

La Santa Cecilia is a GRAMMY-winning band that fuses rock and Pan-American rhythms including cumbia, bolero, mariachi and son jarocho. The band has become the voice of a new bicultural generation



in the United States, fully immersed in modern music, but always close to their Mexican heritage. Their music celebrates humanity through infectious melodies and heartfelt performances.



Fatoumata Diawara

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Boldly experimental yet rooted in the music of her home country of Mali, singer, songwriter, and guitarist Fatoumata Diawara's live performances "scream with energy" (*NPR*), her stage presence both "hypnotic" and "captivating" (*Rolling Stone*). Her music combines afrobeat, jazz, pop, electro and hip hop to create a sound that has won over audiences worldwide.

Special Attractions



Bria Skonberg: *Jingle Bell Swing*

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Singer, trumpeter, and songwriter Bria Skonberg has been called the “shining hope of hot jazz” (*NY Times*) and is considered “one of the most versatile and imposing musicians of her generation” (*WSJ*). The Juno Award winner brings her take on seasonal favorites this December with her sextet.

Holiday Show

Chris Thile

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Chris Thile, a GRAMMY-winning mandolinist, vocalist, and composer, has worked with artists such as Yo-Yo Ma and Brad Mehldau and is a founding member of both the Punch Brothers and Nickel Creek. His blend of Western classical, bluegrass, and newgrass has created a distinct new American sound beloved by audiences everywhere.





The Okee Dokee Brothers

Sunday, January 25, 2026

The Okee Dokee Brothers are five-time Parents' Choice Award winners and have been featured on PBS KIDS, garnered praise from the likes of NPR's *All Things Considered* and called "two of family music's best songwriters." Their Denver roots inspire the GRAMMY-winning duo's music with a passion for the outdoors and Americana Folk music.

Mandy Patinkin in Concert: *BEING ALIVE*

with Adam Ben-David on Piano

Friday, February 27, 2026

Before he was an Emmy-winning TV star, **Mandy Patinkin** was already a Tony-winning Broadway legend. **Mandy Patinkin in Concert: *BEING ALIVE***, presents the acclaimed actor/singer/storyteller in his most electrifying role: concert performer. "Mandy Patinkin is in the business of showstopping," raves *The New Yorker*, and that's exactly what he does in this powerful, passionate evening of song. ***BEING ALIVE*** is a collection of many of Mandy's favorite Broadway and classic American tunes. From Irving Berlin to Stephen Sondheim, from Cole Porter to Harry Chapin, Mandy Patinkin takes you on a dazzling musical journey you'll never forget.



Cirque Kalabanté: *Afrique en Cirque*

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Founded in 2007 by Guinean circus artist Yamoussa Bangoura, Cirque Kalabanté takes its inspiration from the music, culture, dance, and performance art of West Africa. Now based in Montreal, the organization also maintains education and humanitarian projects in Bangoura's home country of Guinea. With live Afro-jazz, percussion, and kora, this work vibrates with energy, agility, and joy.





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Connecting Students to Creativity, Community, and a World of Cultures

The Newman Center is so much more than a venue. Through partnerships with local school districts, artists on the Newman Center Presents series inspire the audiences of tomorrow through in-demand arts education programming. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, **all arts education programming is completely free to students and teachers.**

Musical Explorers: presented in partnership with Carnegie Hall, over 3,000 second grade students across the metro area learn about musical traditions from around the world.

The **Student Matinee Series** features free performances for students of all ages at the Newman Center. This season's series will feature ArtistiCO, La Santa Cecilia, Cirque Kalabanté, and The Okee Dokee Brothers.

In-school artist residencies bring artists from all over the world to metro area classrooms for workshops, masterclasses, and residencies. The 2025-26 season will feature in-school programming with Sunny Jain, Arturo O'Farrill, Don Was, Ephrat Asherie, and Darcy James Argue.

Our **campus partners**, including University Libraries, the College of Professional Studies, Lamont School of Music, and the First-Year Seminar program help students on campus, and in the community, more deeply connect with the performing arts through interdisciplinary conversations and programs. **Community partnerships** with El Sistema Colorado, Alliance for Music Education Equity, and Denver Public Schools' Citywide Music Festivals expand our connections and increase the number of students served across the Denver metro area each year.

Questions about the Newman Center educational offerings? Contact Luke Wachter, Associate Director for Educational Initiatives at 303.871.6543, luke.wachter@du.edu.

Thank you to our Newman Center
Education Fund donors and partners.



Support the Newman Center



Become a Part of the Newman Center Story

From engaging performances to inspiring educational programs, the Newman Center prides itself on uplifting our audiences and students through thought-provoking and exciting artistry. Our success is due to the generosity of donors and partners who are committed to our vision – *to be a cultural anchor for a thriving, dynamic and diverse 21st-century Denver.*

Giving Circles

Make your season a special one by joining one of the Newman Center Giving Circles. Donors receive incredible courtesies, including invitations to Rose Club receptions, artist meet and greets, and VIP events. Giving Circles begin at \$100. To renew or join a Newman Center Giving Circle, please email ncpa.development@du.edu.

Your Passion, Your Generosity

You don't have to be onstage to play a critical role at the Newman Center. Since its opening in 2003, the Newman Center has been a home for cultural exchange, community partnerships, and vibrant learning opportunities. We're excited to join DU's most ambitious philanthropic campaign yet, ***The Denver Difference: What DU Can Do***, and to invite our community to ensure that the performing arts are a vital part of our community now and for future generations. Help us shape the future of the Newman Center with a gift to any Newman Center designation fund today.

Newman Center Presents Fund

This fund provides crucial financial support to engage such world-class artists such as Hung Dance, Meshell Ndegeocello, and Branford Marsalis. Gifts to this fund are also used to expand each artist’s engagement here in Denver, such as interdisciplinary conversations, community engagement activities, workshops, and more.

Newman Center Education Fund

Gifts to this fund underwrite K-12 arts educational programming (see page 17). In 2024-25, over 8,000 students and teachers participated in these programs, which enhance classroom learning with unforgettable artistic experiences.

Give Now



Interested in donating? Visit newmancenterpresents.com or scan the QR code.

Questions about customized giving, corporate sponsorships, gift of assets, and more? Contact Adriel Long, Assistant Director of Development and Individual Giving at 303.871.6426 or Adriel.Long@du.edu.

What is the Rose Club?

Held in the Spencer Reception Room, Rose Club receptions offer performing arts lovers a chance to mingle with fellow supporters while enjoying complimentary appetizers and refreshments before select performances. This is just one perk for our friends who donate \$500 or more annually.





Robert & Judi Newman Center
for the Performing Arts

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 UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

To resist oppression and actively seek justice, I acknowledge and honor the original Indigenous peoples of the land upon which University of Denver stands, including the Tsésthó'ë (Cheyenne), Núu-ágha-tuvu-pu (Ute) and Očeti Šakówin (Sioux).