

Presented in Collaboration with
Washington Performing Arts
& Dance Theatre of Harlem

CELEBRATING
HAZEL SCOTT:
PIANIST, SINGER,
ACTRESS AND ACTIVIST

Wednesday, September 28, 2022 ~ 7:00 pm
The Library of Congress
Coolidge Auditorium

This event is presented in collaboration with Washington Performing Arts and Dance Theatre of Harlem.

Washington Performing Arts's *Hazel Scott 102nd Birthday Celebration* is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts; Lydia Micheaux Marshall; Dr. Gary Mather and Ms. Christina Co Mather; Barbara Myers and Tom Gallagher; Adam Clayton Powell III and Irene M. Solet; and Jenny Bilfield and Joel Phillip Friedman.

Special thanks to the following lead supporters of Washington Performing Arts's mission-driven work: Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated; the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts; DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities; and the Dallas Morse Coors Foundation for the Performing Arts.



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Not able to make it? A recording of this event and/or extras like conversations with the artist, educational videos or lectures may be available in time at:

- 1) loc.gov/concerts/hazel-scott-sep28.html
- 2) The [Library's YouTube channel](#)

Videos may not be available on both platforms, and some videos will only be accessible for a limited period of time.

The Library of Congress
Coolidge Auditorium
Wednesday, September 28, 2022 — 7:00 pm

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**CELEBRATING
HAZEL SCOTT:
PIANIST, SINGER,
ACTRESS AND ACTIVIST**

DAPHNE MARCELLE LEE,
Company Artist, Dance Theatre of Harlem

The Janelle Gill Trio
JANELLE GILL, PIANO
MICHAEL BOWIE, BASS
LENNY ROBINSON, DRUMS

with Guest Speakers
KAREN CHILTON
ADAM CLAYTON POWELL III
VIRGINIA JOHNSON
JANET MCKINNEY
TIFFANY REA-FISHER

PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Jenny Bilfield, President and CEO, Washington Performing Arts
Anna Glass, Executive Director, Dance Theatre of Harlem
Susan Vita, Chief of the Music Division, Library of Congress

CREATING *SOUNDS OF HAZEL*

Filmed during a residency in the spring of 2021 at the Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, NY, this mini documentary follows Dance Theatre of Harlem and the creative team behind *Sounds of Hazel* as they embark on rehearsals of this new ballet.



EXCERPT FROM *SOUNDS OF HAZEL*

Performer: Dance Theatre of Harlem Company Artist
Daphne Marcelle Lee

Music: Waltz in D-flat major, op. 64/1 (“Minute”)
as performed by Hazel Scott
in the film *Broadway Rhythm*

Composer: Frédéric Chopin; Arrangement © Phil Moore
Recording courtesy of Warner Bros Discovery



PANEL DISCUSSION ON HAZEL SCOTT

Karen Chilton, biographer (moderator)
Virginia Johnson, Artistic Director, Dance Theatre of Harlem
Tiffany Rea-Fisher, choreographer
Adam Clayton Powell III, Hazel Scott’s son
Janet McKinney, archivist, Music Division, Library of Congress



CLAUDE DEBUSSY (1862-1918) / JANELLE GILL

Suite bergamasque: III. Clair de lune (1890/1905)

JANELLE GILL

For Hazel

Janelle Gill Trio
Janelle Gill, piano
Michael Bowie, bass
Lenny Robinson, drums

ABOUT *SOUNDS OF HAZEL*

Sounds of Hazel is a work that uses ballet to express the talent, inspiration, and grit that infused Hazel Scott's existence. Hazel Scott embodied these qualities in a lifetime that spanned the heart of the 20th century. She was a jazz icon like no other.

The work focuses on specific times and places in Hazel Scott's remarkable life and takes audiences on a journey aesthetically and sonically through personal and historical scenes. We see Scott's home country of Trinidad, her family's emigration to Harlem during the Harlem Renaissance, her time in NYC during the fight for civil rights, and away to Paris to escape the red scare. Hazel Scott's story is a truly American story that will resonate with audiences from all backgrounds. It is driven by those characteristics that make us the best versions of ourselves: joy, empathy, righteousness, and through it all ... music.

Sounds of Hazel is co-commissioned by Washington Performing Arts (Washington, DC), Gaillard Center and International African American Museum (Charleston, SC), Seattle Theatre Group (Seattle, WA), and Music Worcester (Worcester, MA), with additional residency support provided by Chautauqua Institution (Chautauqua, NY) and the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth College (Hanover, NH). *Sounds of Hazel* is sponsored by Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, The Thompson Family Foundation, and National Endowment for the Arts.

Sounds of Hazel is also made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Mellon Foundation.



The world premiere of *Sounds of Hazel* will be presented by Washington Performing Arts at Sidney Harman Hall in Washington, DC on October 7, 2022 at 8:00 p.m., with subsequent showings on October 8, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. For more information please visit the Washington Performing Arts website.



About the Participants

Daphne Marcelle Lee is from Rahway, NJ. She was trained at the Rahway Dance Theatre by her late mother Jay Skeete-Lee, and the Dance Theatre of Harlem School. Lee earned her BFA in Dance from Ailey/Fordham University, and an MFA from Hollins University. Lee's professional experience includes Dance Theatre of Harlem (third season), Collage Dance Collective, Oakland Ballet, Alvin Ailey II, Black Iris Project. Her repertoire includes works by Jessica Lang, Benoit Swan-Pouffer, Nicolo Fonte, Dwight Rhoden, Jennifer Archibald, George Balanchine, Amy Seiwart, Joyce Trisler, and Darrell Moultrie.



Native Washingtonian **Janelle Gill** is one of the leading faces in the DC music scene, working as a performer, musical educator, producer, director, and student of life. She was introduced to jazz during a workshop with Delfeayo Marsalis that led to her attendance at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts and later, Howard University. Gill has dedicated her life's work to expanding and stretching the bounds of jazz and sound as we know it. Some of her credits include performances with The Blackbyrds, Maurice Hines' *Tappin' Through Life* (Arena Stage), and *A Tribute to Billy Strayhorn* (Kennedy Center), and most recently she spearheaded Toni Morrison's *Desdemona* (InSeries Opera Theater) as musical director. When Gill is not performing or teaching, she spends time reflecting and researching the benefits of nature and its intersectionality with music to better help heal the souls of those around her.



Karen Chilton is a New York-based writer and actor. A native of Chicago's South Side, Chilton received her MFA in Dramatic Writing at the NYU Tisch School of the Arts. She is the author of the critically-acclaimed biography *Hazel Scott: The Pioneering Journey of a Jazz Pianist from Café Society to Hollywood to HUAC* (Univ. of Michigan Press) which she has adapted for the screen. She was recently commissioned by Daryl Roth Productions to write a solo performance piece for the stage based on the biography. She is the co-author of the jazz memoir of Gloria Lynne, *I Wish You Love* (St. Martin's Press). Her dramatic writing credits include *The Tongue & the Lash: An Opera*, commissioned by Opera Theatre of Saint Louis (OTSL) for the 2021 New Works, Bold Voices! Lab, which premiered in June 2021, directed by OTSL Artistic Director James

Robinson and conducted by Daniela Candillari; *Afrodisiac (or Let My People Flow!)*; *Heirloom*; and *Convergence*, winner of the New Professional Theatre's Writers Festival. She wrote and performed the libretto for *The Soul Now Sings* in collaboration with pianist Damien Sneed, produced by NPR|New York Public Radio (WNYC) in The Greene Space. Her short plays, *Blue Cassius* and *Switch!* have been produced in the Obie Award-winning theater festivals 48 Hours in Harlem and The Fire this Time. She was recently a fellow for the Liberation Theatre Company's Playwriting Fellowship (2020–2021).



A founding member of Dance Theatre of Harlem, **Virginia Johnson** was one of its principal ballerinas over a career that spanned nearly 30 years. After retiring in 1997, Johnson went on to found *Pointe Magazine* and was editor-in chief for 10 years. A native of Washington, D.C., Johnson began her training with Therrell Smith. She studied with Mary Day at the Washington School of Ballet and graduated from the Academy of the Washington School of Ballet. She went on to be a University Scholar in the School of the Arts at New York University before joining Dance Theatre of Harlem. Virginia Johnson is universally recognized as one of the great ballerinas of her generation and is perhaps best known for her performances in the ballets *Giselle*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *Fall River Legend*. She has received such honors as a Young Achiever Award from the National Council of Women, Outstanding Young Woman of America Award, the *Dance Magazine* Award, a Pen and Brush Achievement Award, the Washington Performing Arts 2008-2009 Pola Nirenska Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2009 Martha Hill Fund Mid-Career Award, and honorary doctorates from Cornish College of the Arts and Juilliard.



Janet McKinney is an Archivist in the Music Division at the Library of Congress where she has processed many performing arts collections, including those of George and Ira Gershwin, Erick Hawkins and Lucia Dlugoszewski, Dana Suesse, and Hazel Scott. She is Chair of the Documentation Strategy Working Group that curates the Performing Arts COVID-19 Response Collection, and contributes to the ongoing exhibition *Here to Stay: The Legacy of George and Ira Gershwin*. Outside of the Library she is Chair-Elect of the Music Library Association-Atlantic Chapter. Janet earned a bachelor of Music Education from the Hartt School of Music and dual master degrees in Library Science and Musicology from The Catholic University of America.



Adam Clayton Powell III is the son of Hazel Scott and Congressman Adam Clayton Powell Jr. He is an American journalist, media executive, and scholar who currently serves as Director of Washington Programs for the University of Southern California's Annenberg Center for Communication Leadership and Policy, leading USC's multi-disciplinary initiatives on election cybersecurity and digital inclusion. Earlier, he served as USC's Vice Provost for Globalization, opening new USC facilities in Shanghai and Seoul, and Director of the USC Integrated Media Systems Center, a National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center located in the USC Viterbi School of Engineering. Previous roles include Vice President of Technology and Programs of the Freedom Forum and Newseum, Executive Producer at Quincy Jones Entertainment, Vice President for News and Information at NPR, News Director of all-news WINS radio in New York, and Manager of Special Events and Political Coverage for CBS News.



Tiffany Rea-Fisher, the Executive Artistic Director of EMERGE125, is a National Dance Project Award winner, 2022 Toulmin Fellow, 2021 Toulmin Creator, a John Brown Spirit award recipient, and she was awarded a citation from the City of New York for her cultural contributions. She subscribes to the servant leadership model and uses disruption through inclusion as a way to influence her company's culture. She has extensive experience in choreographing and curating concert dance. As a choreographer, Tiffany has had the pleasure of creating numerous pieces for her company as well as being commissioned by Dance Theatre of Harlem, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, NYC Department of Transportation, Utah Repertory Theater, The National Gallery of Art in DC, and having her work performed for the Duke and Duchess of Luxembourg. Her works have been seen on many stages including the Joyce, the Apollo, Joe's Pub, Aaron Davis Hall, and New York Live Arts. Tiffany was the first Dance Curator at the interdisciplinary arts organization The Tank where she now sits on their Board of Trustees. She also curates the Bryant Park Dance Summer Series providing free art access to thousands while exposing upcoming and established artists to a wider audience. Her professional affiliations include being the Vice President of the Stonewall Community Development Corporation, an Advisory Board member of Dance/NYC, a Comprehensive Organizational Health Initiative (COHI) member of the International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD), and a proud member of Women of Color of the Arts.



Now a singular presence in the ballet world, the **Dance Theatre of Harlem Company** tours nationally and internationally, presenting a powerful vision for ballet in the 21st century. The 18-member, multi-ethnic company performs a forward-thinking repertoire that includes treasured classics, neoclassical works by George Balanchine and resident choreographer Robert Garland, as well as innovative contemporary works that use the language of ballet to celebrate Arthur Mitchell's belief that ballet belongs to everyone. Through performances, community engagement and arts education, the Company carries forward Dance Theatre of Harlem's message of empowerment through the arts for all.



One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, **Washington Performing Arts** has engaged for more than half a century with artists, audiences, students, and civic life. The city is truly our stage: for decades, in venues ranging from concert halls and clubs to public parks, we have presented a tremendous range of artists and art forms, from the most distinguished symphony orchestras to both renowned and emerging artists in classical music, gospel music, jazz, culturally-specific genres, dance, and more. We also have an ever-expanding artistic and educational presence on the internet, envisioning ongoing opportunities for online connection and community.

Washington Performing Arts deeply values its partnerships with local organizations and other arts institutions. Through events online and in myriad performance venues and neighborhoods, we engage international visiting artists in community programs and introduce local artists to wider audiences. We place a premium on establishing artists as a continuing presence in the lives of both young people and adults through residencies and education programs.

Our achievements have been recognized with a National Medal of Arts and with three Mayor's Arts Awards from the DC Government. We have now embarked upon our second half-century, ever inspired by the motto of our founder, Patrick Hayes: "Everybody in, nobody out."

For more information, please visit washingtonperformingarts.org.

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Upcoming Events at the Library of Congress

Visit loc.gov/concerts for more information

All events in Coolidge Auditorium unless otherwise indicated

Friday, October 14, 2022 at 8:00 pm

Banda Magda

Music from the tetralogy *Seasons* by Banda Magda

There will be no preconcert conversation for this event.

Saturday, October 15, 2022 at 8:00 pm

Apollon Musagète Quartet with Garrick Ohlsson, piano

Music by Schubert, Penderecki & Shostakovich

There will be no preconcert conversation for this event.

Saturday, October 29, 2022 at 6:30 pm

“Concert Hall Acoustics and the Sonic Ideal
in Early Twentieth-Century America:
The Coolidge Auditorium (1925)”

American Musicological Society Lecture by Mark Pottinger, PhD

This lecture precedes the concert in the Coolidge Auditorium, and is part of the Founder's Day celebration. Registration is the same for both events.

Saturday, October 29, 2022 at 8:00 pm

FOUNDER'S DAY

Curtis on Tour:

Eric Owens and Singers from the Curtis Opera Theatre

Music by Brahms, Bridge, Britten, Coolidge & Schubert

This concert will be preceded by a special lecture in the Coolidge Auditorium at 6:30pm, and is part of the Founder's Day celebration.

Registration is the same for both events.

Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 8:00 pm

Jamal Aliyev, cello & Fazil Say, piano

Music by Schubert, Say & Franck

Preconcert Conversation with the Artists: 6:30pm, Whittall Pavilion

Concerts from the Library of Congress

The Coolidge Auditorium, constructed in 1925 through a generous gift from Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge, has been the venue for countless world-class performers and performances. Gertrude Clarke Whittall presented to the Library a gift of five Stradivari instruments which were first heard here during a concert on January 10, 1936. These parallel but separate donations serve as the pillars that now support a full season of concerts made possible by gift trusts and foundations that followed those established by Mrs. Coolidge and Mrs. Whittall.



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