



Advance Program Notes

Ben Folds and a Piano

Friday, June 8, 2018, 8:30 PM

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

Ben Folds and a Piano

Program to be announced from the stage

About Ben Folds

Ben Folds is widely regarded as one of the major music influencers of our generation.

Folds has created an enormous body of genre-bending music that includes pop albums with Ben Folds Five, multiple solo albums, and collaborative records with artists from Sara Bareilles and Regina Spektor to William Shatner. His last album was a blend of pop songs and his Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, which soared to number one on both the Billboard classical and classical crossover charts.

For over a decade he's performed with some of the world's greatest symphony orchestras and in 2017 was named as the first ever artistic advisor to the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. Folds continues to perform with symphonies and also recently returned to solo touring around the globe reminiscent of his earliest years, delivering a high energy rock performance using the intimacy of just a piano.

In addition to touring, Folds has also recently been tapped by Ballantine Bantam Dell, a division of Penguin Random House publishing, to write his first book, described as a collection of interrelated essays and anecdotes about art, life, and music. Release is tentatively slated for late 2019.

He is also no stranger to television, having been featured for five seasons as a judge on NBC's critically-acclaimed a capella show *The Sing Off*. He continues to appear in cameo roles on cable and network TV shows from *Billions* to *You're the Worst* and *Community* and recently composed the soundtrack for the Netflix show *Handsome*.

An avid photographer, Folds is a member of the prestigious Sony Artisans of Imagery, completed an assignment in 2017 as a photo editor for *National Geographic*, and was recently featured in a mini-documentary by the Kennedy Center's Digital Project on his photographic work.

An outspoken champion for arts education and music therapy funding in our nation's public schools, in 2016 Folds held the distinction as the only artist to appear at both national political conventions advocating for arts education and has served for over five years as an active member of the distinguished Artist Committee of Americans for the Arts.

In the Galleries

COMING SOON

Sitting Pretty: The Chair Re-Envisioned

June 21-August 12, 2018

All galleries

Artists from Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee expand upon traditional forms and cultural associations, re-imagining the possibilities of what a chair is and can be. *Sitting Pretty* features over 30 works, some created specifically for the exhibition, which is curated by Moss Arts Center graduate assistants Emily Bianchi and Sarah Tucker in conjunction with the curatorial department.

JOIN US!

Opening Reception and Meet the Artists

Thursday, June 21, 2018, 5-7 PM

Grand Lobby

Free; refreshments provided

Enjoy a summer evening with artists featured in *Sitting Pretty*.

William Wegman: *Sit!*

June 21-August 12, 2018

Francis T. Eck Exhibition Corridor

Presented for the first time in Virginia, this recent body of photographs by conceptual artist and pioneering video artist William Wegman features a succinct selection of his work with his beloved subject—Weimaraners—on tables and chairs by renowned designers and architects Charles and Ray Eames and George Nakashima.

GALLERY HOURS

Monday-Friday, 10 AM-5:30 PM

Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM

To arrange a group tour or class visit, please contact Meggin Hicklin, exhibitions program manager, at megh79@vt.edu or 540-231-0840.