

### Wednesday, October 5, 7:30 PM **Rhiannon Giddens** with Francesco Turrisi

Moss Arts Center Street and Davis Performance Hall Anne and Ellen Fife Theat<mark>re</mark>



# FALL SEMESTER \_\_\_\_\_\_ at a glance \_\_\_\_\_

Wed., Oct. 12-Thurs., Oct. 13, 7:30 PM Makuyeika Colectivo Teatral Andares

Sun., Oct. 23, 2 PM Acrobuffos Air Play

Fri., Oct. 28, 7:30 PM Farruquito Íntimo

Fri., Nov. 4, 7:30 PM Danish String Quartet

Tues., Nov. 8, 7:30 PM Broadway in Blacksburg Anastasia Sat., Nov. 12, 7:30 PM *Āhuti* Nrityagram Dance Ensemble

Thurs., Nov. 17, 7:30 PM **Soweto Gospel Choir** Hope: It's Been a Long Time Coming

Sat., Dec. 3, 4 PM **Roanoke Symphony Orchestra** Holiday Pops Spectacular

Tickets are available now at the box office and online. See the complete schedule of performances, exhibitions, and engagement activities at artscenter.vt.edu.

# Rhiannon Giddens with Francesco Turrisi

Rhiannon Giddens, banjo, viola, and vocals Francesco Turrisi, accordion, frame drum, tambourine, and piano Jason Sypher, bass

Program to be announced from the stage.

This performance is supported in part by gifts from Laurence W. Carstensen and Patricia Hart Carstensen and Dr. E. Fred Carlisle and Mrs. Elizabeth A. Obenshain.

# Biography

#### RHIANNON GIDDENS, banjo, viola, and vocals

The acclaimed musician Rhiannon Giddens uses her art to excavate the past and reveal bold truths about our present. A MacArthur "Genius" Grant recipient, Giddens co-founded the Grammy Award-winning Carolina Chocolate Drops, and she has been nominated for six additional Grammys for her work as a soloist and collaborator. She was most recently nominated for her collaboration with multi-instrumentalist Francesco Turrisi, *there is no Other* (2019). Giddens's latest album, *They're Calling Me Home*, is a 12-track album recorded with Turrisi in Ireland during the recent lockdown; it speaks of the longing for the comfort of home, as well as the metaphorical "call home" of death, which has been a tragic reality for so many during the COVID-19 crisis.

Giddens's lifelong mission is to lift up people whose contributions to American musical history have previously been erased, and to work toward a more accurate understanding of the country's musical origins. *Pitchfork* has said of her work, "few artists are so fearless and so ravenous in their exploration," and *Smithsonian Magazine* calls her "an electrifying artist who brings alive the memories of forgotten predecessors, white and black."

Among her many diverse career highlights, Giddens has performed for the Obamas at the White House, served as a Carnegie Hall Perspectives curator, and received an inaugural Legacy of Americana Award from Nashville's National Museum of African American History in partnership with the Americana Music Association. Her critical acclaim includes in-depth profiles by CBS *Sunday Morning*, the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, and NPR's *Fresh Air*, among many others.

Giddens is featured in Ken Burns's *Country Music* series, which aired on PBS in 2019, where she speaks about the African American origins of country music. She is also a member of the band Our Native Daughters with three other black female banjo players, Leyla McCalla, Allison Russell, and Amythyst Kiah, and co-produced their debut album, *Songs of Our Native Daughters* (2019), which tells stories of historic black womanhood and survival.

Named artistic director of Silkroad in 2020, Giddens is developing a number of new programs for the organization, including one inspired by the history of the American transcontinental railroad and the cultures and music of its builders. She recently wrote the music for an original ballet, *Lucy Negro Redux*, for Nashville Ballet (premiered in 2019), and the libretto and music for an original opera, *Omar*, based on the autobiography of the enslaved man Omar ibn Said for the Spoleto USA Festival (premiered in May 2022). As an actor, Giddens had a featured role on the television series *Nashville*.

This is the first performance at the Moss Arts Center for Giddens and Turrisi.

### Tell Us What You Think!

We'd love your feedback on this performance. If you complete the short survey, you can enter for a chance to win two tickets to  $\bar{A}huti$  by Nrityagram Dance Ensemble in collaboration with Chitrasena Dance Company on Saturday, November 12, 2022.



bit.ly/giddens-feedback

### Go Deeper

The writer John Jeremiah Sullivan has described the music of Rhiannon Giddens and Francesco Turrisi as a living embodiment of the global pathways that ultimately led to the development of American folk music as we know it today. What are some of the diverse musical elements you hear in Turrisi and Giddens' performance? Where do you hear tension, blend, and surprise in the combination of those musical traditions?

# Did You Know?

At the Moss Arts Center, student engagement is a priority. The center consistently maintains a high percentage of university student attendance for its events (28% for its 2021-2022 season) compared to other university presenters, demonstrating strong campus partnerships that encourage student participation. Student tickets are always \$10, and free last-minute rush seats are available for Virginia Tech students.

### K-12 Programs at the Moss



At the Moss Arts Center, we believe that arts experiences are a crucial part of a child's education. We've been dedicated to providing opportunities for children at no cost since we opened in 2013. A wide array of Moss programming and experiences inspire, engage, and empower students of all ages and backgrounds. This season, we're offering five school-day matinee programs, in-school workshops and performances, and gallery tours with professional artists for learners of all ages. Learn more at **bit.ly/moss-k12**.

# In the Galleries

COMING SOON: Fall Exhibitions Thursday, October 13-Saturday, December 17



#### Craig Drennen: *First Acts, Scene 2* Ruth C. Horton Gallery

Atlanta-based artist Craig Drennen is best known for his ongoing Timon of Athens series—inspired by the Shakespeare play of the same name—for which he has produced paintings, drawings, prints, videos, performances, and sculptures.

#### Steve Locke: the daily practice of painting Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery and Sherwood Payne Quillen '71 Reception Gallery

Throughout his artistic career, Steve Locke's work has questioned how we ascribe meaning to portraiture.

Opening Reception Thursday, October 13, 5-7 PM Moss Arts Center Grand Lobby

Artist Talk: Craig Drennen Friday, October 14, 2 PM Cube Craig Drennen ▲ Timon of Athens 3, 2009 Oil on canvas 72 x 108 inches Courtesy of the artist

### Land Acknowledgement and Labor Recognition

Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo/Monacan People's homeland and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that legislation and practices like the Morrill Act (1862) enabled the commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands, both locally and in western territories.

We understand that honoring Native Peoples without explicit material commitments falls short of our institutional responsibilities. Through sustained, transparent, and meaningful engagement with the Tutelo/ Monacan Peoples and other Native Nations, we commit to changing the trajectory of Virginia Tech's history by increasing Indigenous student, staff, and faculty recruitment and retention, diversifying course offerings, and meeting the growing needs of all Virginia tribes and supporting their sovereignty.

We must also recognize that enslaved Black people generated revenue and resources used to establish Virginia Tech and were prohibited from attending until 1953. Through InclusiveVT, the institutional and individual commitment to *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) in the spirit of community, diversity, and excellence, we commit to advancing a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community.

### Health and Wellness

The Moss Arts Center adheres to the guidelines of the Virginia Department of Health and Virginia Tech in its operations, including protocols for distancing, face coverings, and cleaning and sanitation. Our status may change according to changes in university operating procedures. Find the most up to date information at artscenter.vt.edu/ visit.

We ask patrons to do their part in keeping our community healthy. If you feel unwell, please stay home.

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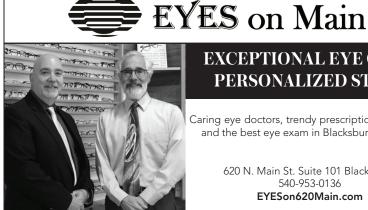
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Oct 7:12-6pm Oct 8: 9am-6pm Oct 9: 12-5pm





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Lucy Lee Lancaster was in the 1st 5 female graduates and was a champion of the Y.

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www.vtymca.org