

MOSS
ARTS
CENTER

24/
25



chucho valdés and irakere 50

Saturday, May 10, 2025, 7:30 PM

Street and Davis Performance Hall, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre

WHERE LOVE *gathers*

When your loved one is living with an advanced illness, experiencing the joy of everyday moments is everything to us at Good Sam.

As the only community-based, non-profit hospice, our commitment is unwavering to you and your family. Through our Palliative Care and Hospice programs, we create the opportunity for love to gather, and for your moments to last a lifetime.



Good Samaritan
Advanced Illness Care • Hospice

goodsam.care

Roanoke
540-776-0198

New River Valley
540-381-3171

Learn More About
the Center for Caring



FAMILY

OR OPERA ROANOKE

'24 -'25 Season, "A Family Affair"
Tickets starting at \$23!
OPERAROANOKE.ORG

chucho valdés and irakere 50

Chucho Valdés, *piano*
José A. Gola, *electric and acoustic bass*
Horacio Hernández, *drums*
Roberto Vizcaíno Torre Jr., *percussion*
Eddie de Armas Jr., *trumpet*
Oswaldo Fleites, *trumpet*
Luis Beltrán, *saxophone*
Carlos Averhoff Jr., *saxophone*
Emilio Frias, *vocals*

Program to be announced from the stage.

This performance will last approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

*This performance is supported in part by a gift from
Dr. E. Fred Carlisle and Mrs. Elizabeth A. Obenshain.
Additional funding is provided by the Larry and Lindsey Bowman
Center for the Arts Excellence Fund.*



program notes

This performance is a tribute to the Cuban band that, with its bold fusion of Afro-Cuban ritual music, Cuban popular music, jazz, rock, and a splash of classical music, marked a before and after in Latin jazz.

The tribute is also a celebration of pianist Chucho Valdés, Irakere's founder, pianist, leading composer, and arranger. A seven-time Grammy and six-time Latin Grammy winner and recipient of a Latin Recording Academy Lifetime Achievement, Valdés' most recent wins were a Grammy for *Mirror Mirror*, an album with fellow pianists Eliane Elias and the late Chick Corea, and a Latin Grammy for *I Missed You Too*, the reunion album with master reedman Paquito D'Rivera, a long-time friend and an Irakere mainstay.

"I'm proud of this tribute because I believe the group had a tremendous impact, nationally and internationally, and has left an important legacy, not only in Cuban music but in music, period," says Valdés. Another significant Irakere contribution, echoing Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, was to become a rolling graduate school of Afro-Cuban jazz.

“Irakere had an impact not only because of its music but also because of the great musicians who participated in that project,” emphasizes Valdés. “Four generations of musicians passed through Irakere, and several of them have gone on to build significant solo careers.”

To offer a vivid retrospective of his work with Irakere, Valdés leads a nine-piece ensemble comprising his quartet — featuring José A Gola, electric and acoustic bass; Horacio Hernández, drums; and Roberto Jr. Vizcaíno Torre, percussion — expanded with Eddie de Armas Jr. and Osvaldo Fleites on trumpets; Luis Beltrán and Carlos Averhoff Jr., son of a late, long-time Irakere member, on saxophones; and the vocalist Emilio Frias.

Reflecting on the idea of a tribute to Irakere, Valdés noted, “It is a great pleasure to have founding members participating in this project, reliving such a special moment for all of us. But it is also inspiring for me to have musicians with us who grew up with Irakere and see how they have taken our work and made it their own.”

Valdés launched Irakere in 1973. To interpret his vision, Valdés selected notable members and the principal soloists of the legendary Orquesta Cubana de Música Moderna, a big band comprising Cuba’s best musicians organized in 1967 to play jazz and pop. The Orquesta Cubana de Música Moderna was the officially sanctioned response to the worldwide musical revolution initiated by the Beatles. But in 1973, the budding Irakere, still a band-within-a-band, recorded *Bacalao Con Pan*. It was an irresistible, danceable song that hinted at the depth and breadth of the writing and playing, and it became Irakere’s first major hit. *Bacalao Con Pan* foreshadowed innovations that would become known years later as timba, a popular style today.

“Irakere represented for me a chance to put into practice all those ideas I had since I was a music student,” once explained Valdés. “And that included anything, from how to mix the ritual Afro-Cuban drums and rhythms with jazz to how to have the sound of a ‘small’ big band and structure the pieces. And I also did not want the sound of a big band. We were looking for another sonority — and we came up with a timbre that was different from everything being done at the time.”

program notes, cont.

Irakere became a self-standing band in 1975. It remained active until 2005.

The discovery of Irakere for American audiences began with a chance encounter in Havana in 1977 when, in the first official visit of Americans to Cuba since the Missile Crisis, a jazz cruise ship carrying musicians including Dizzy Gillespie, Stan Getz, and a young Ry Cooder (almost two decades before Buena Vista Social Club) dropped anchor in Havana harbor. They heard Irakere, were bowled over by the writing and the virtuosic playing, and, once back in the States, championed Irakere's case to the late Bruce Lundvall, then president of CBS Records. Lundvall wanted to hear by himself, and months later, he visited Cuba, attended a concert/audition, signed the group on the spot, and at his return, lobbied to have Irakere appear at the Newport Jazz Festival in New York City.

On June 28, 1978, unannounced, Chucho Valdés and Irakere closed the evening at Carnegie Hall and burst onto the global stage. A few months later, an album titled *Irakere*, including selected tracks from that show and a later performance at the Montreux Jazz Festival, won the Grammy for Best Latin Recording.

One of Irakere's remarkable characteristics throughout its extraordinary run was following and maintaining two parallel musical tracks: Afro-Cuban jazz experimentation and dance music. The group's shows, especially in Cuba, often featured a first part focused on jazz and, after intermission, a second half dedicated to dancers.

"We never were a dance group. We were a jazz group," says Valdés unequivocally. "But jazz in Cuba had a limited audience, so we started playing dance music to attract new audiences for what we were doing — and it worked incredibly well. We had a tremendous dancing audience. But many times, that audience would stop dancing just to listen, and then it was as if we were at a concert. I always thought that the people who came to hear us wanted to hear good music, good arrangements, good soloing, something different. So, in our concerts, we aimed to please those who came to hear jazz [...] But there was also another audience waiting to dance to *Bacalao Con Pan*, so we played jazz, and then we played music for dancing. We wanted the dancers to also have fun. And that's what we'll do on this tribute."

biographies

chucho valdés

Cuban pianist, composer, and arranger Chucho Valdés is the most influential figure in modern Afro-Cuban jazz. In a career spanning more than 60 years, both as a solo artist and bandleader, Valdés has distilled elements of the Afro-Cuban music tradition, jazz, classical music, rock, and more into a deeply personal style.

Winner of seven Grammy and six Latin Grammy Awards, Valdés received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Latin Academy of Recording Arts & Science and was inducted into the Latin Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Earlier this year, Valdés celebrated Irakere 50, a tribute to the Cuban band that — with its bold fusion of Afro-Cuban ritual music, Cuban popular music, jazz, rock, and a splash of classical music — marked a before and after in Latin jazz. The historic concert at the Arsht Center in Miami reunited Valdés with two Irakere mainstays: reedman and composer Paquito D’Rivera and trumpeter and composer Arturo Sandoval.

“I’m proud of this tribute because I believe the group had a tremendous impact, nationally and internationally, and has left an important legacy, not only in Cuban music but in music, period,” Valdés said. Moreover, he noted, “Irakere had an impact not only because of its music but also because of the great musicians who participated in that project. Four generations of musicians passed through Irakere, and several have built significant solo careers.”

But while celebrating past accomplishments is significant, Valdés remains a restless creator and has continued to move forward.

In 2021 he celebrated his 80th birthday completing *La Creación* (*The Creation*), a three-movement suite for a small ensemble, voices, and a big band. The piece, the most ambitious work of his career, tells the history of Creation according to the Regla de Ocha, the Afro-Cuban religion known as Santería.

biographies, cont.

The Creation was a commission of the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County; John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.; Chicago Symphony Center; and Los Angeles Philharmonic Association. It had its world premiere on November 5, 2021, at the Adrienne Arsht Center. Performances followed in several U.S. cities, including Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City, the Detroit Jazz Festival, and the Monterey Jazz Festival in California. In Europe, the tour began at the Philharmonie in Paris and included performances in Berlin, London, Hamburg, Lyon, and Barcelona (Valdés is the godfather of the International Jazz Festival).

Another notable event, professionally and personally, was Valdés' long-awaited reunion in 2022 with his old friend and musical co-conspirator, the extraordinary clarinetist, saxophonist, and composer D'Rivera. After their paths separated in the 1980s, they have rarely played together, but after their warm, emotional reunion, they wasted no time. In January, they recorded an album entitled *I Missed You Too* and embarked on a tour with their Reunion Sextet that took them to Europe and the United States. The recording won a Latin Grammy for Best Latin Jazz album.

Born in a family of musicians in Quivicán, Havana province, Cuba, on October 9, 1941, Dionisio Jesús "Chucho" Valdés Rodríguez has distilled elements of the Afro-Cuban music tradition, jazz, classical music, and rock into an organic, deeply personal style.

His first teacher was his father, the pianist, composer, and bandleader Ramón "Bebo" Valdés. By the age of three, Chucho was already playing on the piano melodies he heard on the radio — using both hands and on any key. He began taking lessons on piano, theory, and solfege at the age of five. He continued his formal musical education at the Conservatorio Municipal de Música de la Habana, from which he graduated at 14. A year later, Valdés formed his first jazz trio. In 1959 he debuted professionally with the band Sabor de Cuba. The ensemble, directed by his father, is widely considered one of the great orchestras in modern Cuban music.

Fittingly, Valdés made his early mark as the founder, pianist, and leading composer and arranger of another landmark ensemble: the small big band Irakere (1973-2005). With its audacious mix of Afro-Cuban ritual music, Cuban dance, jazz, classical music, and rock, Irakere marked a before and after in Latin jazz. Irakere's self-titled debut recording in the United States won a Grammy as Best Latin Recording in 1979.

While he remained with Irakere until 2005, Valdés launched a parallel career in 1998 as a solo performer and a small group leader. It marked the beginning of an enormously fruitful period highlighted by albums such as *Solo Piano* (Blue Note, 1991) and *Solo: Live in New York* (Blue Note, 2001), as well as quartet recordings such as *Bele Bele en La Habana* (Blue Note, 1998), *Briyumba Palo Congo* (Blue Note, 1999), *New Conceptions* (Blue Note, 2003), and *Live at the Village Vanguard* (Blue Note, 2000), which won a Grammy for Best Latin Jazz Album.

After leaving Irakere, Valdés also won Grammys for *Juntos Para Siempre* (Calle 54, 2007), the duet recording with his father, Bebo; and *Chucho's Steps* (Comanche, 2010), which introduced his new group, the Afro-Cuban Messengers.

But such success didn't mean forgetting past achievements. In 2015 Valdés celebrated the 40th anniversary of the birth of Irakere, his iconic band, with a world tour. *Tribute to Irakere: Live at Marciac* (Jazz Village/Comanche Music), which captured a performance on that tour, won a Grammy for Best Latin Jazz Album in 2016. He also won a Latin Grammy as Best Latin Jazz album for *Jazz Batá 2*, in which he revisited a revolutionary idea he first recorded in 1972: a piano jazz trio featuring batá drums.

In 2022 Valdés won a Grammy and a Latin Grammy for *Mirror Mirror*, an album of duets by pianist and singer Eliane Elias with Valdés and the late, great Chick Corea.

biographies, cont.

josé a. gola

Havana, Cuba native José Armando Gola has played bass since age 13 and attended the Amadeo Roldan Conservatory. Gola plays both upright and electric bass in various settings, has toured internationally, and played at major jazz festivals. Only in his mid-20s, he has worked with Gonzalo Rubalcaba for the past 12 years.

Gola has appeared on two Grammy-nominated Blue Note label albums, *Paseo* and *Codes*; Francisco Cespedes' Universal label album, *Te Acuerdas*; Arturo Sandoval's Grammy-winning album, *Rumba Palace*; Alejandro Sanz' Grammy-winning album, *El Tren de Los Momentos*; Latin Grammy-winning album *Ed Calle Presents Mamblue*; Chucho Valdés' and Paquito D'Rivera's Latin Grammy-winning album, *I Missed You Too*; Valdès and the Royal Quartet's Grammy-nominated album, *Cuba and Beyond*; and *El Trio: Live in Italy* (John Beasley, Horacio "El Negro" Hernández, and Gola).

Gola has also recorded with pop artists including Alejandro Sanz, Jenifer Lopez, Thalía, Francisco Cespedes, Luis Enrique, and many others. His first album as a soloist, *Gola Live Things*, featured Gonzalo Rubalcaba and Ignacio Berroa as special guests, as well as great musicians like Tony Perez, Felipe Lamoglia, Mike Rodriguez, Rafael Solano, Ludwig Afonso, Philbert Armenteros, and William Paredes.

Gola has also toured with Volcán and the Eldar Djangirov Trio to promote their latest albums, *Volcán* and *Breakthrough*, respectively.

horacio hernández

Horacio “El Negro” Hernández, the most recorded drummer of Cuba, has been the driving force behind the premier Latin and Latin-fused music of the past two decades. Since leaving Cuba in 1990, Hernández’ drumming has propelled the efforts of Grammy Award winners Michel Camilo, Roy Hargrove, Chucho Valdés, Gary Burton, Alejandro Sanz, and Carlos Santana, as well as Paquito D’Rivera and Gonzalo Rubalcaba. Hernández is identified by his unique Latin fusion style, melding the folkloric Cuban clave with the fierce punch, crisp snap, and deep grooves of today’s jazz, pop, and rock.

Hernández first gained international recognition as drummer for the legendary pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba and his band, Proyecto. Once in the U.S., Hernández — known internationally simply as “El Negro,” — began contributing to a host of the era’s truly extraordinary performances, both live and in-studio releases. Carlos Santana’s *Supernatural* (1999), a nine Grammy Award winner; Alejandro Sanz’ *No es lo Mismo* (2003), winner of four Grammy Awards; Eddie Palmieri’s *Listen Here!* (2005); and Gary Burton’s *For Hamp, Red, Bags, and Cal* (2001) all bear the stamp of Hernández’ percussive artistry. His own awards include a shared Grammy with Crisol, Roy Hargrove’s band, on *Habana* (1997), as well as a Grammy for the 2003 *Live at the Blue Note*, with Michel Camilo on piano and Charles Flores on bass.

Hernández’ impact extends beyond stage and studio. In 2013 the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, celebrating its 12th Annual Jazz Appreciation Month, recognized Hernández’ signature innovative approach to percussion and included his unique drum kit in the museum’s jazz collection, joining such artifacts as Herbie Hancock’s cordless keyboard and Benny Goodman’s clarinet.

A highly esteemed educator, Hernández also serves as a member of the faculties at Berklee, the New School, and Drummer’s Collective in New York. He holds an honorary doctorate of music from Boston’s prestigious Berklee College of Music, joining the ranks of Duke Ellington, William “Count” Basie, and Quincy Jones. His critically-acclaimed book and CD, *Conversations in Clave: The Ultimate Technical Study of Four-Way Independence in Afro-Cuban Rhythms* (2000), has become an industry standard.

biographies, cont.

Since 2004, in addition to his many other projects, Hernández records and tours with Italuba — also the title of the group's debut CD release, and Italuba's second release, *Italuba II* in 2007 — his collaborative quartet. "We are at the point where we are letting the music play us, instead of us playing the music," he says of the case with which the players relate and blend in a sophisticated compositional and improvisational musical dialogue.

In 2011 Hernández headlined at the Modern Drummer Festival for *Modern Drummer Magazine*, with his new project band of World Music all-stars, the New World Order. The concert was subsequently released on the *Modern Drummer Festival 2011 DVD*.

Hernández embarked in a new journey in 2012, contributing his percussion expertise during the making of renowned Italian recording artist Zucchero's newest project, *La Sesión Cubana*, which sold out important venues across the globe. The year 2015 saw the birth of Volcán, the band that reunited Hernández with his old music partners, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Giovanni Hidalgo, and José Armando Gola. Since then, they have launched an ongoing world tour.

Hernández was invited in 2018 to be a part of the International Jazz Day in Saint Petersburg, Russia, under the musical direction of master Herbie Hancock.

What comes next, arising from the innovative creation of "El Negro," will certainly amaze his audience as it continues to reveal his dedication to Cuban music — the same music that propelled his brilliant and unique contribution to contemporary music.

roberto vizcaíno jr.

Roberto Vizcaíno Jr. comes from a new generation of Cuban percussionists who preserve and respect the traditions of their culture, fusing and recreating them into both the modern and the classic. Born into music and global percussion — his father is Roberto Vizcaino — he is inspired and influenced by true Latin greats, including Chucho Valdés, Giovanni Hidalgo, Karl Perazzo, Horacio “El Negro” Hernández, Luis Conte, Richard Bona, Cory Henry, Paquito D’Rivera, Michel Camilo, and Joe Lovano, to name a few. Vizcaíno has played main festivals and stages, including the North Sea Jazz in Holland, Montreux Jazz Festival, WOMADelaide in New Zealand, Nice Jazz Festival in France, Montreal Jazz Festival, and the famous Hollywood Bowl, to name the most recent. Vizcaíno’s been nominated for the 2018 Grammy and the 2019 Billboard Awards and was a Latin Grammy winner in 2023 with Valdés, D’ Rivera, and Reunion sextet. Currently, Vizcaíno is a member of Royal Quartet along with Valdés, Hernández, and José Armando Gola.

eddy de armas jr.

Eddy De Armas Jr. was born in Cuba in the municipality of Güines. At 10 years old, de Armas Jr. began studying music at the Vocational School of Art for five years. He then transferred to ENA, the National School of Art in Havana City, where he studied and graduated at 19. While still studying, he had the fortune to play, record, and tour internationally with several well-known artists from Cuba. At 35, he emigrated to the United States of America, where he has had a broad, more international career, working with artists such as Oscar de Leon, Luis Enrique, Gilberto Santa Rosa, Willy Chirino, Wilfrido Vargas, Aymee Nuviola, Tony Succar, Ivan Linz, and Maestro Chucho Valdés and his band Irakere, alongside musical greats such as Arturo Sandoval and Paquito D’Rivera. He recorded for American singer and actress Idina Menzel on her album, *Christmas: A Season of Love*. De Armas Jr. currently works on a live television show Monday through Friday on the Univision network, *Enamorandonos USA*, as the trumpet player for the band.

biographies, cont.

osvaldo fleites

Oswaldo Fleites Sibore was born in Havana, Cuba, and started to play trumpet at the age of five with the help of his father, who was also a professional trumpet player and his greatest inspiration. Fleites studied music at the prestigious Conservatory of Music, Amadeo Roldán, where some of the most talented Cuban composers and performers were shaped. At the age of 16, Fleites started to play with the internationally known folkloric comparsa band Los Guaracheros de Regla, with whom he had the opportunity to participate in different music festivals around the world. He also served as a lead trumpet to many of the most acclaimed Cuban groups such as Azúcar Band while living on the island.

In 2007 Fleites migrated to the United States, where his career developed and flourished performing for some of the most respected Latin artists of our time, including "El Maestro" Chucho Valdés, along with famous Brazilian singer and composer Ivan Lins, Maestro Arturo Sandoval and Paquito D' Rivera, Ricardo Arjona, Oscar de Leon, Ricardo Montaner, Aymee Nuviola, Gente de Zona, Albita Rodríguez, Willy Chirino, Natalia Jiménez, Francisco Cespedes, and Luis Enrique, among others. Also, due to his talent and sound, the trumpeter has been chosen by some of the best music producers like Emilio Estefan to record for some of the world's most famous artists such as Gloria Estefan, Emily Estefan, Andrea Bocelli, Thalía, Il Voló, Jennifer Lopez, Marc Anthony, Victor Manuelle, Jerry Rivera, Chino y Nacho, Los Rabanes, The Wailers, Unified Sound and Elevation Worship, CimaFunk, Dani Martin, the percussion virtuoso Alfredo Chacon, and many more. Furthermore, Fleites has served as first trumpet for the Florida Chamber Orchestra under the conduction of Maestra Marlen Urbay. He was also invited by the acclaimed composer and musical producer Ricardo Eddy Martínez for the premiere of his suite, *Contrapunto*, as a soloist for the Miami Symphony Orchestra under the conduction of Maestro Eduardo Marturet along with the recognized sax player Dr. Ed Calle, for the 2019 Grand Season Opening.

Fleites currently lives in Miami, Florida along with his wife and their two sons. He is a devoted Christian that recognizes that all of his professional and personal success have been possible thanks to the protection and favor of Jesus Christ over his life. Fleites appreciates the support of his family and continues to thrive through hard work and determination.

luis beltrán

Luis Beltrán (Rosca) is a two-time Grammy-nominated Cuban saxophonist and flute player. While in Cuba, Beltrán worked as a director of the Parisien Show at the Hotel Nacional in Havana. As a saxophonist, he has played and toured in Switzerland, Italy, Spain, France, Tunisia, Turkey, and Austria. He is the founder of one of the most important Latin music festivals in Italy, Latinoamericando. Beltrán participated in the Umbria Jazz Festival, World Music Festival, and Latin Music Festival (1996-2004). In 2004 he moved to Miami, forming part of the Tropicana All-Star Show in Las Vegas. In 2006 he joined the Cuban band Tiempo Libre, with which he held international tours around the world, including Australia, China, South Korea, Singapore, Czechia, England, Mexico, Guatemala, Canada, and Greece. Beltrán has also performed with Chucho Valdés, Paquito D’Rivera, Arturo Sandoval, Ricardo Montaner, Camila Cabello, Tito Nieves, Luis Enrique, Eliades Ochoa, Issac Delgado, Giovanni Hidalgo, Joshua Bell, and James Galway. Presently he is immersed in his project delving into the world of Cuban music, Timba 305. Additionally, he leads a Latin jazz ensemble called B&WF, where he is in the process of crafting his debut album. Besides his projects, Beltrán currently performs with Irakere 50 under the direction of the renowned Valdés, as well as with The Players with composer Bill Champlin.

biographies, cont.

carlos averhoff jr.

Native Cuban saxophonist, composer, and band leader Carlos Averhoff Jr. is a recording artist at jazz label Sunnyside Records, as well as an endorsee at the prestigious Theo Wanne saxophone mouthpieces and Gonzalez saxophone reeds. Averhoff Jr. is a recipient of a Grammy nomination for his collaboration on the album *Buena Vista Social Club Presenta a Omara Portuondo*.

Following the professional path of his father, Averhoff Jr. currently collaborates with internationally acclaimed Cuban pianist Chucho Valdés and his legendary band, Irakere. Averhoff Jr. has been renowned as a virtuoso soloist. He has established his own musical identity among the new generation of Cuban saxophone players and Afro-Cuban jazz musicians. His music reflects his cultural background, personal history, and personality. As a performer, he brings a unique approach and sound, combining the fire and energy of jazz legends, John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins, and Joe Henderson with the lyricism of the great Lester Young.

All About Jazz names Averhoff Jr. “a dynamic fresh new voice on the saxophone.” *Latin Jazz Network* portrays his playing as “quite extraordinarily expressive and beautiful,” further adding, “Carlos Averhoff Jr. is a musician who is renowned as a virtuoso soloist.” In Spain, Carlos Averhoff Jr. won the first prize of SGAE (Sociedad General de Autores y Editores) 2005 for Best Composition and Solo Performance.

Averhoff Jr.’s music blends an authentic combination of traditional and modern Afro-Cuban rhythmic elements including *danzon*, *cha-cha-cha*, *bolero*, *rumba*, and *timba* — just to mention some — with a strong presence of today’s contemporary jazz language. He masterfully paints a landscape of authentic harmonies and rhythms from his native land, Cuba, with a very personal and dynamic musical touch.

On his most recent production, *Together: Honoring My Father*, Averhoff Jr. makes tribute to the late Carlos Averhoff Sr. Averhoff Jr. recorded the album along with several artists from around the world who collaborated professionally with his father. More than just an album, this production is something very personal for Averhoff Jr.

Throughout his career as a band leader and side man, Averhoff Jr. has performed in recognized stages and jazz festivals around the world. including Carnegie Hall, Paris Philharmonic, Jazz at Lincoln Center, ELB Philharmonic, Monterey Jazz Festival, Krakow Philharmonic, Jazz Odd Nowa Jazz Festival, Beantown Jazz Festival, Monte-Carlo Sporting Club, Berklee Performance Center, Scullers Jazz Club, Blue Note Jazz Club, SFJazz, Angela Peralta Theater, Barcelona Jazz Festival, Palau De La Musica Catalana, Detroit Jazz Festival, Toronto Jazz Festival, and Irapuato International Jazz Festival, among others.

Averhoff Jr. has played alongside well known artists from the jazz and Latin jazz scene, including Chucho Valdés and Irakere; Chucho Valdés and La Creacion Yoruba Orchestra; jazz drummers Louis Hayes, Jimmy Cobb, and Bob Moses; Juan De Marcos and the Afro-Cuban All Stars, Cuban drummer Horacio "El Negro" Hernández; trumpet players Arturo Sandoval, and Brian Lynch; pianists Jason Moran and Roberto Fonseca; saxophonists Dave Liebman, Greg Osby, and Paquito D'Rivera; and more.

In 2011 in the U.S., Averhoff Jr. graduated with a bachelor's degree, *summa cum laude*, from Berklee College of Music. He was the recipient of the one of the most important music scholarship awards at Berklee, the Charlie Parker Scholarship. In 2013 he continued his master's degree studies in jazz performance at the New England Conservatory, where he graduated with honors in 2013.

Averhoff Jr. took instruction from jazz luminaries Jerry Bergonzi, George Garzone, Ed Tomassi, Frank Tiberi, Greg Osby, Bill Pierce, Terri Lyne Carrington, Joe Lovano, Jason Moran, Cecil McBee, Ran Blake, John McNeil, and Donny McCaslin. Averhoff Jr. currently maintains a busy schedule performing and teaching, and he leads two different jazz projects.

biographies, cont.

emilio “el niño” frias

Emilio “El Niño” Frias is a Cuban singer, composer, producer, and orchestra conductor who has lived in the United States since 2024. Frias was born in Havana on August 5, 1988, to a very musical family. At just 19 years old, he joined Orquesta Revé, one of Cuba’s most popular groups, where he quickly became its lead singer. In 2013 he formed his own group, El Niño y la Verdad, which rose to the top of the charts on the island and internationally. Frias is defined by connoisseurs of the genre as one of the most talented young singers of his generation, with a unique command of the stage and improvisation and a distinctive vocal timbre that identifies and characterizes him. Frias has an extensive recording career, winning awards both in Cuba and internationally; he is a defender of *son*, *rumba*, *timba*, and all Afro-Cuban rhythms.

Chucho Valdés first performed at the Moss Arts Center in 2021 with Dianne Reeves and Joe Lovano. This is the first performance at the center for Irakere 50.

CHUCHO VALDÉS



IBAKERRE 50



tell us what you think!



We'd love your feedback on this performance.
bit.ly/valdes-irakere-feedback

*Please note, survey responses are anonymous.
If you would like a response to your feedback, please
email mossartscenter@vt.edu.*

engagement events

SATURDAY, MAY 10

PRE-PERFORMANCE DISCUSSION

Featuring Cuban jazz pianist Chucho Valdés, this pre-show talk offered attendees a chance to engage directly with one of tonight's artists with moderation by Dr. Michael Davison, professor of music at the University of Richmond, and English/Spanish translation by Gonzalo Montero, associate professor of Spanish at Virginia Tech.

COMMUNITY TICKET PROGRAM

In partnership with New River Community Action, families and community members enjoyed a pre-show meal and complimentary tickets to tonight's performance.

CLUB CUBE(a)

Join us in the Cube from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. for a free after party with Big Lick Latin Underground. Dance instructors will provide a beginner-friendly Cuban salsa dance lesson, followed by a dance social featuring DJ Perico's mix of salsa, bachata, kizomba, zouk, and merengue.

Special thanks to New River Community Action, Stephanie Bryson, Michael Davison, and Gonzalo Montero

go deeper

"Think outside of the box" is a common call for creativity. Chucho Valdés and Irakere's blending of Latin jazz and Afro-Cuban, rock, classical, and popular music seeks to take the rich content of multiple genres, or "boxes," and reimagine them in a space free of creative boundaries. What elements of this evening's concert sounded familiar? What elements sounded new? How might the creative freedom exemplified in Irakere's music inspire us to think outside of our own boxes?



PK-12 PROGRAMS AT THE MOSS ARTS CENTER

Each year, wildly enthusiastic students — from PK through 12th grade — fill our theatre for free matinee performances by artists from all over the world. They explore our visual arts galleries during school tours and create and learn during hands-on workshops with artists. For many students, visiting the Moss Arts Center is the first time they've ever been to a performing arts facility or gallery. Why do young people need access to the arts? Engaging in artistic activities offers a wide range of skills that they will use throughout their lives.

Learn more at bit.ly/moss-k12.



**MOSS
ARTS
CENTER**

SOVA Senior Show

Through Thursday, May 15

*Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery and
Sherwood Payne Quillen '71 Reception Gallery*

ICAT: Open (at the) Source

Through Friday, May 16

Ruth C. Horton Gallery

2025 New River Art Juried Biennial

Presented by the Blacksburg Regional Art Association

Thursday, June 5-Saturday, August 23

All galleries

**Opening Reception
with Juror Michael Rooks**

Thursday, June 5, 5-7 PM

Free

Robin Scully; Hungry Mother, 2023 (detail); acrylic on canvas; 12 x 12 x 1 inches

MOSS ARTS CENTER STAFF

OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE PROVOST FOR THE ARTS

Ruth Waalkes, *associate provost
for the arts and executive director,
Moss Arts Center*

Devair Jeffries-Lee, *program
director, Arts@VirginiaTech*

David Ehrlich, *outreach fellow
for the fine arts*

Molly Parker, *executive assistant*

ADVANCEMENT

Paul Brammer, *chief advancement
officer, Moss Arts Center and
University Libraries*

Kasey Socks, *leadership gift officer*

EXHIBITIONS

Brian Holcombe, *curator*

Savannah Penven, *exhibitions
program manager*

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Alyssa Watkins,
*director of finance
and administration*

Toni Cartee, *business manager*

Lori Compton, *housekeeper*

Destiny Culverhouse, *housekeeper*

Austin Elliot, *building manager*

Matt Hudson, *IT operations
manager*

Herman Noble, *building
operations manager*

Kelly Tincher, *housekeeper*

Emily Wilkins, *fiscal technician*

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION

Katie Gehrt, *director of marketing
and communication*

Susan Bland, *associate director
of communication*

Avery Eliades, *associate director
of content and digital strategy*

Shanin Glenn, *graphic design
manager*

Ellery Huffman, *marketing
coordinator*

PATRON SERVICES

Jonathan Boulter, *director
of ticketing and patron services*

Hannah Holbrook, *house manager*

Jamie Wiggert, *box office manager*

PRODUCTION

Doug Witney, *director
of production*

Robert Gainer, *audio supervisor
and associate director of production*

Kyle Gavell, *lighting supervisor*

Laine Goerner, *production
and rentals manager*

Forrest Harrell, *stage and rigging
supervisor*

Joe Ingram, *senior technician*

CJ Jessie, *senior technician*

Jackson Stitzer, *senior technician*

PROGRAMMING

Margaret Lawrence, *director
of programming*

Bethany Costello, *engagement
manager*

Beth Jessee, *artist services
assistant*

Ben Jewell-Plocher, *associate
director of engagement*

Sarah M. Johnson, *program
manager*

MOSS ARTS PARTNERS

The Moss Arts Partners (MAP) are ambassadors, advocates, and donors serving to advance and guide the mission of the Moss Arts Center. Thanks to our 2024-2025 MAP members for their leadership:

Nancy Beville Prichard

Rosemary Blieszner

Catherine Breske

Deborah Brown

Stacy Brown

Fred Carlisle

Clem Carter

Connie Froggatt

Matthew Gabriele

Rachel Gabriele

Steve Gerus

Ann Goette

Betty Hahn

Susan Hansen

Elizabeth Obenshain

LeAnna Pearson-Marcum

David Reemsnyder

Judie Reemsnyder

Louise Ridenour

Minnis Ridenour

Jim Shuler

Margaret Shuler

Ed Spencer

Tom Tillar

Kelli Whitfield

Jan Zentmeyer

EMERITUS MEMBERS

Erv Blythe

Lindsey Bowman

Constance Cedras

Sally Cox

Betty Davenport

Carole Davis

CY Davis*

William Davis

Don Drapeau*

Libby Drapeau

Rebecca Ghezzi

Candi Kelly

Jim Monroe

Anne H. Moore*

Sherwood P. Quillen

Bob Quisenberry

Melinda Talley

Mary Ann Walker

**deceased*

SPECIAL THANKS

We are grateful for the generosity of our patrons and donors who sustain the Moss Arts Center with their annual gifts. The impact of all contributions, no matter the amount, is significant in helping us transform lives through exploration and engagement with the arts and the creative process. We are honored to have received cash donations during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, from the following:

AMBASSADOR

Dr. E. Fred Carlisle
and Mrs. Elizabeth A. Obenshain
Clem and Georgia Carter
Mrs. Sally Schweitzer Cox
and Mr. John W. Cox
Dr. Charles Y. Davis*
and Mrs. Carole C. Davis
Dr. Mark and Connie Froggatt
Mrs. Elizabeth Hahn
and Mr. Douglas Chancey
Mr. Howard C. Huang
and Mrs. Laura A. Huang
Mr. Thomas S. Lewis
and Mrs. Earlene N. Lewis
Leo and Ellen Piilonen
Mr. Bruce Prichard
and Mrs. Nancy Beville Prichard
Ms. Sherwood P. Quillen
David and Judie Reemsnyder
Dr. James M. Shuler
and Ms. Margaret F. Shuler

PRODUCER

Dr. Rosemary Blieszner
and Dr. Stephen P. Gerus
Erv Blythe
Catherine K. Breske
Ms. Deborah L. Brown
Ms. Constance Cedras

Libby Drapeau
in Memory of Don Drapeau

Dr. Rachel Gabriele
and Dr. Matthew Gabriele

Ms. Ann Goette
*in Memory of Tony Distler
and Lindsay West*

Hampton Roads Community
Foundation

Ms. Susan M. Hansen

Mrs. Candi M. Kelly
and Dr. J. Michael Kelly

Faye Marcum,
LeAnna Pearson-Marcum,
and Casey Marcum

Mr. G. Robert Quisenberry
and Mrs. Susan G. Quisenberry

Mr. Minnis E. Ridenour
and Mrs. Louise Ridenour

The Easels

Dr. Edward F. D. Spencer

Ruth M. Waalkes
and Jeffrey C. Cole

Mrs. Mary Ann Walker
and Dr. Kenneth J. Walker

Ms. Kelli Whitfield

Mr. Glen A. Skinner
and Ms. Jan P. Zentmeyer

ASSOCIATE

Mr. Thomas L. Ackiss
and Mrs. Ann L. Ackiss

Dr. Gregory T. Adel
and Mrs. Kimberly S. Adel

Mrs. Rhonda K. Arsenault
and Dr. Lance E. Arsenault

Ms. Patricia C. Ballard

Mr. Matthew C. Banfield
and Mr. Cody M. Solberg

Mr. Andrew Beach

Dr. Suzanne Bentley
and Dr. Ernest Bentley

Mr. Allan W. Beres
and Mrs. Amy Beres

Dr. Vinod Chachra
and Mrs. Ranji Chachra

Dr. Cyril R. Clarke
and Dr. Jean Clarke

Larry and Patti Cowley

The DeWitt Family
in Memory of
Joseph L. DeWitt ('16)

Nancy Eiss

Mr. Juan P. Espinoza
and Mrs. Kara Espinoza

Mr. James A. Everett III
and Mrs. Karen B. Everett

Nancy J. Felch

Dr. William J. Floyd
and Dr. Leslie D. Kay

Mr. and Ms. Terry C. Fulton

Dr. Kathleen Hancock
in Memory of Eric Gregory

Mr. John T. Hasselmann
and Mr. Keith R. Stemple

Dr. Deborah Hix
in Memory of
Robert S. Schulman

Mrs. Ann A. Hlusko
and Mr. George P. Hlusko

Mrs. Tamara N. Hodsden

Dr. Patricia B. Hyer

Steve Jacobs

Mary V. Jones

Mr. and Mrs. W. Tucker Lemon

Mrs. Janice B. Litschert

Ms. Jeanne S. Lutze

Pete Marty

Janice McBee and Ben Johnson

Mr. Michael D. McCarthy
and Dr. Nancy E. Meck

Dr. Anne McNabb
and Dr. Richard M. Burian

Mr. Christopher Munk
and Mrs. Michelle M. Munk

Mr. Thomas E. Olson
and Mrs. Martha A. Olson

James D. Penny
and Pamela J. Penny

Mrs. Linda J. Pfeiffer

Linda and Ray Plaut

Ms. Felice N. Proctor

Mr. and Mrs. James G. Rakes

Mary and Ron Rordam

Carolyn Rude
in Memory of Don Rude

G. Davis Saunders Jr.

Dr. Richard D. Shepherd
and Mrs. Laurie W. Shepherd

Knotresha Stewart-Osemobor

Dr. Dianzhi Sui and Feng Xu

Connie Swanson
in Memory of Richard L. Swanson

Mr. Edwin H. Talley III
and Mrs. Melinda P. Talley

Mr. John W. Torget
and Mrs. Sandra G. Torget

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas L. Trott

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Lee Wheeler
and Mrs. Anne T. Wheeler

Ms. Beverly A. Williges
*in Memory of
Dr. Robert C. Williges*

Dr. Gary M. Worley
and Ms. Sandra M. Worley

FRIEND

Anonymous (2)

Florence M. Adamo

Sharon Quillen Adams
in Honor of Sherwood P. Quillen

Mrs. Leslie Adelman
*in Memory of
Gloria Radford Hilton*

Eugene W. Allen

Mrs. Julia P. Allen
and Mr. Timothy P. Allen

Mrs. Paula K. Alston
and Mr. Thomas P. Alston

Ms. Susan G. Anderson
and Dr. Kim J. Kipling

Kenneth Anthony
and Barbara A. Winfrey Anthony

Mr. Anargyros A. Anton

Mr. Michael Apfeldorf
and Mrs. Karen Apfeldorf

Marilena Aquino De Muro

Dr. Jeffrey E. Arbogast

Dr. Timothy D. Baird
and Dr. Kiyah J. Duffey

Mr. William B. Baker
and Mrs. Susan N. Baker

Bill and Nancy Baldwin

Robin C. Ball

Ballas Family
in Memory of Helen Ballas

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Lee Barger

Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. W. Baylor III

Mrs. Betty S. Bell
in Memory of Melvin H. Bell

Mr. Timothy J. Bendel
and Mrs. Michelle M. Bendel

Robert N. Blackley

Gary T. Blakely and Mary E. Blakely

Susan L. Bland and Ronnie Bland

Drs. Mark A. Boles
and Carol A. Boles

Dr. Travis and Marge Poole

Ms. Diane D. Bonsall

Michael Borowski

Dr. Charles W. Bostian
and Ms. Frieda F. Bostian

Mr. Jonathan C. Boulter
and Mrs. Katie Boulter

Ethan D. Bowser

Dr. Isabel S. Bradburn

Paul W. Brammer

Jennings W. Bray

David M. Breedy

Mr. and Ms. David T. Breon

Mackenzie K. Brodrecht

Mr. Patrick R. Brown
and Mrs. Cynthia A. Brown

Dr. John K. Burton
and Ms. Bonnie A. Guthrie

Mrs. Marilyn I. Butters
and Mr. Stephen F. Butters

Mrs. Leigh Anne Byrd
and Mr. David R. Byrd

Mr. Larry Callihan

Mary A. Callihan

Mr. Michael T. Callihan
and Mrs. Kathleen A. Callihan

Philip J. Callihan
Mr. Thomas M. Callihan
Sophia M. Campana
Dr. Geoff Campbell
and Ms. Debrah A. Campbell
Mrs. Rachael
and Mr. Boston Carberry
Mr. Travis M. Carr
Mrs. Toni H. Cartee
and Mr. James W. Cartee
Rosina M. Carter
Charles B. Chance
Michelle Chen
Dr. Lauren M. Childs
Michael Childs and Nancy Childs
Mr. Kenton L. Clark
and Mrs. Stephanie C. Clark
Ms. Rommelyn C. Coffren
and Mr. Zachary B. Coffren
Amanda R. Cohen
Hannah Cohen
Ms. Brianna A. Corleto
Mr. Timothy G. Corvin
and Mrs. Nancy R. Corvin
Jeanne C. DaDamio
Erik W. Dafforn
Dr. Debbie Day and Mr. J.S. Brown
Mr. James P. Dixon
and Ms. Barbara D. Day
Rachel C. DeLauder
Russell A. Desrosier
Dr. Elizabeth H. Domico
in Memory of Frances M. Russell
Lauren T. Doran
Mrs. Heather M. Ducote
and Mr. Bryan C. Ducote

Cathy A. Duerbeck
Mrs. Julie M. Earthman
Mr. and Ms. Kevin J. Edgar
Ms. Patricia B. Edge
and Mr. Robert M. Richardson
Dr. Kenneth R. Edmison
and Mrs. Sondra Edmison
Ms. Virginia L. Edwards
David and Teresa Ehrlich
Avery Eliades
Leslie Eliades
Dr. David L. Emanuel
and Dr. Deborah E. Hammond
Mr. Carl J. Eng
and Mrs. Jane Kornegay Eng
Michael Etzler
and Rebecca L. Etzler
Kari A. Evans
Ms. Jane Robertson Evia
and Mr. Carlos Evia
Mr. Jon H. Fagan
and Mrs. Elizabeth M. Fagan
Mrs. Christine M. Farrell
and Mr. Joseph Farrell
Ms. Alice J. Ferneyhough
Adam H. Field
Ms. Karen L. Finch
Dr. and Mrs. Jack W. Finney
Ms. Lisa D. Forcke
Mr. Jerry R. Ford Jr.
and Mrs. Elizabeth A. Lohman
Dr. Jeremy H. Freeman
and Mrs. Laura R. Freeman
Richard M. Furey
Robert K. Gainer
Suzanne Gardner

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Ray A. Gaskins

Tianyu Ge

Brian and Katie Gehrt

Mrs. Emily J. Gibson
and Mr. James E. Gibson

Sean Gilbert

Lauren and Jon Catherwood-Ginn

Shanin M. Glenn

Dr. Richard M. Goff
and Mrs. Diane P. Goff

Mrs. Ciji N. Good
and Mr. Kip C. Good

Dr. Rosemary C. Goss
and Mr. Robert Goss

Chad and Jaclyn Gotch

Emma C. Guido

Andrew Gunsch

Mr. Robert P. Gutkowski
and Mrs. Birgit P. Gutkowski

Monte B. Hager

Jean R. Hahn

Dr. Katherine L. Hall

Dr. Molly R. Hall

Dr. Jeannie Hamilton
and Dr. David Hamilton

Jennie and Cory Hamm

Mr. James S. Hansbrough
and Mrs. Jennifer K. Hansbrough

Heather Harper

Dr. Jean Haskell

Dr. Lenwood S. Heath
and Mrs. Deanie H. Heath

Dr. William G. and Ms. Joy Herbert

Ms. Lauren Herbstritt

Wilfred Hill

Mr. Lawrence G. Hincker
and Mrs. Susan S. Hincker

Liz Hinds

Hannah L. Holbrook

Brian J. Holcombe
and Christina I. Caudill

Linda Holcombe

Russell Holcombe

Dr. Chris L. Howard

Theresa D. Hoyle

Sinan Huang

Mr. Lawrence D. Hudson
and Ms. Mary E. Hudson

Matthew R. Hudson

Ellery Huffman

Mr. Andrew J. Hutchinson
and Carly Hansen

Andrew Ingham

Dr. Robert C.
and Mrs. Sandra N. Jackson

Carolyn Jake

Sarah S. Jarrett

Julia E. Jimmerson

Dr. Kylie H. Johnson
and Mr. William C. Johnson

Dr. Gerald M. Jones
in Memory of
Joanne Harper Jones

Mr. Joseph M. Jones
and Mrs. Laura A. Jones

Mr. and Mrs. Chris N. Kappas

Mr. Mahendra Kaul
and Mrs. Virginia Kaul

Mrs. Michelle Keelan
and Mr. Michael E. Keelan

John Kelly and Kelly Watts
in Honor of Candi Kelly

Aalia Y. Khan

Kelly C. Kidney

Mr. Theodore E. King Jr.
Shoshana M. Knapp
Mrs. Charlotte D. Knepper
and Mr. Jonathan Wright
William R. Knocke
John Kwak
Ms. Lara K. Nagle
and Dr. Vasily T. Lakoba
Patricia S. Lavender
Ms. Margaret A. Lawrence
Mr. Robert H. Leonard
and Ms. Deborah A. McClintock
Rick Lewis
Paul V. Louie
Jackie Lowery
Madison E. Lucero
Ms. Susan Lyon
and Dr. Leonard Lyon
in Honor of Professor Eric Lyon
Dr. Mary Marchant
and Mr. James Marchant
Julia and Chris Marin
Mr. and Mrs. Curtis A. Martin
Karina L. Martin
Lynn H. Martin
Mr. Michael J. Martin
and Mrs. Anna G. Martin
Timothy D. Marvin
and Christian G. Marvin
Ms. Jeanine L. Matte
Mrs. Barbara E. Mayo
and Dr. William F. Mayo Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. McAlarnen
Kacy M. McAllister
Ms. Christine I. McCann

Dr. Harry E. Mccoy
and Dr. Catherine W. Mccoy
David M. McDaniel
and Mickie McDaniel
Benjamin C. Mcgraw
Robert J. McKeown
Dr. Michael A. McMahan
and Ms. Drema K. McMahan
McMillion & McMillion, PC
Mr. Charles W. McPherson
and Mrs. Lillian McPherson
Mr. James McReynolds
and Ms. Pamela Philips
Jane R. Meggers
*in Memory of
Walter W. Robinson*
Dr. Joseph S. Merola
and Mrs. Catherine L. Merola
Patricia Miller
Mrs. Michele L. Miller
and Mr. Patrick W. Miller
Mr. Nick Moga
and Mrs. Nancy M. Moga
Mr. Mark B. Mondry
and Mrs. Pamela L. Mondry
Ms. Mary Denson Moore
Alexander D. Munn
Ms. Lee S. Musgrave
Rajaie Nassar and Letitia Juday
Enma B. Navarro
Dr. Amanda J. Nelson
Sonya J. Nicely
Mr. Justin T. Noble
Dr. George W. Norton
and Dr. Marjorie J. T. Norton
Mr. Keith B. Nunn and Angie Nunn

SPECIAL THANKS

Caroline G. O'Brien

Madelyn R. O'Brien

Suzanne O'Brien

Brenda J. Oliver

Dr. Thomas H. Ollendick
and Ms. Mary C. Ollendick

Daniel D. Orr

Mr. Donovan E. Owens
and Mrs. Whitney L. Owens

Olivia M. Pagano

Isabella M. Panek

Molly G. Parker

Mr. Paul Patterson
and Dr. Margaret Patterson

Mr. Paulo H. Merlin
and Mr. Jacob A. Paul

Heidi G. Perdue

Mr. Michael R. Peters
and Mrs. Kristin K. Peters

Dr. Everett B. Peterson

Holly H. Peterson
and Gene Peterson
in Memory of Dan Buckley

Heather W. Pharr

John Phillips

Dr. Joseph C. Pitt
and Ms. Donna S. Pitt

Donovan Pittman

Dr. Paul E. Plassmann
and Dr. Shyamoli C. Plassmann

Cherry O. Portz

Mr. Mauricio A. Ramos

Jessica Rich

Mr. Gregory S. Riffe
and Mrs. Jenny K. Riffe

Mr. David C. Riggan
and Mrs. Glenna Racer-Riggan

Janet F. Ringley
and Ricky L. Ringley

Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne Roberts

Ms. Jane Robertson Evia
and Mr. Carlos Evia

Ms. Alma L. C. Robinson
and Mr. Matthew T. Raum

Kari C. Rogers

Dr. Roberta S. Russell

Dr. J. Thomas Ryan
and Mrs. Susan Bull Ryan

Deba P. Saha

Mrs. Dawn S. Sain
and Mr. Claude S. Sain

Caroline R. Sallee

Mrs. Virginia M. Salvo
and Mr. Jack Salvo

Jude A. Sanborn

Rhett J. Sargent

Mr. Todd E. Schenk
and Ms. Radka Schenk Kretinska

Mina E. Schubert

Anastasia H. Seevers
*in Memory of
Gloria Radford Hilton*

Mr. Mohammed S. Seyam

Lukas and XiXi Liu

Mr. James E. Shivas
and Mrs. Tricia A. Shivas

Ms. Marcia S. Shumsky

Ms. Aline R. Soares Souza De Souza

Kasey N. Socks

Mr. Timothy J. Socks
and Mrs. Pamela J. Socks

George S. South
Gregory M. Spencer
Mr. Chris A. Stafford
and Mrs. Kimberly Z. Stafford
Ms. Frances C. Stephens
and Mr. Nicholas C. Stephens
Dr. Keith R. Stephenson
and Mrs. Julann Y. Stephenson
Dr. and Ms. Max O. Stephenson Jr.
John E. Stern
Ms. Linda F. Jilk
and Mr. Michael W. Stowe
Mr. Matt D. Summey
Ms. Kathleen Susano
Mr. William Symonds
Mr. Pedro Szalay
Dr. James M. Tanko
and Ms. Linda M. Tanko
Mr. Steven E. Tatum
Mrs. Monecia H. Taylor
and Dr. Thomas C. Shelton
Drs. Alex and Mary-Ellen Telionis
Susan E. Terwilliger
Ms. Lisa M. Thamasett
Kimberly R. Thomason
Mrs. Diane Tinkleman
and Mr. Michael Tinkleman
Mrs. Judy L. Trimble
and Mr. Michael L. Emery
Ms. Sharlyn Underwood
and Mr. Paul T. Ely
Mrs. Patty A. VanHassel
and Mr. John H. VanHassel
Ms. Allison H. Vetter

Marie Waalkes
*in Memory of Naomi G.
and Robert J. Waalkes*
Ms. Nicole L. Wagner
*in Memory of
Marliene R. Wagner*
Oral D. Walker
Grayson Walker
Hunter Walker
Jasmine J. Walker
Dr. Charles O. Warren Jr.
and Mrs. Nancy N. Warren
Ms. Ashley N. White
Jay and Traci Whitlow
Jamie C. Wiggert
Mark B. Wigginton
Emily and Paul Wilkins
Ashley Wilson
Mr. David W. Leonard
and Ms. Kathleen C. Wilson
Mr. Claude L. Wimmer
and Mrs. Carol M. Wimmer
Ms. Leslie R. Winn
Mr. and Ms. Douglas C. Witney
Dr. Mary Leigh Wolfe
Mrs. Amanda K. Woolley
and Mr. Brian G. Woolley
Jared M. Woolly
Zhiyuan Xu
Carter and Janet Younger
Megan C. Zalecki
Helen H. Zhang
Ms. Mary J. Zody

**deceased*

ENDOWMENTS

The Moss Arts Center extends its appreciation to those donors who have established endowments in support of the arts.

Deborah L. Brown Center for the Arts Excellence Fund

G. Davis Saunders, Jr. Fund for Excellence

Timothy and Michelle Bendel Center for the Arts Excellence Fund

Larry C. & Lindsey Bowman Center for Arts Excellence Fund

Dave & Judie Reemsnyder Center for the Arts Excellence Fund

Moss Arts Center Endowment Fund, established by Edwin and Melinda Talley

Don and Carolyn Rude Fund for Excellence

James M. and Margaret F. Shuler Fund for Excellence

Joe and Linda Hopkins Arts Enrichment Fund

Charles and Dorothy Lambert Endowment for the Art

Elizabeth McIntosh Mitchell Trauger Excellence Fund

Dr. Mark and Connie Froggatt Education Fund

Rosina and Dean Carter Endowment for Visual Arts Residency Program

Charles Y. and Carole C. Davis '78 Visual Arts Residency Fund



Creating Future Artists Starts With YOU!

This child's musical opportunity was provided by a grant from the MCEF and an amazing MCPS music teacher!

Learn how
you can help
us build the
future.



MCEF MONTGOMERY
COUNTY
EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION

MCPS
Montgomery County
Public Schools

LASERFORCE

IT'S
**game
time**
AT THE
SUPERBOWL

AXE THROWING LASER TAG BOWLING ARCADE GREAT FOOD
www.nrvsuperbowl.net



SHELTER
ALTERNATIVES, INC.
DESIGN BUILD TEAM



Embracing Building Science with
Creativity and Intention Since 1988
540.951.0358 www.shelteralternatives.com

***Bringing the
New River Valley
community
together in song
for more than
35 years.***



www.blacksburgmasterchorale.org

NRV HOME EXPO

Virtual Booths



WWW.NRVHOMEEXPO.COM

Looking to build,
buy, remodel, or
need help with your
current project list?

Check out the
NRV Home Expo
Virtual Booths to find
a professional to help
you with your next
project!

Scan the QR code to
the left to browse
today!



Blacksburg's indie bookstore.

new & used books
bookish things
locally-made gifts
author events
book club
open mic night

Open 7 days a week
540.315.9650
www.blacksburgbooks.com

Appalachian literature

401 S. Main Street
Suite 106
(parking around back!)

great stuff!
matrixgallery.com



pottery, glass, jewelry, wood,
leather & more!

**MATRIX
GALLERY**

handmade jewelry
contemporary American crafts

115 N. Main St. · Downtown Blacksburg · (540) 951-3566



Fringe
Benefit

Bring this ad in within
10 days for 15% off!

105 N Main St, Blacksburg, VA 24060
www.fringebenefitva.com

Create your own fashion statement.

Welcome to The Heart of Blacksburg

Come enjoy a major blockbuster or art film, concert, or engaging live entertainment at the historic Lyric Theatre - located just steps from campus in downtown Blacksburg!



The Lyric Theatre | 138 College Ave, Blacksburg | (540) 951-4771 | www.TheLyric.com

Imagine a place where a friend becomes family.
Where a teacher becomes a mentor.
And a student becomes a leader.

Imagine a place where self-esteem soars.
Confidence grows. Commitment is fostered.
Teamwork is modeled.

Imagine a place where a child finds JOY and
BELONGING.

*1000s of young people have found their happy
place at Dance.tech for over 25 years.*

You belong here.



www.dance-tech.com
540.961.6666 @dancetechrocks



MOSS
ARTS
CENTER

artscenter.vt.edu



25

EXPERIENCE SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

Step into a space where real moments unfold before you and every note, movement, and story draws you in. Live performance isn't just something you watch — it's something you feel.

Announcing a new season
Wednesday, June 4, 2025

26

 VIRGINIA
TECH.



SPECIAL EVENTS

CONTRA DANCE AT THE Y

Contra Dance is a traditional American dance in which couples dance in two long facing lines or in groups of four. No partner required!

Y COMMUNITY GALLERY

We are proud to announce that the YMCA at Virginia Tech is opening a brand-new community art gallery in The Y Center at 1000 N. Main St., Blacksburg. We are extremely grateful to eARTh (by Diane Relf) for sponsorship of this new space and for the generous support of Shelter Alternatives and Bell Electric.

Y BOOK FAIR

Among the many volumes of books that will be available in our annual Book Fair there will be a collection of books of local origin, authors and interest. We'll have literally thousands of books, comics, graphic novels, vinyl and vintage collectibles for you to peruse at the very best prices around so get ready!



YOUR GUIDE TO RECYCLING AT THE Y

WHAT

Textiles (gently used household items to include books, clothing, housewares, blankets, toys, etc.)

*Thrift Shop (Blacksburg)
Please deliver to Thrift Shop dock during business hours.*

Electronics (working & non-working TV's (from Mont. County residents only)

*Thrift Shop (Blacksburg)
Please deliver to Thrift Shop dock during business hours.*

Batteries (Rechargeable batteries only)

*Thrift Shop (Blacksburg)
Bring inside to Recycling Station.
Each item will need to be individually bagged. Bags and tape will be provided.*

CFL's, Ink Jet cartridges, rechargeable batteries

*Thrift Shop (Blacksburg)
Bring inside to Recycling Table. Each item will need to be individually bagged. Bags and tape will be provided.*

We love to hear from you! Feel free to send us an email at ymca@vtymca.org and we will be in contact with you soon.

Y CENTER

Thrift Shop, Pottery Studio,
Event Room, and Conference Room
1000 North Main Street
Blacksburg, VA 24060
540-552-2633

MAIN OFFICE

Lancaster House
403 Washington Street SW
Blacksburg, VA 24060
540-961-9622
ymca@vtymca.org