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Spivey Hall Maintains Stellar Schedule of Artists as It Nears Season End

***Soprano Julia Bullock, Bass Baritone Gerald Finley Wrap Vocal Series;
Organist Alcee Chriss III Concludes Organ Series***

Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain Returns to Spivey Hall for Special Event

MORROW GA (March 28, 2018) – With its Season 27 only two months from close, **Spivey Hall** continues to bring the finest in both new and familiar artists to its patrons. April programming wraps both the **Vocal Series** and the **Organ Series** and sees the return of a popular (and delightfully daffy) musical ensemble.

“Singing is common to all world cultures, and as is true in most human endeavors, there are some supremely gifted individuals who stand high above the rest,” said Executive and Artistic Director Sam Dixon. “The excellence of our classical singers is a hallmark of the Spivey Series, as are recitals given by the concert organ stars of today and tomorrow. We actively seek out the most promising emerging talent so that Spivey music-lovers can say, ‘We heard them here first, on their way to the top!’”

Radiant soprano [Julia Bullock](#), partnered with fellow Julliard alumnus [John Arida](#), makes her Spivey Hall debut (**April 7**) in Spivey’s **Vocal Series**; *Opera News* reports “she communicates intense, authentic feeling, as if she were singing right from her soul.” 2014 American Guild of Organists (AGO) “Rising Star” [Alcee Chriss III](#) wraps Spivey’s **Organ Series (April 14)** with a program of German and French masterworks plus his own tribute to legendary jazz pianist Art Tatum. The witty and cerebral [Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain](#), whose comedy with music the late pop icon David Bowie once called “cleverly entertaining,” returns to Spivey (**April 15**) after a sell-out performance in 2015. Canadian bass-baritone [Gerald Finley](#) appears with the formidable pianist [Julius Drake](#), his performing partner of over 30 years, for the final concert in Spivey’s Vocal Series; the two artists are renowned by *Gramophone* as “a great partnership.” “Vocal recitals don’t get better than this” (*The Globe and Mail*).

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In addition to these stellar Spivey Series artists, [Clayton State University's Department of Visual and Performing Arts / Division of Music](#) presents **A German Requiem, Op. 45** by Johannes Brahms (**April 29**), in a performance combining the talents of the **Clayton State University Orchestra**, the **Southern Crescent Orchestra**, **Clayton State University Chorale**, and **Masterworks Chorus**. There is also a free concert presented by the **Clayton Community Big Band (April 30)**.

For tickets or more information, call the Spivey Hall Box Office at (678) 466-4200, or visit spiveyhall.org. In addition to the standard ticket pricing indicated for each performance, there is a 50% discount available to students and a 20% discount to Georgia educators with ID. Discounted single tickets are available only through the box office, which is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; discounted subscriptions of four or more concerts remain available both through the Box Office and online for purchase.

SPIVEY SERIES

Julia Bullock, soprano
John Arida, piano
Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
Pre-concert talk at 6:30 p.m.

Reviews of soprano **Julia Bullock** often reference combustion of some kind – from *The Boston Globe*'s account of her “firecracker energy” on stage to the *Boston Herald*'s description of a performance as “a defiant...explosion of music.” The fast-rising singer is equally at home with opera and concert repertoire, and has captivated and inspired audiences through her versatile artistry, probing intellect, and commanding stage presence. *Opera News* extols, “Bullock's radiant soprano shines brightly and unfailingly... Most compellingly, however, she communicates intense, authentic feeling, as if she were singing right from her soul.” Recent accolades include the 2016 Sphinx Medal of Excellence, a 2015 Leonore Annenberg Arts Fellowship, the 2015 Richard F. Gold Grant from the Shoshana Foundation, and Lincoln Center's 2015 Martin E. Segal Award. Her partner in her Spivey Hall recital is New York pianist **John Arida**, who specializes in opera and art song.

“Julia Bullock is charismatically radiant,” said Dixon. “You simply don't want to take your eyes off her.” Bullock's Spivey Hall program includes songs by Viennese master Franz Schubert; *Hermit Songs* by one of America's most inspired and lyrical composers for voice, Samuel Barber; and selections from *La Chanson d'Eve (Eve's Song)* by a leading figure of French Romanticism, Gabriel Fauré. In the second half, Bullock Shifts gears with tributes to sultry leading ladies of American jazz and blues, including Billie Holiday, Cora “Lovie” Austin, and Nina Simone, providing her rich opportunities to display her stylistic versatility as a truly remarkable singing actress.

Tickets are priced at \$50 (with discounts for subscribers, groups, students and Georgia educators), and are available for purchase now. A pre-concert talk with Clayton State music faculty member Dr. Kurt-Alexander Zeller begins at 6:30 p.m. and is included in the ticket price.

Julia Bullock and John Arida's Spivey Series recital is made possible through the generosity of Spivey Hall Friends Concert Sponsors Janet Love and Jeanne and Michael Riggall.

Alcee Chriss III, organ
Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

First-prize and Bach prize winner at the 2017 Canadian International Organ Competition, **Alcee Chriss III** continues to draw attention and accolades for his artistry. Previous competition awards include the Firmin Swinnen Silver Medal at the 2016 Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition and First Prize and Audience Prize at the 2016 Fort Wayne National Organ Competition.

"Alcee Chris will play some fascinating selections of music we've never heard before," said Dixon, "including two short works – *Retrospection* and *In A Quiet Mood* – by Florence Price, the first African American woman to have her music played by a major American orchestra. Price achieved distinction in her lifetime but only now, decades after her passing, are we discovering the incredible scope and quality of her work, as recently noted by [*The New York Times*](#)." The program also includes pillars of the organ repertoire – Bach's Prelude and Fugue in D major, BMV 532 and Jean Gillou's Toccata, Op.9 – as well as Chriss's own tribute to stride pianist Art Tatum, *Rhapsody After Art*.

Tickets are priced at \$40 (with discounts for subscribers, groups, students and Georgia educators) and are available for purchase now.

Alcee Chriss III's Spivey Series recital is made possible through the generosity of Spivey Hall Friends Concert Sponsors Scott Shearer and Conrad Zimmer.

Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain
Sunday, April 15, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

The New York Times has called them "superbly tuneful fun." The *Manchester Evening News* praised the group's "beautiful chemistry that represents fun, innocence, daftness and a genuinely enjoyable showcase of unique talent." Returning to Spivey Hall after a 2015 sold-out performance there, the all-singing, all-strumming **Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain** promises an afternoon of cheeky and irreverent entertainment featuring a mix of music from rock and pop to classical, performed as only the Ukes can.

Tickets are priced at \$50 (with discounts for subscribers, groups, students and Georgia educators), and are available for purchase now.

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain's concert is made possible through the generosity of Spivey Hall Friends Concert Sponsors Claire and Alex Crumbley.

Gerald Finley, bass-baritone
Julius Drake, piano
Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
Pre-concert talk at 6:30 p.m.

Grammy Award-winning bass baritone **Gerald Finley** has long been recognized as “a recitalist of rare versatility, a concert artist of the first rank, and an opera singer of distinction” (*New York Times*). His recent awards include a Grammy for Best Opera Recording 2012 (*Dr. Atomic* from the Met) and Best Solo Vocal Recording for his CD of Britten Songs (Hyperion) at the 2011 Classic FM Gramophone Awards. This followed the same award in 2009 for Schumann's Heine settings as well as in 2008 for his CD on Hyperion of Songs by Samuel Barber. He was also honored at the 2009 Opera News Awards for distinguished achievement. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in July 2014, and a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2017.

For his Spivey Hall recital, Finley is joined by his long-time recital partner **Julius Drake**, with whom he has appeared throughout Europe and North America at venues such as New York's Carnegie-Zankel Hall and London's Wigmore Hall, and festivals such as Tanglewood, Ravinia, and Edinburgh. *Der Standard* praised the duo's performance as “art as the daughter of craftsmanship and genius.”

Finley's Spivey Hall program opens with sets of songs by Beethoven and Schubert inspired by the German writer and poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, whose pervasive influence in Europe as an early proponent of the *Sturm und Drang* (Storm and Stress) movement that ushered in Romanticism. The recital continues with a group of soulful romances by Tchaikovsky that mix memory with bittersweet melancholy (including his famous “None but the Lonely Heart”), echoed by a group of similar highly emotional and expressive romances by fellow Russian Rachmaninoff, and, to close, a selection of Finley's favorite folksongs as set by an international array of composers.

Tickets are priced at \$60 (with discounts for subscribers, groups, students and Georgia educators), and are available for purchase now. A pre-concert talk with Clayton State music faculty member Dr. Kurt-Alexander Zeller begins at 6:30 p.m. and is included in the ticket price.

Gerald Finley and Julius Drake's Spivey Series recital is made possible through the generosity of Spivey Hall Friends Concert Sponsors Frederick and Elizabeth Bliss.

ADDITIONAL APRIL 2018 EVENTS

Clayton State University
Department of Visual and Performing Arts Division of Music

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**CSU Orchestra
CSU Chorale
Masterworks Chorus
Southern Crescent Symphony Orchestra
Dr. Michael Fuchs, conductor
Sunday, April 29, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.**

The combined talents of the **Clayton State University Orchestra**, the **Southern Crescent Orchestra**, **Clayton State University Chorale**, and **Masterworks Chorus** perform Johannes Brahms's *A German Requiem*, Op. 45, the composer's pre-eminent large-scale work for chorus, orchestra, and soprano and baritone soloists, inspired by the death of his mother. The piece expresses some of Brahms's deepest thoughts and emotions about life, death, and faith through his personal selections of Holy Scripture he set so movingly to music, instead of the traditional Latin Mass.

Tickets for this concert are priced at \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, and free for CSU students, faculty & staff with Laker Card. Tickets available for purchase now.

**Clayton Community Big Band
Stacey Houghton, director
Monday, April 30, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.**

Formed in the fall of 2000, the **Clayton Community Big Band** is a full size instrumental jazz ensemble comprised of Clayton State University music students and talented volunteers in the surrounding community. Participation is open to performers on saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass, and drums. The CCBB keeps this 80-year tradition of large jazz ensembles alive through its performances showcasing jazz styles including swing, Latin, American standards, blues, fusion, and contemporary idioms.

Admission to this Division of Music performance is free, with no tickets required.

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About Spivey Hall

Now celebrating its 27th season, [Spivey Hall](#) is the South's most acoustically superior recital hall, presenting the best in classical, jazz and world music. Located on the picturesque campus of Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia, just fifteen miles southeast of Atlanta, the hall has been praised by artists, patrons and journalists alike.

An intimate venue with just 392 seats, Spivey Hall promotes for the concert-goer a personal connection with the artist both during and after the performance. Spivey's extraordinary acoustics and reputation for distinguished programming attract outstanding international musicians who regularly perform at the nation's major concert venues such as Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. For more information, visit spiveyhall.org

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Clayton State University's Spivey Hall gratefully acknowledges the support of [The Walter and Emilie Spivey Foundation](#) and the [Spivey Hall Friends](#).

THE WALTER AND EMILIE
SPIVEY FOUNDATION



Alan Morrison holds the McGehee Family Organist Residency at Spivey Hall.

David Russell's Spivey Hall residency is funded in part by a grant from [South Arts](#) in partnership with the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).



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About Clayton State University

A unit of the University System of Georgia, **Clayton State University** is an outstanding comprehensive metropolitan university located 15 miles southeast of downtown Atlanta. For more information, visit [clayton.edu](#).

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