

Spring Performances Announced

Following its recent separation from the Kennedy Center, Washington National Opera's 2025–2026 season will continue in new venues across the greater-Washington, D.C. area. WNO's long-announced spring programs include the premiere of a new version of **Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha*** directed by **Denyce Graves** and **Robert Ward's** Pulitzer Prize-winning ***The Crucible***, starring **J'Nai Bridges** and **Ryan McKinny**, both taking place at Lisner Auditorium, the same venue where WNO gave its very first performances 70 years ago. WNO Cafritz Young Artists and the WNO Orchestra will also perform several events throughout the region.

WNO will announce details and venues at a later date for its May productions of ***West Side Story*** and annual **Opera Gala**, which will be hosted this year by famed *Wicked* composer **Stephen Schwartz**, as previously announced, and **Jamie Bernstein**, author and daughter of Leonard Bernstein. Performances of WNO's **American Opera Initiative**, which is a cornerstone of WNO's mission to build the future of American opera, have been postponed, and the rescheduled dates and venues will be announced soon.

Tickets will go on-sale for *Treemonisha* and *The Crucible* on January 23, with a special pre-sale option for WNO subscribers beginning January 20. To purchase tickets visit www.WashNatOpera.org. Patrons who have already purchased tickets for WNO events previously held at the Kennedy Center are receiving refunds.

TREEMONISHA

Music and Libretto by Scott Joplin | Musical Adaptation and Orchestration by Damien Sneed
Additional Lyrics by Kyle Bass

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, LISNER AUDITORIUM | 730 21ST STREET NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20037

- SATURDAY | MARCH 7, 2026 | 7PM
- SUNDAY | MARCH 8, 2026 | 2PM
- SUNDAY | MARCH 15, 2026 | 2PM

America's "King of Ragtime," Scott Joplin, died before he could complete this opera. WNO brings this powerful work to the stage in a newly commissioned adaptation by composer **Damien Sneed** and playwright **Kyle Bass**, under the direction of legendary mezzo-soprano **Denyce Graves**. One of the richest operas in the American repertoire, it blends ragtime, Black folk-songs, spirituals, ballet, and traditional operatic elements. Set in 1884, the story follows Treemonisha, an educated freedwoman on a former plantation, as she challenges superstition and defies "conjurers" to become her community's teacher and leader.

THE CRUCIBLE

Music by Robert Ward | Libretto by Bernard Stambler

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, LISNER AUDITORIUM | 730 21ST STREET NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20037

- SATURDAY | MARCH 21, 2026 | 7PM
- MONDAY | MARCH 23, 2026 | 7PM
- WEDNESDAY | MARCH 25, 2026 | 7PM
- FRIDAY | MARCH 27, 2026 | 7PM
- SUNDAY | MARCH 29, 2026 | 2PM

WNO Artistic Director **Francesca Zambello** directs Robert Ward's Pulitzer Prize-winning opera ***The Crucible***, based on Arthur Miller's Tony Award[®] winning play, which tells the story of the 17th-century Salem witch trials and serves as an allegory for the 1950s Red Scare—widespread fear of communism in the United States that led to political oppression and blacklisting.

Additional programs featuring Cafritz Young Artists and members of the WNO Orchestra

WNO **Cafritz Young Artists** will be performing with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra in “**Beethoven & Bohème**,” on **February 14** at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, and **February 15** at George Washington Masonic Memorial. The program features scenes from Puccini’s *La bohème*. The Italian composer Gian Carlo Menotti had a special relationship with America and a long association with the company. In a full circle moment, on **April 16**, Cafritz Young Artists will perform **Menotti’s *The Old Maid and the Thief***, which was staged by the composer for the Opera in its inaugural season.

The musicians of the **Washington National Opera Orchestra** will be performing in several upcoming concerts in the area. Events include a recital of **Russian opera and songs** on **January 23** at St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church; **Mendelssohn Piano Trio** benefit concert for Jamaica on **February 15** at National Presbyterian Church; works by **Caroline Shaw and Mendelssohn** at St. Thomas Episcopal Church on **February 22**; a program of **favorite operatic moments** featuring the Cafritz Young Artists on **March 1** at the Hylton Center; and a program by women composers on **March 17** at The Rectory on Princess Street.