What are Curricular Connections?
Many of the performances presented at the Weis Center for the Performing Arts feature additional programming where Bucknell’s faculty and students can connect with visiting artists through masterclasses, pre-show talks, class visits, and community meals. These active-learning opportunities support the core values of a liberal arts curriculum as they engage students with real-world problems and ideas, challenge students to think critically and increase cultural intelligence. Curricular Connections with artists are designed to enrich the educational experience at Bucknell by expanding the walls of the classroom.

Examples of past Curricular Connections
During the 2019-20 Season Series, a dozen faculty across 8 Bucknell University academic departments involved their students in programming with 24 individual performing artists. Some of the many ways students engaged with our visiting artists include the following:

• Attended WVIA/WVBU radio interview with local host and up and coming jazz vocalist
• Learned Afro-Cuban dance techniques with Cuban modern dance company
• Took individual masterclasses with world-renowned pianist
• Explored topics of rhythm and religion with all-female Canadian and Cuban jazz ensemble
• Discussed religion, politics and musical traditions with trio from Ghana and Madagascar
• Engaged in workshop focused on techniques of shadow puppetry and cinema
• Practiced Horton/Graham dance techniques with noted modern ballet dance company

We’re happy to help forge future Curricular Connections to help achieve the learning goals of your courses. Click here for a carefully curated list of potential connections for the current season. You may access the 2021-22 Season Series at bucknell.edu/WeisCenter Please contact us if you see a curricular connection we may pursue together. E-mail Rachel Martine at rm053@bucknell.edu to organize your class connection.

How to engage in Curricular Connections
• Participate in pre- or post-concert discussions or share community meals with artists
• Schedule in-class workshops/lectures with visiting artists for face-to-face discussions about process, historical influence or cultural context
• Use a performance to enhance classroom discussion
• Offer extra credit for students who attend performances and complete critical analysis

Ticketing
Bucknell students always receive a special ticket rate, deeply-discounted from the regular public ticket charge. Additionally, there are three free performances for students during the Fall 2021 semester. Workshops, lecture/demonstrations and classroom visits with Weis Center artists are always free of charge.
Friday, Aug. 27, 6 p.m.

Amythyst Kiah
Weis Center Plaza ● FREE!

The Rounder Records debut from Amythyst Kiah, Wary + Strange, marks the glorious collision of two vastly different worlds: the iconoclastic alt-rock that first sparked her musical passion, and the roots/old-time-music scene where she’s found breakout success in recent years, including recognition from Rolling Stone as “one of Americana’s great up-and-coming secrets.”

Along with tapping into the vibrant musicality she honed, in part, through her studies in East Tennessee State University’s Bluegrass, Old-Time and Country Music program, the Chattanooga, Tenn.-bred singer/songwriter expands on the uncompromising artistry she’s displayed as a member of Our Native Daughters, an all-women-of-color super group. Its Kiah-penned standout “Black Myself” received a Grammy nomination for Best American Roots Song and won Song of the Year at the Folk Alliance International Awards.

Kiah was included in People magazine’s “Meet the Talented Black Musical Artists Taking over 2021.” AmythystKiah.com

RELATED EVENTS
Artist Q&A with Dr. Benae Beamon
Friday, Aug. 27, 12:30 p.m.
Weis Center Atrium Lobby

RELATED COURSES
MUSC 121
Intro to Music Fundamentals
MUSC 122/123
Intro to Music
MUSC 146
Voice Methods
MUSC 257
Music and Culture: Jazz, Rock & Race
MUSC 322
Music and Social Justice
RESC 098
Pop and Protest
RESC 098
Revolutions & Revolutionaries
RESC 098
Whose Story is History
SOCI 327
Race/Citizenship/Human Rights
WMST 150
Intro to Women’s & Gender Studies
WMST 225
Modernism on the Margins
WMST 227
Race and Sexuality
WMST 325
History of Sexuality
WMST 370
Race, Citizenship and Politics
Tuesday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Çudamani: Gamelan and Dance of Bali
Weis Center Auditorium • FREE!

Hailed as one of Bali’s most forward-thinking music and dance ensembles, Çudamani is known for its exceptional creativity and superb artistry and also the performers’ unflagging love for the classical Balinese traditions. Nurtured and trained in the village of Pengosekan, the group is among Bali’s most respected and accomplished. One of its many singular features is that its artists are multi-disciplinary, mastering gamelan, dance, voice and visual art, resulting in artistically unified presentations.

This 20-member ensemble weaves layers of intricate sound: the punctuation of deep, great bronze gongs; charismatic leadership from the drums; stunning interlocking percussion from the bronze gangsa, and the finely-elaborated delicacy of voice and flute. The ensemble touches the soul with a program that spans the spectrum of human emotion, from sublime to fearless, from reverent to unapologetically playful. Çudamani intrigues the mind and heart with a radiant flash of their eyes that invites the audience into the transcendent experience of Balinese gamelan and dance. Cudamani.org
**Tuesday, Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m.**

**Red Sky Performance: ‘Trace’**

Weis Center Auditorium • $10 students

Red Sky Performance is a leading company of contemporary Indigenous performance in Canada.

Led by Artistic Director Sandra Laronde of the Teme-Augama Anishinaabe (People of the Deep Water), the group is approaching two decades of dance, theater, music and media. Their mission is to create inspiring experiences of contemporary Indigenous arts and culture that transform society. The members create, produce and tour original works that they share across Canada and with the world.

While at the Weis Center, Red Sky Performance will present the work, “Trace.” Members of the company have said, “We are traceable to the very beginnings of the universe, our ancestral origins stretching across the Milky Way to the atoms burning inside of us in the ‘here and now’ on Earth.” “Trace” is a highly kinetic contemporary dance work inspired by Indigenous (Anishinaabe) sky and star stories, offering a glimpse into our origin as well as our future evolution. “Trace” has won two Dora Mavor Moore awards, presented annually by the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts, which honors theater, dance and opera productions in Toronto. RedSkyPerformance.com
Friday, Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m.

Air Play
Weis Center Auditorium • $10 students

The creation of husband and wife team Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone, Air Play merges their circus and street theater performance art with the sculptural artistry of Daniel Wurtzel. Circus and science collide in a gorgeous homage to the power of air. Flying umbrellas, larger-than-life balloons, giant kites floating over the audience and a huge snow globe will make audience members gasp in wonder and laugh until it hurts. Air Play is a visual poem using no words. It lives on the edge of definition: part comedy, part sculpture, part circus, part theater. To audiences around the world the wonder and discovery of Air Play are bold reminders of childhood and growing up. With visual images seemingly sewn from the sky, Air Play’s poetic ode to friendship brings to life the very air we breathe.
Sunday, Oct. 17, 2 p.m.

Juilliard String Quartet

Weis Center Auditorium • $10 students

With unparalleled artistry and enduring vigor, the Juilliard String Quartet continues to inspire audiences around the world. Founded in 1946 and hailed by The Boston Globe as “the most important American quartet in history,” the ensemble draws on a deep and vital engagement to the classics, while embracing the mission of championing new works, a vibrant combination of the familiar and the daring. Each performance of the Juilliard String Quartet is a unique experience, bringing together the four members’ profound understanding, total commitment and unceasing curiosity in sharing the wonders of the string quartet literature. JuilliardStringQuartet.org

While at the Weis Center, Juilliard String Quartet will perform Beethoven: String Quartet in B flat major, Op. 130, with Grosse Fuge, Op. 133 • Dvorák: Piano Quintet No. 2 in A major, Op. 81.

Areta Zhulla and Ronald Copes, violins
Roger Tapping, viola
Astrid Schween, cello
with Qing Jiang, piano
“I’m the messenger,” Mavis said on the eve of her 80th birthday. “That’s my job — it has been for my whole life — and I can’t just give up while the struggle’s still alive. We’ve got more work to do, so I’m going to keep on getting stronger and keep on delivering my message every single day.”

That message — a clarion call to love, to faith, to justice, to brotherhood, to joy — lies at the heart of We Get By, Staples’ spectacular 12th studio album and first full-length collaboration with multi-Grammy Award-winner Ben Harper. Backed by her longtime touring band, Staples breathes extraordinary life into Harper’s compositions on the record, delivering roof-raising performances with both a youthful vigor and a commanding maturity.

We Get By is a timely collection, arriving in the face of deep social divisions and heightened political tensions, but like everything Staples touches, it’s also larger than any particular moment, a timeless appeal to the better angels of our nature that’s universal in its reach and unwavering in its assurance of better things to come.

Hailed by NPR as “one of America’s defining voices of freedom and peace,” Staples is the kind of once-in-a-generation artist whose impact on music and culture would be difficult to overstate.

She’s both a Blues and a Rock and Roll Hall of Famer; a Civil Rights icon; a Grammy Award winner; a chart-topping soul/gospel/rhythm-and-blues pioneer; a National Arts Awards Lifetime Achievement recipient, and a Kennedy Center honoree.

She marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., performed at President John F. Kennedy’s inauguration and sang in President Barack Obama’s White House.

She’s collaborated with everyone from Prince and Bob Dylan to Arcade Fire and Hozier; blown away countless festival goers, from Newport (R.I.) Folk and Glastonbury (U.K.) to Lollapalooza and Bonnaroo Music and Arts; performed with The Band at The Last Waltz, and graced the airwaves on the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, the Ellen DeGeneres Show, Austin City Limits, Later ... with Jools Holland, the Grammy Awards and more.

At a time when most artists begin to wind down, Staples ramped things up, releasing a trio of critically acclaimed albums in her 70s with Wilco’s Jeff Tweedy that prompted Pitchfork.com to rave that “her voice has only gained texture and power over the years” and People magazine to proclaim that she “provides the comfort of a higher power.”

In between records with Tweedy, Staples teamed up with a slew of other younger artists — Bon Iver’s Justin Vernon, Nick Cave, Valerie June, tUnE-yArDs and M. Ward, among others.

MavisStaples.com
Wednesday, Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m.
The Honey Dewdrops
Campus Theatre • Bucknell students FREE!

Laura Wortman and Kagey Parrish, together known as the Americana duo The Honey Dewdrops, have long felt the push and pull between their original roots in the Appalachian mountains of Virginia and their current home in Baltimore. It is the sound of their harmony soaked songs, blended with the tones of guitar, banjo and mandolin and in the group’s songwriting, that the beautiful and hard realities of today are reflected. Artistically, Wortman and Parrish are inspired by American folk and traditional music and their sound expands on that style and showcases the dynamism and intimacy of musical duos.

The Honey Dewdrops have released six albums and toured internationally since 2009, with over 1,000 shows under their belts on stages such as the one on the Prairie Home Companion as well as at Merlefest, Celtic Connections (Scotland) and the Bluegrass Jamboree (Germany). The duo’s latest collection of songs, Anyone Can See, was released in March 2019. Baltimore Magazine said “...their sincere, stripped-down songwriting is just the kind of music we need more of.” Wortman and Parrish are working on a new recording project that is set to release in late 2021. TheHoneyDewdrops.com
Sunday, Nov. 7, 4 p.m.
Michelle Cann
Weis Center Auditorium • FREE!

Pianist Michelle Cann made her orchestral debut at 14 and has since performed as a soloist with numerous ensembles including The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Florida Orchestra, the North Carolina Symphony and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

A champion of the music of Florence Price, Cann performed the New York City premiere of the composer’s *Concerto in One Movement* with The Dream Unfinished Orchestra in July 2016 and the Philadelphia premiere with The Philadelphia Orchestra in February 2021, which the *Philadelphia Inquirer* called “exquisite.”

Cann has appeared as co-host and collaborative pianist with NPR’s *From The Top* and has been featured on WRTI-FM and WHYY-TV in Philadelphia.

An award winner at top international competitions, in 2019 she served as the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra’s Multicultural Awareness Council Music Innovator in recognition of her role as an African American classical musician who embodies artistry, innovation and a commitment to education and community engagement.

Cann studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia, where she holds the inaugural Eleanor Sokoloff Chair in Piano Studies.


MichelleCann.com
Friday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m.

BalletX
Weis Center Auditorium • $10

BalletX produces original choreography that expands the vocabulary of classical dance for all audiences. As Philadelphia’s premier contemporary ballet company, BalletX unites distinguished choreographers with an outstanding company of world-class dancers to forge new works of athleticism, emotion and grace.

Founded in 2005 by Christine Cox and Matthew Neenan, and now under the direction of Cox as artistic and executive director, BalletX challenges the boundaries of classical ballet by encouraging formal experimentation while preserving rigorous technique. The company is committed to producing new works of the highest quality and integrity that bring the combined visions of choreographers and dancers to life and cultivate in audiences a collective appetite for bold, new dance.

While at the Weis Center, BalletX will perform works by Dwight Rhoden: We The People • Matthew Neenan: Mapping Out a Sky.

BalletX.org