

## The Annenberg Center Presents Thomas Kraines and Kinan Abou-afach, Livestreamed Thursday, March 4

(Philadelphia – February 24, 2021) — The **Annenberg Center** presents **Thomas Kraines and Kinan Abou-afach** on **Thursday, March 4 at 7 PM**. The live performance at the Annenberg Center will be streamed online and includes an interactive Q&A with the performers and Annenberg Center Executive and Artistic Director Christopher Gruits. Visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](https://AnnenbergCenter.org) for details.

Cellist **Thomas Kraines**, a member of Penn’s quartet-in-residence, the Daedalus Quartet, joins forces with cellist, oudist and composer **Kinan Abou-afach**, whose music championing Arabic and Syrian traditions has been described as “a journey in sound” by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. The duo will perform a program of their own original compositions and improvisations, two of which are world premieres, as well as the world premiere of a new work by composer Gene Coleman.

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

#### **Thomas Kraines** (Cello)

Thomas Kraines has forged a multifaceted career as a cellist and composer, equally comfortable with avant-garde improvisation, new music, traditional chamber music and solo repertoire. A member of the Daedalus Quartet, Kraines also performs frequently with the Network for New Music, the Arcana Ensemble and as a duo with cellist Kinan Abou-afach. He is also an accomplished composer of chamber music; his works have been performed around the world by artists including pianists Awadagin Pratt and Wayman Chin, violinists Corey Cerovsek and Jennifer Frautschi, sopranos Maria Jette and Ilana Davidson, and the English Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Kenneth Woods. Kraines has given musical improvisation workshops and performances at the Longy School of Music, the University of Florida at Gainesville and the University of Pennsylvania. He has taught at the Peabody Conservatory, the Longy School of Music, the Killington Music Festival, Yellow Barn and Princeton University, and currently teaches at the University of Pennsylvania. He lives in Philadelphia with his wife, violinist Juliette Kang, and their two daughters, Rosalie and Clarissa.

#### **Kinan Abou-afach** (Cello/Oud)

Kinan Abou-afach is a cellist, composer and 2013 recipient of the Pew Fellowship. His work is described by critics as “phenomenal,” “a journey in sound” and “brilliant.” Abou-afach crafts music that goes beyond classical or traditional, where his music is saturated with unique scales, rhythmic grooves and improvisation-esque progressions. He has composed for concerts, film, theatre and live visual art, and regularly performs and conducts workshops and masterclasses. His recent appearances include Cornell University, NIU, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University and the Arab American National Museum. As a composer and a performer, Abou-afach has worked along with notable names such as Grammy®-winners Jason Vieaux, The Crossing and Yo-Yo Ma; Syrian film director Hatem Ali; the Civic Orchestra of Chicago; Vermont Symphony Orchestra; and conductors Daniel Barenboim, Cliff Colnot, Solhi Al-Wadi, Roberto Abbado and Sir Andrew Davis.

### **About the Annenberg Center’s 2020-21 Digital Season**

The Annenberg Center’s 2021 spring digital season comprises livestreamed performances featuring world premieres and Philadelphia debuts by top dance companies, outstanding jazz artists, and collaborative music performances. Designed specifically for the digital stage, the live performances are broadcast using state-of-the-

art digital technology from the Prince or Zellerbach Theatre, integrating live chat, and concluding with interactive discussions with the creators and performers. Livestreamed performances are available online for 48 hours after the start time for those who purchased access. Full season calendar can be accessed [here](#).

### **About the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts**

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts serves as a major cultural destination and crossroads connecting the University of Pennsylvania and the Greater Philadelphia region through innovative human expression in theatre, music, dance and film, serving an annual audience of over 80,000. The Annenberg Center also serves as a key resource for the arts at Penn, connecting master artists with Penn students in support of and as an enhancement to the arts curriculum. Student performing arts groups are also key users of the Annenberg Center's multiple performance and rehearsal spaces, while also staffing many operational roles throughout the academic year. In reflection of Penn's core values as a world-respected academic institution, the Annenberg Center emphasizes artistic and intellectual excellence, diversity and rigor in its presentations; prioritizes broad inclusiveness in the artists, audiences and groups it serves; manages outstanding performance, conference and meeting facilities; and stresses comprehensive event planning, production support and customer service. The Annenberg Center is a major provider of performing arts access for school children and actively engages a broad range of primary, secondary and post-secondary student audiences and inclusive constituencies from the campus, community and surrounding region. Visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](http://AnnenbergCenter.org).

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### **LIVESTREAM**

#### **Thomas Kraines, Cello & Kinan Abou-afach, Cello/Oud**

Thursday, March 4, 7 PM

Cellist Thomas Kraines, a member of Penn's quartet-in-residence, the Daedalus Quartet, joins forces with cellist, oudist and composer Kinan Abou-afach, whose music championing Arabic and Syrian traditions has been described as "a journey in sound." (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*) The duo will perform a program of original compositions and improvisations as well as the world premiere of a new work by composer Gene Coleman.

This is an original, live event, performed on the Annenberg Center stage and streamed online, and includes an interactive Q&A with the performers.

Visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](http://AnnenbergCenter.org) for more information.

### **Access Information for Thomas Kraines & Kinan Abou-afach**

Visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](http://AnnenbergCenter.org) to purchase access to this show until 7:30 PM on March 4. The performance may be watched live at 7 PM on March 4 to participate in the chat and artist Q&A. It will be available on-demand to ticketholders through March 6. Visit the Annenberg Center's digital streaming [FAQs](#) for additional details.

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### **CONTACTS:**

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