

Penn Live Arts Welcomes Back In-Person Audiences in December
with Dorrance Dance, Cécile McLorin Salvant, Chris Thile
and The Crossing @ Christmas

[View Penn Live Arts' health and safety policies](#)

(Philadelphia – November 19, 2021) — [Penn Live Arts](#) welcomes back in-person audiences in December with four presentations at the **Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts** leading off with [Dorrance Dance](#). (**December 10-11**) Led by choreographer and MacArthur Fellow Michelle Dorrance, this innovative tap dance company will feature live music in a new work that celebrates Ella Fitzgerald's holiday songbook.

Vocalist [Cécile McLorin Salvant](#), one of the rising stars of jazz, brings her soulful musicality and four-octave range to Penn Live Arts for the very first time (**December 12**) and mandolin virtuoso and host of NPR's *Live from Here*, [Chris Thile](#), makes his Penn Live Arts debut (**December 16**).

Philadelphia's Grammy® Award-winning new music choir, [The Crossing](#), offers its annual Christmas program entitled **Carols after a Plague**, which reflects on this unique time in our history as we begin to emerge from isolation and experience music together once again. (**December 17**) In addition, screenings of two films, [No Ordinary Man](#) (**December 2**) and [The Conductor](#) (**December 9**) will be shown in person at the Annenberg Center as well as virtually.

For tickets and further information, visit PennLiveArts.org. All audience members must present proof of vaccination, a [PennOpen Campus Green Pass](#) for the day of the performance, and wear a mask at all times while in the building. See full health and safety information for in-person audiences at PennLiveArts.org/safety.

About Penn Live Arts

The 2021-22 season marks the first for Penn Live Arts. This new identity heralds a wider variety of programming for audiences, as well as presentations outside the physical Annenberg Center space, and a deeper integration with the University of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia communities. Headquartered at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, Penn Live Arts is the leading presenter of innovative and transformative performing arts experiences in Philadelphia, bringing world-class music, dance, theatre and film to an annual audience of over 80,000 on the University of Pennsylvania campus and at venues throughout the city. Penn Live Arts is an artistic crossroads joining Penn and the greater Philadelphia region. In reflection of Penn's core values as a world-respected academic institution, Penn Live Arts emphasizes artistic and intellectual excellence and diversity in its offerings; prioritizes broad inclusiveness in the artists, audiences and groups it serves; manages outstanding performance, conference and meeting facilities; and boasts comprehensive event planning, production support and customer service. Penn Live Arts is a key asset for the University's students and faculty, enhancing curriculum through connections with master artists, hosting student productions on professional stages, providing career development opportunities and being a true advocate for student performing arts. Penn Live

Arts broadens arts access by actively engaging a wide range of school audiences and inclusive communities from campus, the West Philadelphia neighborhood and the surrounding region. Visit [PennLiveArts.org](https://pennlivearts.org).

CALENDAR LISTINGS

FILM

No Ordinary Man

The life of American jazz musician Billy Tipton has been framed as the story of an ambitious woman passing as a man in pursuit of a music career, but in *No Ordinary Man*, Tipton's story is re-imagined and performed by trans artists who celebrate Tipton as a musician living his life according to his own terms, painting a portrait of a trans culture icon and unlikely hero. Directed by Aisling Chin-Yee & Chase Joynt, 2020, Canada, 84 min., documentary, English.

This film showing is both in-person and virtual.

Viewing Options:

- December 2, 7 PM: In-person screening, Montgomery Theatre ([See health and safety information](#))
- December 2, 7 PM – December 8: On-demand virtual screening

One ticket grants digital access for an entire household and one entry to the in-person screening. For more in-person attendees, purchase additional tickets for each individual. Access information will be provided in advance. You can also visit our [FAQs page](#) for additional details.

For more information and to purchase access, please visit [PennLiveArts.org](https://pennlivearts.org).

FILM

The Conductor

This exhilarating documentary grants a backstage pass to the artistry and energy that rewards the audiences of internationally renowned conductor Marin Alsop – the first woman to serve as music director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra and the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra – and inspires her students today. Directed by Bernadette Wegenstein, 2021, U.S., 90 min., documentary, English.

This film showing is both in-person and virtual.

Viewing Options:

- December 9, 7 PM: In-person screening, Montgomery Theatre ([See health and safety information](#))
- December 9, 7 PM – December 15: On-demand virtual screening

One ticket grants digital access for an entire household and one entry to the in-person screening. For more in-person attendees, purchase additional tickets for each individual. Access information will be provided in advance. You can also visit our [FAQs page](#) for additional details.

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Dorrance Dance

Friday, December 10, 8 PM

Saturday, December 11, 2 PM

Saturday, December 11, 8 PM

Tap superstar and MacArthur Fellow Michelle Dorrance is “one of the most imaginative tap choreographers working today.” (*The New Yorker*) This Penn Live Arts debut will feature the Philadelphia premieres of the “edgy, seductive and smart” (*The Chicago Tribune*) *Three to One* and *Basses Loaded*, which sees bassists and dancers choreographed in tandem. The program also explores tap as both movement and music in an excerpt

of *SOUNDspace* and offers a swingin' Christmas finale in a brand-new work celebrating Ella Fitzgerald's timeless holiday songbook with live vocals by Aaron Marcellus.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

Cécile McLorin Salvant

Sunday, December 12, 7 PM

"The finest jazz singer to emerge in the last decade," (*The New York Times*) multi-Grammy® Award winner Cécile McLorin Salvant makes her Penn Live Arts debut, bringing historical perspective, a sense of theatricality and an enlightened musical understanding to both jazz standards and original compositions. Salvant has become a must-see jazz vocalist using her nearly four-octave range and electric stage presence to wow critics and fans alike, and "regularly and rightly, is considered one of the greatest jazz singers of her generation, but that label sells her short." (*Rolling Stone*)

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

An Evening with Chris Thile

Thursday, December 16, 7:30 PM

Making his Penn Live Arts debut, multiple Grammy® Award winner and MacArthur Fellow Chris Thile is a mandolinist, composer and vocalist whose music is "full of whimsy and breathless virtuosity." (*The New York Times*) A member of the much-lauded groups Nickel Creek and Punch Brothers, Thile has also released several solo albums, including *Laysongs* (June 2021), and was host of the popular radio program *Live from Here*. "Chris Thile is amazing," transcending the borders of conventional music genres as "a graceful and soulful singer, relaxed raconteur, dazzling virtuoso, gifted composer and all-around charmer." (*The Washington Post*)

Co-presented with World Cafe Live.

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

**The Crossing @ Christmas
Carols after a Plague**

Friday, December 17, 7 PM

Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

"America's most astonishing choir" (*The New York Times*) reflects on this unique time in history as we begin to emerge from isolation and resume experiencing music together. To mark the holiday season and celebrate the value of life, conductor Donald Nally and The Crossing chose 11 composers of diverse background, style, experience, identity and race who will collectively contemplate our recent past. Known for an "embrace of the new, a social conscience and fearless technique," (*The New York Times*) The Crossing seeks to find the right words to fit this moment of our lives.

Composers

Leila Adu, Alex Berko, Edith Canat de Chizy, Viet Cuong, Samantha Fernando, Vanessa Lann, Mary Jane Leach, Shara Nova, Joseph C. Phillips Jr., Nina Shekhar, Tyshawn Sorey, LJ White

Visit PennLiveArts.org for more information.

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