



Featured Speakers and Artists

Akua Allrich

Opening Plenary Session
Thursday, November 1



With finesse and charisma, jazz vocalist and D.C. native Akua Allrich has successfully etched out a place for her unique musical expression. Allrich's style is fluid and ever evolving. Her musical roots run deeply into blues, soul, and rhythm and blues, with a clear grounding in jazz and pan-African music. She sings in many languages including Portuguese, French, Spanish, English, Xhosa and Twi. With the launch of her independently produced albums, *A Peace of Mine*, in 2010, *Uniquely Standard*, *Akua Allrich Live!* in 2012, and her latest release, *Soul Singer*, the young artist's music and concerts created a significant buzz with critics and music lovers alike. Allrich has developed popular tribute programs celebrating Miriam Makeba, Nina Simone and other great African-American women of jazz. She has inspired music lovers from all walks on an international scale. www.akuaallrich.com

Bachelor Boys

Opening Reception
Thursday, November 1

The Bachelor Boys are a premium 3- to 14-piece band specializing in high-energy music for festivals, weddings, corporate events and private functions. They pride themselves on having a "cooler-than-average" song list that is never cheesy and focuses



squarely on filling your dance floor. With the Bachelor Boys you'll get the best musicians in the country, playing your favorite music. They play mostly in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Richmond, Pittsburgh and Washington D.C., but they travel around the world. www.bachelorboysband.com

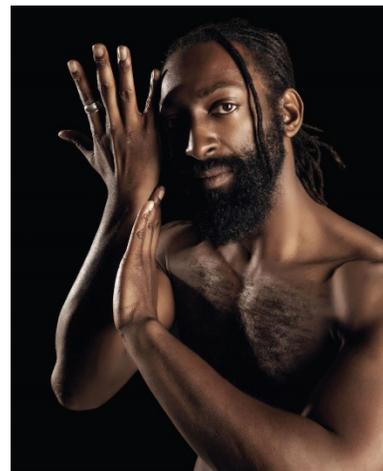
Christopher Bedford
Dorothy Wagner Wallis Director
Baltimore Museum of Art
Morning Plenary
Friday, November 2



The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) is renowned for its outstanding collections of 19th-century, modern and contemporary art. Recognized as an innovative and dynamic leader, Christopher Bedford served as director of the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University for four years prior to joining the BMA and was appointed as commissioner for the U.S. pavilion for the 2017 Venice Biennale. His previous experience includes curatorial positions at the Wexner Center for the Arts at Ohio State University, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the J. Paul Getty Museum. Born in Scotland and raised in the United States and the U.K., Bedford has a B.A. from Oberlin College and an M.A. from Case Western Reserve University and has studied in the doctoral programs at the University of Southern California and the Courtauld Institute of Art at the University of London. He currently is a trustee of Art + Practice, Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance, and Maryland Citizens for the Arts.

Antoine Hunter
Artistic Director
Urban Jazz Dance Company
Afternoon Plenary
Friday, November 2

Antoine Hunter is an African American deaf choreographer, dancer, instructor, actor, mentor, model, poet, producer and advocate. Hunter, who is from Oakland, California, is known as an urban dance warrior for his will to never give up his goals or dreams. He began dancing with Dawn James at Skyline High School, studied West African Dance with Master C.K. and Betty Ladzekpo, and studied at the Paul Taylor Summer Intensives in 2003 and 2004. He has performed with Savage Jazz Dance Company since 2001 with Artistic Director Reginald Ray Savage as a dance artist, performer and jazz instructor. Hunter also has performed with Kim Epifano's Trolley and Dance Company, Nuba Dance Theater, The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, Alayo Dance Company, Robert Moses' Kin Dance Company, Amara T. Smith and other companies around the world. Hunter is currently artistic director of Urban Jazz Dance Company. He teaches many styles of dance but especially loves to teach urban jazz, which he believes is a dance style that has no limit to expression and challenges the dancer to grow. Hunter is founder of Bay Area Deaf International Dance Festival and president of the Black Deaf Advocate, where he feels it is his responsibility to make sure deaf and hearing-impaired people learn to express themselves in the name of dance. Hunter proves that those with a hearing disability or any disability can reach for their dreams.



Todd Marcus
Donor Reception
Friday, November 2



Todd Marcus is one of the few jazz artists worldwide to focus exclusively on use of the bass clarinet as a solo instrument. While most uses of bass clarinet in jazz typically lean toward avant-garde and free-music styles, Marcus's playing presents the instrument with a modern straight-ahead jazz approach. In 2006 he released his debut album, *In Pursuit of the 9th Man*, with his Todd Marcus Jazz Orchestra, and in 2012 released *Inheritance*, with his Todd Marcus Quartet. He again featured his jazz orchestra with 2015's *Blues for Tahrir*, and released a quintet album, *On These Streets*, in 2018. Marcus has received accolades that include a Jazz Hero Award from the Jazz Journalists Association in 2017, Maryland's \$25,000 Baker prize in 2014, selections as a rising star by national jazz magazine

Downbeat annually in its annual critics poll since 2013, an NPR pick for one of the top 10 jazz albums of 2012 and a JazzTimes pick for one of the top 40 albums of 2015. He has worked to establish organizations in Baltimore that assist women in recovery, provide arts classes for underserved populations, and feed and house those in poverty. toddmarcusjazz.com

Cris Jacobs
Closing Session
Saturday, November 3

Whether alone with just the guitar and his voice or surrounded by a full band, Cris Jacobs enchants listeners with his inspired, poignant songwriting, virtuous guitar playing and soulfully transcendent voice. After a decade, five records and 200 shows a year as principal songwriter and front man for Baltimore based band The Bridge from 2001-2011, Jacobs wasted no time continuing to write music of his own and exploring different configurations for his craft. He released his debut solo album, *Songs for Cats and Dogs*, in 2012, and continued to perform relentlessly. He quickly garnered the admiration of a variety of predecessors and peers: rock legend Steve Winwood saw Jacobs perform in 2014 and soon invited him to open his national tour. The following year, Sturgill Simpson extended the same invitation. Jacobs and New Orleans heavyweight Ivan Neville recorded a collaborative album under the band name Neville Jacobs. Jacobs harnessed over a decade of trans-genre exploration on his second solo album, *Dust to Gold*, released in 2016, a soul-stirring expression featuring songs that masterfully weave through the sweet and rugged landscape of soul, country, folk, blues, gospel, and rock and roll. www.crisjacobs.com

