

DENVER BOTANIC
GARDENS



SUMMER
CONCERT
SERIES

AND



EVENINGS
AL FRESCO

MOBILE PROGRAM

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DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
AND EVENINGS AL FRESCO

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WELCOME

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ARTIST BIOS

EVENINGS AL FRESCO



DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES AND EVENINGS AL FRESCO

Welcome!

Sunshine, sunset, colors and laughter, music sweeping always in the background. Evenings Al Fresco and the Summer Concert Series provide the perfect way for thousands of people to come together, relax and enjoy perfect pairings of song and nature.

Often, I celebrate quiet walks along the High Line Canal or up in the mountains, taking in only the sounds of wind, birds and mysterious rustling. Every now and then, and many years ago, I would occasionally hook up my Walkman and trek differently, like I was in the long shot of a movie, taking in some beautiful scene with the perfect soundtrack.

As you are enjoying a favorite artist in the Gardens, take a moment to look deeply into the tableaux of beauty around you. They will begin to fuse into an even more powerful multi-sensory delight.

My other favorite thing at concerts is to immerse myself in gratitude, that each of you support the Gardens by purchasing tickets. The funds we receive help pay for an extraordinary team constantly producing outstanding programs and services. I am deeply thankful for our sponsors who play a massive role in ensuring our biggest dreams can come true. A special shoutout to UMB Bank, sponsor of all these great music events and of the amphitheater itself. What a great institution for so many reasons, including their commitment to always supporting the community.

Finally, we are all so proud to partner with the venerable Swallow Hill Music to produce these events. It is the perfect example of two SCFD (Scientific and Cultural Facilities District) organizations teaming up to support one another.

Brian Vogt
CEO, Denver Botanic Gardens



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Welcome to the 2024 Summer Concert Series at the UMB Bank Amphitheater, one of Denver's most beautiful and unique outdoor music venues. We're excited to be this year's presenting sponsor and have you join us again for another amazing season of concerts, where we will enjoy a diverse array of nationally and internationally known artists, as well as Evenings al Fresco, featuring talented local musicians.

We are proud to support such an incredible experience that contributes to our community's vibrant arts, entertainment and culture scene. For more than 110 years, UMB has championed the expansion of access to and appreciation for the arts, with Denver Botanic Gardens representing that commitment. This year marks a particular milestone, as it is UMB's 15th year sponsoring the Summer Concert Series.

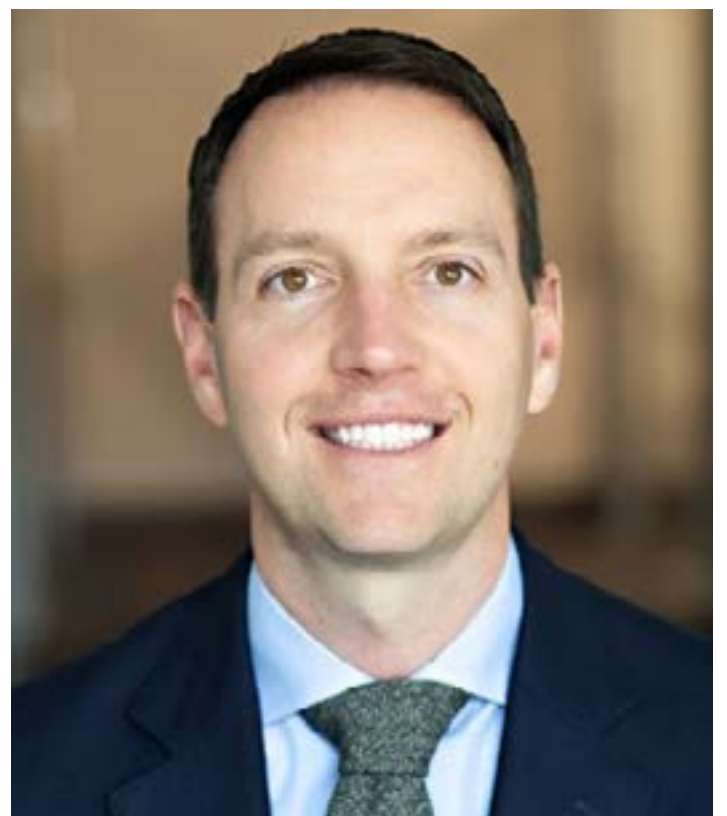
We believe in supporting the communities we serve and feel fortunate to be able to do so in ways like this.

As a diversified financial services company, UMB is uniquely positioned to help our business and consumer clients grow during all economic seasons. We are a strong lending bank with a reputation for stability and integrity, all supported by our talented and dedicated associates who have experience in a range of industries to make sure our clients receive customized solutions that fit their individual needs.

I look forward to participating in this year's concerts and Evenings al Fresco with you and experiencing the talented line-up of artists who will perform. We take pride in being a part of this exceptional programming and supporting the Gardens' core values of transformation, sustainability, diversity and relevance.

I hope you enjoy tonight's music and the spectacular gardens surrounding us!

Paul Williamson
President, Regional Banking
UMB Bank



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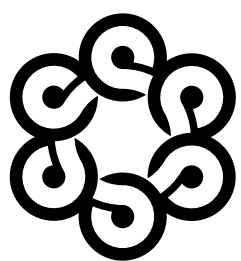
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JUNE 20 **Emmylou Harris**

A 14-time Grammy Award® winner and *Billboard* Century Award recipient, **Emmylou Harris**' contribution as a singer and songwriter spans 40 years. She has recorded more than 25 albums and has lent her talents to countless fellow artists' recordings. She has sold 15 million records and garnered 14 Grammy Awards, three CMA Awards, and four Americana Awards. She was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2008 and earned a Grammy Lifetime Achievement award in 2018.

Harris is one of the most admired and influential women in music. She has recorded with such diverse artists as Linda Ronstadt, Daniel Lanois, Bob Dylan, Mark Knopfler, Neil Young, Gram Parsons, Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton, Roy Orbison, Ryan Adams, Beck, Elvis Costello, Johnny Cash, Lucinda Williams, Lyle Lovett and Rodney Crowell.

A longtime social activist, Harris has lent her voice to many causes. Most passionately to animal welfare. In 2004 she established Bonaparte's Retreat with the goal of rescuing shelter dogs and adopting them into forever homes. To this day, Bonaparte's Retreat continues to save dogs most in need at Metro Nashville Animal Care and Control and at municipal shelters in surrounding counties.



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JULY 10 **John Craigie** feat. **Laurie Shook** (of **Shook Twins**) and special guest **Langhorne Slim**

Much like community, music nourishes us mentally, emotionally and spiritually. It also invites us to come together under the same roof and in a shared moment. In similar fashion, **John Craigie** rallies a closeness around music anchored by his expressive and stirring songcraft, emotionally charged vocals, lively soundscapes, and uncontainable spirit. The Portland, Oregon-based singer, songwriter, and producer invites everyone into this space on his 2024 full-length album, *Pagan Church*. Following tens of millions of streams, sold out shows everywhere, and praise from Rolling Stone and more, he continues to captivate.

"The music is always evolving and devolving with each new record," he observes. "With my last album *Mermaid Salt*, I really wanted to explore the sound of isolation and solitude as everyone was heading inside. With this record, I wanted to record the sound of everyone coming back out."

Strawberry Mansion is singer-songwriter **Langhorne Slim's** seventh full-length album. He released his first record, *Electric Love Letter*, back in 2004. Since then he has graced the stages of Bonnaroo, Lollapalooza, Newport Folk Festival and the Conan O'Brien show, winning fans over with his heart-on-a-sleeve sincerity and rousing live shows.

Born Sean Scolnick in 1980, Slim took part of his artistic moniker from his hometown of Langhorne, Pennsylvania, a place he's still very much connected to despite making his home in Nashville. Since the advent of Covid-19, he has been traveling back to PA once a month to see his mother and grandmother, and, like many Americans, finding strength in his origins and family bonds. The title *Strawberry Mansion* refers to the neighborhood in Philadelphia where both of his grandfathers grew up, a place he calls "dirty but sweet, tough but full of love, where giants roamed the earth and had names like Whistle and Curly." That idea of a mythical wonderland informs the new album from head to toe. *Strawberry Mansion* is not so much about nostalgia for the past as it is about the possibility of better days ahead in this world. These are songs that remind us we're all part of a collective "Mighty Soul," united in one journey, just like the characters in that old Philly neighborhood. It's a life-affirming album for these times.



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JULY 11 **DeVotchKa** with **Grande Orquesta Navarre**

A cross-pollination of numerous influences, including cabaret, spaghetti Westerns, norteño, punk and the dance music of Eastern Europe, Colorado's **DeVotchKa**, formed in Denver by Nick Urata (vocals, guitar, trumpet), Tom Hagerman (violin, accordion), Jeanie Schroder (sousaphone, bass) and percussionist Shawn King, emerged as unlikely indie heroes in the mid-2000s infusing modern indie music with a global flavor.

They found widespread success in 2006 with their Grammy Award®-nominated soundtrack to the hit indie film *Little Miss Sunshine*. They've made triumphant appearances at festivals like Bonnaroo, Lollapalooza, and Bumbershoot, and more intimate collaborations with beloved cultural institutions like the Colorado Symphony

Grande Orquesta Navarre is a four-piece chamber music ensemble whose name is inspired by the imagined music played in the lobby of Wes Anderson's *Grand Budapest Hotel*, the Orquesta típica (a Latin American term for a tango band) and the Navarre building in downtown Denver, Colorado (a former Victorian-era brothel). Composed of Susan Cahill (bass), Tom Hagerman (violin, accordion), Evan Orman (bandoneon, cello) and Sara Parkinson (piano), the music of Grande Orquesta Navarre is a combination of tango, classical, and original compositions that is both delightfully anachronistic and refreshingly novel.



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JULY 21 **Watchhouse** with **Allison de Groot & Tatiana Hargreaves**

Over a year after Andrew Marlin and Emily Frantz of **Watchhouse** (formerly known as Mandolin Orange) reintroduced themselves on their 2021 self-titled LP, the pair shared a special surprise release: *Watchhouse (Duo)*, a self-produced recording of Marlin and Frantz performing the most elemental possible arrangements of all nine songs from *Watchhouse*. It's a project that captures the fundamental power of *Watchhouse*: Two singers and musicians with profound chemistry, performing earnest yet masterfully crafted songs that encompass the unknowable mysteries, existential heartbreak and communal joys of modern life.

Starting over a decade ago playing coffee shops and local restaurants around North Carolina, *Watchhouse* is a grassroots success story that's been driven by Marlin's poignant songwriting. They've sold out iconic venues (Red Rocks, Ryman Auditorium) and attract hundreds of millions of streams while producing exploratory music that "redefines roots music for a younger generation" (Washington Post).

Allison de Groot & Tatiana Hargreaves create a sound that is adventurous, masterful, and original, as they expand on the eccentricities of old songs, while never losing sight of what makes them endure. Their sound together captivates listeners through intricate and interactive dynamics between the banjo and the fiddle. The duo's 2022 sophomore album, *Hurricane Clarice* reflects history, family, literature, live performance and environmental instability in the sounds, feelings, and sensations that permeate their music. The album won Best Instrumental Group of the Year and Best Traditional Album of the Year from the Canadian Folk Music Awards and also received a Juno nomination for Traditional Roots Album of the Year. Their first self-titled album released in 2019 garnered attention from CBC Q, Paste Magazine and Rolling Stone Country, earning the duo the Independent Music Awards Best Bluegrass Album and a nomination from IBMA for Best Liner Notes of the Year.



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JULY 22 **Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue** with **Devon Gilfillian**

Take a listen to *Lifted*, **Trombone Shorty's** second release for Blue Note Records, and you'll hear ecstatic energy coursing through the entire collection. Recorded at Shorty's own Buckjump Studio with producer Chris Seefried (Fitz and the Tantrums, Andra Day), the album finds the Grammy Award®-nominated NOLA icon and his bandmates tapping into the raw power and exhilarating grooves of their legendary live show, channeling it all into a series of tight, explosive performances that blur the lines between funk, soul, R&B and psychedelic rock. The writing is bold and self-assured, standing up to hard times and loss with grit and determination, and the playing is muscular to match, mixing pop gleam with hip-hop swagger and second line abandon. Wild as all that may sound, *Lifted* is still the work of a master craftsman, and the album's nimble arrangements and judicious use of special guests—from Gary Clark Jr. and Lauren Daigle to the rhythm section from Shorty's high school marching band—ultimately yields a collection that's as refined as it is rapturous, one that balances technical virtuosity and emotional release in equal measure as it celebrates music's primal power to bring us all together.

Since 2010, he's released four chart topping studio albums; toured with everyone from Jeff Beck to the Red Hot Chili Peppers; collaborated across genres with Pharrell, Bruno Mars, Mark Ronson, Foo Fighters, ZHU, Zac Brown, Normani, Ringo Starr, and countless more; played Coachella, Bonnaroo, Lollapalooza, Newport Folk, Newport Jazz, and nearly every other major festival; performed four times at the GRAMMY Awards, five times at the White House, on dozens of TV shows and at the star-studded Sesame Street Gala, where he was honored with his own Muppet; launched the Trombone Shorty Foundation to support youth music education; and received the prestigious Caldecott Honor for his first children's book. Meanwhile in New Orleans, Shorty now leads his own Mardi Gras parade atop a giant float crafted in his likeness, hosts the annual Voodoo Threauxdown shows and has taken over the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival's hallowed final set.

Love You Anyway, the new album from **Devon Gilfillian**, is an intoxicating, genre-blasting game changer spanning soul, hip-hop, R&B, and rock, all under the banner of Black joy. With an incisive eye and unassuming swagger, Gilfillian re-imagines modern soul music by redefining its possibilities. *Love You Anyway* confronts as well as comforts. Chronicling Gilfillian's journey as a Black artist living in America, it's as much about fighting for what you believe in—equity and representation—as it is about love—finding it, making it, and channeling it into every facet of our lives.

A captivating, can't-miss live performer, the Philadelphia-born, Nashville based singer-songwriter regularly commands club, theater, and festival stages around the world. Now, on *Love You Anyway*, Gilfillian conjures the raw, sexy emotions of his predecessors and the next-level grooves of his contemporaries, taking soul music into an exciting and restorative new future.



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JULY 30 **Las Cafeteras** and **Flor de Toloache**

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Born and raised east of the Los Angeles River, **Las Cafeteras** are remixing roots music and telling modern day stories. Las Cafeteras create a vibrant musical fusion with a unique East LA sound and positive message. Their Afro-Mexican beats, rhythms, and rhymes deliver inspiring lyrics that document stories of a community seeking love and justice in the concrete jungle of Los Angeles. Using traditional Son Jarocho instruments like the jarana, requinto, quijada (donkey jawbone) and tarima (a wooden platform), Las Cafeteras sing in English, Spanish and Spanglish and add a remix of sounds, from rock to hip-hop to rancheras. Las Cafeteras use music as a vehicle to build bridges among different cultures and communities and create 'a world where many worlds fit'. LA Times described Las Cafeteras as "uniquely Angeleno mishmash of punk, hip-hop, beat music, cumbia and rock ... live, they're magnetic."

The Latin Grammy Award[®]-winning, all-female **Flor De Toloache** mixes tradition and innovation, breaking boundaries with its edgy, versatile and fresh take on traditional Latin American music. Like the legendary love potion that the toloache flower is used for in Mexico, the talented New York ensemble casts a spell over its audiences with soaring vocals and physical elegance. The members' diverse ethnicities and musical backgrounds transcend culture and gender by forging new paths. The group has graced international stages from Mexico to Japan and has extensively toured to cities in the U.S., Europe, and Latin America. With a total of five studio albums to date, "Las Flores," as their fans call them, recently released *Motherflower*, described by the artists as a fiercely feminist mosaic of genres inspired by mariachi.



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AUGUST 6 **GRAHAM NASH**

Legendary artist **Graham Nash**, as a founding member of both the Hollies and Crosby, Stills and Nash, is a two-time Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee who has seen rock history unfold at some of its seminal moments – from the launch of the British Invasion (that’s him on-screen in 1967, eyewitness to the Beatles global broadcast performance of “All You Need Is Love” from Abbey Road studios) to the birth of the Laurel Canyon movement a year later. An extraordinary Grammy Award® winning renaissance artist – and self-described “simple man” – Nash was inducted twice into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, for his work with CSN and his work as a solo artist, beginning with two landmark albums, *Songs For Beginners* and *Wild Tales*.

Nash’s passionate voice continues to be heard in support of peace, and social and environmental justice. The No Nukes/Musicians United for Safe Energy (MUSE) concerts he organized with Jackson Browne and Bonnie Raitt in 1979 remain seminal benefit events.

In September 2013, Nash released his long-awaited autobiography “Wild Tales,” which landed him on the New York Times Best Sellers list. In recognition for his contributions as a musician and philanthropist, Nash was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Queen Elizabeth. While continually building his musical legacy, Nash is also an internationally renowned photographer and visual artist whose work has been shown in galleries and museums worldwide. A collection of his photos is featured in the book “A Life in Focus: The Photography of Graham Nash,” which was released in November 2021 by Insight Editions.



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AUGUST 7

Angelique Kidjo and Meshell Ndegeocello

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Five-time Grammy Award® winner **Angélique Kidjo** is one of the greatest artists in international music today, a creative force with 16 albums to her name. Time Magazine has called her “Africa’s premier diva” and named her one of the 100 most influential people in the world for 2021. On Kidjo’s latest album, *Mother Nature*, the award-winning luminary joins forces with many of her musical progeny, including some of the most captivating young creators of West African music, Afrobeat, Afro-pop, dancehall, hip-hop and alt-R&B. The result is a truly visionary body of work, rooted in a deep understanding of musical tradition yet endlessly forward-thinking and inventive. *Mother Nature* fulfills a promise Kidjo first made upon accepting the award for Best Global Music Album at the 2016 Grammys, then reiterated after winning the Best World Music Album prize in 2020 and proudly proclaiming: “The new generation of artists coming from Africa are going to take you by storm, and the time has come.” In sharing this album with the world, Kidjo hopes that her songs might inspire the kind of togetherness that ultimately leads to transcendent change. “This album is a love letter to Mother Earth and all the values we hold dear: truth, trust, love, connection,” says Kidjo. “For our own survival, we need to recognize the humanity that we all share and learn how to live together. There’s just no other way.”

Angelique also travels the world advocating on behalf of children in her capacity as a UNICEF and OXFAM goodwill Ambassador. At the G7 Summit in 2019, President Macron of France named Kidjo as the spokesperson for the AFAWA initiative (Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa) to help close the financing gap for women entrepreneurs in Africa. She has also created her own charitable foundation, Batonga, dedicated to support the education of young girls in Africa.

Acclaimed Grammy Award®-winning multi-instrumentalist, singer, and songwriter **Meshell Ndegeocello** makes her Blue Note Records debut with *The Omnichord Real Book*, a visionary, expansive and deeply jazz-influenced album that marks the start of a new chapter in her trailblazing career. Following her 2018 covers album *Ventriloquism*, Meshell returns with an album of new original material that taps into a broad spectrum of her musical roots. *The Omnichord Real Book* was produced by Josh Johnson and features a wide range of guest artists including Jason Moran, Ambrose Akinmusire, Joel Ross, Jeff Parker, Brandee Younger, Julius Rodriguez, Mark Guiliana, Cory Henry, Joan As Police Woman, Thandiswa and others.

Meshell first appeared on a Blue Note record a decade ago with her stunning feature on “The Consequences of Jealousy” from Robert Glasper’s Grammy Award®-winning 2012 album *Black Radio*. Two years later she collaborated with Jason Moran on *ALL RISE*, a vibrant reimagining of Fats Waller’s music where Meshell was both featured vocalist and producer. Reflecting upon time spent with her parents’ record collection during her childhood, Meshell recalls “I loved going through the records and seeing the Blue Note insignia. I stay away from the word ‘Jazz,’ it’s a really heavy word, but I am so moved to be on a label that is about self-expression.”



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AUGUST 8 **ARLO PARKS**

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Born **Anaïs Oluwatoyin Estelle Marinho**, the 22-year-old from West London—who burst onto the scene with 2018’s “Cola”—uses poetry as her songwriting compass, weaving vivid imagery and sensory touches throughout the stirring, honest stories that make up her already-rich body of work. Arlo recalls a gift from her uncle—a record collection that included classics from Sade, Earth Wind & Fire, and Bob Dylan—and choir practice as fundamentals to her musical side. Like most kids her age, she grew up digging around on YouTube for music, discovering Portishead, Odd Future, Elliott Smith, Joni Mitchell, King Krule and an eclectic range of music to root herself in. Her most recent body of work, *My Soft Machine* is a deeply personal body of work.

“The world/our view of it is peppered by the biggest things we experience – our traumas, upbringing, vulnerabilities almost like visual snow. This record is life through my lens, through my body—the mid-20s anxiety, the substance abuse of friends around me, the viscera of being in love for the first time, navigating PTSD and grief and self-sabotage and joy, moving through worlds with wonder and sensitivity—what it’s like to be trapped in this particular body.”

My Soft Machine is the follow-up to Arlo’s critically acclaimed and award-winning debut *Collapsed in Sunbeams*; a record which received two Grammy nominations for Best New Artist and Best Alternative Music Album, won the BRIT Award for Best New Artist, received the Hyundai Mercury Prize, and won the BBC Introducing Artist of The Year Award. Her debut album also reached the top three on the UK Album Charts and won the AIM Awards for Best Independent Album and UK Independent Breakthrough. Moreover, Arlo was also nominated for Breakthrough International Act at the BET Awards, was named as the youngest ever high-profile supporter of UNICEF and an ambassador for the British mental health charity, CALM. She has plans to continue her extensive work with both charities into 2023.



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AUGUST 15

Gregory Porter

with Gabriel Royal

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Acclaimed singer and songwriter **Gregory Porter** was raised in Bakersfield, California, and he cites the Bakersfield Southern Gospel sound, as well as his mother's Nat King Cole record collection, as fundamental influences on his own sound. Porter began singing in small jazz clubs in San Diego while attending San Diego State University on a football scholarship. Eventually Porter moved to New York City to pursue music full-time and his career began to ascend with the release of his first two albums—*Water* (2010) and *Be Good* (2012)—both of which received Grammy Award® nominations. In 2013, he released his breakout Blue Note debut *Liquid Spirit* which quickly grew into a global phenomenon, selling more than a million albums and earning Porter his first Grammy Award® with NPR declaring him “America’s Next Great Jazz Singer.” His 2016 follow-up *Take Me To The Alley* won Porter his second Grammy for Best Vocal Jazz Album and firmly established him as his generation’s most soulful jazz singer-songwriter. In 2017, Porter released the heartfelt tribute album *Nat King Cole & Me*, and in 2020 returned to his original songwriting on the uplifting *All Rise*, both of which received Grammy nominations. His 2021 release *Still Rising* collected new songs, covers, duets and a selection of his much-loved favorite songs. Porter has hosted the podcast *The Hang*, a conversation series featuring his famous friends, as well as his own cooking show *The PorterHouse*, in which the singer shared recipes inspired by his local community, experiences from touring the globe, and family cooking traditions from growing up with his mother and seven siblings.

In a fusion of original pop, jazz, soul and classic love songs, singer-songwriter and cellist **Gabriel Royal’s** inimitable voice cuts through the haze. In *Heart & Soul*, he shares tales of love, loss and hope in a solo performance that weaves pop, soul, jazz and classical influences. Performing on piano and cello, Royal’s engaging style is the ultimate in entertaining— balancing heartfelt moments of vulnerability with his signature sense of humor and timing.

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Royal’s live performances blend jazz, classical, pop and neo-soul in an original collection of optimistic, sometimes ironic love stories, inspired by his daily encounters with NYC commuters. Coming home on the subway with only \$1 in his pocket in 2010, he noticed a busker with questionable talent had landed at least 20 times that. For the next five years, Royal lugged his instrument into the depths of the mass transit system to serenade passersby with his “adult lullabies”, all the while generating a loyal following of listeners. Influenced by Stevie Wonder, The Beatles and Burt Bacharach, Royal’s songs relive his relationships, triumphs and downfalls. He produced and released his self-titled debut album in 2016 earning raves for his soaring vocals, hum-along melodies and lush arrangements, His sophomore release, *Miss Once In A Blue Moon* expanded his repertoire and launched tours in Europe and the US. Royal is among a select number of artists combining cello and voice.



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EVENINGS AL FRESCO

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Originally developed in the spring of 2020 to safely provide a musical oasis for performers and visitors alike, Evenings al Fresco remains a cherished way to enjoy summer at our York Street location. Each night features a vibrant mix of talented local musicians performing unamplified against a stunning backdrop of peak summer blooms. Pack a picnic, gather your favorite friends and family members, and wander the Gardens during the golden hour on these relaxing musical evenings.

[FULL LINEUP](#)

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