INTRODUCTION

Hancher Links is a guide for University of Iowa faculty and staff, highlighting connections between Hancher performances and college courses. You’ll see themes listed with each show that may be relevant to a variety of classes across disciplines.

There are a number of ways to integrate Hancher into your class:

• Assign performances and public education programs as enrichment activities for students
• Set up a class visit or workshops with artists or Hancher staff
• Develop a student service learning course or unit around a Hancher project
• Hancher can provide readings, videos, and other resources to contextualize an artist or performance

A number of faculty members have students purchase Hancher tickets as part of their course materials similar to a required textbook. If you are interested in holding a block of tickets for purchase by the students in your class, contact the Hancher Box Office at (319) 335-1160 or 800-HANCHER. Ask for Leslie or Elizabeth to reserve tickets. Prices and other ticketing information can be found on our website at hancher.uiowa.edu or by contacting the box office.

Please feel free to contact me to explore the possibility of bringing an artist to your class or if you have ideas about how you or your department can partner with Hancher.

Thanks!

Micah Ariel James
Education Manager
Hancher | The University of Iowa
micahariel-james@uiowa.edu
(319) 335-0009
hancher.uiowa.edu
HANCHER ARTIST RESIDENCIES

Hancher is committed to connecting artists with audiences beyond the stage. Hancher residencies bring artists to campus, into the community, and across the state. These events, often free, deepen the impact of visiting artists and remind us all that the arts are relevant to all aspects of life.

The 2017–2018 season will feature residencies by:

KJ Sanchez

Niyaz

La Santa Cecilia

G. Willow Wilson

Terence Blanchard

Camille A. Brown & Dancers

Billy Childs

Amir ElSaffar and Rivers of Sound

Feathers of Fire

Circa

Taylor Mac

Zeshan Bagewadi

The Hancher website is the best resource for up-to-date information about residency activities.

*Student matinee performances are supported by the Herbert A. and Janice A. Wilson Arts Education Fund.*
Join us as Hancher explores and celebrates Islamic art and Muslim artists

Hancher has been awarded a grant from the Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) for the Building Bridges: Arts, Culture, and Identity program. APAP sought projects designed to build knowledge and appreciation for arts and culture with roots in Muslim-majority societies.

Hancher’s project, *Embracing Complexity*, will take a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach to building understanding of contemporary Islamic cultures and Muslim identity. Artists will be in residence at various times over the course of two years and will work with partners both on and off the University of Iowa campus on a broad range of activities including performances, classes, exhibits, discussions, and lectures. The project will also document and explore the experiences of Muslims in Eastern Iowa through sharing of local stories and oral histories. *Embracing Complexity* is in keeping with the University of Iowa’s commitment to diversity.

Our goal is to build textured knowledge of Islamic cultures, while creating a greater sense of empathy for the experiences of peoples of diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. We believe this is an urgent program at this moment.

*This project is made possible in part by a grant from the Association of Performing Arts Professionals – Building Bridges: Arts, Culture, and Identity, a component of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.*

Image: Iranian glazed ceramic tile work, from the ceiling of the Tomb of Hafez in Shiraz, Iran. Province of Fars. (Credit: Pentocelo)
It’s an after-work office party. It’s also a dance show. Dancers Monica Bill Barnes and Anna Bass (last seen in Iowa City with Ira Glass in Hancher’s presentation of Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host) crash a party that the whole audience is invited to. Dressed in men’s suits and playing a pair of guys everyone knows, the duo desperately tries to win over the crowd. It’s painfully—and hilariously—clear that these two are terribly unsuited for the roles they insist on playing.

KJ Sanchez
PRESENTED BY HANCHER AND CREATIVE MATTERS
PART OF EMBRACING COMPLEXITY
Thursday, September 7, 2017, 5:30 pm
American Society, Politics, and Everyday Life
Ethnic Studies, Diversity, and Differences
Human Rights
Latin American Studies
Performance Practice and Society
Sport and Popular Amusements

In this Creative Matters conversation, theater artist KJ Sanchez will discuss the work of her company American Records. Sanchez and her company create documentary plays about key issues, seeking to build connections between people. Her lecture will focus on her work concerning the concussion crisis in American football and issues of immigrants and resettlement in the United States. She’ll explore what these two issues say about who we are as Americans. This event is free and unticketed.
Cokie Roberts
An Insider’s View of Washington, D.C.
THE 2017 LEVITT LECTURE

PRESENTED BY HANCHER, UI COLLEGE OF LAW, AND UI LECTURE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 13, 2017, 7:30 pm

Renowned journalist Cokie Roberts, named a “Living Legend” by the Library of Congress (2008), is one of the most esteemed and brilliant broadcast journalists of our time. She is a New York Times best-selling author, trusted historian on women in America, and a sought-after political commentator. In her presentation, Roberts will offer her unique perspective on the goings-on in the nation’s capital. This event is free and unticketed.

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis

Friday, September 22, 2017, 7:30 pm

A gala event! Black tie optional.

Longtime Hancher favorites, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis will make its debut in the new Hancher Auditorium. Marsalis is a cultural force—a top-flight trumpeter and composer as well as a leading proponent of jazz and jazz education—and the band he leads includes hot soloists who are also exceptional ensemble players. Wynton and the band will transform Hancher into the house of swing.
Flip FabriQue
*Catch Me!*

Thursday, September 28, 2017, 7:30 pm

**Circus Arts**
**Exploration through Dance / Movement**

Flip FabriQue is a circus company committed to joy, playfulness, and friendship. *Catch Me!* is a gravity defying spectacle featuring acrobatics, a trampo-wall, and amazing feats of agility and skill performed by a company of true friends. Veterans of esteemed companies such as Cirque du Soleil and Cirque Éloize, the Flip FabriQue troupe, says the *New York Times*, “projects an irrepressible spirit of fun and, yes, it’s catching.”

Niyaz
*The Fourth Light Project*

PART OF EMBRACING COMPLEXITY

Saturday, September 30, 2017, 7:30 pm

**Ethnic Studies, Diversity, and Differences**
**Exploration through Dance / Movement**
**Exploration of Musical Genres**
**Global Artistic Tradition & Change**
**Multidisciplinary Performance**

Niyaz—known for its contemporary electroacoustic trance music that blends Sufi poetry with folk music from Iran and surrounding countries—embraces the collision of the old and new as a means to create the unique and affecting. The *Huffington Post* calls Niyaz “an evolutionary force in contemporary Middle Eastern music.” The band’s collaboration with visual artist Jérôme Delapierre is another step forward. *The Fourth Light Project* is a multimedia experience, combining live music and sacred dance (a dervish) with advanced projection techniques that respond to sound and music in real time. *The Fourth Light Project* focuses on the life and work of Rabia al-Basri, an eighth-century Muslim saint and the first female Sufi mystic.
Leslie Odom Jr.
Sunday, October 1, 2017, 7:00 pm

Leslie Odom Jr., whose portrayal of Aaron Burr—“the damn fool who shot him”—in *Hamilton* shot him to fame, returns for a free outdoor concert to follow-up his rapturously received lecture at Hancher last season. Odom and his versatile band will perform songs in a number of styles from an array of sources. With his sparkling voice and undeniable charisma, Odom will fill the night with music. This free celebration is also Hancher’s way of welcoming students back to campus.

La Santa Cecilia
Thursday, October 5, 2017, 7:30 pm

La Santa Cecilia, named for the patron saint of musicians, was blessed with the Grammy for Best Latin Rock Album for *Treinta Días* in 2014. Drawing inspiration from around the world, the L.A.-based band creates a hybrid of cumbia, bossa nova, rumba, bolero, tango, jazz, rock, and klezmer. A powerhouse when performing live, La Santa Cecilia offers a musical celebration nigh unto a religious experience.
G. Willow Wilson
A Superhero for Generation Why

PRESENTED BY HANCHER, IOWA CITY BOOK FESTIVAL,
ONE COMMUNITY, ONE BOOK, AND UI LECTURE COMMITTEE

PART OF EMBRACING COMPLEXITY

Sunday, October 8, 2017, 2:00 pm

American Arts, Literature, and Popular Culture
American Society, Politics, and Everyday Life
Ethnic Studies, Diversity, and Differences
Gender, Women’s & Sexuality Studies

G. Willow Wilson is a superhero who employs her literary powers to address pressing issues including religious intolerance and gender politics. In fiction, nonfiction, and comics, the American convert to Islam has distinguished herself as a writer of remarkable originality and insight. In her lecture, Wilson uses the challenges Ms. Marvel—a Pakistani-American Muslim teenager—faces as a parallel for the challenges of a misunderstood generation: the millennials. She’ll discuss the genesis of Ms. Marvel, her roots in the historical science fiction/fantasy tradition, and the significance of writing a superhero for a millennial (and wider) audience. This event is free and unticketed.
The King and I

Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 7:30 pm
Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 7:30 pm
Thursday, October 12, 2017, 7:30 pm
Friday, October 13, 2017, 7:30 pm
Saturday, October 14, 2017, 1:00 pm
Saturday, October 14, 2017, 6:30 pm

Two worlds collide in the Lincoln Center Theater production of this “breathtaking and exquisite” (New York Times) musical, directed by Bartlett Sher. One of Rodgers & Hammerstein’s finest works, The King and I boasts a score that features such beloved classics as “Getting To Know You,” “I Whistle a Happy Tune,” “Hello Young Lovers,” “Shall We Dance,” and “Something Wonderful.” Winner of the 2015 Tony Award for Best Musical Revival, The King and I is “too beautiful to miss” (New York Magazine).

The performance on Saturday, October 14, at 1:00 pm will feature an American Sign Language interpreter.
Joshua Bell
Alessio Bax, piano

Friday, October 20, 2017, 7:30 pm

“Joshua Bell doesn’t stand in anyone’s shadow.” So declares the New York Times, and when Bell steps into the light on the Hancher stage with his 1713 Huberman Stradivarius violin, he’ll demonstrate why. The man who once famously played incognito in the Washington D.C. subway is recognizably brilliant no matter what—or where—he performs.

New York City Ballet MOVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 7:30 pm
Wednesday, October 25, 2017, 7:30 pm

Established in 1948 by choreographer George Balanchine and arts aficionado Lincoln Kirstein, New York City Ballet is one of the foremost dance companies in the world. Now under the direction of Ballet Master in Chief Peter Martins and Executive Director Katherine Brown, the company has an active repertory of more than 150 works, most of which were created for NYCB and many of which are considered modern masterpieces. New York City Ballet MOVES is composed of a select group of NYCB musicians and dancers from all ranks of the Company. Miriam Miller, a NYCB dancer from Iowa City, will dance during the Hancher performances, which will feature live music.
Ethan Lipton & His Orchestra

The Outer Space
Friday, October 27, 2017, 7:00 pm

Late Night Concerts
Friday, October 27, 2017, 9:30 pm
Saturday, October 28, 2017, 9:30 pm

No Place to Go
Saturday, October 28, 2017, 7:00 pm

American Society, Politics, and Everyday Life
Exploration of Musical Genres

Ethan Lipton is rumpled, self-deprecating, and brilliant. Choose one, two, or three ways to experience his hilarious, heartrending work. The Outer Space is a bittersweet, off-kilter tale of a couple headed for space—but the interstellar sailing isn’t always smooth. No Place to Go is a story of work, outsourcing, and identity—and a potential career move to Mars. Both nights, Lipton and his band will close Club Hancher down with a concert of songs from their many records.
A Far Cry
*The Blue Hour* with Luciana Souza

A HANCHER COMMISSION

Thursday, November 16, 2017, 7:30 pm

**Exploration of Musical Genres**

A Far Cry is a musical collective that has developed an innovative process for group decision-making and shared leadership. That spirit of innovation extends to *The Blue Hour*, a new work the chamber orchestra commissioned and which was created collaboratively by five female composers—Caroline Shaw, Shara Nova, Sarah Kirkland Snider, Angélica Negrón, and Rachel Grimes. The libretto for the song-cycle is the poem “On Earth” by Carolyn Forché, from her book *Blue Hour*. Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist Luciana Souza joins A Far Cry in performance of *The Blue Hour*. 
Terence Blanchard
Featuring The E-Collective

Friday, December 1, 2017, 7:30 pm

Trumpeter Terence Blanchard is a musical force, equally respected as a jazzman and as a composer and performer of music for film—including the full catalogue of Spike Lee Joints. Blanchard will lead The E-Collective in a night of fusion and R&B flavored music drawn from their record *Breathless*, the title track of which is a call for social justice.

Straight No Chaser

Friday, December 8, 2017, 7:30 pm

Ten guys. No instruments. One unmistakable sound. A cappella powerhouse Straight No Chaser is bringing the holiday cheer to Hancher Auditorium. Since a video of the group’s quirky take on “The 12 Days of Christmas” went viral in 2006, Straight No Chaser has been in the studio and on the road bringing a cappella music to its ever-growing fan base. The guys in the group know just where to find the groove to put you in a holiday mood.
It truly is a family affair when Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy bring their Celtic—by way of Cape Breton, Canada—music to the stage for a holiday party. MacMaster and Leahy are married, and their performances marry their masterful fiddle playing with the sounds and traditions of their home. This celebration is a homecoming of sorts as the musicians—whose long association with Hancher makes them feel like family—bring their take on the holidays to the new Hancher Auditorium stage for the first time.

“The heart of the work is about seeing the dancers,” says Camille A. Brown. “They are people. What are the stories that live inside of their bodies?” Her new work, *ink*, seeks to reclaim African American narratives and culture from appropriation and silence. The third work in a trilogy about identity, *ink* is an amalgamation of African dance, African American social dance, tap, jazz, modern, and hip-hop.
Billy Childs Quartet

Friday, February 2, 2018, 7:00 pm
Friday, February 2, 2018, 9:30 pm
Saturday, February 3, 2018, 7:00 pm
Saturday, February 3, 2018, 9:30 pm

Pianist and composer Billy Childs joined the Ying Quartet for a classical concert last season at Hancher. This season, he returns for a run of Club Hancher performances with his jazz quartet. The four-time Grammy winner and his bandmates are grounded in bebop’s quartet roots, but their musical path explores expansive territories of rhythmic and melodic counterpoint.

Amir ElSaffar and Rivers of Sound

PART OF EMBRACING COMPLEXITY

Thursday, February 8, 2018, 7:30 pm

The Wire says Amir ElSaffar is “uniquely poised to reconcile jazz and Arabic music without doing either harm.” A trumpeter, santur player, vocalist, and composer, ElSaffar is steeped in classical and jazz traditions while also bringing the microtones and ornaments idiomatic to Arabic music into play. He is also a practitioner of the endangered Iraqi maqam music, which influences both his playing and his composing. All of this adds up to the Chicago Tribune calling ElSaffar “one of the most promising figures in jazz today.”

His band, Rivers of Sound, features 17 musicians who blend eastern and western music by using resonance as their organizing principle. As pitches and rhythms become fluid, so do cultural boundaries. The result is a fresh transcultural soundscape.
Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan

*Formosa*

Concept/Choreography by Lin Hwai-min

Sunday, February 25, 2018, 2:00 pm

Lin Hwai-min is the founder and artistic director of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan. He is also a University of Iowa graduate, earning his MFA from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop in 1971. He received his first training in modern dance while he was a UI student. After studying at the Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance, he founded Cloud Gate in 1973. The company blends Asian traditions with a modern sensibility to create beautiful works performed to great acclaim around the world. *Formosa* is inspired by the landscape and history of Taiwan while also reflecting on universal human experiences.
Motown The Musical

Thursday, March 1, 2018, 7:30 pm
Friday, March 2, 2018, 7:30 pm
Saturday, March 3, 2018, 2:00 pm
Saturday, March 3, 2018, 7:30 pm
Sunday, March 4, 2018, 1:00 pm

Motown The Musical is the true American dream story of Motown founder Berry Gordy’s journey from featherweight boxer to the heavyweight music mogul who launched the careers of Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Smokey Robinson, and many more. Motown shattered barriers, shaped our lives, and made us all move to the same beat. Featuring classic songs such as “My Girl,” “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough,” and many, many more.

The performance on Sunday, March 4, at 1:00 pm will feature an American Sign Language interpreter.

Elias String Quartet

A collaboration with the UI String Quartet Residency Program

PRESENTED BY HANCHER AND UI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 7:30 pm

There are plenty of top tier string quartets in the world. Even so, the Elias String Quartet stands out among its peers. As the Philadelphia Enquirer put it, “Few quartets at any stage of their evolution have this much personality.” The Herald of Glasgow had this to say: “It is hardly ever the case that gratitude is the lasting impression of a concert, but this is one of them.”
Hancher has enjoyed a long and creatively fruitful relationship with both the Kronos Quartet and UI alum Rinde Eckert. For My Lai, the string quartet and the vocalist come together with Vietnamese multi-instrumentalist Vân-Ánh Vanessa Võ to lay bare the tragedy of the 1968 massacre at My Lai. The story of the destruction of the village at the hands of American soldiers is told from the perspective of Hugh Thompson, a helicopter pilot who tried to intervene and who was vilified for reporting what he had witnessed.
Brian Stokes Mitchell with the University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Dr. William LaRue Jones, conductor

Wednesday, March 28, 2018, 7:30 pm

American Arts, Literature, and Popular Culture
Exploration of Musical Genres

“The last leading man” comes to Hancher Auditorium to perform with University of Iowa student musicians under the baton of Dr. William LaRue Jones. A star of the Broadway stage (Man of La Mancha, Ragtime, Kiss Me Kate, Shuffle Along) and screen (Trapper John, M.D., Frasier, Glee, The Blacklist), Brian Stokes Mitchell possesses what the New York Times calls “a singularly thunderous baritone.” He and his trio will join the UI Symphony Orchestra, which will provide a lush setting for Stokes’s luscious voice.

Feathers of Fire: A Persian Epic

PART OF EMBRACING COMPLEXITY

Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 7:30 pm

Exploration of Theatrical Arts: Puppetry
Global Artistic Tradition & Change
Multidisciplinary Performance

Created by Hamid Rahmanian, a Guggenheim fellowship-winning filmmaker and visual artist, Feathers of Fire is an ambitious shadow play recounting the fates of star-crossed lovers. The magical tale of Zaul and Rudabeh is drawn from the tenth-century Persian epic Shahnameh (The Book of Kings). Casting shadows on a cinema-size screen, puppets, costumes, masks, scenography, and digital animation will bring the story to life. With techniques conceived by shadow master Larry Reed and an original score composed by Niyaz, Feathers of Fire is epic entertainment.
**Kinky Boots**

Friday, April 13, 2018, 7:30 pm  
Saturday, April 14, 2018, 2:00 pm  
Saturday, April 14, 2018, 7:30 pm  
Sunday, April 15, 2018, 1:00 pm  
Sunday, April 15, 2018, 6:30 pm

*Exploration through Dance / Movement*  
*Gender, Women’s & Sexuality Studies*  
*Multidisciplinary Performance*  
*Musical Theatre*

*Kinky Boots* is Broadway’s huge-hearted, high-heeled hit! With songs by Grammy and Tony winning pop icon Cyndi Lauper, this joyous musical celebration is about the friendships we discover and the belief that you can change the world when you change your mind. Inspired by true events, *Kinky Boots* takes you from a gentlemen’s shoe factory in Northampton to the glamorous catwalks of Milan.

The performance on **Sunday, April 15, at 1:00 pm** will feature an American Sign Language interpreter.

**DakhaBrakha**

Thursday, April 19, 2018, 7:00 pm  
Thursday, April 19, 2018, 9:30 pm

*Exploration of Musical Genres*  
*Global Artistic Tradition & Change*

The band’s name means “give-take.” The band’s members call the mix of influences “ethno-chaos.” The band’s voice is singular. Built on a base of Ukrainian folk music, the sound of DakhaBraka is equal parts old and new—a punk take on established traditions stirred together with a world of grooves.
Circa
**Carnival of the Animals**

Saturday, April 21, 2018, 2:00 pm
Saturday, April 21, 2018, 7:30 pm

Circus Arts
Exploration through Dance / Movement
Topics in Elementary Education

*Carnival of the Animals*, inspired by composer Camille Saint-Saëns’s suite of the same name, is a delightful frolic through the animal kingdom. The Circa acrobats—with a little help from whimsical projections—portray a wide array of creatures while showing off their incredible circus skills.

Circa
**Opus**

Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 7:30 pm

Circus Arts
Exploration of Musical Genres
Exploration through Dance / Movement

*Opus*, which is underpinned by the music of composer Dmitri Shostakovich, features fourteen acrobats creating powerful and nuanced geometries with their bodies. The performers are joined on stage by the Debussy String Quartet, and the musicians’ contributions are far more than simply playing the music. Delving deeply into the complex relationships between the individual and the group, the march of history and the dictates of the heart, and the tragic and the comic, *Opus* is an evening of circus that eschews the zany for the thought-provoking.
Taylor Mac
A 24-Decade History of Popular Music (Abridged)

Saturday, April 28, 2018, 7:30 pm

Hancher was a proud commissioner and presenter of Taylor Mac’s 1846–1856 Whitman vs. Foster: Songs Popular Near the Breaking Point, a portion of the artist’s 24-Decade History of Popular Music. Now, in a condensed version of this magnum opus, Mac returns to take us on a musical and theatrical journey through American history. Easily one of the most dazzling performers of our time, Mac will take you out of your comfort zone and into a new conception of our shared story.
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, Zell Music Director
Semyon Bychkov, conductor
Katia & Marielle Labèque, piano

Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 7:30 pm

Exploration of Musical Genres

Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently recognized as one of the great orchestras in the world. The musicians of the CSO command a vast repertoire that spans from Baroque to new music, thrilling audiences at home and in great concert halls across the globe. Led by conductor Semyon Bychkov, the orchestra will be joined by sisters Katia and Marielle Labèque, who are according to the New York Times—“the best piano duo in front of an audience today.”

Zeshan Bagewadi and the Transistors

PRESENTED BY HANCHER AND SUMMER OF THE ARTS
PART OF EMBRACING COMPLEXITY

Friday Night Concert Series in Downtown Iowa City
Friday, May 25, 2018, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm
Lynch Snyder Green
Saturday, May 26, 2018, 2:00 pm

Exploration of Musical Genres
Global Artistic Tradition & Change

Born in Chicago to Indian Muslim immigrants, Zeshan Bagewadi’s musical identity was formed at the harmonious intersection of two worlds. As he was growing up, his parent’s love of their native Indo-Pakistani music collided with the sounds of his father’s extensive blues, soul, and R&B collection. Bagewadi brings all of those influences to the stage, creating a unifying and soulful sound from seemingly disparate traditions. He and his band will perform at the Friday Night Concert Series and then play a Saturday show on Hancher’s Lynch Snyder Green. Both events are free and open to the public.