

Spring Arts

PREVIEW

BY CARYN R. SAGAL

Get ready to emerge from winter hibernation and experience the region's vibrant arts scene, which will be in full bloom this spring. Here are our top picks for coming attractions on-stage, on-exhibit and in the community.

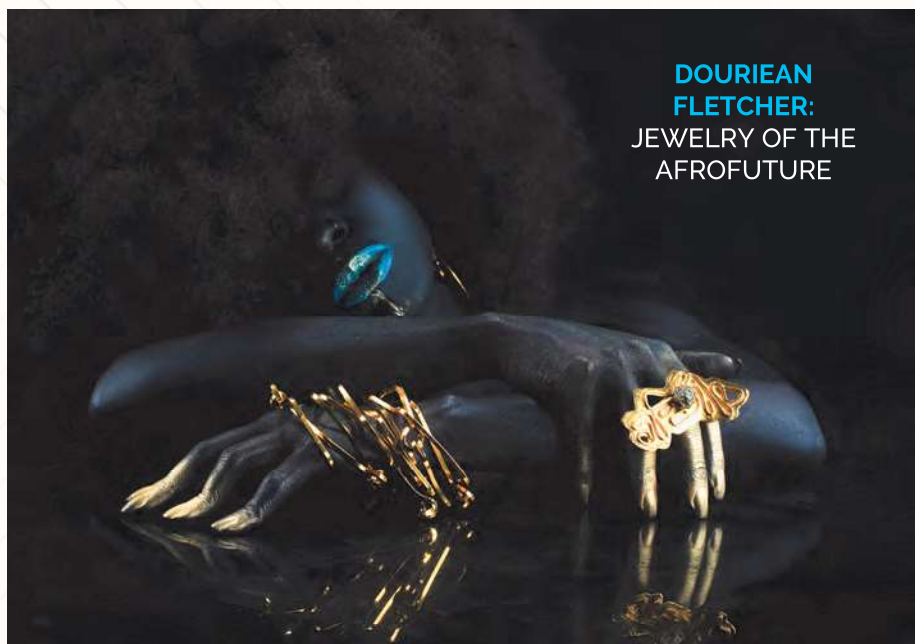
ART & HISTORY

March 11-Sept. 6
Fratino and Matisse:
To See This Light Again

Annapolis-born and MICA-educated Louis Fratino extensively observed Matisse's works at the Baltimore Museum of Art. His study of the male figure as a central subject complements Matisse's portrayals of female models, highlighting the individuality of each artist's point of view. Drawn from the BMA's Cone Collection, loaned works and new paintings by Fratino, this exhibition captures the continuing influence of one of the most important artists of the 20th century. Free. artbma.org

March 11-April 7
HER Maryland: Stories
that Inspire. Maryland
Women Icons Exhibition

Chesapeake Arts Center in Brooklyn Park presents the extraordinary



**DOURIEAN
FLETCHER:**
JEWELRY OF THE
AFROFUTURE

COURTESY OF DOURIEAN FLETCHER

stories of Maryland's female trailblazers, artists, leaders and changemakers. This vibrant celebration of art and history honors their legacies, sparks reflection and inspires audiences to recognize the influence and transformative power of women across generations. Free. chesapeakearts.org

March 28
Boshell Lecture: ¡Salud!
Beverages from Past to Present

Discover the historical origins, cultural practices and modern-day approaches to hot chocolate and tequila at the Walters Art Museum. Antonio Soto (director of collections at Museo del Objeto del Objeto in Mexico City), Carlos Raba (co-owner and chef of Clavel, local taqueria and mezcaleria) and Ellen Hoobler (William B. Ziff curator of Art of the Americas) will participate in a discussion and Q&A, followed by a light reception in the Museum Café.

Free, but registration is required.
thewalters.org

March 29-June 28
Matisse in Vence:
The Stations of the Cross

A highlight of his late career, the Chapelle du Rosaire (Chapel of the Rosary), is Matisse's only large-scale architectural project. He designed every detail of the space, including a ceramic mural depicting the 14 stations of the cross. As the first thorough consideration of this mural, this exhibit at the BMA will include drawings that have never been displayed. Free. artbma.org

April 8-Aug. 9
Douriean Fletcher:
Jewelry of the Afrofuture

Douriean Fletcher used jewelry as a powerful narrative tool in art, Black identity and visual storytelling. This exhibit at the Walters Art Museum features iconic futuristic jewelry and elaborate pieces Fletcher fashioned from natural materials, as well as brass and gold, that were inspired by ancestral traditions. Collection highlights include the jewelry she created for blockbuster films, "Black Panther," "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" and "Coming 2 America," and the classic TV miniseries "Roots." Free. thewalters.org

April 12
Revolution & Remembrance
Bus Tour: Baltimore's Patriots
and The Poe Family

Celebrate America's 250th birthday by traveling through Baltimore's Revolutionary past. Learn about our local war heroes and Declaration of Independence signers while visiting Westminster Hall, Old St. Paul's Cemetery and the Carroll Mansion. Admission is \$49 and reservations are required. poeinbaltimore.org/event/america-250-bus-tour

May 2
Baltimore Kinetic
Sculpture Race

Watch these custom-built, amphibious, human-powered works of art launch at the American Visionary Art Museum and travel eight hours over land, into the Chesapeake Bay and through mud and sand. Besides watching the action on race day, visit AVAM's Sculpture Barn year-round to see these kinetic masterpieces on display.
kineticbaltimore.com | avam.org

THEATER & STAND-UP

March 28
Gary Owen

Join one of the most in-demand touring comedians up close and personal at The Lyric. With his sharp observational humor and fearless storytelling, Gary Owen has entertained audiences for more than two decades. His material draws from his personal life, time in the military and the everyday absurdities that connect people across backgrounds. Tickets start at \$44.15. lyricbaltimore.com

April 16-May 10
Holes
Center Stage presents this

adaptation of the hit film and Newbery Medal- and National Book Award-winning novel. Wrongly convicted of stealing sneakers, Stanley joins a ragtag group of boys at Camp Green Lake digging endless holes under the blistering sun. As the layers of dirt pile up, so do the secrets that are buried beneath them. Part mystery and part adventure, "Holes" explores friendship, fate and the courage needed to rewrite your story. Tickets start at \$10. centerstage.org

April 24-May 17
The Tempest

Director Ian Gallanar and Chesapeake Shakespeare Company will transport you to a remote island where the magician Prospero is exiled with only his daughter. When those who wronged him fall into his clutches, vengeance and forgiveness collide in a storm of magic in Shakespeare's spellbinding, final masterpiece. Tickets start at \$25. chesapeakeshakespeare.com

May 8-9
Leslie Jones

Live from Timonium, it's Leslie Jones! The former "Saturday Night



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**THIS FAST-PACED
ADAPTATION BRINGS
A MISCHIEVOUS
FLAIR INTO EMMA
WOODHOUSE'S
MATCHMAKING
ADVENTURES.**

Live" star brings her bold, high-energy comedy to Magooby's Joke House. The MTV Movie Award winner is sure to bring her fearless humor and sharp commentary to the stage for an unforgettable standup performance. Audience is 18+ admission and two-item minimum with tickets starting at \$47.99. magoobysjokehouse.com

May 17-June 14

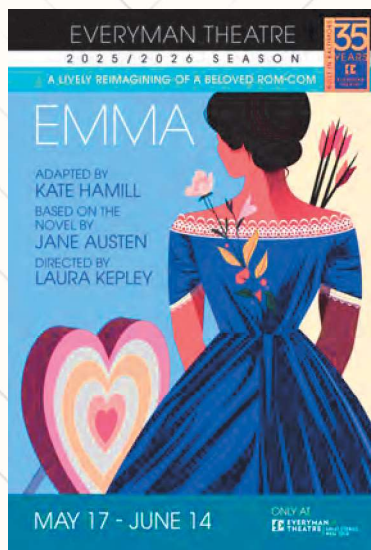
Emma

Everyman Theatre presents a lively reimagining of Jane Austen's classic rom-com. This fast-paced adaptation brings a mischievous flair into Emma Woodhouse's matchmaking adventures. See what happens when "Bridgerton" meets "Clueless" in this production starring Everyman's Resident Company. Certain performances have a "pay-what-you-choose" pricing model starting at \$5. everymantheatre.org

May 29-June 21

The Divine Sister

Join Baltimore's Vagabond Players Inc. for an outrageously campy satire of nun-themed melodramas, packed with sharp wit, spiritual hijinks and fearless humor. This fast-paced, genre-blending farce follows the indomitable Mother Superior as she confronts visions, school scandals and long-buried secrets in a hilarious, subversive escape that reminds us how humor can be



a divine force. Tickets start at \$12. vagabondplayers.org

June 12-July 5

The Crayon King, or Learning to Share

Baltimore's Spotlighters Theatre presents this family-friendly musical about four kindergarteners (played by adults) whose social status is based on the size of their crayon box. Secrets come out, feelings are hurt and crayons are broken. Ultimately, the youngsters learn what really matters is who you are on the inside and not what you color with. Tickets start at \$16. spotlighters.org

CONCERTS

March 21

2026 Family Concert - Space, an Out of This World Symphony Performance

On this first weekend of spring, join the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra at Maryland Hall for an exploration of deep space and planet Earth. This science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM)-inspired concert features video imagery and narration by NASA Goddard. Tickets are \$10. annapolissymphony.org

March 23

Diana Krall

The legendary Diana Krall returns to Baltimore for one unforgettable night at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. With her sultry vocals, sophisticated swing and unmistakable piano artistry, Krall brings her signature blend of jazz, pop and timeless standards to the stage in a performance that's both intimate and electrifying. Tickets start at \$52. bsomusic.org

March 28

Joanne Shaw Taylor

Experience the magic of British blues-rockstar Joanne Shaw

COURTESY OF JACOB KEMP

COURTESY OF THE BSO

Taylor and her incredible band at Rams Head on Stage in Annapolis. Showcasing her shining vocals, electrifying guitar performances and soulful songwriting, this powerhouse performance features songs from her latest album, "Black & Gold," plus standout tracks from earlier albums and heartfelt tributes to classic blues legends. Tickets start at \$83. ramsheadonstage.com

April 10-12

Disney's Encanto In Concert

Bring your family to the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall for an enchanting experience. "Encanto" earned the Academy Award®, BAFTA®, Golden Globe® and Producers Guild of America Award for Best Animated Feature. Watch the full movie on screen as the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra performs the score. Tickets start at \$31. bsomusic.org

April 12

Maryland Concert Series Presents...The Regal Beagles

Experience "six cool dudes in loose moods" serving up the finest in yacht rock and soft rock classics of the '70s to the mid-'80s. Chesapeake Arts Center invites you to bring your hat and sunglasses to the Hammonds Lane Theatre in Brooklyn Park and chill out to your favorite hits from Christopher Cross, Seals & Croft, Chicago, the Eagles, Journey and many, many more! Tickets start at \$10. chesapeakearts.org

May 31

The Baltimore Chamber Orchestra presents The Best of Baltimore!

The BCO will highlight some of Charm City's newest and most well-known contributors to the orchestral canon in this concert at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. Enjoy works by Frank Zappa, Karina Ingram and Mason Bates, as well as Ludwig van Beethoven. Tickets start at \$40. bsomusic.org

MUSICALS & DANCE

April 16

Folsom Prison Experience

For not walking the line, audience members at the Gordon Center for Performing Arts in Owings Mills will "get booked" as "inmates" in this immersive theater experience recreating Johnny Cash's infamous jailhouse concert. Tickets start at \$38. gordoncenter.com.

April 22, 24 and 26

Pelléas et Mélisande

Opera Baltimore will transform The Engineers Club in the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion into a world of shadows and silences. In Debussy's hauntingly beautiful dream of an opera, the mysterious Mélisande marries Prince Golaud, but falls for his half-brother Pelléas. Love blooms in secret, jealousy festers, words are weapons and desire leads to ruin. Tickets start at \$15. operabaltimore.org

April 24-26

La Esmerelda

Making its state premiere at Maryland Hall in Annapolis, this romantic production brings "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" to life through dance. The Ballet Theatre of Maryland presents Victor Hugo's complicated love story between vivacious street dancer Esmerelda and Captain Phoebus. Tickets are \$64.46. balletmaryland.org

April 25

Escenas Flamencas: From Canvas to Life

See iconic oil paintings coming to life as dancers emerge from the canvas and carry forward with movement, rhythm and the emotion of flamenco. Furia Flamenca Dance Company gives this artistic and electric performance with Bruno Lucini (Brazilian percussionist and drummer with Latin jazz band Downtown Trumbao) at Baltimore Theatre Project. Tickets start at \$15. theatreproject.org

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May 8
Swan Lake

Fate and magic entwine in Tchaikovsky's iconic ballet, which showcase the timeless battle between good and evil. World Ballet Company's breathtaking production

FESTIVALS

April 17-18
Baltimore Old Time Music Festival

Roots musicians Ken & Brad Kolodner will host this joyous,

show – taking place in the center of Arbutus. Free.
arbutusartsfestival.com

May 23-May 24

Artscape

Spend Memorial Day weekend at the nation's largest free outdoor arts festival. Headlined by Hip-Hop group The Roots and R&B legend Stephanie Mills, this year's Artscape brings interactive visual arts exhibits, musical performances, poetry workshops, the Flavor Lab, Kidscape, street dance and more to downtown Baltimore!
artscape.org

June 4-8

Baltimore Dance Festival

Dancers, artists and movement-lovers from around the world will flock to downtown Baltimore for this multi-day celebration of dance – featuring workshops, performances, competitions and social events designed for dancers of all levels and styles. Expect a diverse mix of dances including salsa, bachata, hip-hop and more! The main events take place at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor. Entry to all parties, workshops, dance shows and concerts begins at \$119.
baltimoredancefest.com

June 19-22

AFRAM

One of the largest African American festivals on the East Coast returns to Druid Hill Park over Juneteenth weekend. Celebrating its 50th anniversary, this free family-oriented celebration of African American culture features music, children's activities, African drumming, carnival mask-making and additional entertainment. aframbaltimore.com □

CARYN R. SAGAL IS A BALTIMORE-BASED FREELANCE WRITER.



COURTESY OF JENNY ANDERSON



COURTESY OF MISTABU MEDIA

“MUSICAL BOLDLY EXPLORES THE TRIUMPHS AND FAILURES OF A STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY THAT'S FAR FROM OVER.”

at The Lyric features 50 international dancers, a live orchestra, over 150 hand-sewn costumes and stunning hand-crafted sets. Tickets start at \$81. lyricbaltimore.com

May 26-31
Suffs

From Broadway to the Hippodrome Theatre comes this acclaimed Tony Award®-winning musical about the brilliant, passionate and funny American women who fought tirelessly for the right to vote. Shaina Taub's "thrilling, inspiring and dazzlingly entertaining" (*Variety*) musical boldly explores the triumphs and failures of a struggle for equality that's far from over. Tickets start at \$45. baltimore.broadway.com

interactive and inspiring music celebration for all ages at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. Enjoy concerts, workshops, square dancing, jamming, food/drink vendors, kids programming and more. Saturday tickets are free for kids 12 and under; additional tickets start at \$20. baltimoreoldtimefest.com

May 17
Arbutus Arts Festival

Whether you're in the mood to browse handmade arts and crafts, savor delicious food and drink, hear great local music, play in the Children's Corner or just relax in the beer garden, you can do it all at the Baltimore/Washington area's premier one-day arts and crafts