



Norwegian Embassy



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**Holiday celebration at Union Station, featuring simulcast of Yo-Yo Ma
performing Bach's cello suites at Washington National Cathedral
& the Norwegian Christmas Tree lighting**

***Co-presented by Washington Performing Arts, the Royal Norwegian Embassy,
the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce—Mid-Atlantic Chapter,
the Bach Project, and Union Station***

***Featuring performances by the Washington Performing Arts
Children of the Gospel Choir and Howard University Gospel Choir***

*Presented in association with [Brightest Young Things](#), the [Library of Congress](#),
the [Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany](#), and [D.C. Public Library](#)*

"Just as J.S. Bach has been my constant musical companion for nearly six decades, the city of Washington has been host to many fond memories and home to some of my closest friends. I am thrilled to be coming to our nation's capital to share music that I hope will remind us of our shared humanity." – Yo-Yo Ma

Washington, D.C. – On Thursday, November 29, 2018 in the Main Hall of Union Station, a consortium of partners including Washington Performing Arts, the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce—Mid-Atlantic Chapter, the Bach Project, and Union Station present a holiday celebration event, with performances by local artists, the annual Norwegian Christmas tree lighting, an appearance by Santa Claus, and culminating in a simulcast of Yo-Yo Ma's performance of J.S. Bach's complete cello suites live from the National Cathedral, presented by Washington Performing Arts in memory of Isaac Stern.

For more than 20 years, Norway has presented a Christmas tree to the people of Washington, in recognition of its strong friendship with the United States and in gratitude for America's assistance during and after World War II. This year's Christmas tree is made possible by Equinor, Kongsberg Gruppen, Nammo Inc., Innovation Norway, and Insitu Inc.

Complete Schedule of Events

Norwegian Christmas Tree Lighting (6pm)

Featuring the Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus

Mars Urban Arts Initiative Holiday Pop-Up Concert (7pm)

Featuring the Howard University Gospel Choir & more

Washington Performing Arts' Mars Urban Arts Initiative and Brightest Young Things present a holiday pop-up concert that showcases some of D.C.'s beloved hometown musical acts, including the Howard University Gospel Choir. Throughout the evening, guests will also have a chance to learn about global holiday traditions and J.S. Bach's music from organizations like the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce – Mid-Atlantic Chapter, the Library of Congress, and D.C. Public Library.

Simulcast: [The Bach Project](#) at Washington National Cathedral

Yo-Yo Ma Performs Bach Cello Suites (8pm)

Live audio/video feed from Washington National Cathedral

In Memory of Isaac Stern

[Yo-Yo Ma's](#) sold-out performance of [Bach's cello suites](#) at [Washington National Cathedral](#), presented by Washington Performing Arts, will be simulcast at Union Station in conjunction with the annual Norwegian Christmas Tree Lighting, a beloved Washington, D.C. holiday tradition. This concert simulcast is part of Yo-Yo Ma's [Bach Project](#), a two-year journey to perform Johann Sebastian Bach's six suites for solo cello in 36 locations around the world. It is an undertaking motivated not only by Yo-Yo's six-decade relationship with the music, but also by Bach's ability to speak to our shared humanity at a time when our civic conversation is so often focused on division.

The Library of Congress will present a display of treasures and manuscripts relating to J.S. Bach and Yo-Yo Ma's career at Washington National Cathedral, in conjunction with Yo-Yo Ma's performance.

Free, registration encouraged | Family-friendly

<http://tinyurl.com/UnionStationHolidays>

Yo-Yo Ma's performance at Washington National Cathedral is made possible in part by the generous support of Dr. Gary Mather and Ms. Christina Co Mather, the Linda and Isaac Stern Charitable Foundation, and Daniel Heider.

The simulcast is made possible by [Yo-Yo Ma's Bach Project](#) and the [Mars Urban Arts Initiative](#), which is generously supported by Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated.

These events are part of Washington Performing Arts' global programming initiative, [The World in Our City](#), which provides perspective on what it means to be a citizen of the world through a unique arts-based lens. Special thanks to Her Excellency Shaikha Aisha AlKhalifa, Spouse of the Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain; Jennifer and Brian Coulter; Dr. Gary Mather and Ms. Christina Co Mather; Jan and Marike Paulsson; Mary Jo Veverka; Michael Frankhuizen; Karin's Florist.

About Washington Performing Arts

One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, Washington Performing Arts has more than a half-century history of serving artists, audiences, students, and civic life. The city is truly our stage: in venues ranging from concert halls and clubs to public parks, we present a tremendous range of artists and art forms, from the most distinguished symphony orchestras to both renowned and emerging artists in classical music, jazz, international genres, and dance.

Washington Performing Arts nourishes communities throughout the region by partnering with local organizations and other arts institutions, staging concerts and arts activities in the neighborhoods, involving internationally known main-stage performers in community programs, and presenting locally based artists to a wider audience. We place a premium on establishing artists as a continuing presence in the lives of both young people and adults through sustained residencies and educational programs.

Our achievements have been recognized with a National Medal of Arts and with two Mayor's Arts Awards from the D.C. Government. We embark upon our next half-century with the goals of expanding our commitment to excellence and rededicating ourselves to the motto of our founder, Patrick Hayes: "Everybody in, nobody out."

About the Mars Urban Arts Initiative

The Mars Urban Arts Initiative (MUAL) is a creative platform for Washington Performing Arts and the D.C. community to celebrate and empower local artists through performances, unique educational programs, and interdisciplinary grassroots collaborations that showcase the diversity and vitality of our city. Reflective of our founder Patrick Hayes' motto, "Everybody in, nobody out," the Mars Urban Arts Initiative amplifies the role of local artists throughout Washington Performing Arts' productions, educational opportunities, and special events. The Mars Urban Arts Initiative is anchored by residencies for leading artists and ensembles, curated performances across all eight wards, and artistic happenings that reflect what it means to call D.C. home. *The [Mars Urban Arts Initiative](#) is generously supported by Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated.*

About the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Strong historical ties link Norway and the United States. Between 1825 and 1940, more than one-third of Norway's population emigrated to America. Allies ever since, the two nations fought together in World War II and were co-founders of both the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Today, the Embassy in Washington is Norway's largest, with a staff of approximately 50, including representatives from a number of Norwegian ministries.

About the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce, Mid-Atlantic Chapter

The Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce, Mid-Atlantic Chapter (NACC-MA), is a non-profit membership organization formed to promote trade, create business opportunities, professional relationships, and goodwill between the U.S. Mid-Atlantic Region and Norway. As a business-oriented networking organization, NACC MA connects business, government, and industry representatives in the United States and Norway, helping them to identify strategic partners and resources, reach potential customers, and develop business opportunities. Through value-added membership programs, including high-profile networking events and active business-sector committees, the Chamber creates a dynamic forum for productive networking and focused collaboration. In addition to creating a collaborative business environment, NACC MA programs link members to an extended network of regional, national, and international organizations. With a diverse membership portfolio of over 150 corporate and individual members, NACC MA offers an exceptional membership opportunity in a globally connected business network.

About Union Station

Union Station DC is a superbly restored, historic, mixed-use, intermodal transportation and shopping center located just blocks from the U.S. capitol Building. Union Station DC is one of the most iconic destinations in Washington, D.C. Union Station DC is equipped with 3 levels of shopping and dining, a 4-level parking garage, one of the most breathtaking historical spaces in the country.

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