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MPA Announces MPAartfest 2021 Musical Lineup *Expansive musical program returns October 3 with international roster of critically acclaimed artists*

McLean, VA: McLean Project for the Arts has released the musical line up and programming for **MPAartfest 2021, set for Sunday, October 3, 2021 in McLean Central Park.** Featuring everything from a 15-piece swing big band to a violin virtuoso and an all-star international collective, the [MPAartfest Music Stage](#) promises performances for every age and musical interest.

Blues Alley Youth Jazz Orchestra will kick off MPAartfest at 10:00 am*. Comprised of accomplished student musicians and directed by legendary jazz bassist Michael Bowie, this award-winning, 15-piece youth swing big band seeks to preserve and promote the big band jazz art form. Now in its third decade, the Orchestra has performed at DC's leading venues.

Vocalist, pianist and guitarist **Sheyda Do'a will perform with her band at 11:00 am.** Blending sounds from across the globe into what she calls "melodies for the soul," Do'a draws on her multicultural heritage and her upbringing in Albania to create music that inspires across cultures and generations. Do'a was selected in 2020 to the prestigious Strathmore Artist in Residence program.

Nataly Merezhuk's Hot Band takes the stage at 12:00 noon. Originally from Russia, Nataly has made her way from the Moscow Conservatory all the way to the United States' Peabody Conservatory. Influenced by the sounds of Stéphane Grappelli and Svend Asmussen, Merezhuk brings her beautiful, classical tone to the world of hot jazz and swing.



Project Locrea will perform at MPAartfest 2021

** Performance schedule subject to change*

At 1:00 pm, Project Locrea brings international harmonies to the MPAartfest Music Stage. Project Locrea is an all-star international collective featuring musicians from China, Argentina, Ethiopia, Bulgaria, Peru... and even the USA. With vocals and traditional instruments, the band weaves an intriguing, multicultural tapestry of music with impact and appeal to all and a joyous onstage presence. Led by Bulgarian flute player Yana Nikol, the music reflects not only the band's ethnic diversity but their backgrounds in multiple music genres. Locrea is a word invented to reflect their ethos of Love and Creation.

Italian vocalist and loop artist **Irene Jalehti** kicks off the **2:00 pm hour**. A dynamic, soulful and passionate performer and composer, Jalehti delves deeply into the meaning of each song and brings drama and conviction to her performance with her naturally deep tone and an impressive wide range. Adept at scat singing and able to sing in five different languages, Jalehti connects with and delights a range of audiences.

Steelpan musician Josanne Francis will close out the **MPAartfest Music Stage at 3:00 pm**. Born and raised in the twin-island Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, Francis's music blends together and draws influence from traditional Calypso music, jazz, Indian, funk, rock and classical music.

The MPAartfest 2021 musical lineup was curated by **Ken Avis**, radio host of Antidote ([WERA 96.7 FM](http://www.wera96.7fm.com)) and a performing musician with the award-winning band Veronneau. Live sound provided by Frank Kayser.

MPAartfest 2021 will take place on Sunday, October 3, 2021 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in McLean Central Park. Now in its 15th year, MPAartfest features the work of visual artists showcasing a wide variety of media and styles. During MPAartfest, McLean Central Park is transformed into a lively landscape of mini art galleries showcasing and offering for sale the work of acclaimed artists from the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond. Along with the artists' tents and live music, MPAartfest offers food from local restaurants, a Children's Art Walk, and much more. MPAartfest 2021 is made possible with the help of the McLean Community Center, and through partnerships with our community and corporate sponsors, Fairfax County Park Authority and The Mather.

MPAartfest admission is FREE, and all are welcome and encouraged to join. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information visit www.mpaart.org/ or email info@mpaart.org.

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About MPA

MPA Exhibits, Educates and Inspires

McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) is one of the mid-Atlantic region's most respected contemporary visual arts organizations. MPA provides high-quality art exhibitions showcasing the work of established and emerging artists, educational programs, art classes, MPAartfest, summer art camps, and ArtReach, an award-winning program serving students in grades K – 12, seniors, and individuals with special needs. For more information, visit www.mpaart.org.

McLean Project for the Arts.

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