



Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

## Six VSPs (Very Special Picks)!

1 message

Collins Center for the Arts <CCA@cca.collinscenterforthearts.com>

Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 8:35 AM

To: "Matthew," <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

Black History Month (and other) events...

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Dear Matthew,

Here are this week's **Six Picks** to keep you connected to the world of performing arts. Find more links like these on our website. Enjoy!



### **Torn**

Sat., Feb. 6, 7 p.m. (other dates available)

The play, *Torn*, written, directed, and filmed by John Becker, is based on the inspirational and complex life of Booker T. Washington. This play produced as a "stage flick" (staged/filmed) reveals Washington's relationship with President Theodore Roosevelt, and the dinner at the Washington House that changed the social climate of America. See the trailer [here](#).



### **Before Fiddler**

Feb. 7, 8 p.m.

Hershey Felder stars as Sholem Aleichem in *Before Fiddler* — *Live From Florence*. Before the beloved musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, there was Sholem Aleichem and his beloved character of "Tevye the Milkman." Before the beloved songs "Tradition," "If I Were a Rich Man," "Matchmaker," and more, there was music of the Old World ... a music that imitated talking, laughing, weeping, and singing, where musicians didn't just make



### **Simply Sondheim**

Streaming now thru March 26

Created specifically for Signature Theatre with special permission from Sondheim himself, this jam-packed revue features more than 30 songs from the composer's canon. With a lush 16-piece orchestra leading the way for 12 phenomenal singers, this exclusive event satisfies every Sondheim craving.

music, they spoke to you in song  
— Klezmer. Available to view  
thru 2/14.



### "We're Next": An Oral History of the Broadway Shutdown

**Read anytime**

Theater Mania's fascinating look behind the curtain at the pandemic's affect on the Broadway community. This is the second in a multi-part oral history of the Broadway industry shutdown, as told by the artists making theater eight times a week. Parts 1 and 2 are available at this link. This is an interesting read – we promise!



### Naturally 7

**Watch anytime**

It's not often that a group of vocalists can literally BLOW YOU AWAY...but Naturally 7 will. Naturally 7 performs a mix of Pop, Rock, and R&B tunes while stunningly recreating the sound of a full band (using just their voices). Because of this, they have been dubbed as "The Human Instruments." Enjoy this fully-produced concert special filmed live in Berlin, Germany.



### Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive

**Watch anytime**

While February holds the designation of Black History Month, Jacob's Pillow celebrates its connections with black dance artists year-round. This playlist includes some of the highlights since 1942 when Asadata Dafora participated in the Ted Shawn Theatre's inaugural season. Watch one or all twenty videos!



### Langston Hughes Project

**Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz**  
**Starring the Ron McCurdy quartet**  
**Feb. 19-28, with a live Zoom Q&A on 3/1**

The Langston Hughes Project is a multimedia concert performance of Langston Hughes's kaleidoscopic jazz poem suite, *Ask Your Mama* – Hughes's homage in verse and music to the struggle for artistic and social freedom at home and abroad at the beginning of the 1960s. *Ask Your Mama* is a twelve-part epic poem which Hughes scored with musical cues drawn from blues and Dixieland, gospel songs, boogie woogie, bebop and progressive jazz, Latin "cha cha" and Afro-Cuban mambo music, German lieder, Jewish liturgy, West Indian calypso, and African drumming — a creative masterwork left unperformed at his death.

This joyous celebration of music, spoken word and visuals is performed by the impressively versatile Dr. Ron McCurdy (as narrator and on trumpet) and his talented group of musicians (on piano, bass and drums) who make heads bob, fingers snap and feet tap throughout!

To register for the Q&A, please email [cca@maine.edu](mailto:cca@maine.edu). We'll follow up with viewing details.

Please consider...

We know there are many organizations and individuals out there asking for financial support. The CCA would appreciate your consideration. If you can't help right now, we understand. But when the time comes — and it will come — even if you can't make an outright donation, we hope you'll buy tickets and support live performances at the CCA. Thank you!

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