

The 28th Annual
FESTIVAL of FAITHS

SACRED IMAGINING

November 13-16, 2024
Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts

WWW.FESTIVALofFAITHS.ORG



The 28th Annual
FESTIVAL of FAITHS

SACRED IMAGINING

The 2024 Festival of Faiths will celebrate the beauty of creativity and the power of ideas to change the world. Share in this experience of *Sacred Imagining* as we lean into our highest potential, explore our authentic selves and reimagine what the future might hold.

#FOF2024

Communities in Conversation. Love in Action.



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Thanks for joining us today!

Visit www.festivaloffaiths.org/feedback to share feedback on your experience.



REDUCE. REUSE. RECYCLE.

The Center for Interfaith Relations practices our value of environmental responsibility in partnership with Westrock, Levy Restaurants, and the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts by diverting the waste produced during the festival from our local landfill. Please help us continue to do so by utilizing the recycling and composting options placed throughout the venue.

Festival catalogs and programs are printed on 100% recycled-content paper. And an annual donation is made to tree canopy initiatives to offset carbon emissions from festival air travel.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024

9:30 am to 12:30 pm **FULLY BEING WORKSHOP** with Adam Kane TODD HALL

5:30 to 7 pm **THE 28TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF FAITHS
OPENING CELEBRATION** CATHEDRAL OF
THE ASSUMPTION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024

KENTUCKY CENTER FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS

8:30 am to 5 pm **FESTIVAL PLAZA OPEN** MAIN LOBBY

9:30 to 11 am **FAITH AND IMAGINATION** BOMHARD
THEATER
Moderator: Lauren Jones Mayfield
Speakers: Matt Derrenbacher, Adriene Thorne, Anam Thubten

10 am to 2 pm **SACRED SOUNDS** MEX
THEATER
Meditation and music with silent disco technology

11 am to 1:30 pm **LUNCH** | Lite grab-and-go options available for purchase LEXUS LOUNGE

12:30 to 2 pm **INTERROGATING IMAGINATIONS** BOMHARD
THEATER
Moderator: Brandon McCormack
Speakers: Jose Arellano, Christine Hong, Dheepa Sundaram

2:15 to 2:45 pm **PLAYING IN THE MASK** SOUTH
LOBBY
Presenter: Katherine Martin

3 to 3:30 pm **CHANTING OF THE HOLY NAMES** NORTH
LOBBY
Presenter: Emily Joan Smith

3 to 3:45 pm **THE PRACTICE OF IMAGINING KINSHIP** MEX
THEATER
Speaker: Stephanie Barnett

3:45 to 4:15 pm **ALCHEMY: A MOVING MEDITATION** SOUTH
LOBBY
Presenter: Erica Sartini-Combs

4:30 to 5 pm **COLLABORATIVE COLLAGE** NORTH
LOBBY
Presenter: ChooseWell KYnship Creates

5:30 to 6:45 pm **EVENING RECEPTION** LEXUS LOUNGE

7 to 8:30 pm **THE ART OF BECOMING** BOMHARD
THEATER
Moderator: Sara Callaway
Presenters: Teddy Abrams, Valerie Coleman,
Will Oldham, Wu Fei, Tahj Vaughn

8:30 am to 5 pm	FESTIVAL PLAZA OPEN	MAIN LOBBY
9:30 to 11 am	WONDER, AWE AND SACRED INSPIRATIONS Moderator: Justin Klassen Speakers: Lyanda Lynn Haupt, Silas House, Anis Mojgani	BOMHARD THEATER
10 am to 2 pm	SACRED SOUNDS Meditation and music with silent disco technology	MEX THEATER
11 am to 1:30 pm	LUNCH Lite grab-and-go options available for purchase	LEXUS LOUNGE
12:30 to 2 pm	REALIZING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS Moderator: Melvin McLeod Speakers: Gaylon Ferguson, Anne Harrington, Clifford Saron	BOMHARD THEATER
2:15 to 2:45 pm	YOGA FOR AWAKENING Presenter: Laura Spaulding	SOUTH LOBBY
3 to 3:30 pm	ZEN BRUSH CALLIGRAPHY Presenter: Jenny Bell	NORTH LOBBY
3 to 3:45 pm	THE PRACTICE OF UNLOCKING POTENTIAL Presenter: Adam Kane	MEX THEATER
3:45 to 4:15 pm	NU CHAPTER TAI CHI Presenter: Dre Dawson	SOUTH LOBBY
4:30 to 5 pm	POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP Presenter: Tigresse Bleu	NORTH LOBBY
5:30 to 6:45 pm	EVENING RECEPTION	LEXUS LOUNGE
7 to 8:30 pm	REIMAGINING BELONGING Moderator: Luke Russert Keynote Speaker: Jemar Tisby Local Responders: Muhammad Babar, Joe Phelps, Sadiqa Reynolds	BOMHARD THEATER

9:30 to 11 am	FAITH IN TOMORROW: A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION Moderators: Gabrielle Jones, Josh Moss	MEX THEATER
11 am to 12 pm	CLOSING CELEBRATION	MAIN LOBBY

FESTIVAL CO-CHAIRS

Owsley Brown III is devoted to sustaining healthy communities by enhancing cultural, spiritual and civic life. He is a documentary filmmaker, a director of foundations and nonprofit boards, a student of theology and the spiritual path, and the leader of exploratory projects in community wellbeing. In his native city and beloved hometown of Louisville, Owsley is known as host and producer of the Festival of Faiths, a founding board member of the Kentucky College of Art + Design, and chair of the Compassionate Schools Project. Owsley is also an active fifth-generation shareholder of Brown-Forman, his family's international spirits and wine company, founded in 1870. He serves on the boards of the Center for Interfaith Relations, University of Virginia's Contemplative Sciences Center, Mind and Life Institute, Sustainable Food Alliance, Roxie Theater, and Tsoknyi Humanitarian Fund.



Adria Johnson is president and CEO of Metro United Way (MUW), a nonprofit that unites and empowers communities by investing in the full potential of individuals and families to ensure positive, sustainable change. Adria was selected for the position following an extensive national search, and in 2021, she became the first Black CEO of the agency, which serves seven counties in Kentucky and Southern Indiana. The native Louisvillian is an accomplished champion of social change with a longstanding dedication to community impact and equity. Previous positions include chief impact officer at MUW, commissioner at the Department for Community Based Services for Kentucky State Government, and assistant director at the Department of Housing and Family Services for Louisville Metro Government. Adria's strong fiscal experience was gained in various roles held in the private sector for the first half of her career at Humana, LG&E and Brown & Williamson.

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Ideisha Bellamy
Regina Blake
Sara Callaway
Robert Gunn

Justin Klassen
Josh Kornberg
Lauren Jones Mayfield
Brandon McCormack

9:30 am to 12:30 pm **FULLY BEING WORKSHOP**

TODD HALL

Guided by Adam Kane, principal translator for Tsoknyi Rinpoche, this meditative workshop will guide participants through the three pillars of Fully Being's course: Grounded Body, Warm Heart, and Clear Mind. Through practices rooted in these principles, participants will explore how grounding the body fosters stability, a warm heart nurtures compassion, and a clear mind opens the door to imagination and insight. With these foundations, we can support deeper creative exploration and personal growth, allowing for a fuller expression of being.

5:30 to 7 pm

**THE 28TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF FAITHS
OPENING CELEBRATION**
CATHEDRAL OF
THE ASSUMPTION

The 28th Annual Festival of Faiths, *Sacred Imagining*, opens with a multifaith, multicultural celebration in the historic Cathedral of the Assumption. All are welcome to this program, which will feature diverse faith traditions. The evening will include inspiring messages that reflect this year's festival theme of imagination and musical offerings from Will Oldham, Wu Fei, the Praying Hands Quartet, and students from the Louisville Academy of Music.



The ceiling of the Cathedral of the Assumption. Photo Credit: Sean Sebastian Photography

8:30 am to 5 pm

FESTIVAL PLAZA OPEN

MAIN LOBBY

9:30 to 11 am

FAITH AND IMAGINATION

BOMHARD THEATER

How do we bring imaginative thought into our own experiences and faith? How does sacred imagination empower us and deepen our understanding? Can we imagine a future full of potential for all? Join us for this first session as we consider these questions and explore what major religions say regarding the origin and use of imagination. The panel will offer a framework for embracing the imaginative spirit through a lens of faith and applying it to lived experiences.

MODERATOR: Lauren Jones Mayfield

SPEAKERS: Adriene Thorne, Anam Thubten, Matt Derrenbacher

MUSICAL INTERLUDE: Barbara Bogatin

10 am to 2 pm

SACRED SOUNDS

MEX THEATER

Meditation and music with silent disco technology

11 am to 1:30 pm

LUNCH

LEXUS LOUNGE

Lite grab-and-go options available for purchase

12:30 to 2 pm

INTERROGATING IMAGINATIONS

BOMHARD THEATER

This session will tackle the potentially damaging properties of some imaginative thought and how these shape our perceptions and social interactions. We will explore the power of deconstructing negative narratives and replacing them with positive ones, and consider how religious beliefs and spiritual practices can influence these perceptions and be harnessed to promote unity and deeper understanding.

MODERATOR: Brandon McCormack**SPEAKERS:** Dheepa Sundaram, Christine Hong, Jose Arellano**MUSICAL INTERLUDE:** Stephanie Nilles

Following this session, please visit the Festival of Faiths Bookstore for a speaker book signing.

2:15 to 2:45 pm

PLAYING IN THE MASK

SOUTH LOBBY

Katherine Martin will guide you through the seven levels of tension, a method used in theatre to explore the dynamics of character and emotion, as an entry point into the physicality of mask performance. Masks are often seen as something to hide behind, but she will explore the intersection of embodiment and freedom by intentionally playing in the mask through the lens of defying the ordinary, creative permission and igniting the imagination into worlds previously unseen and unspoken.

PRESENTER: Katherine Martin

3 to 3:30 pm

CHANTING OF THE HOLY NAMES

NORTH LOBBY

Bhakti yoga, also known as the yoga of love and devotion, is one of the four paths to spiritual liberation as described in the Bhagavad Gita. One of the core practices of bhakti is the chanting of the holy names. The practice of chanting these ancient and sacred Sanskrit mantras helps to awaken the divine love within, which is our true nature. During this session led by Emily Joan Smith, you are invited to either join us in chanting or simply open yourself to the healing and sacred sounds through listening.

PRESENTER: Emily Joan Smith

3 to 3:45 pm

THE PRACTICE OF IMAGINING KINSHIP

MEX THEATER

“Compassion Warrior” Stephanie Barnett will share elements from the Compassion Cultivation Training created at Stanford University, designed to build capacity to meet suffering in ourselves and others. Through guided imagery and reflective practice, we will take apart myths we have about each other and focus on embracing our inextricable connectivity. Reimagine a unique vision of our common humanity that is inclusive of remarkable lived experiences and manifest our appreciation and compassion for all those in our circles of kinship.

3:45 to 4:15 pm

ALCHEMY: A MOVING MEDITATION

SOUTH LOBBY

Embrace *Sacred Imagining* with Erica Sartini-Combs in this 30-minute gentle movement meditation. Experience a transformative journey inward as we explore organic, non-linear pathways of movement to enhance the mind-body connection. This practice invites you to step out of the mind and tune deeply into your body, promoting introspection, re-sensitization, and a soothing of the nervous system. Discover how fluidity and embodiment can ignite your inner vitality and cultivate greater presence and insight.

PRESENTER: Erica Sartini-Combs

4:30 to 5 pm

COLLABORATIVE COLLAGE

NORTH LOBBY

Following the Imagining Kinship workshop, participants will incorporate the guided imagery provided through the meditative process of reimagining our common humanity to create a visual representation of a new world. The ChooseWell Communities' KYnship team will lead this expressive art experience, inviting the collaboration of a physical manifestation of this vision.

PRESENTER: ChooseWell KYnship Creates

5:30 to 6:45 pm

EVENING RECEPTION

LEXUS LOUNGE

7 to 8:30 pm

THE ART OF BECOMING

BOMHARD THEATER

Preeminent artists will discuss sources of inspiration, overcoming challenges and the significance of sharing artistic expression with the world. Learn how creativity serves as a powerful catalyst for personal and cultural growth and receive guidance on unlocking your own imaginative potential for transformation. Hear from Louisville Orchestra's Teddy Abrams, Louisville Academy of Music's Sara Louise Callaway, singer-songwriter/actor Will Oldham and other established and emerging artists as we explore the journey from creative sparks to the full experience of fulfillment.

MODERATOR: Sara Callaway**PRESENTERS:** Teddy Abrams, Valerie Coleman, Will Oldham, Wu Fei, Tahj Vaughn

8:30 am to 5 pm

FESTIVAL PLAZA OPEN

MAIN LOBBY

9:30 to 11 am

WONDER, AWE AND SACRED INSPIRATIONS

BOMHARD THEATER

Inspiration for growth and creativity can be found in many ways — through nature, religion, friendship, and stories of joy and lament, just to name a few. In this session, we will explore how we discover and express our imagination, what we learn in the process, and the role awe, wonder and story play in our moral and spiritual lives. The goal is to identify sources of imagination that can help us recover what Thomas Merton called our "original unity" and to highlight the imaginative potential within everyone.

MODERATOR: Justin Klassen**SPEAKERS:** Lyanda Lynn Haupt, Silas House, Anis Mojgani**MUSICAL INTERLUDE:** TJ Cole

Following this session, please visit the Festival of Faiths Bookstore for a speaker book signing.

10 am to 2 pm

SACRED SOUNDS

MEX THEATER

Meditation and music with silent disco technology

11 am to 1:30 pm

LUNCH

LEXUS LOUNGE

Lite grab-and-go options available for purchase

12:30 to 2 pm

**REALIZING THE FULL POTENTIAL
OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS**

BOMHARD THEATER

This session will feature dialogue between scientists and spiritual practitioners of contemplative sciences to offer a unique perspective on human consciousness. Experts will explore the use of tools such as mindfulness, insight, ethics, compassion and connection to inform the full potential of human experiences. We will then look toward the future, examining strategies to cultivate healthy contemplative practices in developing human consciousness.

MODERATOR: Melvin McLeod**SPEAKERS:** Gaylon Ferguson, Anne Harrington, Clifford Saron**MUSICAL INTERLUDE:** Barbara Bogatin

Following this session, please visit the Festival of Faiths Bookstore for a speaker book signing.

2:15 to 2:45 pm

YOGA FOR AWAKENING

SOUTH LOBBY

In ancient times, yoga practitioners developed and honed their techniques during invasions, occupation, war, pandemics, famine and oppression. Laura Spaulding will introduce you to easy yoga techniques by which you can remain centered and calm in the most difficult situations. This activation is suitable for individuals of any age or level of ability.

PRESENTER: Laura Spaulding

3 to 3:30 pm

ZEN BRUSH CALLIGRAPHY

NORTH LOBBY

Join Jenny Bell in brushing enso, a form of sacred Japanese Zen Calligraphy; in which a circle of infinity is brushed with ink to express a moment when the mind is free to let the body create. The enso symbolizes enlightenment, the universe-the void, emptiness-fullness, the visible-the invisible, simplicity-profundity, as well as completeness of each moment and the wholeness of experience. This sacred practice invites us to become one with the brush, one with the breath, ushering self-compassion in this simple exercise of acceptance.

PRESENTER: Jenny Bell

3 to 3:45 pm

THE PRACTICE OF UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

MEX THEATER

In this spiritual practice, join Adam Kane in a meditation designed to quiet the mind and unlock creative potential. Through a blend of meditation, breathwork and mindfulness, participants will explore how stillness cultivates clarity and deepens imaginative insight. This practice offers a path toward greater self-awareness, balance, and emotional well-being, guiding participants to reconnect with their inner world.

3:45 to 4:15 pm

NU CHAPTER TAI CHI

SOUTH LOBBY

Accomplished Tai chi instructor Dre Dawson will lead participants in this gentle exercise involving slow movements, deep breathing and a meditative state. This form of martial arts rooted in Chinese medicine has many potential physical and emotional benefits, such as decreased anxiety and depression and improved cognition. People of all ages and fitness levels are welcome to participate in this 30-minute activity.

PRESENTER: Dre Dawson

4:30 to 5 pm

POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP

NORTH LOBBY

Tigrisse Bleu is a performance artist and poet who seeks to share their art form with others in an attempt to help them access deeper parts of themselves. This 30-minute workshop is a poetic therapeutic processing of emotions intended to unlock divinity within.

PRESENTER: Tigrisse Bleu

5:30 to 6:45 pm

EVENING RECEPTION

LEXUS LOUNGE

7 to 8:30 pm

REIMAGINING BELONGING

BOMHARD THEATER

Bestselling author Dr. Jemar Tisby will reimagine the spirit of justice that once flowed through iconic moments in civil rights history within the context of our world today. Prominent thought leaders will then join the conversation, touching on themes of faith, hope, courage and imagination to create a new vision for the future based on dignity and belonging for all. These experts will guide us as we tap into the boundless energy inspired by “love of neighbor.”

MODERATOR: Luke Russert**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Jemar Tisby**LOCAL RESPONDERS:** Muhammad Babar, Joe Phelps, Sadiqa Reynolds**MUSICAL INTERLUDE:** The Ambassador Chorale, Simmons College of Kentucky, an H.B.C.U.

Following this session, please visit the Festival of Faiths Bookstore for a speaker book signing.

9:30 to 11 am

FAITH IN TOMORROW: A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

MEX THEATER

In his “I Have a Dream” speech, Martin Luther King Jr. said: “Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God’s children.” It’s been more than half a century, and still this dream is not fully realized. Join us for an open, honest dialogue as we tap into our collective creativity with an eye toward envisioning a better tomorrow for all people. This facilitated think-in will be a quick-moving co-creation of ideas and imagination, and all in attendance are invited to participate.

MODERATORS: Gabrielle Jones, Josh Moss

11:15 am to 12 pm

CLOSING CELEBRATION

MAIN LOBBY

The 28th Annual Festival of Faiths, *Sacred Imagining*, closes with a community gathering to celebrate the beauty of creativity and the power of ideas to change the world. This finale will express the imaginative power of the festival. Join us for performances of art, music, and imaginative works created throughout the festival and inspire the artist and visionary in each of us.

PLAZA OFFERINGS

SINGING BOWLS

THURSDAY · 8:30 TO 9 AM

Join Katherine Martin for this sweet rise-and-shine sound bath to gently guide you into your day. The soothing sounds and therapeutic vibrations from crystal and metal singing bowls will assist the mind and body in entering that beautiful present state of awareness with ease. Let your being be nourished with good energy and balance.

Katherine is an actor, Reiki master, yogi and mom living in Louisville. She believes that silliness, laughter and play are sometimes necessary to embrace our power as co-creators and awaken to the extraordinary potential within us.

NATURE MANDALA

THURSDAY · 11:15 AM TO 12:45 PM

Join Jenny Bell in this moving meditation as we create an earth altar, a symbol of prayer, a kaleidoscope of expression and a sacred portal to place your powerful heart intentions. Using nature as medicine and imagination as guide, we will collectively breathe this earth art into being, using locally wildcrafted flowers and elements from nature. This sacred botanical mandala will represent the living, breathing web of life, the energy of interbeing, interdependence, the beauty of diversity, the nature of impermanence, earth reverence and the honoring of our ancestors, as well as soil, air, and water.

DRUM CIRCLE

FRIDAY · 8:30 TO 9 AM

Musician Allison Cross will lead this 30-minute drum circle for festival participants. Feel welcome to join or sit within the good vibrations to get your morning started.

Allison Cross is a multi-genre artist and musician (Board-Certified music therapist, business owner, trombonist, and DJ/producer). She has played trombone since age 12 and graduated from University of Louisville's music therapy program in 2010. She is the owner of Restorative Sound, LLC and serves as the local community and partnerships manager with the Louisville Orchestra.

MADCAP MOSAICS

THURSDAY & FRIDAY · 11 AM TO 7 PM

Mosaic art dates back to 3rd millennium BCE, in a temple in Mesopotamia. As we come together to imagine a new future, join mosaic artist Tracy Pennington to weave inspiration in the present into a work of art to last for years. You are invited to drop in and out as time allows you to be a part of imagining in real-time. Tracy will guide the process and solidify the final piece, encompassing a week of vibrant interfaith inspiration.

SACRED SOUNDS

THURSDAY & FRIDAY · 10 AM TO 2 PM

Join us for tranquil music and meditation in the MeX Theater, where we'll use silent disco technology to tune into ourselves, relax and recharge. This space has low lighting, limited activity, and a comfortable ambiance.

Enjoy sacred music including Sufi Worship, Jewish Priestess, and Gregorian Chant playlists as you absorb the inspiration from sessions throughout your time at the festival.

FESTIVAL of FAITHS SHOP

**Open Thursday and Friday
8:30 am to 5 pm
in the Main Lobby**

LOUISVILLE STONEWARE MUGS • RECYCLED TIRE COASTERS
VINTAGE STREET BANNER BAGS • T-SHIRTS
BALL CAPS • STICKERS • WATER BOTTLES • JOURNALS
HOUND DOG PRESS POSTERS • CANVAS TOTE BAGS

OR SHOP ONLINE AT
SHOP.FESTIVALofFAITHS.ORG

#FIND YOUR SACRED
www.FESTIVALofFAITHS.org

AMBO

FRIDAY • 11:15 TO 11:45 AM

Ambo Dance Theatre is a nonprofit dedicated to furthering the artistry, accessibility, and professional opportunities within modern and contemporary dance. Their work is often interdisciplinary in nature, combining elements from dance, theatre, and multimedia to create works that touch on social issues and the human condition.

Using a collaborative model for creation, Ambo Dance Theatre not only presents the unique voice of the choreographer, but also the direct input and movement vocabulary of the dancers themselves to create innovative, integrative, and original modern dance works that unify a variety of perspectives on complex topics.

THE REAL YOUNG PRODIGYS

SATURDAY • 11:15 AM

Join us for the closing celebration, where the Real Young Prodigys will perform music inspired by real issues facing students in Louisville. The Real Young Prodigys are an educationally-charged hip hop collective founded by Kentucky's 2019 Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

They are the 2021 recipients of the Golden Megaphone Award and received The Keepers of The Dream Award in 2023. Their song "Where My Bus At," with over 65,000 views on YouTube, has been featured on CNN's "I See You" with Victor Blackwell, CBS Morning's digital platform, and The New York Times.

Immersive Exhibits

EXPRESSION ACTUALIZED

Presented by AMPED

Write and record your own musical composition from scratch with Amped. The Amped Music Academy is the organization's founding program, empowering youth to work as a team, learn how to express themselves effectively, and develop into healthy, productive members of our community and the world. Stop by and put your own creativity to play in this collaborative musical experience.

IMAGINING THE UNKNOWN

Presented by The (Un)Known Project

The (Un)Known Project unearths and honors the names and stories of enslaved Black people in America and the global African diaspora. During the era of enslavement, enslaved people and abolitionists imagined a world that didn't exist yet—one where everyone is free. As Franz Kafka said, "By believing passionately in something that still does not exist, we create it." Imagining the Unknown invites you to envision what America will look like 10 years from now when we face our past, make new commitments in the present, and work toward a future of freedom that is waiting to be created.

PRAYERS FOR TRANSFORMATION

Presented by Love is a Seed

It has been a long year.

You have held so much.

It may be time to be held.

Imagine a world nourished by the sacred.

In yourself, in your neighbor,

trusting every seed that is planted.

Amanda and Harley Mathews have cultivated Love is a Seed as a contemplative jewelry business since 2014. Their offering this year embodies personal and collective creative opportunities to plant your prayers with inspired seeds of contemplation.

An organic mandala created in nature. Photo Credit: Jemmy Bell



**TEDDY ABRAMS**

Teddy Abrams, Grammy winner and Musical America's 2022 Conductor of the Year, has been the galvanizing force behind Louisville Orchestra's artistic renewal and innovative social impact since his appointment as music director in 2014. His work has been profiled by CBS Sunday Morning, New Yorker, NPR, Wall Street Journal, New York Times and PBS NewsHour. This season, Teddy makes his debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, along with return guest conductor appearances for several other orchestras. Teddy is composing an orchestral work to premiere in Louisville Orchestra's 2025–26 season that tells the story of Kentucky.

**JOSE ARELLANO**

Jose Arellano is vice president of operations at Homeboy Industries, the largest gang rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. The Los Angeles-based nonprofit youth program was founded by Father Greg Boyle in 1992. Raised in Los Angeles, Jose first joined a gang when he was 12 years old. He was in and out of prison over the years, and eventually he sought help from Homeboy Industries — and they gave him a job. In addition to his current role at Homeboy Industries, he also co-owns Tepito Coffee, which provides jobs to former gang members and previously incarcerated individuals.

**MUHAMMAD BABAR**

Muhammad Babar, M.D. is a physician who practices internal and geriatric medicine. He's also a local interfaith and peace advocate who strives to bring people together by breaking down barriers. Muhammad is a board member at Dare to Care, Family Community Clinic, Center for Interfaith Relations, Muhammad Ali Center and Council for Postsecondary Education. He's a founding member of Compassionate Louisville and chairs its board of trustees; a founding co-chair of the Muslim Jewish Advisory Council; founding president of Muslim Americans for Compassion, an interfaith and charitable organization based in Louisville; and founding president of Doctors for Healthy Communities.

**SARA CALLAWAY**

Sara Callaway believes music belongs to everyone. As executive director of the Louisville Academy of Music, she launched a need-based scholarship program that has awarded over 100 students financial aid, reached thousands of people through new community programs, and led renovations to LAM's historic main campus. Sara holds bachelor's and master's degrees in violin performance from the University of North Carolina and attended programs at Berlin University of the Arts, the International Music Academy at Pilsen, the Heifetz Institute, and Appalshop. A constant innovator, Sara co-curated SONIC-Bernheim, a series that explores the relationships between sound, music and nature.

**VALERIE COLEMAN**

Valerie Coleman is regarded as an iconic artist who is paving her own path as a composer, Grammy-nominated flutist and entrepreneur. The Washington Post called her one of the Top 35 Women Composers and Performance Today named her 2020 Classical Woman of the Year. Commissions include the Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Carnegie Hall, Atlanta Symphony, Library of Congress and Metropolitan Opera/Lincoln Center Theater, and her work has been performed by many orchestras. Valerie began her appointment as part of The Juilliard School's composition faculty in 2024. She's also founder of the acclaimed Imani Winds ensemble.

**MATT
DERRENBACHER**

Rabbi Matt moved from Rochester, N.Y., to Louisville in 2014 after completing undergraduate studies. He completed a Master of Divinity at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary while working at The Temple as Senior Rabbinic Assistant. During his time at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Matt served as solo rabbi for a wide array of synagogues; he also served as Senior Rabbinic Fellow for Hillel at Ohio University and as a Chaplain Candidate for the U.S. Air Force. Over the past year, Matt served as a rabbi in Columbia, Mo., leading services in both the Reform and Conservative traditions.

**WU FEI**

Wu Fei is a classically trained composer, singer and master of the guzheng, the 21-string Chinese zither. She has taken her music around the world, from Beijing and Paris to New York and Tennessee. Wu mixes Western classical and Chinese traditions with a contemporary sound. Her award-winning chamber composition *Hello Gold Mountain* was inspired by the stories of Jewish refugees who fled to Shanghai during WWII. Her work in television has included compositions for AMC's *Hell on Wheels* and PBS' web series *The History of White People in America*. She's collaborated with artists ranging from Emmy-winning directors to Grammy-winning musicians.

**GAYLON FERGUSON**

Gaylon Ferguson is a faculty member in both religious studies and interdisciplinary studies at Naropa University, in Boulder, Colorado. He is an acharya, or senior teacher, in the Shambhala International Buddhist community. After studying meditation and Buddhist philosophy with Tibetan master Chögyam Trungpa in the 1970s and 1980s, Gaylon became a Fulbright Fellow to Nigeria and completed a doctoral degree in cultural anthropology at Stanford University. After several years teaching cultural anthropology at the University of Washington, he became teacher-in-residence at Karmê Chöling Buddhist Retreat Center, through 2005, when he joined the faculty of Naropa.

Seeing THE Other | Louisville

Think well of all, be patient with all, and try to find the good in all.

MUHAMMAD ALI



Portraits in Faith exhibit at Muhammad Ali Center

June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Open Wednesday-Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm

From 12:30-2 pm on Saturday, Nov. 16, show your festival pass or session ticket for free entry!



ANNE HARRINGTON

Anne Harrington is a Harvard professor specializing in the history of psychiatry, neuroscience, and other mind and behavioral sciences. She received her Ph.D. in the History of Science from Oxford University. Interdisciplinary collaboration across science and the humanities has been an important goal of her work as a scholar. Anne previously co-directed Harvard's Mind, Brain, and Behavior Initiative; was a member of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Mind-Body Interaction; and served on the board of the Mind and Life Institute, dedicated to collaboration between the sciences and contemplative traditions. She is also the author of four books.



LYANDA LYNN HAUPT

Lyanda Lynn Haupt is an award-winning author, naturalist, ecophilosopher and speaker whose work explores the beautiful, complicated connections between humans and the natural world. The Seattle-based writer combines scientific knowledge with literary prose, and her award-winning work interweaves personal experience with science, myth, spirit and art. She's written six books; her latest — *Rooted: Life at the Crossroads of Science, Nature and Spirit* — came out in 2021. In addition, Lyanda has created and directed educational programs for Seattle Audubon, worked in raptor rehabilitation in Vermont, and as a seabird researcher for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**CHRISTINE HONG**

Dr. Christine J. Hong is associate professor of Educational Ministries at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga., where she focuses on the intersection of interreligious education and spiritual formation. Her research includes anti-colonial approaches to religious education, and at the center of her scholarship is a commitment to storytelling as a decolonial practice. She guides students and spiritual communities through decolonizing their religious traditions. Christine has worked on numerous research projects and published works on pedagogy, spirituality and decoloniality. She is a frequent workshop leader and speaker on decolonial pedagogy, spirituality and JEDI (Justice Education, Diversity and Inclusion).

**SILAS HOUSE**

Silas House is a bestselling author whose works include several novels; three plays; and a book of creative nonfiction. His most recent novel, *Lark Ascending*, won the 2023 Southern Book Prize in Fiction and was chosen as a Booklist Editor's Choice, one of Salon's books of the year, and as a top 10 most recommended book by independent booksellers. Silas was chosen for the Duggins Prize, the nation's largest award for an LGBT writer, and in 2020 was named Appalachian of the Year. He is Kentucky's Poet Laureate, a member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers and recipient of three honorary doctorates.

**GABRIELLE JONES**

Gabrielle Jones, vice president of content at Louisville Public Media, has a passion for serving diverse audiences. She came to LPM from KERA in Dallas, Texas, where she served first as digital news editor then audience editor. Previously she worked at the PBS and NPR affiliates in Richmond, Va. Gabrielle completed her undergraduate work in English and mass communications at North Carolina Central University. She earned her master's degree in journalism and public affairs from American University. Gabrielle is former vice president of the board of the Public Media Journalists association and currently serves on its Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee.

**JUSTIN KLASSEN**

Justin Klassen is professor of Theology & Religious Studies at Bellarmine University, where he teaches philosophical theology and religious ethics. His scholarship focuses on religion and ecology, and he is especially interested in the spiritual significance of the natural world among religiously unaffiliated people. Justin is the author of *The Paradox of Hope: Theology and the Problem of Nihilism*. He enjoys hiking, camping, and taking pictures of birds in the woods of Kentucky.



**LAUREN
JONES MAYFIELD**

The Rev. Dr. Lauren Jones Mayfield is Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary's interim director of Field Education in Kentucky. Before returning to her home state, Lauren served as worship director at Riverside Church in NYC and held leadership positions in Baptist, Mennonite and United Church of Christ churches. Lauren completed her Doctor of Ministry at the Pacific School of Religion, where she focused on social justice. As part of her doctoral project, she created liturgy for the communal work of advocacy, considered the role of faith in the public square, and led Highland Baptist Church's Anti-Racism Team and Reparations Task Force.



**BRANDON
MCCORMACK**

Dr. Michael Brandon McCormack is associate professor of Pan-African Studies and Comparative Humanities and former director of the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research at University of Louisville. He earned his Ph.D. in religion from Vanderbilt University. His research explores intersections between Black religion, popular culture, arts and activism. He teaches courses in African American religion, African diaspora religions, and religion and hip-hop culture. He's an Ascending Stars Fellow at UofL, a research fellow at University of Memphis, and a member of the Black Interfaith Project, which researches the role of Black religious practices in social justice movements.



MELVIN MCLEOD

Melvin McLeod is editor-in-chief of Lion's Roar, a nonprofit media organization offering contemplative wisdom and techniques to benefit our lives and create a more just, caring and sustainable world. He is the author of *Mindful Politics* and the *Best Buddhist Writing* series. Melvin's current project is the Complete Path of Mindfulness, a comprehensive and transformative path bringing together mindfulness meditation, insight, ethics, compassion and community.



ANIS MOJGANI

Anis Mojgani is the 10th Poet Laureate of Oregon, two-time champion of the National Poetry Slam and winner of the International World Cup Poetry Slam. He's been awarded numerous residencies and received an Academy of American Poets Poet Laureate Fellowship. Anis has done commissions for the Getty Museum and Peabody Essex Museum and his work has appeared on HBO, National Public Radio, and as part of the Academy of American Poets Poem-A-Day series. Anis has performed at hundreds of universities; festivals around the globe; and for audiences as varied as the United Nations and House of Blues.



JOSH MOSS

Josh Moss is the editor of Louisville Magazine, where he began working upon graduating from Ohio University in 2006. He's written about Pappy Van Winkle mania, the city's oldest Black-owned funeral home, Louisville's last abortion clinic, the divide between east and west Louisville, and how the city has changed since March 2020. He spent a year working on a profile of rapper Jack Harlow. In 2013, he ate 38 burgers in 31 days on a quest to find the best. In 2020, the magazine won a General Excellence award from the City and Regional Magazine Association.



WILL OLDHAM

Will Oldham is an acclaimed singer-songwriter who has performed and recorded music under numerous names including Palace, Palace Brothers and Bonnie "Prince" Billy. The Louisville-born musician is also an accomplished actor, having appeared in films such as *Matewan*, *Junebug*, *Old Joy*, *The Guatemalan Handshake*, *Wendy and Lucy*, and *A Ghost Story*. In 1992, Will released his first single with the iconic indie label Drag City Records, and he's since recorded dozens of albums. He's collaborated with a wide variety of musicians, and in 2000, country music legend Johnny Cash covered and recorded his song *I See a Darkness*.

"In my final Festival of Faiths as executive director and as a demonstration of my belief in the future of this organization, I am signing up as a monthly donor and invite you to join me as a Sacred Star." -Sarah Riggs Reed

Sarah has served CIR for 4,380 days and has curated 12 festivals. We are grateful for her talent, imagination, and intellect, which have guided us for over a decade.

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**JOE PHELPS**

Joe Phelps is a minister in Louisville — for 22 years as pastor of Highland Baptist Church, now as Justice Coordinator for Earth & Spirit Center. Joe helps lead “Listen, Learn, Act,” a movement of white allies for racial justice. Joe came to Louisville after 18 years as a minister in Austin, Texas, where he founded the Capital Area Food Bank. He served on Kentucky Refugee Ministries’ board; founded No Murders Metro, an interracial group that met weekly at murder sites in Louisville; founded the Black/white clergy coalition EmpowerWest; and began Friday Church, a gathering bent toward recovery and restoration.

**SADIQA REYNOLDS**

Sadiqa Reynolds is the CEO of Perception Institute, where she leads a consortium of researchers and strategists to implement mind science solutions to reduce inequities affecting marginalized groups. The attorney and former judge has spent most of her life advocating for access for all. Because of her work, she has twice addressed the NGOs of the United Nations on the subjects of global poverty and racism. Before joining Perception Institute, Sadiqa served as president and CEO of the Louisville Urban League, the first woman to hold the title in the affiliate’s 102-year history.

**LUKE RUSSERT**

Luke Russert is an author and Emmy-winning journalist who has appeared on outlets such as NBC Nightly News, Today and MSNBC. In 2012, Luke reported for Dateline on the potential wrongful conviction of Jon-Adrian Velazquez, who was later freed; Luke’s report was cited as a catalyst. After leaving media, Luke embarked on a three-year travel expedition that took him to nearly 70 countries. His book *Look for Me There* is a reflection of his journey. He graduated from Boston College with a double major in communications and history and is the son of the late Tim Russert of NBC’s Meet the Press.

**CLIFFORD SARON**

Clifford Saron is a research scientist at the Center for Mind and Brain and the MIND Institute at the University of California at Davis. He received his Ph.D. in neuroscience from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and has had a longstanding interest in the effects of contemplative practice on physiology and behavior. In the early 1990s, he conducted research investigating Tibetan Buddhist mind training under the auspices of the Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Clifford directs the Shamatha Project, a multidisciplinary investigation of the effects of intensive meditation on wellbeing.

**DHEEPA SUNDARAM**

Dheepa Sundaram is a professor at the University of Denver, where she specializes in hate politics, performance, ritual and digital culture in South Asian contexts. Her research examines the formation of Hindu virtual religious publics, online platforms, social media and emerging technologies such as virtual reality. Her current project, *Globalizing Dharma: The Making of a Global Hindu Brand*, examines how commercial ritual websites effectively brand religious identities and market caste-privileged religious norms as a default. She's also a contributor to Religion News Service and a founding member of the South Asia Scholar Activist Collective.

**ADRIENE THORNE**

The Rev. Adriene Thorne is senior minister of the historic Riverside Church in New York City and the first African American woman to hold the position. She received her Master of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion and completed post-graduate studies in pastoral care and counseling. Adriene is a healer, Presbyterian minister and classically trained dancer who uses movement to heal bodies in the church and community. When she is feeling open, Adriene will tell you she has learned more about God from nature, art and her child than from any classroom or book.

**ANAM THUBTEN**

Anam Thubten grew up in Tibet and at an early age began to practice in the Nyingma lineage of Tibetan Buddhism. He currently resides in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is the founder and spiritual advisor of Dharmata Foundation, teaching widely in the U.S, Europe and Asia. He is the author of several books, including *Embracing Each Moment*, *No Self, No Problem*, and *The Citadel of Awareness*. Through sharing his wisdom and personal experience on the spiritual path, Anam brings alive the timeless teachings of Buddhism.

**JEMAR TISBY**

Jemar Tisby is the author of New York Times bestselling book *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the Church's Complicity in Racism*, along with the works *How to Fight Racism* and *The Spirit of Justice*. He is also a professor of history at Simmons College of Kentucky. Jemar is co-host of the Pass the Mic podcast; his writing has been featured in the Washington Post, The Atlantic and the New York Times; and he's a frequent commentator on NPR and CNN. Jemar earned his PhD in history, and he studies race, religion and social movements in the 20th century.

**TAHJ VAUGHN**

Tahj Vaughn is a sophomore attending Louisville Collegiate School. His life is filled with athletics, physical movement and a love for beautiful music. This summer, he premiered his very first composition piece, “Falling Blossoms,” during the 2024 Louisville Academy of Music Summer Symposium. Tahj strives to grow not only as musician and composer, but also an intellectual and Child of God.

**STEPHANIE BARNETT**

Stephanie Barnett is a “Compassion Warrior,” business solutions architect and spiritual companion. For more than three decades, Stephanie has shown up as a strong and compassionate business creator, community-builder and corporate leader. Her greatest joy comes from accompanying leaders, seekers and other “beacons of light” who are trailblazing new paths in their work, family, personal and spiritual lives.

**ADAM KANE**

Adam Kane began exploring Buddhism after graduating from Duke University with a degree in neuroscience. He first studied the Buddha-Dharma in the Theravada lineage, then took the Anagarika ordination in the Thai Forest tradition of Ajahn Chah. After two years in a forest monastery, he began practicing Tibetan Buddhism under his teacher Tsoknyi Rinpoche. He moved to Nepal in 2008 to study Tibetan language and Buddhist philosophy, and stayed there for seven years, gaining a master of arts degree in Buddhist Studies. He’s been interpreting, translating, writing and developing curriculum for his root lamas and various other lamas since 2013.

**BARBARA BOGATIN****TJ COLE****STEPHANIE NILLES****THE AMBASSADOR CHORALE**

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To join the Fischer Fellows class of 2025, contact Tricia Williams, Tricia@interfaithrelations.org.

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At the Center for Interfaith Relations (CIR), our inner CIRele of volunteers is a critical part of presenting this nationally acclaimed interfaith event and a meaningful way to contribute to our mission of promoting interfaith understanding, cooperation, and action. We are grateful for each volunteer that has helped us make this festival a gift to so many.

Thank you for helping to make our CIRcle complete! If you are interested in volunteering for future events, visit www.festivaloffaiths.org/subscribe and sign up for our volunteer mailing list.

AN UNFORGETTABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS

We are thrilled to welcome high school and college students to this year's festival! We love providing opportunities for students to experience meaningful conversations, culture and creativity. A big thank you to all our participating educators, administrators, and students this year!

If you're an educator, we invite you to consider a field trip to next year's festival. We're happy to work with you to curate the best possible experience! Visit www.festivaloffaiths.org/educators to sign up for our educators mailing list.

PLACES TO EAT

Lexus Lounge (inside the Kentucky Center)

Thursday and Friday • 11:00 am to 1:30 pm

Lite lunch grab-and-go options available for purchase

A complimentary cup of warm soup is available with lunch purchase while supplies last. This offering is sponsored by the family of CIR's Executive Director, Sarah Riggs Reed, in honor of their sister.

Lexus Lounge will remain open from 2-5 pm and will have snacks and drinks available for purchase.

Wiltshire Pantry Bakery & Cafe

605 W. Main St. (361 ft.)

Wednesday-Friday • 8 am to 3 pm

Saturday • 9 am to 5 pm

Walker's Exchange (inside the Galt House)

West Tower, 2nd Floor (400 ft)

Open daily

Breakfast • 8:30 to 10:30 am

Lunch • 11 am to 2:30 pm

Dinner • 5 to 10 pm

Main Eatery

643 W. Main St. (0.1 mi.)

Monday-Friday • 11 am to 8 pm

Bristol Bar & Grille

614 W. Main St. #4211 (0.1 mi.)

Wednesday-Saturday • 11 am to 8 pm

Proof on Main

702 W. Main St. (0.2 mi.)

Breakfast • 7-10 am (Thursday & Friday)

Lunch • 11 am to 2 pm (Thursday & Friday)

Dinner • 5 to 10 pm (Thursday & Friday)

Brunch • 8 am to 2 pm (Saturday)



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