



Kelly Strayhorn Theater
5941 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15206
t 412.363.3000 :: f 412.363.4320
kelly-strayhorn.org

KST Administrative Offices
The Alloy Studios
5530 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15206
t 412.363.3000 :: f 412.363.4320



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MEDIA CONTACT

Paula Simon
Marketing Associate
412.363.3000 x 310
paula@kelly-strayhorn.org



KST's 7th Annual East Liberty LIVE! Summer Series Brings Fun, Diverse Mix of Programming to the East End

Kelly Strayhorn Theater kicks off **East Liberty LIVE!** June 18 through August. This vibrant summer series activates the East End with affordable and accessible arts programming, and positive creative activities. East Liberty LIVE! has it all, from music and dance to film and family events.

Through the generosity of our **presenting sponsors PNC and Highmark**, KST invites you to celebrate local culture, groove to live music, and discover innovative performances with great community partners including Chamber Music Pittsburgh, Reed Dance, The Legacy Arts Project, Style & Steel, and Pittsburgh Hip Hop Collective.

"East Liberty LIVE! activates the Theater and Alloy Studios with the kind of innovative performances and eclectic programming KST is known for," says KST executive director Janera Solomon. "From food trucks to arts organizations, we are proud to partner with the community and create a fun mix of programming that reflects our diverse, multigenerational neighborhood. We invite everyone to get involved and join us for a fun time this summer!"

East Liberty LIVE! begins with the first of three **Beats N' Eats**, KST's midday lunch break dance party series featuring music and bites from local food trucks. Then, toddlers and families enjoy a camp-



ing-themed adventure at **Let's Move! Family Dance Party** on Saturday, June 20 with crafts, games, and kid-friendly music. The festivities continue throughout the summer with highlighted programs including **Dance Africa: Pittsburgh, Selma for Students, Style Week Pittsburgh**, and the seventh annual **Celebrate Gene Kelly Ice Cream Social**.

Chamber Music Pittsburgh's Just Summer! concert series returns to KST for a third year on the evenings of Thursday, June 18, June 29, and July 9. Just Summer! hosts nationally and internationally recognized musicians in an easygoing atmosphere. From local jazz talent **Sean Jones Quartet** to Spanish guitarist **Pablo Villegas**, the concert series features a diverse mix of live music on the KST main stage.

KST also announces summer classes at **The Alloy School** starting this June through August. Perfect for toddlers and tweens ages 3–12 years, The Alloy School is a creative and non-competitive community where learning is guided by professional dancers and master teachers. A diverse mix of classes is offered, ranging from Ballet and Hip Hop to Acting and Family Yoga.

Dancers Jean-Paul Weaver and Laura Stokes will facilitate an open-platform **improv jam** for adults of all levels to explore movement and dance improvisation every other Wednesday in July and August, beginning on July 15. Classes begin with a warm-up led by a variety of guest instructors. Participants are then guided in the basics of Contact Improvisation and encouraged to join in an open dance jam to explore improvised movement, alone, with partners and in groups.

This summer, KST and choreographer and Pittsburgh native **Bill Shannon** launch an ongoing series of workshops, public interventions, and stage performances through KST's **Creative Community Residency Program**. The program provides selected artists ways to explore and engage Pittsburgh's diverse community in their creative process, and do so in a way that brings prosperity—artistic, cultural, and social—to East Liberty.

KST also looks forward to welcoming choreographer **Jasmine Hearn** for her week-long artist residency at the Alloy Studios in July. Hailing from Houston, freelance choreographer and artist/dancer Hearn travels around the country to showcase her choreographic work and participate in diverse dance projects. Currently, she is a collaborator and performer with choreographers jhon r. stronks (HOU), Kate Watson Wallace (PHIL), and Marjani Forte (NYC). Jasmine also is a facilitator of improvisational gatherings and restorative movement workshops.

East Liberty LIVE! Highlights

KST Presents

JUNE 18, JULY 16, AUGUST 20

Beats N' Eats



Beats N' Eats turns your lunch break into a mid-day neighborhood dance celebration! Meet up with Penn Avenue creatives, sample foods from a variety of Pittsburgh's innovative food trucks, enjoy refreshing beverages and bust a move with all of us here at Kelly Strayhorn Theater. Our lobby serves as a meeting place for new connections, fun with friends and a cool place to shake some life into your weekday. No cover charge, just come eat and enjoy the beats.

Chamber Music Pittsburgh & KST Present

JUST SUMMER! CONCERT SERIES

Featuring a diverse mix of live music on our main stage, Just Summer! hosts nationally and internationally recognized musicians in an easygoing atmosphere.

JUNE 18

Sean Jones Quartet



Pittsburgh native and remarkable composer/trumpeter/educator/activist Sean Jones returns for a night of inspiring jazz artistry. Deeply influenced by his immersion in Gospel music as a youth, Jones is seriously committed to his pursuits—not just in terms of mastering the art form, but in its fullest meaning socially, philosophically and spiritually.

JUNE 29

Time For Three



Time for Three—violinist Zachary (Zach) De Pue, violinist Nicolas (Nick) Kendall and double-bassist Ranaan Meyer—is a group that defies any traditional genre classification, happily and infectiously. With an uncommon mix of virtuosity and showmanship, the American trio performs music from Bach to Brahms and beyond, including their own arrangements of everything from bluegrass and folk tunes to ingenious mash-ups of hits by the Beatles, Kanye West, Katy Perry, Justin Timberlake and more.

JULY 9

Pablo Villegas



The soul of the Spanish guitar runs in Pablo Villegas' blood. Born and raised in La Rioja, Spain—the country uniquely and deeply linked to his chosen instrument—Villegas is praised for performances as charismatic as they are intimate. With his singing tone and consummate technique, Villegas offers interpretations that conjure the passion, playfulness and drama of his homeland's rich musical heritage.

KST Presents

JUNE 20

Let's Move! Family Dance Party



Put on your dancing shoes and bring your family to join the fun at Let's Move! This party has the right mix for toddlers and their families to get down. Welcome the summer season with kid-friendly music spun by our guest DJ, dancing, hands-on art activities, and more.

The Legacy Arts Project & KST Present

JULY 17 & 18

Dance Africa: Pittsburgh 2015

Legendary Dance Africa founder Dr. "Baba" Chuck Davis presides over this year's energized dance showcase, with performances by renowned ensembles from Pittsburgh and beyond. Two evenings feature Philadelphia's electrifying Kulu Mele African Dance and Drum Ensemble along with the Balafon West African Youth Dance Ensemble, Anthony Williams and The Legacy Arts Project. Weekend festivities include a drum and dance workshop and African marketplace.

RENEE GRAY & KST PRESENT

JULY 30

Selma For Students



Viewers of all ages are invited to do more than just watch Ava DuVernay's powerful portrayal of the Civil Rights Movement. This free screening is followed by an in-depth conversation that encourages audiences to reflect not only on the past, but to engage in critical analysis and dialogue around the issues that our nation continues to face, and to imagine new ways forward.

KST Presents

AUGUST 22

Celebrate Gene Kelly: An Ice Cream Social



Celebrate Gene Kelly's birthday with something sweet and a screening of *Singin' in the Rain* starring Gene Kelly, Donald O'Conner and Debbie Reynolds. Co-directed by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donan, *Singin' in the Rain* is a lighthearted depiction of Hollywood, with a production company caught up in a difficult transition from silent films to "talkies."

CREATIVE COMMUNITY ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Bill Shannon



For more than 10 years, Pittsburgh native Bill Shannon has been waking up the streets of New York and Chicago with his kinetic exploits—and making his mark on prestigious alternative stages around the world. Known in the club dance scene as "The CrutchMaster," Shannon is a self-styled multidisciplinary artist who expresses himself through movement, video, writing, drawing and installations.

This summer KST and Bill Shannon launch an ongoing series of workshops, public interventions and stage performances. In the context of a dance world newly appreciative of outsider stories, imperfect bodies and non-dancers moving, Shannon seeks to expand to the history and philosophy of dance by physically disabled people—and to lay the foundation for a new ensemble of performers.

JUNE–AUGUST 2015

The Alloy School



KST announces summer classes at The Alloy School starting this June through August. Perfect for toddlers and tweens ages 3–12 years, The Alloy School is a creative and non-competitive community where learning is guided by professional dancers and master teachers. A diverse mix of classes is offered, ranging from Ballet and Hip Hop to Acting and Family Yoga.

The School hosts two sessions, June 13–July 11 and August 1–22. Each session ends with a special dance party showcase where students can invite friends and family to show what they’ve learned while enjoying interactive activities lead by School staff.

To sign up and for more information visit:

<http://kelly-strayhorn.org/classes-workshops/alloy-school-summer-2015/>

About the Kelly Strayhorn Theater

Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST) uses the arts as a catalyst for community revitalization, and plays a key role in the transformation of East Liberty and nearby neighborhoods. In its 13th year as an organization, and seventh season of original programming, KST continues to demonstrate its commitment to Pittsburgh artists and audiences, supporting the presentation of risk-taking new work by emerging artists and arts organizations. KST operates two professionally-equipped venues along the Penn Avenue arts corridor. The historic Kelly Strayhorn Theater (formerly the Regent Theatre, 1914) is a 350-seat multi-arts venue, and the last survivor of East Liberty’s nine original theaters. Noted Pittsburghers and KST namesakes Gene Kelly and Billy Strayhorn are among the 80 area artists honored in the theater’s Gallery of Stars. Just blocks away, KST’s Alloy Studios play host to intimate performance events and provide creative space for artist residencies, Alloy School dance classes, and performance rehearsals, as well as community art and music programs.

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