

CHOIR OF JOY

Our Lady of Damascus, Damascus, Syria

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Calendar of Events

This page will be updated as details of the upcoming US tour of the Choir of Joy become available.

Washington, DC

22 Feb 2009 -- Performance in the Crypt of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. [Address](#) [Time](#)

23 Feb 2009 -- Performance in the opening ceremony of the Kennedy Center's Arabesque Festival

24 Feb 2009 -- [Performance on the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater \(1 hour performance\)](#)

25 Feb 2009 -- Performance at a school in the greater DC metropolitan area (TBD)

Detroit, Michigan

27 Feb 2009 -- Silver Garden Theatre in Southfield.

Reception : 7pm

Recital: 8pm

Reservations: rsvp@syrianconsulate.org

Jacksonville, FL

01 Mar 2009 - Performance at Ritz Theatre & LaVilla Museum, 829 North Davis Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202. Time: 6:00PM [Read More...](#)

Orlando, FL

03 Mar 2009 -- Disney Amusement Park, Orlando, FL. At Dock Stage in Downtown Disney Marketplace. Time: To be announced.

Additional Resources

[Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception](#)

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Basilica of

Getting here

National Shrine

400 Michigan Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20017-1566
Phone: 202-526-8300
FAX: 202-526-8313

The Shrine is fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Directions

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is located at 400 Michigan Avenue in Northeast Washington. Adjacent to the campus of [The Catholic University of America](#), it is minutes from the Capital Beltway (Interstates 95 & 495) and downtown Washington. Ample free parking is available.

Washington's [Metrorail](#) System is another popular method of reaching the Shrine, which is only three blocks west of Metro's Brookland-CUA Station on the Red Line.

From the North

Travel I-95S towards Washington and take the I-495W (Capital Beltway) exit (27-25) towards US-1 (College Park/Silver Spring). Keep right at the fork in the ramp. Merge onto I-495W for one mile. Take the MD-650S (New Hampshire Avenue) exit (28B), towards Takoma Park. Follow MD-650 4.6 miles into the District of Columbia. Turn left onto North Capitol Street. Travel 1.9 miles and merge right onto Irving Street. Follow it 0.3 mile and turn left onto Michigan Avenue. The Shrine is 0.1 mile on the left.

-or-

Travel I-270S to I-495E (Capital Beltway). Travel I-495 5.8 miles and take exit 29B onto MD-193E (University Boulevard) towards Langley Park. Follow MD-193E 1.9 miles to MD-650S (New Hampshire Avenue). Take MD-650S 1.3 miles into the District of Columbia. Turn left onto North Capitol Street. Travel 1.9 miles and merge right onto Irving Street East. Follow it 0.3 mile and turn left onto Michigan Avenue. The Shrine is 0.1 mile on the left.

From the South

Take I-95N to I-395N (exit 170A on the left) towards Washington. Follow I-395N 13.1 miles to the end. Turn right onto New York Avenue (US-50). Stay to the right and bear right onto M Street. Travel 0.4 miles to North Capitol Street. Turn left and follow North Capitol Street 1.7 miles to Michigan Avenue. Turn right on Michigan Avenue. The Shrine is 0.7 mile on the left.

From the East

Take US-50W to the first District of Columbia exit at South Dakota Avenue. Follow South Dakota Avenue. 1.3 miles and turn left onto Monroe Street. Travel Monroe Street 2 miles to its end at Michigan Avenue. Turn left onto Michigan Avenue. The Shrine is 0.1 mile on the right.

From the West

Take I-66E to the Constitution Avenue (US-50E) exit. Follow Constitution Avenue 1.6 miles to 6th Street. Turn left onto 6th Street and follow it 1.5 miles to Rhode Island Avenue. Turn right onto Rhode Island Avenue and follow it 1.3 miles to 4th Street. Turn left onto 4th Street and follow it 0.9 mile to Michigan Avenue and the Shrine.

From Ronald Reagan National Airport

Taxi fare is approximately \$20. Metro fare is approximately \$1.85 to the Brookland-CUA Station (non rush hour), three blocks east of the Shrine. Rush hour fare is

Greetings from the Rector



Msgr. Walter R. Rossi welcomes you to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception's worldwide web site... [More](#)

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\$2.75.

From Baltimore-Washington (BWI) and Dulles International Airports

Airport shuttles are available into downtown Washington, where taxi or Metro may be accessed.

From Amtrak at Union Station

Taxi fare is approximately \$7. Metro fare to the Brookland-CUA Station is \$1.35 (non rush hour). Metro fare for rush hour is \$ 1.85.

FF

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Calendar

Byzantine Divine Liturgy - al Farah Choir

Sunday, February 22, 2009

11:00 a.m. Mass

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Additional Resources

[Millennium Stage Home Page](#)

[Part of the Performing Arts for Everyone Initiative](#)

AL-FARAH CHOIR

Upcoming performances

February 24, 2009

Based in the Lady of Damascus Church in Syria, more than 100 children of the choir perform Byzantine, Muslim, and Arab songs. *IN THE EISENHOWER THEATER Part of ARABESQUE: Arts of the Arab World*

[The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts](#)

2700 F Street, NW Washington, DC 20566

Tickets and Information: 800-444-1324 or 202-467-4600

جوقة الفرح الماشقية



Thirty year ago, Father Elias Zahlawi planted a small seed with ambitious dreams. He began a choir with fifty children representing all Christian denominations at his church in Damascus. The seed soon grew as boys and girls did and the choir became well known around the city. Fr. Zahlawi's dream was to have those voices celebrate in song the rights of all humans to life, dignity, freedom and joy. The choir was named Al-Farah Choir (*Choir of Joy*). Its objectives also included helping keep traditions and practices of the Byzantine church and conserve them.

The choir has since evolved to include 500 members of all age groups from 7 to 75 years old. It travelled carrying voices and dreams of peace and joy to countries around the Middle East, Europe and Australia. Their next stop is going to be here in the USA. About 150 boys and girls are going to visit us here at home. They are starting their tour on Feb 22, 2009 in Washington DC at the Kennedy Center. This is to be followed by two performances in Detroit and Cleveland, and finally culminate their trip with a performance here in Jacksonville, FL.

St Ephrem is involved in the process of organizing the last part of their trip and holding their performance on March 1st at the Ritz Theatre downtown.

We would like to ask for your kind support. Tickets to this event will be available starting January 2009. Come join us for a night of celebration of peace and joy.

بدعوة من مركز Kennedy للفنون في واشنطن ستزور جوقة الفرح أمريكا وللمرة الأولى منذ تأسيسها. قام بتأسيس وإطلاق هذه الجوقة الأب إلياس زحلاوي في بداية الثمانينات. بدأت بخمسين طفلاً سرعان ما نشأوا ونشأت معهم الجوقة وذاع صيتها. واليوم تضم الجوقة أكثر من ٥٠٠ عضو تتراوح اعمارهم ما بين ٧ و ٧٥ سنة. في خلال اعوامها الثلاثين زارت الجوقة بلدانا أوروبية عديدة كما أستراليا. وبعد اشهر قليلة ستزورنا هنا في جاكسونفيل حيث ستقيم ، بالتنسيق مع كنيستنا ، حفلة غنائية على مسرح ال-Ritz في الأول من اذار ٢٠٠٩. ترقبوا الاعلانات وبيع التذكر في كانون الثاني ٢٠٠٩. ترحب كنيستنا بهذه الزيارة وتدعو أعضائها لدعم الجوقة بحضورهم.

For more information and details about the choir and the US tour you may visit <http://www.choirofjoy.org/>

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Photo Gallery

Father Zehlaoui - "The driving force behind the Choir"



Choir performances in Damascus House of Opera



Al Farah Choir Kids









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Learn about the goals and mission of the Performing Arts for Everyone initiative.

[Conservatory Project](#)

Music's rising stars from the nation's top conservatories performing in the Terrace Theater

Highlights



[Bearfoot Bluegrass](#)  October 26, 2007

Based out of Anchorage, Alaska, Bearfoot Bluegrass, has an up-and-coming acoustic band feel with fully fledged music chops.



[March Fourth](#)  October 11, 2007

March Fourth characterizes itself as little bit Duke Ellington meets Sgt. Pepper in a big-top tent pastiche.



[Chango Spasiuk](#)  October 3, 2007

Accordion player Chango Spasiuk performs chamamé, a unique Argentine folk music. *AMERICARTES*.



[17 Hippies](#)  September 23, 2007

Berlin-based ensemble 17 Hippies mixes traditional music from Eastern Europe, France, and America.

And More ...

- [Portland Taiko](#)  September 9, 2007
- [Skatalites/Shaggy](#)  June 19, 2007
- [NEA Jazz Masters](#)  March 7, 2007
- [Ondrej Havelka and his Melody Makers](#)  June 26, 2007
- [Sara Tavares](#)  January 23, 2007
- [The Roaring 40s](#)  November 23, 2006
- [Polyphonic Spree](#)  October 1, 2004

About

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts stages at least one free performance every day of the year. The Chairman of the national center for the performing arts, James A. Johnson, launched "Performing Arts for Everyone" in the winter of 1997: nine initiatives designed to expand and increase access to the performing arts for local Washington residents and visitors to the nation's capital.

Performing Arts for Everyone is designed to introduce the Kennedy Center and its programs to a far wider audience than ever before by providing a performance open to the public and free of charge 365 days a year.

"The Kennedy Center belongs to the nation, and the productions staged here must be shared with every American," says Chairman Johnson. "The daily free performances and the downtown location for discount tickets were important first steps toward that goal."

Performing Arts for Everyone initiatives also include low- and no-cost tickets available to performances on every stage of the Kennedy Center, and several outreach programs designed to increase access to Kennedy Center tickets and performances.

"Our goal is: Every resident of the Washington area, and every visitor to Washington, D.C., will think of the Kennedy Center as the place they call their own to experience the performing arts again and again."

Initiatives

The Millennium Stage

The Kennedy Center stages free daily performances on its Millennium Stage in the Grand Foyer. Featured on the Millennium Stage are a range of art forms, including performing artists and groups from all 50 states and an Artist-in-Residence program featuring artists performing several evenings in a month.

TicketPlace

The Center built a new facility for a discounted ticket service operated by the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington. TicketPlace maximizes accessibility to Washington-area performing arts programming for local residents and out-of-town visitors through a broad range of discounted ticket programs.

TicketPlace is located at 207 Seventh Street NW (between D and E Streets).

Pay-What-You-Can Tickets

Regularly throughout the year, the Kennedy Center will sell Pay-What-You-Can tickets for a variety of selected future Kennedy Center and National Symphony Orchestra performances.

[The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts](#)

2700 F Street, NW Washington, DC 20566

Tickets and Information: 800-444-1324 or 202-467-4600

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Links

The Choir of Joy's music is both religious and secular. The religious music most often focuses on the Marian songs, in Arabic, venerating the Madonna. The Virgin Mary is venerated in the Christian traditions, and also in the Muslim faith where she is honored as the Mother of the Prophet Jesus, known as Issa in Islam.

Listen to the Choir of Joy

- [Ummuna ya Mariam \(Our Mother, Mary\)](#)
- [Hail Mary, Full of Grace](#)
- [Mary Mother of God](#)

Additional Resources

[Arabic Homepage](#)



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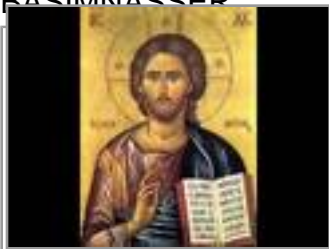


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je t'aime jésus I love you jésus

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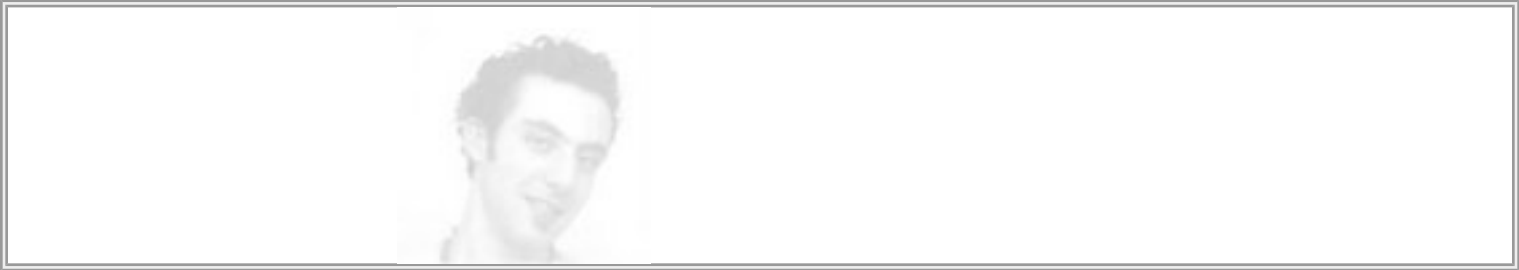
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