

PRIOR

Performing Arts Center



Prior Presents
2025–26
Faculty Resource Guide



Hanif Abdurraqib

PUBLIC LECTURE: Sep 16, 2025

RESIDENCY: Sep 16-17, 2025

MacArthur Fellow Hanif Abdurraqib is an award-winning poet, music writer, and cultural critic from Columbus, Ohio. His newest release, *There's Always This Year: On Basketball and Ascension* (Random House, 2024), was a *New York Times* Bestseller and longlisted for the National Book Award in nonfiction. His 2021 book, *A Little Devil In America: Notes on Black Performance*, placed as a finalist for the National Book Award.

Curricular Engagement Opportunities Students and faculty can look forward to events focused on the artist's creative writing process in multiple genres, including autobiography, and his prodigious practice as a popular music critic. Abdurraqib can also connect with classes across departments on subjects including basketball, music, Black cultural performance, and American social history.



Puno, Sewing Memories

Papermoon Puppet Theatre

PERFORMANCES: Sep 25-26, 2025

RESIDENCY: Sep 22-26, 2025

How do we experience loss? How can we hold and appreciate what has been left to us? A new program from the Papermoon Puppet Theatre Company of Yogyakarta, Indonesia, *Puno, Sewing Memories* tells the story of Tala, a young girl coping with her father's passing, through a poignant performance with astonishing modernist puppets.

Curricular Engagement Opportunities Papermoon Puppet Theatre invites class connections on loss and death, puppetry and visual storytelling, contemporary Indonesian culture, and environmental stewardship in artistic practice. We anticipate offering hands-on puppet-making workshops, and artists are also available to connect with studio classes in drawing and sculpture.



Osvaldo Golijov

Creation

PERFORMANCE: Oct 20, 2025

RESIDENCY: Fall 2025

From Grammy- and MacArthur-winner Osvaldo Golijov, The Prior's Composer-in-Residence, comes a thrilling new work-in-progress on the creation of the universe. At this special sneak peek, audiences will hear selections performed by three of Golijov's closest collaborators, each of whom embody entire cosmogonies in their music-making: Iranian kamancheh player Kayhan Kalhor, who harvests endless melodies from the remote past; legendary percussionist Cyro Baptista, who channels the rhythmic universes of Africa and Brazil; and electronic artist Jeremy Flower, whose music speaks of the future.

Curricular Engagement Opportunities Composer Osvaldo Golijov is available to connect with classes on the spiritual themes of his *Creation* piece; on his artistic process; and on collaborating across art forms, including his prolific work as a composer for film. He is also available to lead students in workshops related to creativity and artistic expression, particularly in interdisciplinary contexts.

PRIOR

To express interest in this presentation, [CLICK HERE](#).



American Patchwork Quartet

PERFORMANCE: Nov 14, 2025

RESIDENCY: Nov 12-14, 2025

A potent symbol of unity in diversity, the American Patchwork Quartet draws influences from American folk, jazz and country as well as West African and East Asian styles to blend tradition and innovation in a celebration of America's cultural mosaic. A co-production with historic local arts presenter Music Worcester.

Curricular Engagement Opportunities American Patchwork Quartet can offer classroom visits and masterclasses focusing on folk music, Indian classical music, and the band's unique fusion of American, East Asian, and West African influences. Musicians can also share perspectives on the business side of the music industry or lead groups in a songwriting workshop.

PRIOR

To express interest in this presentation, [CLICK HERE](#).



Djapo

by Marie
Basse-Wiles
and Omari Wiles

PERFORMANCE: Nov 21, 2025

RESIDENCY: Nov 17-21, 2025

Rooted in the rhythms of Senegal and Mali, *Djapo* combines traditional West African dance with contemporary African club culture, Afrobeats, and live percussion shaped through the intergenerational collaboration of celebrated dance artists and mother/son duo Marie Basse-Wiles and Omar Wiles.

Curricular Engagement Opportunities The dancers and musicians of *Djapo* are available to offer dance and music masterclasses showcasing West African and Afro-club styles. The choreographic team looks forward to Q&As on intergenerational artistic collaboration and the cultural influences of the production. The group's production manager, a Holy Cross alum who played football at the College, is eager to share career advice on breaking into the performing arts. Classes can also observe rehearsals and students can shadow design and production staff.



Christine Sun Kim

PUBLIC LECTURE: Feb 19, 2026 (TENTATIVE)

RESIDENCY: Feb 17-19, 2026

Co-presentation with the Department of Visual Arts

In works full of sharp wit and incisive commentary, Christine Sun Kim engages the complexities of communication in its various modes. Using musical notation, infographics, and language—both in her native American Sign Language (ASL) and written English—she produces drawings, videos, sculptures, and installations that often explore non-auditory, political dimensions of sound. A 2013 and 2015 TED Fellow, a 2015 Director's Fellow at MIT Media Lab, and a 2020 Ford Foundation Disability Futures Fellow, Kim has been exhibited internationally by major cultural institutions, including a solo survey at the Whitney Museum in 2025.

Curricular Engagement Opportunities Kim is available to connect with students on subjects related to working in interdisciplinary and autobiographical artistic modes; creating creative community; deaf culture and American Sign Language; Asian Studies; and the intersection of art and advocacy.

PRIOR

To express interest in this presentation, [CLICK HERE](#).



Sunny Jain

Wild Wild East

PERFORMANCE: Mar 12, 2026

RESIDENCY: Mar 10-12, 2026

Co-presentation with the Department of Music

Composer, drummer and dhol player Sunny Jain celebrates cultural diaspora and the interconnectedness of global styles with his band in *Wild Wild East*, a raucous, powerful, and jubilant recognition of a truly American spirit.

Curricular Engagement Opportunities Artist-activist Sunny Jain is available to discuss the work of bringing South Asian music to western audiences, his family's immigrant experiences and their history with the partition of India and Pakistan, a wide variety of work in theater, and activist efforts in food justice and on behalf of the Center for Constitutional Rights, among others. Jain and his band can also offer master classes and coaching sessions in drums, vocals, sax, guitar, and bass.

PRIOR

To express interest in this presentation, [CLICK HERE](#).



SW!NG OUT

PERFORMANCE: Mar 19, 2026

RESIDENCY: Mar 16-19, 2026

Acclaimed choreographer Caleb Teicher brings the best of the swing dance world to The Prior, with live music by the Eyal Vilner Big Band. Conceived by Caleb Teicher alongside collaborators Evita Arce, LaTasha Barnes, Nathan Bugh, Macy Sullivan, and Eyal Vilner, *SW!NG OUT* features exciting Lindy Hop choreography and improvisation. Each performance concludes with an on-stage jam session, inviting audiences to join in the fun!

Curricular Engagement Opportunities *SW!NG OUT* artists will provide opportunities to learn about the vibrant history of social dance and even try Lindy Hop! Q&As, class discussions, observation of rehearsal, masterclasses and open classes in dance and music will allow students to step out of their comfort zone and connect with the sounds and movement of swing.



yMusic

PERFORMANCE: Mar 29, 2026

RESIDENCY: Mar 29-31, 2026

yMusic is a genre-leading American chamber ensemble renowned for its innovative and collaborative spirit, working on both sides of the classical/popular music divide without sacrificing rigor, virtuosity, charisma or style. Praised by *NPR Music* as “deeply, profoundly skilled,” yMusic has been tapped to lend their orchestral sound and instantly-recognizable style to recordings and concert projects by a dizzying array of popular artists from John Legend to Paul Simon.

Curricular Engagement Opportunities The artists of yMusic are available to connect with students on subjects including environmentalism/ecology and music (their Prior performance will include piece by acclaimed contemporary composer Gabriella Smith responding to the climate crisis); arranging for pop music; partnering with composers as commissioners; and collaborating across artistic genres, as in their recent project with choreographer Kyle Abraham. Individual and combinations of ensemble members are also available for coaching and/or master classes.

PRIOR

To express interest in this presentation, [CLICK HERE](#).



Top left & bottom:
Camille A. Brown & Dancers, 2024

Top right:
Mali Obomsawin, 2024

PRIOR