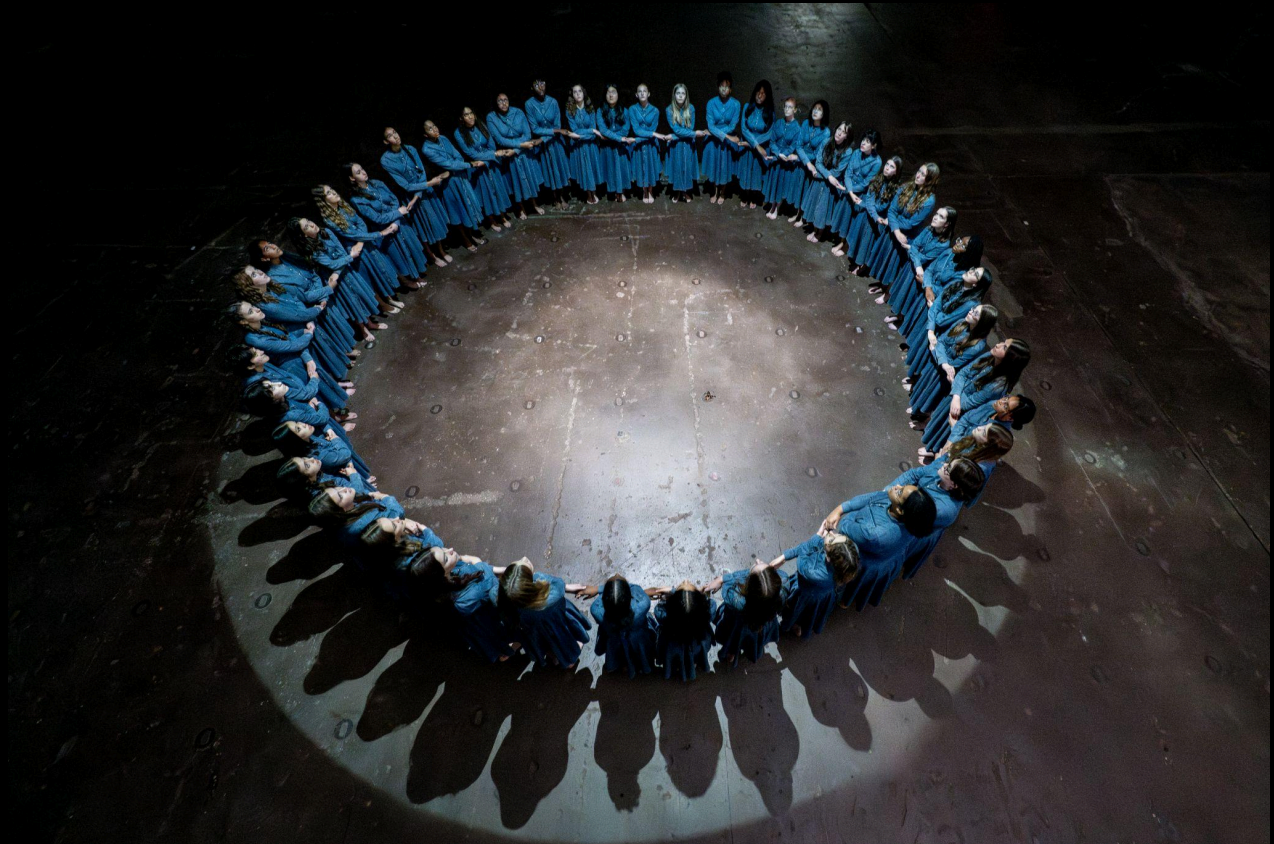


## **PS21 : Center for Contemporary Performance in Chatham, New York Announces 2025 Summer Programming**



Brooklyn Youth Chorus. Photo: Toby Tenenbaum.

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PS21 is excited to announce its 2025 summer programming. Including a broad range of performances and events, the season will continue PS21's history of producing challenging and joyful works by contemporary artists.

"After a winter of a kind we needed but had almost forgotten—here comes the sun," said Vallejo Ganter, Artistic & Executive Director of PS21. "Summer 2025 brings us on journeys of individual and artistic evolution—dancing ever-forward across classical traditions, gender, sexuality and racial identities. Collaboration between disciplines and cultures is a hallmark of PS21, and this year delivers—as artists cross-pollinate in delightful, surprising ways. Our histories, of site and social progress are interrogated."

"My thanks to Matthew Gold for his inspired curation of our music program. Thanks too, to our founder Judy Grunberg for this place and to Elena Siyanko, for bequeathing me such a remarkable year of live works. I hope to meet, see you soon, and introduce you to this year and our ideas for years to come."

May 30-31 | 8PM

*Hatched Ensemble by Mamela Nyamza*

In its **US premiere**, *Hatched Ensemble* is an autobiographical work reflecting on South African choreographer **Mamela Nyamza's** life as a mother, lesbian and artist. Nyamza's earlier work, *Hatched* (2008) launched her artistic signature of unapologetically demystifying, deconstructing and trampling on the norms and standards of the classics. In *Hatched Ensemble*, the work is extended to include nine classically-trained ballet dancers from different ethnic backgrounds. The dancers confront the deeply personal and challenging issues of tradition, sexual evolution and racial and gender norms within the dance classics. Says Nyamza, "Hatched Ensemble speaks to anyone who has felt conflicted about their own identity and where they belong in the status quo." Accompanied by an opera singer and a traditional African multi-instrumentalist, the piece juxtaposes disparate movement vocabularies, referencing traditional African vocal scores, classical Western music, ballet and beyond. With subtle gestures and enormous sensitivity, *Hatched Ensemble* opens up a whole universe, one that dance history would never have suspected to exist, overflowing with urgency and subtle virtuosity. PS21 members are invited to a season-opening party before Friday night's performance.

June 12 | 7:30PM

*Next Festival of Emerging Artists with Kronos Quartet*

The multi-GRAMMY-winning **Kronos Quartet** joins **The Next Festival of Emerging Artists**, returning to PS21 for the third straight year. The program features world premieres by some of today's most adventurous voices and is a special celebration in honor of the 90th birthday of **Terry Riley**, known as the founding father of minimalism. Next Festival Founding Artistic Director **Peter Askim** leads a string orchestra of gifted early-career string players in Terry Riley's *The Sands* (composed for Kronos) and the world premieres of **Jungyoon Wie's** *Starlings*, **inti figgis-vizueta's** *music by yourself for string orchestra* and Askim's own new work, *Songs My Mother Taught Me*. The program also includes GRAMMY-winning composer **Pascal Le Boeuf's** kinetic *Transition Behavior* and *Serenade for Strings* by **Jan Radzyknski**. The fellows of the Next Festival will spend the week prior to the performance in residence at PS21, workshopping the pieces and conducting community engagements at Chatham Middle School.

June 21 | 8PM

*PORT(AL) by Brooklyn Youth Chorus*

*PORT(AL)* is an epic new work charting the Brooklyn Navy Yard and a history of women's work in New York, co-created by the GRAMMY Award-winning **Brooklyn Youth Chorus**, **Jad Abumrad** (Radiolab), **Paola Prestini**, **Jessica Grindstaff**, **Ogemdi Ude** and a chorus of 50 young singers. A mesmerizing new choral theater experience, *PORT(AL)* opens a hidden doorway to the past within the depths of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Ebbing, flowing and interweaving throughout this immersive piece are the voices of the youth chorus speaking to their relationship to their very own time and place and their future. Vividly evoking and honoring Brooklyn's ghosts, *PORT(AL)* spins oral histories from recently passed figures like historian Howard Zinn and activist Clarence L. Irving, Sr. Discover the hidden depths of the Navy Yard's past, where the trailblazing spirit of machinist and drag king Rusty Brown and the pioneering voice of mezzo soprano Eugenia Farrar surge like tidal waves. *PORT(AL)* is not just a performance; it is an immersive passage through time, where the boundaries between eras dissolve and the enduring spirit of the human story sets sail. *PORT(AL)* was partially developed in residency at PS21 in early 2025.

June 28 | 7:30PM

*Las Guaracheras*

Hailing from Cali, Colombia, **Las Guaracheras** is a vibrant all-women salsa sextet that brings the Afro-Caribbean rhythms of Colombia's pacific coast to life. Their bold compositions and powerful lyrics champion the visibility and voices of women in the Latin Music scene in Colombia, celebrating female strength as a source of love, hope, resilience and creativity. With vibraphone, percussion, bass, piano and vocals, Las Guaracheras presents an explosive show that provokes dancing and singing while simultaneously creating moments for reflection. Come early for a 6PM salsa dance workshop to get you—and your feet—ready for the rhythm and energy of the show. *Please note: there is limited seating for this performance, to create optimal space for dancing. Please contact us if you would like us to reserve a seat for you.*

July 11-12 | 8PM, After-Concert 9:30PM

*Femenine by Kyle Marshall Choreography with the BlackBox Ensemble*

An evening-length dance piece set to composer **Julius Eastman's** (1940-1990) jubilant work of the same title, 'Femenine' (1974) is a celebration choreographed by **Kyle Marshall**, with music performed live by the **BlackBox Ensemble**. Dressed in non-binary expressions, six dancers ebb between joyfully queer geometry and dense solos of honesty, creating a community driven by musicality and dramatic moments of power. Washed in an ocean of bells, vibraphone, brass, woodwinds and strings, the work carries us through spaces for softness and affirmation, revealing the shadows and shimmers of Eastman's life and legacy. Partially developed in residency at PS21, *Femenine* is a celebration of Black and Brown LGBTQ+ people and artistry in times of resilience and solidarity. After the performance on Saturday evening, the BlackBox Ensemble will be presenting an immersive sonic experience featuring music by Julius Eastman and more. All *Femenine* ticket holders are invited to stay for this performance and concert tickets also can be purchased separately.

July 18-20

*GROUNDSTONE Festival*

**GROUNDSTONE** is PS21's new, three-day weekend of immersive concerts and adventurous music. A sonic exploration of PS21's untamed natural landscape, the festival invites listeners to experience dazzling performances and site-specific creations by visionary, genre-defying artists in settings across our grounds. Part of Upstate Art Weekend, each day will include free performances, workshops, open rehearsals and community music making open to all. Highlights include Lina Lapelytė's immersive installation *Study of Slope* and performances from **Exo-Tech**, **Matthew Aucoin**, **Miranda Cuckson**, **Julia Kent** and more.

July 18-19 | 6PM

*Study of Slope by Lina Lapelytė*

The New York Times critics pick makes its **US premiere** at PS21. A durational musical performance by Lithuanian interdisciplinary artist **Lina Lapelytė** (winner of the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale 2019), *Study of Slope* is a performance-installation featuring a choir of self-identified non-musicians. By centering those without a 'musical ear,' the work challenges the dominant codes of Western musical tradition that typically exclude off-key voices. These often-silenced voices resonate around the PS21 grounds, singing and moving continuously throughout the afternoon in a looping performance. Set within a landscape of nettles—plants often dismissed as weeds despite their healing properties—the work symbolically disrupts normative categorisations. The text sung by the performers is drawn from **Sean Ashton's** *Living in a Land*, a fictional memoir where the narrator recounts only what he has never done or will never do. This exploration of absence invites reflection on identity, experience, and the individual's place within

a community. Starting with the voice, *Study of Slope* reimagines how we define musicality, expression and belonging. It celebrates polyphony and personal difference while questioning how a truly collective voice might be formed. Since its debut in France, the work has continued to resonate in new contexts, inviting audiences elsewhere into its evolving sonic landscape.

July 26 | 7PM

*CATCH Takes the Hudson Valley*

**CATCH**—the Obie award-winning, itinerant, rough-and-ready series of performance events—whirls upstate for a one-night-only performance party at PS21. For this midsummer edition, CATCH gathers a stellar lineup of artists who live and work in the Hudson Valley—alongside a few beloved guests from farther afield—for an evening of genre-blurring, wildly live performance. For years, CATCH has given stage to emerging artists and downtown luminaries, pouring equal portions of community, love and beer. CATCH is organized by **Andrew Dinwiddie**, **Caleb Hammons**, **Jeff Larson** and **Matt Romein**. Founded in 2003 by **Jenny Seastone Stern** as a home for the emerging avant-garde, CATCH has become an integral part of the downtown community.

August 2 | 6PM

*PS21 Gala*

The annual celebration returns with a new spin: this year, dinner will take place in the beautiful PS21 pavilion theater, during an evening of surprises and performances from special guests. Enjoy cocktails, dinner from Hudson's James Beard Award-nominated Swoon KitchenBar and hear new Artistic & Executive Director **Vallejo Gantner**'s vision for the future of PS21—plus much more. The Gala provides essential funding for PS21's adventurous year-round programming at affordable ticket prices. Thank you for your support.

August 7-9 | 8PM

*Paul Taylor Dance Company*

The legendary **Paul Taylor Dance Company** returns to PS21 for the fourth year in a row—this time for three nights. This year they arrive with four selections from their repertory: *Cascade* (1999), a kaleidoscope of bright, golden choreography and darker, cooler undercurrents, echoed by **Johann Sebastian Bach**'s keyboard concerti; *3 Epitaphs* (1956), a 'parade of faceless gray-leotarded figures to early New Orleans jazz...one of the funniest dances anywhere'—*Newsday*; *Tablet* (1960), an alien duet with set and costumes designed by Columbia County's own **Ellsworth Kelly** and *Vespers* (1986), choreographed by **Ulysses Dove**, a ferocious work showcasing the athleticism and grace six female dancers set to a percussive score by **Mikel Rouse**.

August 15-16 | 8PM

*Life in This House is Over* by **Samantha Shay**

Making its **US premiere** at PS21, *Life in this House is Over* is an original dance-theatre piece about the social awkwardness of grief. Directed by interdisciplinary artist **Samantha Shay**, the piece was developed at Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch, where Shay was a guest artist & researcher. Inspired by the writing of Anton Chekhov, the work is structured as a funeral and wake, entering into a tragicomic world beyond known logic. Shay asks questions Chekhov posed years before: how do we move forward when an uncertain future presses on a dying past, where emblems of nostalgia are intertwined with the complexities of human suffering? Is connection possible in a world drawn taut by the force of imminent change? By gathering artists from two significant artistic lineages of performance—current and former artists of **Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch** (including luminary **Julie Shanahan**, who returns to PS21) as well as the Grotowski Institute-based physical theatre company, **Teatr ZAR**—the performance is a

kaleidoscope of artistic influences, erupting from one medium to the other, refusing to impose a single viewpoint, leaving the door open for the audience to comprehend a myriad of themes.

August 30-31

*COMMONGROUND Festival*

**COMMONGROUND** is a free outdoor weekend of fire and wire, of experiments in physics and materiality—cloaked in a circus guise. A new festival from PS21, COMMONGROUND brings two renowned international circus companies—**Basinga** (France) and **Kaleider** (UK)—to close our season with a program of new circus and bold vision. The companies will be in residence at PS21 for the week leading up to the festival.

August 30-September 1 | 1:30PM, 5PM

*Soka Tira Osoa by Compagnie Basinga*

A tightrope walking performance propelled by a live band, *Soka Tira Osoa* by French tightrope walking company **Basinga** relies on the public—blurring the line between audience and performer. Loosely translated to 'pulling the rope,' *Soka Tira Osoa* is both a spectacular and participatory project: an aerial spectacle of moving humanity, making its **US premiere** at PS21. Playing with the codes of the show, *Soka Tira Osoa* places all the trades in the place of the artist: riggers, musicians, sound engineer, tightrope walker. Everyone starts from the ground before rising. Basinga aims to develop, expand, transmit and communicate the art of tightrope walking which—better than any other—reveals how our greatness is based on our weaknesses and our ability to combine them. Convinced that a tightrope crossing is only possible thanks to the help and involvement of everyone, Basinga aims to ask questions around togetherness and the importance of each individual's role in the greater collective. Basinga will be in residence at PS21 throughout the week leading up to the performance, offering free tightrope walking workshops.

August 30-September 1 | 7:30PM

*Arch by Kaleider*

Touching audiences with themes of death, renewal and hope, *Arch* points towards the extraordinary, yet flawed, systems humans create: language, economies, architectures, democracies—and inevitably, to the impact of these systems on our ecological system and on ourselves. A languageless score by **Verity Standen** holds and moves us through a relentlessly physical performance; at times meditative and at others arresting and highly charged. We can tell you what happens in this work: you will witness two people attempt to build a freestanding arch in ice and concrete whilst a beguiling vigil of voices holds your attention. What is less straightforward is to tell you how it will make you feel—only that it will.

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## **About PS21**

A vibrant center for contemporary performance in the Hudson Valley, PS21 presents adventurous productions by leading and emerging American and international artists, showcasing what is new and thought-provoking in music, contemporary circus, dance, theater and in entirely new genres.