



THE KIMMEL CENTER
ACADEMY OF MUSIC
MERRIAM THEATER

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Groundbreaking, classically-trained duo Wil B. and Kev Marcus of @BlackViolin will WOW Philly with multi-genre sounds at the @KimmelCenter 10/27 continuing #ClassicalBoomTour. Experience hip-hop and classical melodies through riveting string flare! More info @kimmelcenter.org

Press Contact:

Lauren Woodard
215-790-5835

lwoodard@kimmelcenter.org

Rachel Goldman
267-765-3712

rgoldman@alliedim.com

**BLACK VIOLIN'S WIL BAPTISTE AND KEV MARCUS
FUZE HIP-HOP AND CLASSICAL MUSIC TOGETHER DURING
KIMMEL CENTER CULTURAL CAMPUS DEBUT
OCTOBER 27, 2018**

"Black Violin upends cultural and musical stereotypes...an unexpected blend of classically trained musicianship and hip-hop beats and inventiveness." —The Miami Herald

"The duo elicits brilliant music with a poignant message for the world." —Essence

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Philadelphia, PA, September 5, 2018) – Groundbreaking string duo Wil Baptiste and Kev Marcus of **Black Violin** continue their successful *Classical Boom Tour* in Philadelphia with one performance on October 27, 2018, at 8:00 p.m. at the Kimmel Center's Merriam Theater. This tour is a follow up to the successful 2016-2017 UNITY tour, which played 28 sold-out public performances. Known for their unique sound, which fuses elements of hip-hop and classical music, many have described the duo as "classical boom." Audiences and critics rave about Black Violin's electric, soulful performances. They will be accompanied by their incredible band, featuring ace turntable whiz DJ SPS and a drummer.

"Ambitious, classically-trained musicians Baptiste and Marcus are responsible for creating an innovative form of jazz," said Anne Ewers, President and CEO of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. "In doing so, Black Violin bridges the gap between generations, introducing Philadelphia's diverse community to a new, eclectic spin on classical music."

In December, Black Violin was announced as the Turnaround Artist for Mary B. Bethune Elementary School in Broward County, FL. Turnaround Arts, a national education program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, infuses arts into struggling schools to support overall reform efforts. Founded by President Obama's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities in 2012, the program partners schools with music instrument grants, arts supplies, professional development, musicals, and pairs each school with an artist to provide mentorship, inspiration, and support for the school's journey in the program. Turnaround Artists include Elton John, Edward Norton, and Yo-Yo Ma, among other highly acclaimed members of the arts community.

Black Violin served as the house band for ESPN's Annual Heisman Memorial Trophy Presentation, held in December for the second consecutive year. In fall of 2017, the network selected Black Violin's track "Stereotypes" to promote the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament.

Black Violin is currently writing and recording their next studio album, due out in 2018. The band's most recent record, *Stereotypes*, debuted at #1 on the Billboard Classical Crossover Chart and #4 on the Billboard R&B Chart. NPR praised the album and band, saying "their music will keep classical music alive for the next generation." Black Violin has shared stages with top names including Kanye West, Aerosmith, and Tom Petty and has creatively collaborated with the likes of Wu-Tang Clan, Wyclef Jean, and Alicia Keys. The duo composed music for the television series *Pitch*, which debuted on FOX in 2016, in addition to appearances on HBO's *Ballers*, *The Tonight Show*, *The Wendy Williams Show*, and *The Ellen Show*.

In addition, Black Violin has performed for more than 100,000 students in the past 12 months throughout North America and Europe. The band is endorsed by Yamaha Music and has partnered with the National Association for Music Manufacturers (NAMM) to continue their advocacy for accessible music education.

Other featured upcoming performances on the Kimmel Center Cultural Campus include: ***An Evening with Pat Metheny*** (October 5, 2018, Merriam Theater), ***Django Festival Allstars*** (November 3, 2018, Perelman Theater), ***August Greene featuring Common, Robert Glasper and Karriem Riggins*** (November 29, 2018, Academy of Music), and ***Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia - A Cole Christmas*** (December 15, 2018, Perelman Theater).

BLACK VIOLIN

Merriam Theater

October 27, 2018, 8:00 p.m.

Tickets

Tickets are on sale now and start at \$35.00. Tickets can be purchased by calling 215-893-1999, online at www.kimmelcenter.org, or at the Kimmel Center Box Office. Group sales are available for groups of 10 or more and can be purchased by calling 215-790-5883. See www.kimmelcenter.org for more information.

The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Located in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia, the Kimmel Center's mission is to operate a world-class performing arts center that engages and serves a broad audience through diverse programming, arts education, and community outreach. The Kimmel Center Campus is comprised of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (Verizon Hall, Perelman Theater, SEI Innovation Studio, and the Merck Arts

Education Center), the Academy of Music (owned by the Philadelphia Orchestra Association), and the Merriam Theater. The Kimmel Center is also home to eight Resident Companies: The Philadelphia Orchestra, Opera Philadelphia, The Pennsylvania Ballet, The Philly POPS, PHILADANCO, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society and Curtis Institute of Music. With nearly 9,000 seats per night, The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts is the region's most impactful performing arts center, and the second largest in the country. TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is the season sponsor of the Kimmel Center's 2018-2019 Season. American Airlines is the official airline of Broadway Philadelphia. For additional information, visit www.kimmelcenter.org.

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