



Magazine Article

Washington DC Visitor's Guide

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Performing Arts

Theatre, Music and Dance

In the early '70s, Washington emerged as one of the country's most important cultural centers. Today, reflecting the variety and vitality of Washington culture, more than 600 local arts organizations in the city serve a veritable feast of performing arts.

The opening of the world-acclaimed Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts kindled the rapid expansion of the performing arts community. Fashioned of magnificent Italian marble and poised elegantly at the edge of the Potomac River, the center boasts three stately theatres, a majestic concert hall and opera house, the Eisenhower Theatre, a theatre lab, and the free-to-all Millennium Stage. And, is a brilliant beacon to many of the world's most celebrated performers.

The curtain has risen on such luminaries as Elizabeth Taylor, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Cher, Mel Brooks, Tina Turner, Aretha Franklin, Carol Burnett and Placido Domingo. Notable previews include the American premiere of the international hit musical, *Les Miserables*, that played to a spellbound Washington audience before opening on Broadway...