

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**KUPFERBERG CENTER FOR THE ARTS *LIVE AT THE GANTRIES* FREE  
CONCERTS MOVE ONLINE WITH A JULY 7 PERFORMANCE BY THE  
CONTEMPORARY JAZZ ENSEMBLE NIXTABAND, COMPRISED OF  
QUEENS COLLEGE ALUMNI AND MUSICIANS FROM  
NEW YORK CITY AND MEXICO**

***-- Performances Stream Live Every Tuesday During July and August at 7 pm on the  
KCA Facebook and YouTube Pages, Followed by Live Q&A Sessions With the Artists--***

New York, NY. June 29, 2020— **Kupferberg Center for the Arts (KCA) at Queens College**, the largest multi-disciplinary cultural complex in Queens, announces its Summer 2020 **LIVE AT THE GANTRIES ONLINE** Concert Series. Traditionally held at Gantry Plaza State Park in collaboration with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Queens Theatre in the Park, Plaxall, Inc., and Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, this series is moving online in 2020 to offer eight world-class performances every Tuesday at 7pm during July and August 2020 that will stream on KCA's [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. Live Q&A sessions with the artists will follow each event.

"So much of the extraordinary vibrancy that Queens is known for is represented in the wide variety of diverse musical acts participating in the Live at the Gantries series," said Queens College President Designate Frank H. Wu. "Now, as online performances, they provide us with a significant opportunity to share the rich cultural fabric of our borough with a worldwide audience."

This year's Live at the Gantries Online concert series kicks-off on July 7 with **Nixtaband**, an exciting contemporary jazz ensemble composed of Queens College alumni and musicians based in New York City and Mexico. Nixtaband fuses Afro-Cuban, South American, Afro-American, and Mexican rhythms to deliver a modern sound deeply steeped in the jazz and folk traditions. On July 14, **Kalunga, The Duo Sessions** will bring an eclectic and exciting blend of Afro-Latin music and crossover chamber music in the hands of award-winning percussionist Javier Diaz and world-class oboist Toyin Spellman-Diaz for a classical sound with a contemporary flair. This show will be followed by a short master class on Batá percussion. The thrilling New York-based jug band, **The Salt Cracker Crazies**, will offer their bone rattling, floor shaking, gut thumping jug-centric skiffle on July 21. Their songs about unicorns, fireworks, and all sorts of party-related themes will definitely make audiences want to dance in their living rooms.

**Brooklyn Raga Massive's (BRM) Tradition to Innovation** program, will showcase a wide range of sounds inspired by jazz and traditional Indian Classical and raga music on July 28. BRM has been hailed as "Leaders of the Raga Renaissance" by the *New Yorker* and praised by *The New York Times* for "preserving the past while blurring genres in an inventive spirit." On August 4,

Puerto Rican singer-songwriter **Fernandito Ferrer** will offer his personal take on *Nueva Canción* through the use of loops, pedals, and all kinds of cool props to accompany his delightful voice. The **Chivalrous Crickets** will perform on August 11. Creating a unique sound based on the mix of Appalachian, Old Time, traditional English and Celtic, and early European art music the Crickets will take you on a centuries-long sound journey. August 18 will bring Mexican songstress **Claudia Valentina**'s stirring performance of classic boleros, rancheras, son jarocho, cumbias, and indigenous pieces. The season will come to a close on August 25 with a performance by Grammy award winner **Dan Zanes** and **Haitian-American jazz vocalist Claudia Zanes**. A show perfect for the whole family, it will feature Dan's greatest hits as well as folk and blues classics from their popular new songbook entitled *Dan Zanes' House Party!: A Family Roots Music Treasury*.

Visit [www.kupferbergcenter.org](http://www.kupferbergcenter.org) for more information about the artists in the 2020 Live at the Gantries roster.

## **Live at the Gantries Online Performances Summer 2020** **All shows will stream at 7:00 PM EST**

### **Nixtaband**

Tuesday, July 7

### **Kalunga, The Duo Sessions**

Tuesday, July 14

### **The Salt Cracker Crazies**

Tuesday, July 21

### **Brooklyn Raga Massive**

*Tradition to Innovation*

Tuesday, July 28

### **Fernandito Ferrer**

Tuesday, August 4

### **The Chivalrous Crickets**

Tuesday, August 11

### **Claudia Valentina**

Tuesday, August 18

### **Dan + Claudia Zanes**

Tuesday, August 25

Click [HERE](#) for artists' photos.

### **Live at the Gantries Online Supporters**

This summer's online concert series is supported by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Queens Theatre in the Park, Plaxall, Inc., Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, and the New York Community Trust. Season support for all Kupferberg activities is provided by New York Community Bank and Resorts World Casinos. This program

is also supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

**About Kupferberg Center for the Arts**

Kupferberg Center for the Arts (KCA) at Queens College was created in 2006 to honor alumnus Max Kupferberg for his \$10 million gift to the College in support of the arts. KCA is charged with marketing cultural events, developing cross-disciplinary collaborations among Queens College's arts units and between the arts units and off-campus partners, raising funds, and working with an Arts Advisory Board comprised of academic and community stakeholders.

The overall mission of Kupferberg Center is to provide high quality accessible and affordable cultural attractions to the Queens College community and the borough's 2.2 million residents. The largest multi-disciplinary arts entity in the borough, KCA features world-class artists and performances at its main stage campus venues, and showcases the talents of emerging and regional artists in off-site, neighborhood settings. A leader in the cultural renaissance of Queens, KCA connects residents of the most ethnically diverse region of the nation to their unique cultural heritages, showcasing these arts to a broader audience and validating the contributions each makes to the distinct nature of our campus and community.