

OFFICIAL WASHINGTON, DC VisitorsGuide

SUMMER/
FALL 2005

WASHINGTON
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**Hot attractions,
Haute tables**

Food Network and Discovery Channel's
Marc Silverstein
Take Us to "The Best of" DC



90



84



26



14



52



30



56

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Welcome Letter	30	Attractions
4	Introduction to Washington, DC	52	Performing Arts
6	Inside DC with Marc Silverstein	56	Restaurants & Nightlife
8	Visitor Services & Fast Facts	84	Shopping, Health & Beauty
10	Calendar of Events	90	Accommodations
14	Transportations & Tours	116	Advertiser Index
26	Neighborhoods		



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ON THE COVER: Marc Silverstein and Kathy Fowler at the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden. Photo by Randy Santos.

WELCOME



On behalf of our nearly 600,000 residents, welcome to Washington, DC — The American Experience. We invite you to explore our unique neighborhoods, visit our famous attractions, and discover the cultural and historical treasures that lie in and around America's capital city. The footsteps you take here will follow the path of our country's history. In the process, you'll get a glimpse of the future of one of the country's most dynamic urban centers.

Look around and you'll notice that this is much more than a government town. Washington, DC is a cosmopolitan world capital brimming with trendy shops, fabulous restaurants and endless entertainment possibilities. This year, our city welcomed Major League Baseball's newest team, the Washington Nationals, bringing baseball back to the nation's capital after a 34-year absence. Beyond the ballpark, our summer calendar is packed with free concerts, performances, film festivals, parades, exhibitions and more.

The city doesn't slow down when days get shorter; when fall arrives, our theatres and museums dive into another season of impressive programming. The Kennedy Center welcomes more than 600 performers for its Festival of China in October, and the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company kicks off its first complete season in its new home in Penn Quarter.

From our historic neighborhoods to our national monuments and memorials, we hope you will take the time to discover Washington, DC, where we invite you to create, share and remember your own American Experience.

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Out of Left Field

Introduction to Washington, DC


The nation's capital grew up along the banks of the Potomac River, in a spot chosen by George Washington that would satisfy both northern and southern interests. City designer Pierre Charles L'Enfant fashioned the bold new city after his native Paris, with grand boulevards and ceremonial spaces. Washington, DC has since evolved into a fascinating, lively world capital, known for its vast green spaces, sweeping memorials, and majestic neoclassical buildings.

Beyond the familiar sights of the National Mall, Washington, DC is a rich network of colorful neighborhoods, renowned restaurants, vibrant nightclubs, and noted cultural attractions. New restaurants, shops, and hotels await you around every corner of the city. From downtown to Dupont Circle, Washington, DC's neighborhoods delight summer and fall visitors with walking tours, street festivals, sidewalk cafes and quaint boutiques. Spend your morning shopping for locally-produced treasures at Eastern Market, then take a bike ride along the scenic C&O Canal. Linger over live music and cocktails at a rooftop bar in Adams Morgan, or catch a professional baseball game at RFK Stadium.

All year round, the District of Columbia's neighborhoods, people, history and culture truly embody the American Experience – from Duke Ellington to John Phillip Sousa; from the Civil War to civil rights. Only in Washington, DC can visitors see the original Declaration of Independence and US Constitution at the National Archives or marvel at the sight of the national monuments and memorials.

During your stay in the nation's capital this season, we encourage you to explore the city in a new way. Catch a Hollywood classic on the National Mall this summer with our "Screen on the Green" festival or zip down Pennsylvania Avenue on a segway. Stay in a cozy bed & breakfast and catch a Friday night jazz performance at the National Gallery of Art's sculpture garden. Try out a new restaurant during Washington, DC Restaurant Week (Aug. 1-7) or see exotic flowers in full bloom at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens' Waterlily Festival (July 17).

Use your Official Visitors Guide to find many more exciting ideas to make your visit to Washington, DC an adventure. For additional assistance, please visit our website at Washington.org, or ask your hotel concierge for guidance.



WHAT TO DO AFTER ALL THAT HISTORY IS – WELL, HISTORY.

Come and explore this remarkable building. Start at the D.C. Visitor Information Center, nibble in the Food Court, chuckle at political satire by the Capitol Steps, revel in entertainment including Live! On Woodrow Wilson Plaza and much more. Visit itcdc.com or call 202.312.1300.

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THE FASHION CENTRE AT PENTAGON CITY

Inside DC with Marc Silverstein



Food Network and Discovery Channel's Marc Silverstein and wife Kathy Fowler, ABC-7 medical reporter, enjoy the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden with their children, Spencer and Lexy.

“Washington, DC is really what America is all about...”

Fowler, feel that it's important to share the cultural treasures in the nation's capital with their children, Spencer, 5, and Lexy, 2.

“Washington, DC is really what America is all about. We've got all of these amazing places in our backyard. We're taking our kids to see the things they'll be learning about in school. We'd be crazy not to take advantage of it.”

And they do take advantage of it. When guests come to visit, Marc plays tour guide, pointing out some of the city's more unusual sites. Stops on Marc's tours include the “Exorcist Stairs” near the campus of Georgetown University, the Watergate complex and the Awakening statue at Hains Point. Marc also takes his visitors to the top of the Hotel Washington to grab a drink and enjoy one of the best views of the city. Marc and his family offer a few of their recommendations for Washington, DC visitors:

Best museums and attractions:

“With kids, you've got to remember that getting there is half the fun. Our kids love to ride Metro. Sometimes the Metro ride is what they remember the most.”

“We recently took the kids to the National Museum of American History. There was an exhibition on The Beatles that I wanted to see for myself, but Spencer ended up enjoying it as much as I did.”

“You can't beat the National Air and Space Museum. Our kids love both of them [the flagship museum on the National Mall and the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center near Dulles Airport]. We're also big fans of the National Zoo. If you're coming in from out of town, you've got to see that.”

Washington, DC-area resident Marc Silverstein built a national reputation on Food Network's *The Best Of* series by seeking out flavorful foods and colorful eateries across the country. His newest television series, *Go Ahead, Make My Dinner*, debuted in June and now appears daily on the Discovery Channel. Taped in front of a live (and hungry) studio audience, the show begins as Marc introduces a person with a real life cooking dilemma. He then brings in two fantastic chefs who are given the same basic ingredients the participant has on hand. The chefs are given just 20 minutes to create as many dishes as possible, sharing cooking tips along the way. After the participant picks a winning recipe, viewers get to see him or her test it out at home on a group of family and friends.

From Food Network to the Discovery Channel, Marc's television career has made him one of the most recognizable “foodies” in the nation's capital and has earned him opportunities to travel the globe in search of *The Best Of*. When he's not on the road, however, he keeps up with what's going on closer to home. Marc and his wife, ABC7 Medical Reporter Kathy



Giant pandas are one of the top draws at the National Zoo, one of the city's most family-friendly attractions.

"For an escape outside the city, we love Glen Echo Park. The kids love riding the carousel and watching the puppet shows."

Best Restaurants for Dining Out with Kids:

"Old Ebbitt Grill and Clyde's are great for a night out. You can get dressed up, or just take the kids and go casual."

"Austin Grill has a really good children's menu, and it's close to the Mall if you're out sight-seeing."

Best restaurants for date nights:

"It takes an act of Congress to find a babysitter... but since we do live in the Washington, DC area, Kathy and I are able to get out sometimes. We're big fans of Zola and we're suckers for the scene at Café Milano. We also just had an excellent meal at Teatro Goldoni."

Best nightlife:

"You've got to go to Adams-Morgan. At Perry's, the food is never overdone; they just let it speak for itself. We like to sit on the rooftop deck and watch the crowds below. We also love the rooftop view at Lauriol Plaza."

"For a good steak or a night out with the guys, I like to go to Charlie Palmer."

Most creative cuisine:

"Café Atlantico's Minibar. It's unlike anything I've ever encountered in any city."

A culinary surprise:

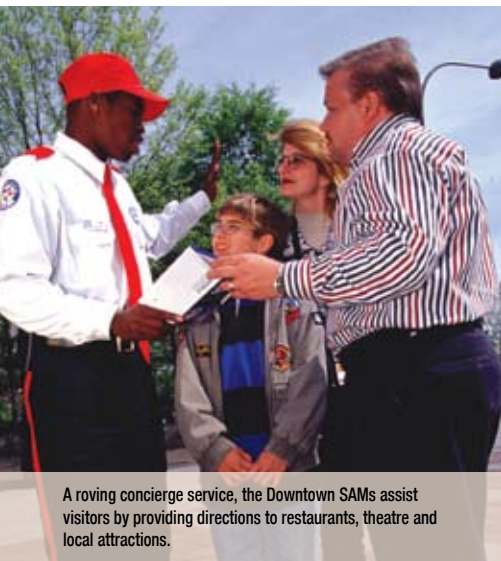
"We like to buy crabs at the Maine Avenue Seafood Market on the Southwest Waterfront. We've lived in this region long enough to be picky about our crabs, and those are outstanding."

Living, working and visiting the nation's capital, as Marc points out, can sometimes put give rise to a situation that would only happen in Washington, DC. "I was standing in line to get a cup of coffee at the airport and turned around to see Ted Kennedy. I called Spencer over and introduced him to the Senator, who was very friendly and accommodating. I asked if we could take a picture with him and he agreed. I started to pull Spencer away so that I could grab my camera, and Ted Kennedy offered to keep an eye on him for me instead. Where else but Washington?"



Stylish downtown eateries such as Zola have earned praise from the country's foremost food critics.

Visitor Services & Fast Facts



A roving concierge service, the Downtown SAMs assist visitors by providing directions to restaurants, theatre and local attractions.

Sales Tax

- Washington, DC: Sales tax is 5.75%. Hotel tax is 14.5%. Food and beverage tax is 10%.
- Maryland: Sales tax is 5%. Hotel tax varies by county with most averaging between 5% and 8%.
- Virginia: Sales tax is 4.5%. Hotel tax varies by county with most averaging between 9.5% and 10%.

Disabled Travelers

Washington, DC is one of the most accessible cities in the world for physically challenged visitors. Following are a few resources:

- City Scooter Tours - ScootAround offers scooter and wheelchair rentals daily, weekly or longer (serving DC and 500 North American locations). Call our 24 hour toll-free line 888-441-7575 for a free estimate! Tour the DC sites on a comfortable mobility scooter with City Scooter Tours. Visit us online at scootaround.com or cityscootertours.com
- DisabilityGuide.org - The DisabilityGuide.org is the premier source of disability- related information in the Washington, DC area. Detailed accessibility information for all attractions, restaurants and bars. We produce the annual Washington, D.C. Access Guide. Call 301-528-8664 for more information.
- Metro System Guide – A free guide providing information on Metro’s bus and rail system for the elderly and physically disabled. For copies call (202) 637-7000 or visit wmata.com.
- Senior Citizens Counsel and Delivery Service– Custom-made group tour packages for senior citizens. Handicapped equipment and wheelchair accessible vehicles available for mobility by the day, week and month. (202) 678-2800.
- Smithsonian Access Brochure – A free guide that provides an overview of accessibility features, parking entrances, interpreters and special tours at the Smithsonian museums. Available in large print, Braille, audio cassette and from AOL (keyword: Smithsonian). For copies call (202) 357-2700 (voice) or (202) 357-1729 (TTY); info@si.edu. Also available online at si.edu/opa/accessibility.

From the patriotic and inspiring monuments to the cosmopolitan theatres, restaurants and nightlife, Washington, DC is rich in culture and tradition.

Population

The population is approximately 572,000 in Washington, DC proper and 5.4 million for the entire metro area.

Climate

Experience the glory of all four seasons here in Washington, DC. Warm weather usually prevails from April until as late as October. Winters are short here, with more rain than snow. Monthly high and low average temperatures are as follows (Fahrenheit/Celsius):

	High	Low	High	Low
January	44/5	30/-1	July	87/31 69/20
February	46/8	29/-1	August	85/30 68/20
March	54/12	36/2	September	79/26 61/16
April	66/19	46/8	October	68/20 50/10
May	76/25	56/14	November	57/14 39/4
June	83/29	65/19	December	46/8 32/0

Parking

Parking is restricted during rush hours and some weekend hours (Check posted hours on street signs). If your vehicle is towed Friday after 7 pm or any time on the weekends you will not be able to retrieve it until Monday after 9 am. For details contact the DC Department of Motor Vehicles 301 C Street NW Washington, DC 20001, (202) 727-5000.

- Washington, DC does not recognize out-of-state handicapped tags for free parking in front of meters. For information about parking please call the DC Department of Motor Vehicle at (202) 727-5000.

International Travelers

Washington, DC is more than just the nation's capital – it is also home to more than 150 embassies, chancelleries and diplomatic residencies where colors cultures and languages mix like nowhere else. The following sections contain some tips and information to make international visitors feel more at home.

Embassies

Many embassies offer guided tours with prior notification. Embassy phone numbers are available by calling directory assistance at (202) 555-1212. A comprehensive listing of embassies is also available online at embassy.org.

Multilingual Services

The White House, Kennedy Center, Library of Congress and other attractions offer brochures in several languages. The Smithsonian Institution provides multilingual information at the visitors center in the Castle Building. Meridian International Center offers multilingual services at its information desk at Dulles International Airport, and staffs a telephone language bank. For details, call Meridian at (202) 667-6800 or meridian.org.

Tipping

Tipping is voluntary; gratuities are not automatically added to the bill except in some cases for large groups. Tipping guidelines: servers – 15%, for outstanding service - 20%; taxi drivers – 15%; doormen, skycaps and porters - \$1 per bag.

Electricity

The electricity used in Washington, DC is standard electricity, which is 110 volts. European appliances brought here will require a voltage transformer.

For more information

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thru Aug. 15

Play Ball! – Hollywood and Baseball in America

The National Theatre—Celebrating the return of baseball with a series of themed films, the National Theatre presents *The Natural*, *Soul of the Game*, *A League Of Their Own* and others. Admission is free. (202) 783-3372 nationaltheatre.org

Thru Aug. 24

The Reel Architecture Film Series

National Building Museum—On Wednesdays, the Museum's doors will be open to aficionados of architecture and film classics alike for screenings of American films that reflect themes found in the museum's 25 years of exhibitions. (202) 272-2448 nbm.org

Thru Sep. 4

East Meets West: Hiroshige at the Phillips Collection

The Phillips Collection—Exploring the connection between East and West through the impact of Utagawa Hiroshige's art, this collection feature his famous travelogue of stops along the ancient Tokaido Road. (202) 387-2151 phillipscollection.org



Thru Jan. 15

Gods and Empire: Huari Ceremonial Textiles

The Textile Museum—This exhibition explores what textiles tells us about Huari religious and ceremonial practices and the development of the empire. Also included are examples of Huari style garments and ceremonial textiles. (202) 667-0441 textilemuseum.org

July 18 – Aug. 15

Screen on the Green

National Mall—Featuring films shown outdoors on giant screens, Screen on the Green presents *The Way We Were*, *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, *Suspicion* and others. Films begin each Monday night at sundown. Admission is free.



July 30 – Aug. 7

Legg Mason Tennis Classic

William H.G. Fitzgerald Tennis Center—Andre Agassi, Andy Roddick, James Blake and others battle it out in this US Open Series Event. 48 singles and 16 double teams compete for a single elimination draw. (202) 721-9500 leggmasontennisclassic.com

Aug. 1-7

Washington, DC Restaurant Week

More than 80 of the city's top restaurants offer three-course, prix-fixe lunch menus for \$20.05 and dinner menus for \$30.05. Produced by the Washington, DC Convention & Tourism Corporation and the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington. (800) 422-8644 washington.org

Aug. 12-14

National Museum of the American Indian National Powwow

MCI Center—Spectators will experience Native cultures firsthand through nearly 100 Native artisans and exhibitors showcasing fine art, jewelry, sculpture and pottery, along with Native American song and dance. (202) 633-1000 nmai.si.edu

Aug. 13 – July 16, 2006

Pretty Women: Freer and the Ideal of Feminine Beauty

Freer Gallery of Art—Most of the works that Charles Freer acquired during his first 12 years as a collector were images of beautiful women, and this exhibition brings together 34 of these beautiful paintings and works on paper. (202) 633.4880 asia.si.edu



Aug. 16 – Oct. 2

Urinetown

Signature Theatre—In this wacky comedy, a water shortage leads the government to outlaw private toilets, forcing residents to use pay-per-use amenities. Anyone who refuses is immediately hauled off to Urinetown—never to return. (703) 218-6500 sig-online.org

Aug. 27 – Jan. 3

Encouraging American Genius: Master Paintings from the Corcoran Gallery of Art

Corcoran Gallery of Art—Only a handful of museums can boast a collection of the exceptional quality, depth and breadth that characterizes the Corcoran's holdings of pre-1945 American paintings. This exhibition features 74 works from this collection. (202) 639-1700 corcoran.org

Aug. 30 – Sep. 4

My Fair Lady

Wolf Trap—A brand new production of the Lerner and Loewe multi-award winning classic includes the musical theater standards "I Could Have Danced All Night," "On the Street Where You Live" and more. (877) WOLFTRAP wolfftrap.org



Aug. 30 – Oct. 30

Othello

Shakespeare Theatre—This work explores the tragedy of love destroyed by jealousy when Othello begins to mistrust his loyal bride, Desdemona. With poetry rivaling King Lear, Othello is a highly charged tale of prejudice, revenge and the destruction of innocence. (202) 547-1122 shakespearedc.org

Sep. 5

National Symphony Orchestra Labor Day Concert

US Capitol West Lawn—Associate Conductor Emil De Cou kicks off the Kennedy Center's fourth annual Prelude Festival with a free NSO concert at the US Capitol. (202) 416-8000 kennedy-center.org



Sep. 5 – Oct. 16

The Faculty Room

Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company—In this zany, funny and caustic look at strange and perhaps inappropriate relationships between teachers and students, a public high school erupts with gunshots, desperate longing and misguided acts of courage. (202) 393-3939 woollymammoth.net

Sep. 8-21

Kennedy Center Prelude Festival

Kennedy Center—This spectacular pre-season celebration of the best performing arts from Washington and the world is a grand three-week opening event, promising to be as exhilarating and entertaining as the performance season that follows. (202) 416-8000 kennedy-center.org

Sep. 10

Elton John in Concert: The Peachtree Road Tour

MCI Center—Elton has delighted and entertained the world with his virtuosity, wit and style. In September, he comes to the nation's capital to perform his Peachtree Road Tour. (202) 628-3200 mcicenter.com

Sep. 10-11

Black Family Reunion

National Mall—A celebration of African-Americans' historic strengths and traditional values. Get health screenings, watch performances, nibble on soul food and when the sun goes down, the stage lights come up on spectacular concerts. ncnw.org/blackfamily.htm

Sep. 11

Adams Morgan Day

Adams Morgan—The Festival has grown from a single day to a weekend filled with celebrations highlighting the best of Adams Morgan, Washington's most densely populated and ethnically diverse neighborhood. (202) 328-9451 ammainstreet.org

Sep. 18 – Dec. 31

Monumental Sculpture in Florence: Ghiberti, Nanni di Banco, and Verrocchio at Orsanmichele

National Gallery of Art—Three masterpieces of Italian Renaissance sculpture by Lorenzo Ghiberti, Nanni di Banco and Andrea del Verrocchio will travel to the National Gallery of Art to celebrate the completion of their restoration. (202) 737-4215 nga.gov

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sep. 23 – Oct. 23

Leading Ladies

Ford's Theatre—Leo and Jack, two unemployed Shakespearean actors, accept work in the hinterlands when they cannot find it elsewhere, scheming to swindle an older woman out of her money and pose as her long lost heirs. (202) 347-4833 fordstheatre.org

Sep. 24

National Book Festival

National Mall—This festival attracts award-winning authors, illustrators, poets and storytellers and a crowd of more than 85,000. Pavilions at the festival will highlight a genres including fiction, history, mysteries, poetry, family, children and teens. (888) 714-4696 loc.gov/bookfest

Sep. 30 – Oct. 1

DC Underground Film Festival

Goethe-Institute—Showcasing the work of independent filmmakers and artists both in the US and abroad, the festival often exhibits radical and thought-provoking issues, catering to thoughtful audiences who appreciate high-quality films. dcuff.org

Oct.

Kennedy Center Festival of China

Kennedy Center—As the largest celebration of Chinese performing arts in history, the month-long series features over 20 companies, performing everything from opera and orchestra to fireworks and fashion. (202) 416-8000 kennedy-center.org



Oct. 1

WalkingTown, DC

Discover little-known treasures through a series of walking tours throughout the city. All tours are free and open to the public, with no reservations required. WalkingTown, DC is presented by Cultural Tourism DC. (202) 661-7581 walkingtowndc.org

Oct. 7-9

Fall Wine Festival and Sunset Tour

Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens—Join Mount Vernon in its rain or shine fall celebration of the history of the Virginia wine industry, on the east lawn of George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, overlooking the Potomac River. (703) 780-2000 mountvernon.org



Oct. 8

Taste of Georgetown

Georgetown—Featuring Georgetown's finest restaurants, talented artisans and unique shops, the festival includes a wine tasting, children's activities and three different jazz, blues and rock bands. (202) 298-9222 tasteofgeorgetown.com

Oct. 13-16

Georgetown/Adams Morgan Film Festival

Two popular film festivals merge to create a cross-town cinematic experience, bridging two of the city's most colorful neighborhoods and screening more than 200 films. (202) 255-1995 georgetownfilmfest.com

Oct. 30

Marine Corps Marathon

The 26-mile, 385-yard course winds through Arlington, Georgetown and the District of Columbia, passing the Capitol, Union Station, the memorials, museums and the Kennedy Center. Nicknamed the "Marathon of the Monuments." (800) RUN-USMC marinemarathon.com

Nov. – Feb.

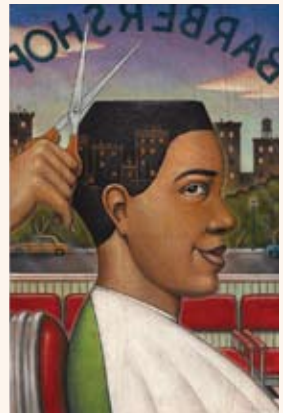
Holiday Homecoming

Washington, DC's hotels, restaurants and attractions celebrate the holiday season with special events, promotions and exceptional values. (800) 422-8655 dcinspires.com

Nov. 4 – Jan. 1

Cuttin' Up

Arena Stage—The barbershop is a community, and its denizens share the joys and troubles life hands them. Together, these colorful stories illustrate a remarkably simple truth: "When you have history, you belong." (202) 488-4377 arenastage.com



Nov. 16 – Dec. 18

A Year with Frog and Toad

Round House Theatre—In this jazzy musical affectionately an unlike friendship develops between the cheerful Frog and the grumpy Toad. Its clever tale and funny characters will delight audiences young and old. (240) 644-1100 round-house.org

Dec.

Pageant of Peace & National Tree Lighting Ceremony

White House Ellipse—The annual lighting of the National Christmas Tree on December 2 kicks off Washington, DC's two-week celebration of caroling, music, a burning Yule log and other events. pageantofpeace.org

Dec. 1-24

The Nutcracker

Warner Theatre—Seasoned with references to DC and Americana, audiences rave about the crisp marching soldiers, sultry Anacostian Indian duet, bursting Cherry Blossoms and tiny skittering mice. The Nutcracker is a holiday feast. (202) 362.3606 washingtonballet.org



Dec. 7 – Jan. 21

Les Miserables

National Theatre—Les Miserables is the story of a man engaged in a lifelong struggle to evade capture. Winner of the 1978 Tony Award for Best Musical. (800) 447-7400 nationaltheatre.org

Dec. 9-11

Washington Craft Show

Washington Convention Center—Presenting 185 of the nation's leading craft artists, the Washington Craft Show features recognized masters and emerging talent, accompanied by their latest collections of inventive art to decorate yourself and your home. (203) 254-0486 craftamericashows.com

Dec. 9-11

The Joy of Christmas: Cathedral Choral Society

National Cathedral—This holiday tradition takes place in the acoustic splendor of the Washington National Cathedral. The Cathedral Choral Society is joined by organ soloists the Washington Symphonic Brass in performances of holiday favorites. (202) 537-5527 cathedralchoralsociety.org

Dec. 9 – Feb. 5

Damn Yankees

Arena Stage—When a Washington Senators fan gets an opportunity to play with the team and become the world's greatest ballplayer, he doesn't hesitate—but his attempt to outfox the devil becomes a battle between good and evil. (202) 488-4377 arenastage.com

Dec. 15-18

Handel's Messiah

Kennedy Center— Don't miss one of DC's most beloved holiday traditions, presented each new season with a fresh perspective and original insight by the National Symphony Orchestra and talented soloists. (202) 416-8000 kennedy-center.org



Dec. 18

Family Christmas Concert

Kennedy Center—Join Santa and his friends, Frosty and Rudolph, for the Choral Arts Society holiday concert for young people of all ages. (202) 244-3669 choralarts.org

Dec. 21 – Jan. 15

Wicked

Kennedy Center—As the story of how two unlikely friends end up as the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch, Wicked is the untold tale of the witches of Oz. (202) 416-8000 kennedy-center.org

