Convergence Initiative Curating Artist Regina Carter





Grammy-nominated artist Regina Carter explores the power of music through the voice of the violin in a wide range of genres, including jazz, R&B, Latin, classical, blues, country, pop, and African. A recipient of the MacArthur "genius" award and a Doris Duke Artist Award, as well as a two-time Pulitzer Prize jurist, she has been widely hailed for her mastery of her instrument and her drive to expand its possibilities.

Her albums include Paganini: After a Dream (Verve, 2003), based on a 2002 concert in Genoa, Italy, in which she was honored to be the first nonclassical violinist to play Niccolò Paganini's Il Cannone ("The Cannon"), the legendary violin built by Giuseppe Guarneri in 1743; I'll Be Seeing You: A Sentimental Journey (Verve, 2006), a reinterpretation of songs from the 1920s to 1940s and tribute to her mother; Reverse Thread (E1 Music, 2010), an exploration of African folk music and the African diaspora; and Southern Comfort (Sony Masterworks, 2014), a musical journey tracing her father's roots in the American South. Her most recent release, Ella: Accentuate the Positive (OKeh, 2017), celebrates the music and spirit of her inspiration, musical legend Ella Fitzgerald.

Regina tours with her own group and has appeared frequently as a guest soloist, including with such performers as Kenny Barron, the late bassist Ray Brown, Akua Dixon, Steve Turre, Stefon Harris, Mary J. Blige, Joe Jackson, Billy Joel, Dolly Parton, Omara Portuondo, Cassandra Wilson, and Chieli Minucci and Special EFX. She has also been a guest soloist with several major symphony orchestras, including the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, and the Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo.

In 2018 Regina was named artistic director of the New Jersey Performing Arts All-Female Jazz Residency, a unique summer immersion program for aspiring women jazz professionals. She is currently on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music and has been artist in residence at the Oakland University School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, resident artist for San Francisco Performances, and resident artistic director for SFJAZZ.