



I AM CERTAIN THAT AFTER THE DUST OF CENTURIES  
HAS PASSED OVER OUR CITIES,  
WE, TOO, WILL BE REMEMBERED NOT FOR VICTORIES OR DEFEATS  
IN BATTLE OR IN POLITICS,  
BUT FOR OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE HUMAN SPIRIT.

John F. Kennedy

Welcome

Opera, ballet, movies, drama, musical theater, chamber music, symphony orchestras, recitals, readings. On any given night, the five major theaters of the Kennedy Center stage several of these cultural events before thousands of admiring patrons. Only a few in the audiences, however, may know they are witnessing the fulfillment of a dream that George Washington had more than 200 years ago when he proposed that a national cultural center be located in the capital city. In 1958 that dream became reality when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill authorizing the establishment of the center.

In succeeding years, \$34.5 million in private contributions and gifts from foreign governments and \$23 million in federal funds were raised to pay for the building. Construction began in 1966, and on September 8, 1971, the center was opened.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is unique: a presidential memorial partially maintained by the Federal Government and a nonprofit performing arts center supported by ticket sales and private donations. The National Park Service provides the center's security and maintenance sup-

port, while the center's Board of Trustees is wholly responsible for directing the performing arts activities and for maintaining the theaters and the backstage and office facilities. Thirty members of the board of trustees are appointed by the President; 15 are ex officio members.

Mandated by Congress to present and produce the finest performing arts from this country and abroad, the Kennedy Center has fulfilled the dreams of citizens and public leaders alike and has contributed to the cultural enrichment of the Nation.

When Congress named the center for John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated November 22, 1963, it stated that it be a "living memorial." Just what is a living memorial? Since the day the Kennedy Center opened its doors in 1971, performances of every imaginable kind have enlivened the Center's halls—and millions of people's lives. The dynamism and buoyance of these performances reflect the lively spirit and sparkle that President John F. Kennedy brought to the Nation's Capital and to the Nation.

## The Center's Theaters and Halls



Eisenhower Theater



Opera House

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts contains four major theaters, a movie theater, and a theater lab. The theaters are known for their excellent acoustics.

### Eisenhower Theater

The world's greatest actors, playwrights, and theatrical companies put their talents to work in the Eisenhower Theater. The paneling is of East Indian laurel, and the red and black wool curtain is a gift from Canada. Seating: 1,100.

### Opera House

Ballet, opera, and musical theater are performed in the Opera House by outstanding companies from around the Nation and around the world. Japan gave the red and gold curtain, and Austria, the star-burst chandelier. Seating: 2,300.

### Grand Foyer

The foyer is one of the largest rooms in the world, measuring 630 by 40 feet. The focal point is a bronze bust of President Kennedy sculpted by Robert Berks.

### Concert Hall

Home of the National Symphony Orchestra, the Concert Hall also welcomes visiting artists and orchestras from all over the world each year. The gold and white decor is highlighted by crystal chandeliers given by Norway. The Filene Memorial Organ is the gift of Mrs. Jouett Shouse. Seating: 2,750.

### Hall of States

The flags of the individual states hang here in the order they entered the Union. Territorial flags hang here, too. The Friends of the Kennedy Center has an information center and a gift shop near the entrance. Tickets are available in



Grand Foyer



Concert Hall

advance for performances in all halls from the box office here. The Opera House and Eisenhower Theater are served from this box office one hour before curtain time. The American Film Institute Theater box office is also located here.

### Hall of Nations

The flags of nations recognized diplomatically by the United States hang in alphabetical order. The box office here serves the Concert Hall one hour before concert time. This hall also contains another gift shop operated by the Friends of the Kennedy Center.

### Terrace Theater

The Terrace Theater, the newest of the center's theaters, was a Bicentennial gift from Japan. It is used for chamber recitals and intimate theater, dance, and opera productions. Seating: 500.

### Theater Lab

The Theater Lab provides space for presentations ranging from cabaret-style theater to the children's programs of the Kennedy Center Education Department. Seating: 200. A box office on the roof level serves the Terrace Theater and the Theater Lab one hour before curtain time.

### Performing Arts Library

The library is a joint project of the Library of Congress and the Kennedy Center. It offers information and reference assistance on dance, theater, opera, music, film, and broadcasting. It serves the needs of the public, artists, and the staff at the center. Computer terminals link it to the Library of Congress.

### American Film Institute

Classic and contemporary films are shown daily in the American Film Institute Theater.

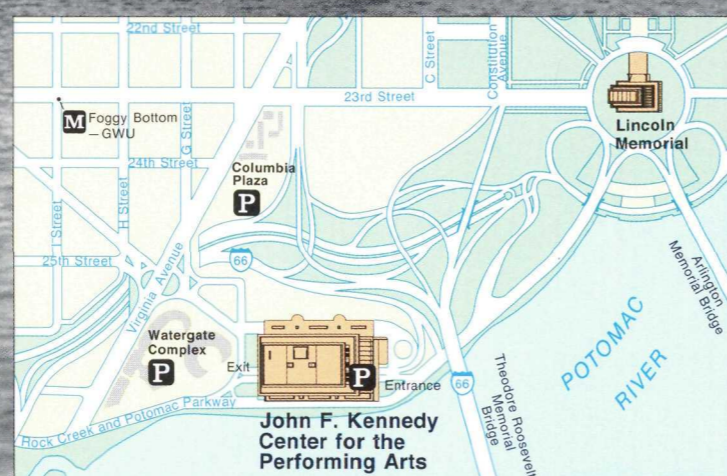


## Motor Lobby

The starting point for free tours of the Kennedy Center is in the Motor Lobby, which is located between the Hall of States and the Hall of Nations beneath the Opera House. The lobby can be easily reached by motorists from the parking levels below and by pedestrians entering the center from the street. The tours are offered daily by the Friends of the Kennedy Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A film introduction to the center is shown here continuously.

## Friends of the Kennedy Center

The Friends is a nationwide membership and volunteer organization founded in 1966. It fosters public participation in the arts, provides financial assistance to the center, helps to implement the public service programs, and coordinates membership and fundraising events. The Friends administer the *Specialty Priced Tickets* program—half-priced tickets for senior citizens, students, disabled persons, enlisted military personnel E1 through E4, and others with fixed low incomes. 202-254-3774.



## Facilities and Services

**Getting There:** If you come by car use the map at left. Note that Rock Creek Parkway has restrictions on weekdays: one-way southbound 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. and one-way northbound 3:45 to 6:30 p.m. A metro station is at 23rd and I Streets, NW; it can be reached by Metrobus or on foot.

**Box Office:** The box offices are open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday; noon to 9 p.m. Sundays and holidays. Ticket buyers may receive 30 minutes of

free parking before 6 p.m. by requesting parking validation at the box office. Tickets for Concert Hall performances may be picked up at the Hall of Nations box office. Tickets for Opera House and Eisenhower Theater performances may be picked up at the Hall of States box office. Terrace Theater tickets may be picked up one hour before curtain time at the Terrace Theater box office. For groups, benefits, or dinner-luncheon theater arrangements, call 202-634-7201 or 800-424-8504.

**Instant Charge:** Most tickets can be charged by telephone. American Express, Carte Blanche, Diner's Club, MasterCard, and Visa are accepted. Call 202-857-0900, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. These sales are final. Customers must show their credit card at the box office if they pick up their tickets.

**Access:** To make arrangements for wheelchairs, call 202-254-3774 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. If you need garage parking assistance for the disabled, call 202-659-9620.

**Check Rooms:** Hall of Nations and Hall of States check rooms close 15 minutes after the end of the last performance.

**Lost and Found:** Call 202-254-3676.

**Restrooms:** On all seating and parking levels and on the Roof Terrace.

**Restaurants:** Curtain Call Cafe, Encore Cafeteria, Hors d'Oeuvrierie, and Roof Terrace Restaurant. Reservations available for Roof Terrace Restaurant, 202-833-8870.