



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.

Welcome

Opera, ballet, film, drama, musical theater, chamber music, symphony orchestras, recitals, workshops, and master classes. On any given night the six 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 for its construction, which began in 1966. On September 8, 1971, the center opened with Leonard Bernstein's *Mass*.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is unique: a presidential memorial operating under the auspices of the National Park Service, and a national center for the performing arts directed by a board of trustees. Its 30 citizen mem-

bers are appointed by the President. Fifteen ex officio members, including six members of Congress, also serve on the board. The National Park Service provides security and maintenance. The center's board of trustees directs the performing arts programming, which is sustained principally by ticket sales and private contributions.

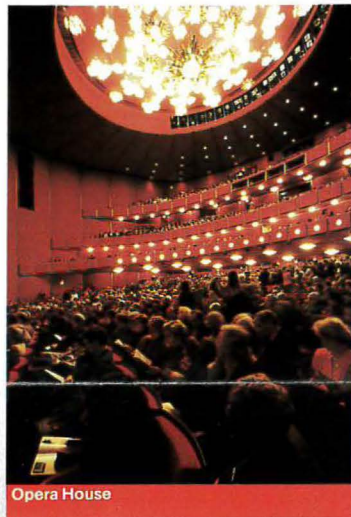
Mandated by Congress to present and produce the finest performing arts from this country and abroad, the Kennedy Center has fulfilled the dreams of citizens and public leaders alike and has con-

tributed 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 commitment to the arts 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 film 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 in this hall.



Grand Foyer



Concert Hall

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

Hall of Nations

The flags of nations recognized diplomatically by the United States hang in alphabetical order. The ticket office here serves the Concert Hall one hour before concert time. A second Friends gift shop is located here.

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

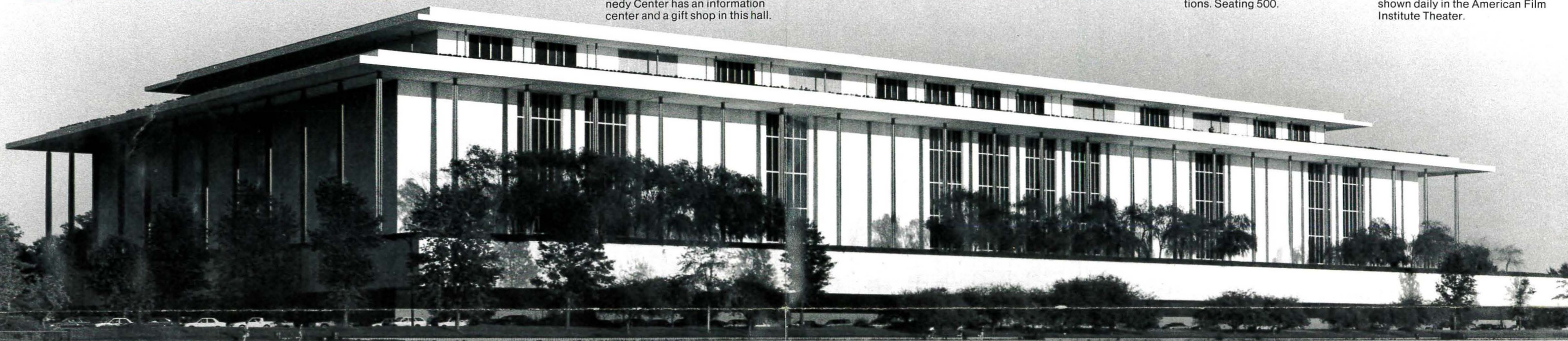
The Theater Lab provides space for presentations ranging from cabaret-style theater to the children's programs of the Kennedy Center Education Department. Seating: 200. A ticket office on the roof level serves the Terrace Theater and the Theater Lab one hour before curtain time.

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.

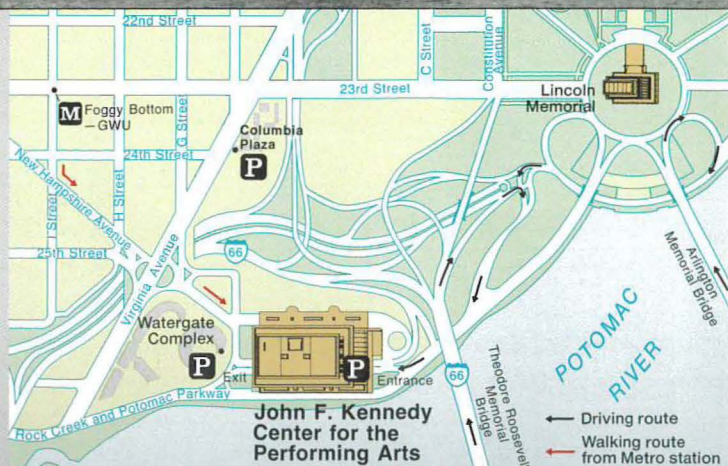


Motor Lobby

The starting point for free tours of the Kennedy Center is in the Motor Lobby #A, 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 *Specially Priced Tickets* program—half-priced tickets for senior citizens, students, disabled persons, enlisted military personnel E1 through E4, and others with fixed low incomes. 202-416-8340 or TDD 202-416-8526.



Facilities and Services

Getting There: Note that on weekdays Rock Creek Parkway is one-way southbound, 6:30 to 9:30 a.m., and one-way northbound, 3:45 to 6:30 p.m. The Foggy Bottom/GWU metro station is at 23rd and I Streets, NW. Portions of the Kennedy Center parking garage are under repair between July 1990 and July 1993. Auxiliary parking is available at the Watergate and Columbia Plaza. Shuttle buses run between Columbia Plaza and the center for scheduled performances.

Tickets: The ticket 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 1 hour of free parking before 6 p.m. by requesting parking validation at the ticket office. Tickets for Concert Hall performances may be picked up at the Concert Hall ticket office. Tickets for Opera House and Eisenhower Theater performances may be picked up at the main ticket office in the Hall of States. Terrace Theater tickets may be picked up one hour before curtain time at the Terrace Theater ticket office. For groups, benefits, or dinner-luncheon theater arrangements, call 202-416-8400 or 800-444-1324.

Instant-Charge: Most tickets can be charged by telephone. American Express, MasterCard, and Visa are accepted. Call 202-467-4600, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. These sales are final. Customers must show their credit card at the ticket office if they pick up their tickets.

Access: To reserve wheelchairs, call 202-416-8340 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For parking assistance for the disabled, call 202-416-7980.

Coat Rooms: Hall of Nations and Hall of States coat rooms close 15 minutes after the end of the last performance.

Lost and Found: Call 202-416-7900.

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

Restaurants: Encore Suite, Encore Café, Hors d'Oeuvrierie, and Roof Terrace Restaurant. Reservations available for Roof Terrace Restaurant, 202-416-8555.

National Park Service information for the hearing-impaired: TDD 202-416-7920.