



HISTORY IN HARMONY

Nestled in the center of the Old North State, Winston-Salem's music scene sings of African-American, Appalachian, and Moravian influences. From the introduction of chamber music to America in the mid-18th Century, to the founding of the country's first arts council in 1949, Winston-Salem has been known to break musical barriers while preserving our historic roots. Music legends of all genres have called Winston-Salem "home," including Rock & Roll Hall of Famers, **5 Royales**, "Queen of Gospel" **Shirley Caesar**, and area native and fiddler **Tommy Jarrell**.

Today our performance venues and entertaining festivals are just as varied as our history is long. At the heart of it all is a vibrant, walkable downtown, home to more than 100 locally-owned restaurants, craft breweries, nightlife options, and performance venues from small and intimate, to grand and rambunctious.

Some of the earliest sounds to permeate our slice of the South emanated from **Old Salem Museums & Gardens**. A 1766 historic settlement, Old Salem shares the history of our founding Moravians, including their faith-based musical traditions such as the Salem Band – the oldest mixed brass and wind band in the country – and the grand original organs built by David Tannenburg, the first organ builder trained in America.

Only minutes from Old Salem, music lovers flock to the recently opened **RamKat**, located in the Downtown Arts District inside the former Ziggy's, one of the first major concert venues in the state, helping launch the careers of greats including the Dave Matthews Band and Hootie and the Blowfish. RamKat presents a weekly mix of genres from bluegrass and pop, to jazz and hip-hop.

From contemporary to classic, the **Winston-Salem Symphony**, **Piedmont Opera**, and the **Winston-Salem Wind Symphony** each pull out all the stops with numerous annual headlining productions performed in some of Winston-Salem's most historic settings, including the University of North Carolina School of the Arts' (UNCSA) Stevens Center located in the heart of downtown.

Presenting more than 200 student concerts, recitals and operas annually is UNCSA, which helps to establish the rhythm for Winston-Salem's rich music culture and nurtures local talent through their highly-revered music programming at the high school and collegiate level. Each



year, audiences are treated to recitals by celebrated guest artists like the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Sphinx Virtuosi, Sir Richard Galway and the Marine Corps Jazz Orchestra.

The 17th biennial **National Black Theatre Festival** (NBTF) rolls out the purple carpet August 2 - 8, 2021 in Winston-Salem. NBTF is a stellar example of what happens when music and drama marry to create critically-acclaimed theatrical performances that draw thousands to Winston-Salem every other summer. Founded with the support of the late Winston-Salem resident Dr. Maya Angelou, NBTF continues to host Broadway veterans and create pathways for up-and-coming talent. Music is a recurring theme during Winston-Salem's annual Academy Award-qualifying **RiverRun International Film Festival** held each April. Recent music-themed films have included *Score: A Film Music Documentary*, *Sammy Davis, Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me*, and *Itzhak*.

Winston-Salem, North Carolina's city of arts and innovation, has set a stage filled with an incredible variety of musical talents that will have you coming back for more. Celebrate the sounds of our city on your next journey.