



THE KIMMEL CENTER  
ACADEMY OF MUSIC  
MERRIAM THEATER



**Tweet it!**

@KimmelCenter and @July4thPhilly celebrate Independence Day w/ brand new “Kimmel Center Great American Party on the Plaza”, FREE on 7/2. Feat. #Broadway performances, #Hamiltunes, US Navy Cruisers Band, family-fun, and more!

Press Contact:

Lauren Woodard

215-790-5835

[lwoodard@kimmelcenter.org](mailto:lwoodard@kimmelcenter.org)

**KIMMEL CENTER ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH WAWA WELCOME AMERICA FOR TWO GREAT EVENTS, INCLUDING  
*KIMMEL CENTER GREAT AMERICAN PARTY ON THE PLAZA*,  
PART OF FREE INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVITIES  
JULY 2, 2019, 5:00 – 7:30 PM**

**Kimmel Center also proudly announces its supporting partnership of  
*Wawa Welcome America’s Gospel on Independence on June 30*  
featuring Philadelphia Men’s Fellowship Choir, 100 voices from across the city**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** (Philadelphia, PA, May 16, 2019) — The Kimmel Center Cultural Campus, in association with Wawa Welcome America, announces *Kimmel Center Great American Party on the Plaza*, a FREE concert taking place on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. It’s the third, consecutive year of the Kimmel Center’s participation in Wawa Welcome America.

Enjoy free performances in the Kimmel Center’s Commonwealth Plaza direct from the 2019/20 season. This FREE event will feature festival-style activities along Spruce Street and live performances, including casts direct from Broadway – representing *Dear Evan Hansen* and *Mean Girls* – jazz performers, and the U.S. Navy Band Cruisers, all under the 156,000 square foot glass ceiling, giving an outside festival vibe in air-conditioned comfort. The Kimmel Center’s ShowStoppers education program will take the stage to lead *Hamiltunes*, a sing-along inspired by and covering selections from the highly-anticipated *Hamilton* musical. The evening includes family-friendly activities like face painting & balloon art; themed beverages and concessions will be available for purchase and “picnic-

style” games will be available for FREE, along with activations from area arts organizations and a ton of swag & exclusive giveaways.

On Sunday, June 30 at 7:00 p.m., the Kimmel Center is a supporting partner of the Wawa Welcome America *Gospel on Independence* performance. Join the powerful, 100-voice choir as they collaborate with the “Philadelphia Men’s Fellowship Choir” in front of Independence Hall for an unforgettable gospel performance, debuting an inspiring performance by “The Sisterly Love Choir”.

“Our *Kimmel Center Great American Party on the Plaza* showcases the breadth of accessible programming we offer all season long, while highlighting a slice of our wonderful education programming. We are delighted to welcome our Philadelphia neighbors into our home to celebrate independence and our rich history together,” said Anne Ewers, President & CEO of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. “And what a thrill to be a partner for two of the Wawa Welcome America festivities this year: the brand-new family-friendly *Party on the Plaza* and the *Gospel on Independence* performance.”

For more information on this FREE event, please visit [www.kimmelcenter.org](http://www.kimmelcenter.org).

### **KIMMEL CENTER GREAT AMERICAN PARTY ON THE PLAZA**

#### **Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts**

*July 2, 2018, 5:00 p.m.– 7:30 p.m.*

FREE

#### **Tickets**

This is a FREE event. Tickets are not required to attend.

#### **About Welcome America, Inc.**

Welcome America, Inc. is a 501c3, non-profit organization engaged in a public-private partnership with the City of Philadelphia. Welcome America, Inc.’s goal is to promote American history, education, and the City of Philadelphia as global tourist destination. Each year, Welcome America, Inc. produces Wawa Welcome America, a multi-day festival featuring art, culture, community engagement and entertainment - it is the nation's premier Independence Day celebration! Welcome America was founded in 1993, and celebrates its 27th festival in 2019.

Wawa Welcome America is presented by Title Partner, Wawa, Inc. and presenting Broadband Communications Partner Comcast NBCUniversal with NBC10 and Telemundo62 as the local broadcast partners. With additional support by the City of Philadelphia, Live Nation, CHASE, Independence Blue Cross and Visit Philadelphia.

For more information, visit [www.welcomeamerica.com](http://www.welcomeamerica.com).

#### **Garces**

Garces is a Philadelphia-based hospitality group specializing in personal dining experiences rooted in the rich cultural traditions and culinary vision of renowned Latin-American chef Jose Garces. Taking a heartfelt and creative approach to time-honored recipes and dishes, Garces, in partnership with New Orleans- based Ballard Brands, operates numerous restaurants including Amada, Distrito, Tinto, Village Whiskey, JG Domestic, Volvér, The Olde Bar, Buena Onda, Ortzi at the LUMA Hotel Times Square, Okatshe, Olon and Bar Olon at Tropicana Atlantic City and Amada and Distrito Cantina in the Ocean Resort Casino. The group also operates Garces Events, a full-service catering and event division; the Garces Foundation, a philanthropic organization dedicated to

Philadelphia's underserved immigrant community; and Luna Farm, Chef Garces' 40-acre farm in Bucks County, PA. For more information, visit [GarcesGroup.com](http://GarcesGroup.com) and follow them on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

### **The Kimmel Center Cultural Campus**

Located in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia, our mission is to engage the region's diverse communities with art through performance and education. Our Cultural Campus serves more than 1 million guests per year and includes the **Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts**, the **Academy of Music**, and the **Merriam Theater**-representing more than 160 years of rich history for the performing arts along Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts. We are home to eight esteemed Resident Companies: **The Philadelphia Orchestra**, **Opera Philadelphia**, **Pennsylvania Ballet**, **The Philly POPS**, **PHILADANCO**, **The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia**, **The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society**, and **Curtis Institute of Music**. With nearly 9,000 seats per night, we are the region's most impactful performing arts center, and the second largest in the country. Our Cultural Campus serves as a preeminent and inclusive place to enjoy exceptional experiences that reflect the spirit of our region by cultivating a creative and socially-responsible environment where our community shares experiences that are delivered with pride, integrity, and respect. As a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization, we collaborate on, present, and produce a broad range of relevant and meaningful events, we serve as an active gathering space for social and community events, we educate the region's young people through access to quality arts experiences, and we provide support to artists in the creation of new work. TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is our proud sponsor of the Kimmel Center's 2018-2019 Season. American Airlines is the official airline of Broadway Philadelphia. For additional information, visit [www.kimmelcenter.org](http://www.kimmelcenter.org).

###

For photography, please visit [www.kcpres.smugmug.com](http://www.kcpres.smugmug.com)

[www.facebook.com/WawaWelcomeAmerica](http://www.facebook.com/WawaWelcomeAmerica)

[www.twitter.com/July4thPhilly](http://www.twitter.com/July4thPhilly)

[www.instagram.com/July4thPhilly](http://www.instagram.com/July4thPhilly)