

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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**Hermitage Artist Retreat Presents**

**November Programs**

**On the Beach at Sunset:**

**“Viola Works from J.S. Bach to Philip Glass”**

**Performed by ETHEL Violist and Artistic Director Ralph Farris**

**Friday, November 15, 5 p.m.**

**Fridays @ Five**

**“Smart in Medicine, A New Era” with Alexa Miller**

**Friday, November 22, 5 p.m.**

(Sarasota County) The Hermitage’s November programs include “Viola Works from J.S. Bach to Philip Glass,” performed by ETHEL violist and artistic director, Ralph Farris. The program, part of the “On the Beach at Sunset” series, is Friday, November 15, 5 p.m., on the beach at the Hermitage. “Smart in Medicine, A New Era” with Alexa Miller, part of the Fridays @ 5 series, is Friday, November 22, 5 p.m., in the Palm House at the Hermitage. Audience members are welcome to bring blankets and chairs for the beach event. In case of rain, the event will be moved inside. To secure indoor seating in case of inclement weather, reservations for both programs are required and can be requested at www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org*. For more information about the Hermitage, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.*

A Grammy Award-nominated graduate of The Juilliard School, three-time Tanglewood Fellow, and Young Arts Master Teacher, **Ralph Farris** is the founding violist and artistic director of the genre-bending string quartet ETHEL. The group is the resident ensemble at The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Balcony Bar, where Farris programs the weekly “ETHEL and Friends” concerts. ETHEL is also ensemble-in-residence at Denison University. Farris is also a 2019-20 resident artist at the Las Vegas’s Rogers Art Loft, where he is founding Co-Lab, the Conference on Artistic Collaboration. He is currently building a solo show, “Walls of Water,” after the words and writings of political prisoners held on island detention centers through history. Farris, who has said that his favorite place to compose is at the Hermitage, will perform a solo sunset concert featuring works from J.S. Bach to Philip Glass.

**Alexa Miller** creates experiential learning opportunities that enable leaders, practitioners, and teachers in healthcare to be more effective and mindful in uncertainty. A leading voice for observation and inquiry practices in medicine, and for their cultivation in arts experiences, Miller is an original co-creator of Harvard Medical School’s Training the Eye: Improving the Art of Physical Diagnosis, a course that produced researched outcomes on the impact of arts experiences on medical student learning. A kid who was always drawing, a trained visual artist and arts educator, and an avid reader of the learning sciences, Miller has been teaching medical learners and studying observation and critical thinking processes since 2003. In this event, Miller will explore what it means to be smart in healthcare. She identifies an aspect of smartness deeply intertwined with the arts and creative processes.

Executive director Bruce Rodgers explains that these cultural gatherings exist to give the community the rare opportunity to interact with celebrated authors, poets, artists, composers and performers from around the world. “Artists who are invited to be at the Hermitage are asked to give free programs for the community during their stay with us.” He adds that, in addition to programs at the Hermitage, many artists also participate in free outreach programs at area schools, colleges, and in collaboration with regional cultural organizations.

All programs are subject to change. Please check the Hermitage website or Facebook page for updated program status. The Hermitage Artist Retreat is located at 6630 Manasota Key Road in Englewood. For more information about these free community programs or the Hermitage, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

**About the Hermitage Artist Retreat:**

The Hermitage is a nonprofit artist retreat located in Englewood, Sarasota County, Florida. It invites accomplished artists in all disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its artists, who are asked to interact with the community, touch thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors with unique and inspiring programs. Hermitage fellows have included Pulitzer, Tony, Emmy, Grammy and MacArthur Fellowship award winners. The Hermitage awards the $30,000 Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, and the Aspen Music Festival awards the annual Hermitage Prize in Composition. For more information about The Hermitage Artist Retreat, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

**The Hermitage is supported by:**

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