

Programs in the Hennage Auditorium at the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg

As we re-open the Hennage Auditorium for public programs, please note that seating will be limited due to social distancing requirements in indoor venues. Doors will open 45 minutes before showtime to allow guests to be seated without gathering in the auditorium lobby. Guests will be seated on a first come/first served basis with 6 ft. of distance between groups. Masks will be required of ALL (other than young children – under 10) guests attending Hennage Auditorium programs. Programs will consist of 30 minutes of program material and 15 minutes for question and answer with guests remaining in their seats. At the conclusion of the program, ushers will direct guests when to exit to maintain social distancing between groups. Unfortunately, photographs with the performers cannot be accommodated at this time. ALL auditorium touch points will be cleaned between programs.

NATION BUILDERS at 1:30

Doctrine of Representation – Monday, July 27 and Tuesday, August 18 at 1:30 pm

Virginia, 1778: Women have never had the franchise, but will that change under a new government? Meet Hannah Corbin & her brother Richard Henry Lee as they explore the future of voting rights & the meaning of representation. (45 minutes)

Teach them Diligently – Tuesdays, July 28, August 4, 11, 25, September 1 and Wednesday, August 19 at 1:30 pm

Journey with Ann Wager, a lifelong teacher in Colonial Virginia, as she experiences what it takes to run the Williamsburg Bray School — the first official Virginia school for African Americans. Uncover how running this school changes — or doesn't change — Ann's understanding of slavery, education, and religion in Colonial Virginia. (45 minutes)

Succordia's Prayer – Wednesdays, July 29, August 5, 12, 26, September 2 and Thursday, August 20 at 1:30 pm

As she mourns the passing of her beloved, Succordia, an enslaved woman in the twilight of her life, tells us her story of love and faith that transcends her enslaved status. Through story and song she relives the best and worst times of her life ultimately realizing her worth isn't the one determined by slave-owners, but by knowing who she is and who she really belongs to. (45 minutes)

Lafayette and the French Revolution – Thursdays, July 30, August 6, 13, 27, Sept. 3 and Monday, August 17 at 1:30 pm

The Marquis de Lafayette is well known for his participation in the American Revolution, but he also played a major role in the French Revolution. Come learn about the causes of the French Revolution, the part Lafayette played in it and how a Revolution that began in America transformed as it crossed the Atlantic from a man who was part of both. (45 minutes)

My Dear Madam – Fridays, July 31, August 14, 21, 28, September 4 and Monday, August 3 at 1:30 pm

After eight years by the side of the first President of the United States, Martha Washington is asked for advice by Abigail Adams. Witness Martha's reflection on her own life in the public eye and how her unlikely friendship with her successor, Mrs. Adams, has shaped their shared role as a President's lady. (45 minutes)

The Confessions of William Byrd – Saturdays, August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and September 5 at 1:30 pm

It is early August, 1776, and Colonel William Byrd, one of the most powerful men in Virginia, has suddenly abandoned his once fervent allegiance to the King, and embraced the American Revolution. He has now traveled to Philadelphia to stand before the Continental Congress to seek a Commission in General Washington's Army. Has Colonel Byrd truly embraced the cause of Liberty? Or does his conversion stem from more sinister motives? (45 minutes)

Doctrine of Representation – Sunday, August 2 and Mondays, August 10, 24, 31 and September 7 at 1:30 pm

Virginia, 1778: Women have never had the franchise, but will that change under a new government? Meet Hannah Corbin & her brother Richard Henry Lee as they explore the future of voting rights & the meaning of representation. (45 minutes)

Jefferson and Jupiter: Across the Board – Friday, August 7 and Sundays, August 9, 16, 23, 30 and Sept. 6 at 1:30 pm

Over a game of chess Thomas Jefferson and his manservant, Jupiter, challenge and amuse each other. Are all men created equal? In this depiction of a private moment in the life of a very public figure, chess becomes a metaphor for the power dynamics present in the master/slave relationship. (45 minutes)

TRADES at 5

Visit with the Apothecary – Mondays, July 27, August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and September 7 at 5 pm

Discover how much, and how little, medicine has changed since the time of George Washington. (45 minutes)

Visit with the Printers – Tuesdays, July 28, August 4, 11, 18, 25 and September 1 at 5 pm

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Discover the letterpress trade and how it spread the news in the age before the Internet. (45 minutes)

Visit with Fife & Drum – Wednesdays, July 29, August 5, 12, 19, 26 and September 2 at 5 pm

Get some insight into the world of Colonial Williamsburg's Fife & Drum Corps. Limited capacity due to social distancing. (45 minutes)

The Bird Fancier's Delight – Thursdays, July 30, August 13 and 27 at 5 pm

Learn about the connection between wild birds and the music written by composers in the 18th century and how this figured into the cultural life of Williamsburg. (45 minutes)

Visit with Foodways – Fridays, July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept. 4 & Sundays, August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6 at 5 pm

Join our Historic Foodways staff as they explore cuisines of the 18th century. (45 minutes)

How to Play the (18th-Century) Violin - Saturdays, August 1, 15 and 29 at 5 pm

The violin was played by all classes and in all settings in Colonial Williamsburg. But as anyone who has tried knows, playing the violin is easier said than done! Come hear how this most ubiquitous of musical instruments was played in 18th-century Virginia. (45 minutes)

Meet a Spinet – Thursdays, August 6, 20 and September 3 at 5 pm

Get to know how a spinet works, the tools and materials of the builders, the people who made and bought them, and best of all, hear its music.

Is that a cello? Or a viol? – Saturdays, August 8, 22 and September 5 at 5 pm

Similar-looking, but from two different families, the cello and the viol coexisted for centuries side-by-side - cousins locked in a bitter popularity contest that only one could win. Explore the history, construction, and repertoire of these two bowed stringed instruments, and hear them both in action! Capacity limited due to social distancing. (45 minutes)