

Big Ears Recommendations

Friday, March 23

- **JASON MORAN presents FATS WALLER DANCE PARTY! - Mill & Mine - 12 midnight (come on! it's Friday night!!!!)** Jason Moran is a fabulous jazz pianist - one of jazz's brightest stars - but he's also something of a renaissance man with a broad spectrum of activities and interests, including Artistic Director for Jazz at the Kennedy Center in DC. He'll perform three different programs during Big Ears – with his trio, a world premiere collaboration with legendary master drummer Milford Graves, and this spectacular evening of fun, celebrating the legacy of the fabulous Fats “Ain't Misbehavin'” Waller. This will be quite the rollicking party! And I love those Fats Waller masks!!! ([Here's a side stage cell phone video](#) with bad sound (and) [something more “official.”](#))
- **SUSANNA with GIOVANNA PESSI, FRODE HALTLI, CHEYENNE MIZE and special guest BONNIE “PRINCE” BILLY: “Go Dig My Grave” - Bijou Theatre – 10 p.m.** Norwegian singer Susanna Wallumrod has a stunningly beautiful voice and her creative reimagining of classic music of all kinds - along with her own original songs - has always captivated me. But, as special as all her work is, her collaboration with Swiss harpist Giovanna Pessi - first on a 2014 recording of Leonard Cohen, Nick Drake, and Henry Purcell tunes somehow configured as medieval chamber music - was special. Their second collaboration has just been released - “Go Dig My Grave” - which revisits American and British traditional folk tunes - and it is stunning. As noted above, they will be joined by very special guests in this concert at the Bijou. Susanna also will play solo the night before. [This is from the old record.](#)
- **BÉLA FLECK with BROOKLYN RIDER - Church Street United Methodist Church – 7 p.m.** Generally regarded as the most accomplished and adventurous banjo player in the world, Béla Fleck continues to push the instrument he loves into new areas. He's now written at least two concerts for banjo and orchestra, commissioned by the Nashville Symphony, but I especially enjoy this collaboration with amazing string quartet, Brooklyn Rider, which started a few years back and continues to grow. It'll be especially wonderful in the setting provided by Church Street. Béla - and Brooklyn Rider - also have other performances during the weekend as well. Plus, Brooklyn Rider's Johnny Gandelmann will perform all of JS Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin at St John's Cathedral on Saturday evening. (Here's a [link](#) Capps included with his email.)