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**BLACK VIOLIN CONTINUES ON THEIR
“THE BLACK VIOLIN EXPERIENCE TOUR”**

**STOPPING AT THE LEXINGTON OPERA HOUSE ON
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023**

**TICKETS ON SALE AT 10AM, FRIDAY, 6/23 AT:
lexingtonoperahouse.com**

Collaboration with Blind Boys of Alabama “[The Message](#)” Nominated for Best Americana Performance at the 65th GRAMMY Awards



Photo Credit: Mark Clennon ([Download High Res](#))

LEXINGTON, KY (June 20, 2023) -This fall, the classical-meets-hip-hop duo **Black Violin** will continue on “[The Black Violin Experience Tour](#)” across the US, stopping at the historic Lexington Opera House on Wednesday, October 11, 2023. The tour follows their recent **GRAMMY nomination** for “[The Message](#),” a collaboration with **Blind Boys of Alabama**, marking the duo’s second GRAMMY nomination after their 2019 album [Take The Stairs](#) was

nominated for **Best Contemporary Instrumental Album**. In the past few years, Black Violin has been interviewed by [PBS Newshour](#), [Morning Edition](#), [1A](#), [MSNBC](#), [Here & Now](#), [CBS This Morning](#), [CNN](#), [KTLA](#) and many more.

For nearly two decades, Black Violin has been merging string arrangements with modern beats and vocals and building bridges in communities along the way. Members Kev Marcus and Wil Baptiste first met in orchestra class at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale, becoming classically trained on the violin and viola through their high school and college careers. Post-college, they reconvened to produce beats for South Florida rappers, and began building an audience in local clubs. They later went on to win *Showtime at the Apollo* in 2005, and eventually sold out headline performances at venues across the country, including a sold out two-night headline run at The Kennedy Center in 2018. NPR took note and declared “their music will keep classical music alive for the next generation.”

Black Violin plays roughly 200 shows a year; many of which are performances for young, low-income students in urban communities. In the last year alone, the group has played for over 100,000 students with the goal of challenging stereotypes and preconceived notions of what a “classical musician” looks and sounds like. “The stereotypes are always there, embedded so deep in our culture,” says Wil. “Just by nature of our existence we challenge those ideas. It’s a unique thing that brings people together who aren’t usually in the same room, and in the current climate, it’s good to bring people together.”

In 2019, the group launched the [Black Violin Foundation Inc.](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering youth by providing access to quality music programs in their community. BVF believes that music and access to music programs should not be determined by race, gender, or socio-economic status. Black Violin Foundation’s inaugural program The Musical Innovation Grant for Continuing Education will provide scholarships to young music students to attend a program of their liking that fosters musical creativity and innovation

Tour Dates:

08.31.23 — Alexandria, VA — The Birchmere Music Hall
09.03.23 — Virginia Beach, VA — TBA
10.08.23 — Durham, NC — Durham Performing Arts Center
10.10.23 — Nashville, TN — Schermerhorn Symphony Center w/Nashville Symphony
10.11.23 — Lexington, KY — Lexington Opera House
10.12.23 — Asheville, NC — TBA
10.13.23 — LaGrange, GA — Sweetland Amphitheater at Boyd Park
10.14.23 — Chattanooga, TN — Walker Theatre
10.15.23 — Birmingham, AL — Lyric Theatre (2 Shows)
10.17.23 — Kalamazoo, MI — Miller Auditorium
10.19.23 — Memphis, TN — Soundstage at Graceland
10.20.23 — Peoria, IL — Peoria Civic Center
10.22.23 — Waukegan, IL — Genesee Theatre
10.23.23 — Indianapolis, IN — Clowes Memorial Hall
10.24.23 — Dayton, OH — Mead Theatre at Schuster Center

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For More Information Please Contact
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About Central Bank Center

Located in Lexington, Kentucky, the Lexington Center Corporation (LCC) is a not-for-profit 501c3 corporate agency of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government. It was established in 1974 to manage and maintain Rupp Arena at Central Bank Center, the Central Bank Center (formerly Lexington Convention Center), Triangle Park, and the Lexington Opera House. One of the nation's most storied entertainment destinations, Central Bank Center venues collectively welcome an average of 1.3 million patrons annually

Since 1976, **Rupp Arena at Central Bank Center** has served as the home court of the University of Kentucky men's basketball team, regularly leading the national attendance average. Rupp Arena has hosted legendary artists such as Justin Timberlake, Paul McCartney, Garth Brooks, Chris Stapleton, and many more. Since 2018, Oak View Group and Live Nation Arenas have provided booking services to Rupp Arena. During the last 18 months, Rupp Arena has broken all previous audience attendance and revenue records in its storied 43-year history.

The Lexington Opera House, built in 1886 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is one of the premier performing arts centers in the region. Since its opening, the Opera House has played host to such famous stage performers as W.C. Fields, The Marx Brothers, Al Jolson, Julie Harris, Steve Martin, Brian Wilson, and Graham Nash. It has undergone two major renovations and remains a cultural destination in downtown Lexington

The Central Bank Center holds over 200 meetings, trade shows, and special events annually. It just completed a transformative \$310 million expansion, featuring a dramatic, light-filled architectural design that offers over 200,000 SF of flexible meeting and event space. For more, visit www.centralbankcenter.com or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

About OVG360:

OVG360, a division of Oak View Group, is a full-service venue management and hospitality company that helps client-partners reimagine the sports, live entertainment, and convention industries for the betterment of the venue, employees, artists, athletes, and surrounding communities. With a portfolio of more than 240 client-partners spanning arenas, stadiums, convention centers, performing arts centers, cultural institutions, and state fairs around the globe, OVG360 provides a set of services, resources and expertise designed to elevate every aspect of business that matters to venue operators. Service-oriented and driven by social responsibility, OVG360 helps facilities drive value through excellence and innovation in food services, booking and content development, sustainable operations, public health and public safety and more.