

## MUSIC, HISTORY, AND WELLNESS CONVERGE AT DRIEHAUS MUSEUM THIS SUMMER WITH PUBLIC PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES



CHICAGO (May 21, 2026) – This summer, the **Driehaus Museum** welcomes visitors to experience music, discover history, and prioritize wellness with a vibrant lineup of programs across the Museum. Highlights of summer programming include a free community day of Gilded Age crafts, treats, and amusements in celebration of the Museum’s 18th birthday (June 20); the launch of a new wellness series inspired by *Brendan Fernandes: In the Round*; the continuation of the Museum’s popular Third Wednesday music series; and thoughtfully curated programs inspired by its exhibition *Ink & Outrage: 18<sup>th</sup> -Century Satirical Prints in London & Dublin*. Centrally located in downtown Chicago, just steps off the Magnificent Mile, this summer at the Driehaus Museum also features timely programs in celebration of America’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday including a localized lecture on the history of the hot dog and a concert presented in partnership with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Registration links and more information are available online at [driehausmuseum.org](https://driehausmuseum.org).

### PUBLIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

#### **Brick of Chicago Walking Tour**

Wednesday, May 27, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, 2026, 6:00-7:15pm

\$35 | Student: \$18

The built environment of Chicago features a dozen variety of bricks and even more brick designs. The Nickerson Mansion was built with two types of brick: Cream City, so-called because of the light color that results from the type of clay deposits used, and Chicago Common brick. As the name suggests, it is widespread throughout the City and was made from clay from the Chicago River. There are many fine examples of brick buildings in the area around the Driehaus Museum, and architectural expert Will Quam will take participants on a tour through some of the highlights, including the Medinah Temple and the Allerton Hotel. Rain or shine; does not include museum admission.

#### **Walking Chicago’s Alleys**

Saturdays, May 30, June 27, July 25, August 29, September 26, 2026, 11:00am-12:30pm

\$35 | Student: \$18

While plenty can be learned by walking Chicago's streets, a whole hidden history can be seen in its alleys. Discover how Chicago became the alleyway capital of the country, dig into the history of urban trash, and see Chicago architecture from a new perspective on this alleyway walking tour. This tour with curator and historian Madeline Crispell will trace a route through the Gold Coast and end at Washington Square Park, covering everything from how activists like Jane Addams worked to clean up the alleyways to how a new generation of green alleys can help the city adapt to a changing climate.

### **Shaping the City: Civic Leadership in Gilded Age Chicago**

Saturday, June 6, 2026, 3:00-4:00pm

Free

In participation with the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, this panel of museum leaders will highlight the civic-minded men and women who, in the years after the Great Fire of 1871, helped shape modern Chicago. From collecting and preserving artworks and rare books to contributing to the city's architectural development to supporting immigrant communities and lobbying for greater public services, these Gilded Age Chicagoans laid the foundation for today's vibrant landscape of civic organizations, arts clubs, libraries, and museums.

### **Third Wednesday: playOUT! Chicago presents Spilling the Tea**

Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 6:00-7:00pm

Free

The Driehaus Museum presents free music in the Murphy Auditorium every third Wednesday of the month, when the Museum is open late. playOUT! is a Chicago-based non-profit organization amplifying queer voices in classical music. Their vibrant chamber music experience, Spilling the Tea, celebrates the intersection of LGBTQ+ Pride and Black musical traditions, both honored in June. This program brings these parallel celebrations into an artistic dialogue, centering the work of Black queer composers who are shaping a new classical canon. Featuring contemporary string quartet works by Damien Geter and Shelley Washington alongside a newly crafted medley of beloved anthems from both traditions, Spilling the Tea explores themes of identity, protest, spiritual grounding, visibility, and joy.

### **Celebrate the Driehaus Museum's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday**

Saturday, June 20, 2026, 11:00am-5:00pm

Free

The Driehaus Museum invites visitors to celebrate its 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as an institution and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction of its 1926 Murphy Memorial Auditorium. Travel back in time to enjoy this free day filled with family-friendly treats and amusements, craft-making inspired by the Gilded Age, voting (the Museum is 18 now, after all!) on the object you'd most like to see in the Museum, having early access to new Driehaus Museum merchandise and entering to win special treats.

### **Driehaus Museum x CSO: The United States at 250**

Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 6:30-8:00pm

\$50 | Student \$25 | Includes museum admission during regular hours

As part of the ongoing partnership between the Driehaus Museum and Chicago Symphony Orchestra, musicians Matous Michal (violin), Gabriela Lara (violin), Danny Lai (viola), Olivia Huh (cello) will present an ensemble performance celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, featuring patriotic works such as Barber "Adagio" from String Quartet in B Minor, Op. 11; Price Five Folksongs in Counterpoint; Johnston String Quartet No 4, *The Ascent (Amazing Grace)*; and Dvořák String Quartet No. 12 in F Major, Op. 96, *(American)*.

### **Hot Dog: An American Icon**

Tuesday, June 30, 2026, 6:00-8:00pm

\$25 | Student: \$15 | Includes complimentary hot dog

Renowned food historian Bruce Kraig, author of *Hot Dog: A Global History* and founding president of the Culinary Historians of Chicago, leads a lively conversation with acclaimed Big Jones chef Paul Fehribach (Midwest Food) about one of America's most iconic, and contested, street foods: the hot dog. From char-grilled classics to regional oddities, Kraig traces the story of the hot dog, from ancient sausage-making traditions to its current place as a cultural staple. Explore how brands like Vienna Beef, Sabrett, Hebrew National, and Pearl have defined tastes across the country, and delve into the rich tapestry of regional styles, from New York's mustard-and-sauerkraut carts to Chicago's fully loaded masterpieces. This flavorful program uncovers international influences, historical myths (did Queen Elizabeth II really eat a hot dog at the White House?), and the role of World's Fairs in hot dog lore.

### ***Ink and Outrage - Songs and Satire***

Thursday, July 9, 2026, 6:00-8:00pm

\$35 | Student: \$18

Part concert, part lecture, *Songs and Satire* will reveal shared interests between caricaturists, writers, and composers in 18<sup>th</sup>-century London and Dublin. Art historian Jeff Nigro will delve into how the imagery in *Ink & Outrage: 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Satirical Prints in London & Dublin* functions in its historical context. Soprano Josefien Stoppelenburg and pianist Stephen Alltop will offer musical perspectives with a variety of whimsical and reflective songs, and the favorite of the Georgian parlor, *The Battle of Prague* by František Koczwara.

### **Tarot Through the Elements: A Guided Reflection and Sound Experience**

Saturday, July 11, 2026, 9:30-11:00am

\$35 | Student: \$20

Designed in response to the themes of *Brendan Fernandes: In the Round* and the atmosphere of the Murphy Auditorium, *Tarot Through the Elements: A Guided Reflection and Sound Experience* will include a guided tarot workshop (The Rhythm of Tarot | Dana Faletto) exploring how the four suits of the tarot mirror movement through life; a reflective meditation designed to transition the group from observation and conversation into a more immersive sensory experience; and an elemental sound.

### **Third Wednesday: Music in Motion from Ireland to Chicago**

Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 6:00-7:00pm

Free

The Driehaus Museum presents free music in the Murphy Auditorium every third Wednesday of the month, when the Museum is open late. Inspired by *Ink & Outrage: 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Satirical Prints in London & Dublin*, this program features the interplay of the Irish harp and the accordion, two instruments shaped by sharply different cultural associations: one elevated as the emblem of the Irish nation, and the other often cast as excessive, comic, or even unruly. Answering the exaggerated forms of Irish caricature in sound, master musicians Marta Cook and Jimmy Keane animate and transform the tensions that the exhibition's prints seek to manage.

### **Guided Meditation with CHILL**

Saturday, August 1, 2026, 9:30-10:30am

\$35 | Student: \$20

Visit the Driehaus Museum for a guided meditation and mindfulness experience led by CHILL's Lead Instructor, Darrell Jones. Through intentional awareness of sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch — combined with guided meditation — guests will explore how the senses shape emotion, presence, and our connection to art, ourselves, and one another. This immersive, meditation experience invites participants to engage with and reflect on artist Brendan Fernandes' site specific installation at the Driehaus Museum.

### **Guided Meditation with CHILL**

Tuesday, August 4, 2026, 5:30-6:30 pm

\$35 | Student: \$20

Visit the Driehaus Museum for a guided meditation and mindfulness experience led by CHILL's Lead Instructor, Darrell Jones. Through intentional awareness of sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch — combined with guided meditation — guests will explore how the senses shape emotion, presence, and our connection to art, ourselves, and one another. This immersive, meditation experience invites participants to engage with and reflect on artist Brendan Fernandes' site specific installation at the Driehaus Museum.

### **Exploring Satire with *The Onion* and *The New Yorker***

Thursday, August 6, 2026, 6:00-7:00pm

\$30

Step into the sharp, subversive world of satire, past and present, in this panel inspired by the Driehaus Museum's exhibition *Ink & Outrage: 18th-Century Satirical Prints in London & Dublin*. Using the exhibition as a springboard, writers and contributors from *The Onion* (Head Writer Mike Gillis, Staff Writer Rob Knoll) and *The New Yorker* (Caricaturist Tom Bachtell) will bring the conversation into the present day, exploring how satire is crafted, circulated, and received in today's fast-moving media landscape. Panelists will reflect on how their own practices echo (or diverge from) historical traditions, focusing on the enduring mechanics of satire, its targets, its techniques, and its cultural impact. Moderated by Colin Barr of the University of Notre Dame, whose scholarship bridges Irish and English history, the conversation offers audiences a unique opportunity to connect the incisive humor of the 18th century with the satirical voices shaping public discourse today. Sponsorship support for this program is provided by Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame and Pat O'Brien.

### **Third Wednesday: Bach's Cello Suites**

Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 6:00-7:00pm

Free

The Driehaus Museum presents free music in the Murphy Auditorium every third Wednesday of the month, when the Museum is open late. Bach's Third and Fourth Cello Suites are among the most beloved works ever written for solo cello—music that is both deeply expressive and brilliantly crafted. Performed on baroque cello with gut strings, these suites take on a distinctive warmth, clarity, and immediacy that bring listeners closer to the sound Bach himself would have known. From the joyful energy of the Third Suite to the expansive richness of the Fourth, this program highlights the remarkable range and emotional depth of Bach's writing in an intimate historically informed performance.

### **Mad Fashions, Stylish Eccentrics & Those Who Satirized Them**

Thursday, August 27, 2026, 6:00-7:00pm

\$20

For some 300 years, cartoonists have cast their satirical lens on fashion, capturing trends at their most absurd. In this visually immersive lecture inspired by *Ink & Outrage: 18th-Century Satirical Prints in London & Dublin*, Alex Aubry, Director of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's Fashion Resource Center, explores the role of satire as a visual record of social mores, tastes, and opinions on fashionable dress. While using humor to ridicule vanity, excess, and

eccentricity, the most talented satirists were also keen observers of society. For those who followed them, satirical cartoons also ignited larger conversation around gender roles, class, and morality in a rapidly changing world.

### **EXHIBITION ON VIEW THIS SUMMER**

#### ***Ink & Outrage: 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Satirical Prints in London & Dublin***

Through September 13, 2026

*Ink & Outrage: 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Satirical Prints in London & Dublin* explores the devastating wit and graphic brilliance displayed by English caricature artists such as James Gillray (1765-1815) and Thomas Rowlandson (1757-1827) to lampoon the government, society, and culture in Georgian London. The exhibition places original prints in dialogue with plagiarized works by caricature artists in Ireland, evoking conversations about piracy, originality, and reproduction that have become more relevant than ever in the Information Age. In the context of the Nickerson Mansion, the exhibition presents Georgian satirical prints as a vital precursor to the art, architecture, and ideas that later shaped US societies. The works reflect the visual and political culture of an influential period in Britain and Ireland that went on to inform American taste and civic life.

### **ABOUT THE DRIEHAUS MUSEUM**

The Driehaus Museum engages and inspires the global community through exploration and ongoing conversations in art, architecture, and design of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Its permanent collection and temporary exhibitions are presented in an immersive experience within the restored 1883 Nickerson Mansion, and the 1926 Murphy Auditorium. The Museum's collection reflects and is inspired by the collecting interests, vision, and focus of its founder, the late Richard H. Driehaus. For more information, visit [driehausmuseum.org](http://driehausmuseum.org) and connect with the Museum on [Facebook](#), [TikTok](#), and [Instagram](#).

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