



#6

MUSIC

PATORANKING

FILLMORE SILVER SPRING

April 10

A mix of hard-driving beats and lyrics about “the ladies” were Nigerian dancehall artist Patoranking’s signature—until his daughter was born. His latest album, *Wilmer*, is named for her, and the title track, about his love for his daughter, is more likely to cause a post-show baby boomlet than even his sexiest offerings. Try not to catch baby fever (unless you want to, of course) when he hits the stage. fillmoresilverpring.com.

#7

MUSIC

THE JOGO PROJECT

KENNEDY CENTER

April 18

Saxophonist Elijah Jamal Balbed played with Chuck Brown during the last year of his life, and this ensemble aims to continue and expand on the blend of jazz and go-go that Brown often explored. If you’re envisioning a sedate, toe-tapping kind of experience, think again: This group will get you on your feet. kennedy-center.org.

#8

COMEDY

FORTUNE FEIMSTER

LINCOLN THEATRE

April 18

In her Netflix special, *Sweet & Salty*, the Southern comic hilariously riffs on the stories of her sexual awakening, from celebrating her 18th birthday at Hooters—which she calls “the gay Salem witch trials”—to the Lifetime movie that prompted her coming-out. Expect lots of self-deprecating humor mixed with moments of sincerity. thelincolndc.com.

#9

“FERNS OF DUMBARTON”

WRITER’S CENTER

April 2–May 23

Artist and environmental lawyer Sophia McCrocklin was on a winter hike through Rock Creek Park several years ago when she spotted ferns growing near a fallen tree. Intrigued, she went home and started sculpting the prehistoric plants. McCrocklin, the Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy’s first artist in residence, will show these large-scale works at Bethesda’s Writer’s Center (writer.org). We asked about a few of her favorite sculptures, pictured below.

RATTLESNAKE FERN

The plants look simple, but replicating them takes effort. McCrocklin uses sewn layers of Dacron boat sails, acrylic paint, and colored pencil. “They each have their own challenges,” she says. “Some, it’s more in terms of engineering, and others require tedious things, like cutting with tiny scissors.” This one features special beads to mimic its spores.



SENSITIVE FERN

This plant’s rhizome, or root system, is rendered in painstaking detail, dirt and all. That level of realism is typical of the artist’s work. “These aren’t botanical illustrations used for scientific understanding of the plants, but if you look at them, you can take out a field guide and say, ‘This is a New York fern, this is a tassel fern.’ All the identifying characteristics are there.”



TASSEL FERN

These actually aren’t native to this area. McCrocklin got one by mistake while trying to buy a different fern—one she did see in the park—at her local nursery. “I keep it as part of the series because that happens all the time: People think they’re planting one and get something else.”



PHOTOGRAPH OF PATORANKING BY JONATHAN MANNION; FERNS COURTESY OF SOPHIA MCCROCKLIN; BANK/GETTY; SNEAKER BY GREG STALEY