

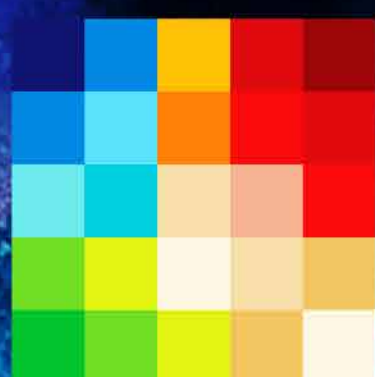
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JAZZ

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FESTIVAL AT MAYMONT

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# WELCOME TO THE 2023 RICHMOND JAZZ AND MUSIC FESTIVAL!



We're back! And we're very excited to bring you the East Coast's premier music festival once again – presented in the beautiful outdoor setting at Maymont.

This year, we have two stages and two full days of great music, phenomenal performances and engaging experiences. The Richmond Jazz and Music Festival is known as the River City's venue for the best of an eclectic mix of jazz, funk, R&B, and hip-hop – and our line-up of musical talent more than measures up.

We'd like to thank our patrons and music lovers in advance for your support. And deep thanks to our presenting sponsor, Altria, who has helped bring this amazing event to life year after year.

Thank you as well to our stage sponsors, Dominion Energy and Virginia Is for Lovers, who have also been with us since our inaugural festival in 2010.

We're very thankful for the generosity of our corporate sponsors: Altria, Dominion Energy, Virginia Tourism Corporation, and Richmond Region Tourism. We're also thankful for our media partners: Urban One and NBC12.

In gratitude for the overwhelming support the community provides, we'd like to give back by donating a portion of the weekend's proceeds to the Blue Stone Education Foundation and the Maymont Foundation.

Here's to another great Richmond Jazz and Music Festival. Thanks for joining us!

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In the case of high winds / severe storms / lightning, you will be notified if an evacuation of the Maymont grounds is imminent via the festival PA system and the large video screens on the stages.

We ask that all guests leave the grounds in an orderly fashion, using the Main Gate and the Upper Hampton Street Gate. Please familiarize yourself with these exit points upon your arrival at Maymont. During an evacuation, GRTC shuttles will be available to transport you back to your vehicle. Do NOT seek shelter on the grounds of Maymont.





# CHAKA KHAN





# CHAKA KHAN

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Chaka Khan is a pop-culture icon. The 10-time Grammy® Award-winning superstar has defined pop, soul, jazz, and funk music with her distinctive voice and style. For Chaka, her empowering anthem “I’m Every Woman” is more than a song; it’s a way of life.

For five decades, Chaka has been making a profound impact in the lives of millions of people around the world. Prince, Whitney Houston, Erykah Badu, and Lizzo are just a few of the superstars who have referred to Chaka as a major influence in their music. No less than the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin, proclaimed Chaka as a “one-of-a-kind, premier vocalist.”

Growing up in Chicago, Chaka learned to trust her instincts and follow her dreams. She credits her father with giving her “the best advice. ‘Stay humble.’ I live with that.”

Early on, she caught the attention of music icon Stevie Wonder, who composed “Tell Me Something Good,” her first hit single with the band Rufus. The song became a Top 5 hit on *Billboard’s* Hot 100 chart and brought Chaka her first Grammy Award. The band would go on to become one of the biggest acts of the 1970s and early ’80s, electrifying the audiences and critics attending their sold-out shows.

As a solo artist, Chaka continued to deliver hit after hit. But it was Chaka’s rendition of Prince’s “I Feel for You” that launched her into the stratosphere. Chaka also lent her voice to two of the biggest Grammy-winning



hits of 1986, Steve Winwood's "Higher Love" and Robert Palmer's "Addicted to Love."

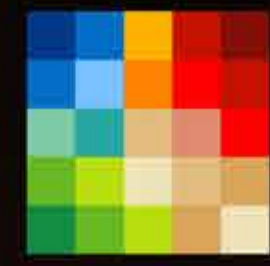
Additional collaborators have included George Benson, Mary J. Blige, Dizzy Gillespie, Quincy Jones, Stevie Wonder, and Miles Davis – who said of Chaka, "She sings like my horn."

In 1995, Chaka made her theater debut in London's esteemed West End, starring in *Mama, I Want to Sing*. In 2002, she headlined the critically acclaimed musical *Signed, Sealed, Delivered*, based on the music of Stevie Wonder. Chaka then wowed Broadway in 2008 in the leading role of Sophia in Oprah Winfrey's Tony-nominated *The Color Purple*.

Chaka has received many accolades for her career achievements. But she's also used her incredible energy and talent in service to others. Chaka's deep commitment to humanity led her to establish the Chaka Khan Foundation, which for almost 25 years has implemented initiatives to empower and bring awareness to women and children at risk, particularly children with autism. Her leadership has been acknowledged by the McDonald's 365Black Awards, given to outstanding individuals making positive contributions that strengthen the community.

Chaka Khan is a maverick. A trailblazer. A survivor. Dedicated to inspiring others, creating art, and sharing her radiant spirit with the world. "Every personal experience of my life impacts my music and my art," Chaka says. "You've just got to follow your own path. You have to trust your heart."





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Cultural institutions make our world more fascinating, inviting and should allow its residents to access cultural experiences and expressions that are relevant to them.

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Festival.





WALE





## WALE

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Wale is an American rapper, singer, and songwriter. His first recorded track, “Rhyme of the Century,” was his first song to be played on the local radio in his hometown of Washington, D.C.

In 2006, he was featured in the “Unsigned Hype” column of *The Source* magazine, and later signed to a local label, Studio 43. His track “Dig Dug (Shake It)” – a tribute to Ronald “Dig Dug” Dixon, who was a percussion player for the band Northeast Groovers – became popular in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

“Dig Dug (Shake It)” became the most requested song by a local artist in Washington D.C. radio history, with Wale becoming the first local artist to earn Broadcast Data Systems tracking data since D.C.’s DJ Kool in the early 1990s. Wale’s song was included in his first mixtape, *Paint a Picture*.

In 2006, Wale met English DJ-producer Mark Ronson and joined his label, Allido Records in 2007, releasing several mixtapes and appearing in national media, including MTV and various Black American-focused magazines. His song “Ridin’ in That Black Joint” was featured in the 2008 soundtrack of the popular video game *Saints Row 2*.

In 2008, a three-label bidding war resulted in Wale signing with Interscope Records. His 2009 debut album, *Attention Deficit*, included “Chillin” featuring Lady Gaga, “Pretty Girls” featuring Gucci Mane, and “World Tour” featuring Jazmine Sullivan.



In early 2011, Wale signed with Florida rapper Rick Ross' Maybach Music Group, where members of the label released a compilation album, *Self Made Vol. 1*. His second album, *Ambition*, was released in 2011 and his third album, *The Gifted*, was released in 2013, debuting at Number 1 on the *Billboard* 200. His second *Billboard* Number 1 album, *The Album About Nothing*, was released in 2015.



In 2018, Wale released three EPs – *It's Complicated*, *Self-Promotion* and *Free Lunch*. In 2019, Wale released *Wow... That's Crazy*, with the album's lead single "On Chill" featuring Jeremih. The song spent 23 weeks on the *Billboard* Hot 100, peaking at Number 22. In 2021, Wale followed up his 2012 mixtape *Folarin* with *Folarin II*. In 2022, Wale appeared in the film *Ambulance*, directed by Michael Bay.



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# DAVE KOZ & FRIENDS

SUMMER HORNS 2023 WITH CANDY DULFER AND ERIC DARIUS





## DAVE KOZ & FRIENDS SUMMER HORNS 2023

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Dave Koz first picked up a saxophone at age 13 – so he could join his older brother’s band. According to Dave: “I saw how much fun they had, so I said, ‘That’s for me.’ Except I didn’t play an instrument. My brother told me the only way I would get in the band was if I played the sax.”

In a career that spans nearly three decades, Dave has racked up an impressive array of honors and achievements, including nine Grammy<sup>®</sup> nominations and 11 No. 1 albums on *Billboard’s* Current Contemporary Jazz Albums chart. He’s performed on numerous world tours, and 13 sold-out Dave Koz & Friends At Sea cruises.

“I feel very blessed that somehow me blowing through this metal tube, this plumbing, has struck a chord with people. My favorite thing is turning new people on to it.”

Dave has played for multiple U.S. presidents and appeared on a multitude of television shows, including *Good Morning America*, *The View*, *The Tonight Show*, *Entertainment Tonight* and more. In 2009, he earned a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, performing his Grammy-nominated rendition of “Over the Rainbow” at the ceremony.

A platinum-selling artist, Dave hosts a weekday radio show that’s nationally distributed on the Smooth Jazz Radio Network. He also shares stories and music on a Sunday radio show, *The Dave Koz Lounge*, available exclusively on SiriusXM.



Known as a humanitarian, Dave is an ambassador for the Starlight Children's Foundation, whose mission is to brighten the lives of sick children around the globe who are facing life-threatening. Dave has been "waving the Starlight flag" for more than 30 years because "I've seen the smiles ... on these kids' faces, even for just a few moments, when they're allowed to forget where they are and be a kid again."

## CANDY DULFER

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It's hard to believe more than 30 years have passed since Dutch saxophonist Candy Dulfer rose to fame through high-profile collaborations with Dave Stewart (the worldwide smash hit "Lily Was Here") and the legendary Prince, whose tongue-in-cheek recommendation ("When I want sax, I call Candy") in the *Partyman* video made the world sit up and take notice – and landed Candy a spot on Prince's record-shattering *Musicology* album and tour.

Candy has worked with some of the biggest names in music, including Van Morrison, Maceo Parker, Sheila E., Mavis Staples, Lionel Richie, Beyoncé, Pink Floyd, Chaka Khan, Aretha Franklin, and many others. But her focus has been on her solo career.

Candy's first solo album, *Saxuality*, earned her a Grammy® Award nomination, with combined world-wide sales topping 2.5 million copies. Candy has also had several No. 1 hits in the U.S.

She still manages to join Dutch female supergroup the Ladies of Soul for their annual sold-out concerts, and is a headline performer on Jazz Cruises in the U.S. and Europe.



# ERIC DARIUS

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Eric has been making music for as long as he can remember, deriving his Caribbean influences from his Haitian bass-playing father and Jamaican singer/pianist mother.

To date, he has eight acclaimed albums has racked up five No.1 Hit Singles and 17 Top 10 Radio Hits on *Billboard's* Contemporary Jazz Chart. He was the *Smooth Jazz News Magazine* Debut Artist of the Year in 2004 and SESAC's Top 10 Jazz Artist of the Year in 2015. In 2017, Eric received the first-annual Citril Starz Best Jazz, Saxophonist, Composer, Producer & Musician of the Year Award.

Eric has appeared on Fox's *The X-Factor* and TNT's *Mob City* and has shared the stage with such acclaimed artists as Prince, Mary J. Blige, David Foster, Carlos Santana, Jamie Foxx, Babyface, George Benson, Marcus Miller, Wyclef Jean, Lalah Hathaway, and many others.

In addition to music, Eric has formed a national campaign, On a Mission in the Schools, saying, "I want to expose the younger generation to jazz by making music that's accessible to all generations, all age demographics, and all walks of life."



# LEDISI





# LEDISI

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When powerful women in entertainment are discussed, Ledisi is part of the conversation. Her name means “to bring forth” in Yoruba, and Ledisi is doing exactly that.

Ledisi was born in New Orleans, where she sang at the age of eight with the New Orleans Symphony Orchestra and spent many hours watching her mother perform with a local R&B band. After the family moved to Oakland, CA, Ledisi followed her mother’s lead, singing in a band before pursuing her solo path.

Wowing audiences with unparalleled vocals, Ledisi is a favorite performer of an iconic list of fans – including the Obamas, Patti LaBelle, Smokey Robinson, Stevie Wonder, Chaka Khan and many more. She has headlined two nationally sold-out tours, and performed with Dave Matthews, Kelly Clarkson, Vince Gill, Maxwell and jazz greats Herbie Hancock and Patti Austin.

A 2021 Grammy® winner, Ledisi’s career has spanned almost two decades. Since arriving on the scene in the late 1990’s, she’s garnered three Soul Train Music awards, an NAACP Theater Award and six NAACP Image Award nominations. Most recently, Ledisi received two LA Alliance Ovation Award nominations, one for Best Featured Actress in a Musical.

No stranger to film or television, Ledisi sang in her first feature film in 2008, *Leatherheads*. In 2015 she portrayed Mahalia Jackson in the Oscar® nominated movie, *Selma* and had a notable performance in Gabourey Sidibe’s film, *The Tale Of Four*. In her first major television role, Ledisi played Patti LaBelle in the



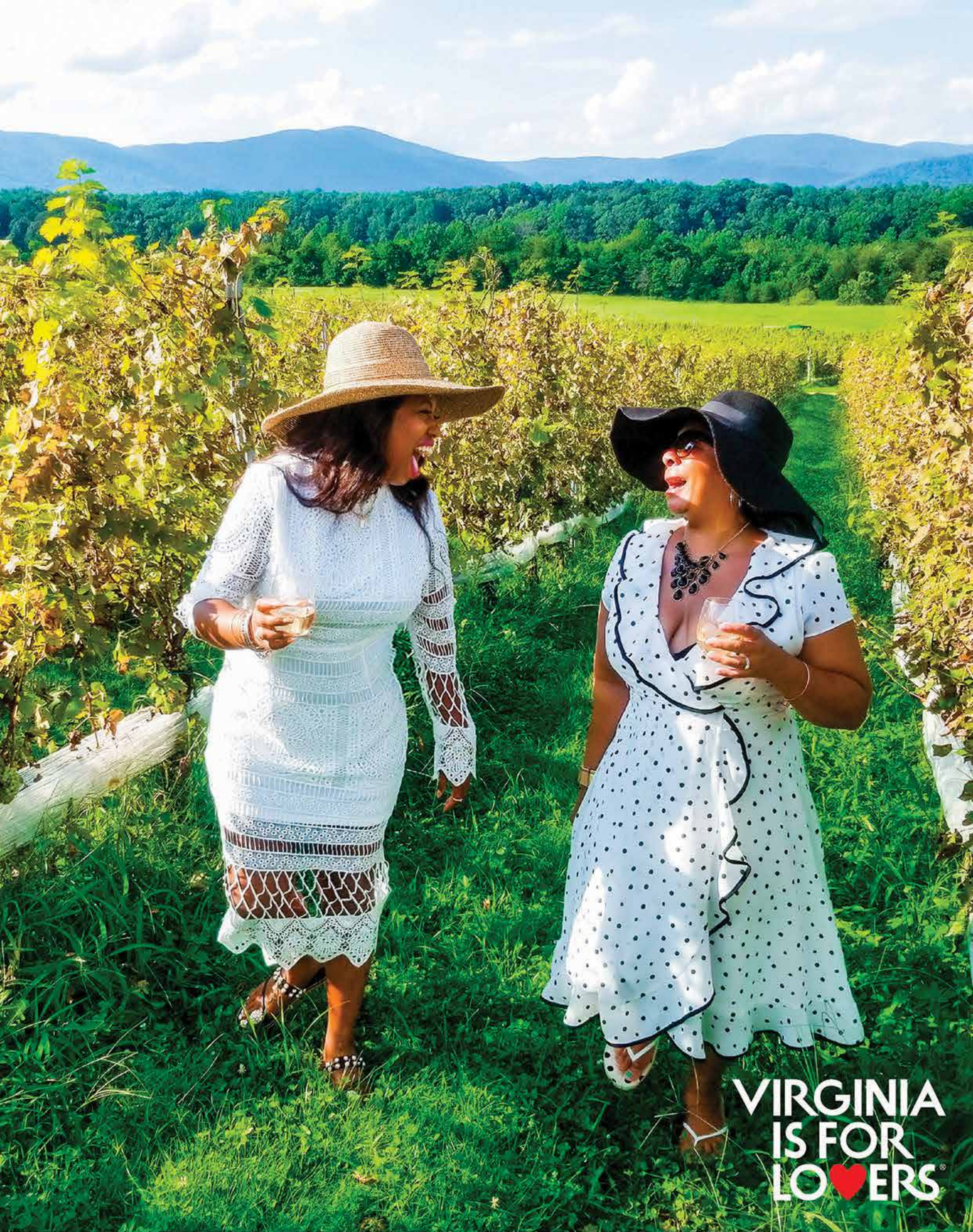
hit BET series *American Soul*.

Ledisi has been active in the theater, debuting on Broadway in Tony Kushner’s *Caroline or Change* as an understudy; workshopping the Tony® Award winning musical *The Color Purple*; playing The Ancestor in the acclaimed *Witness Uganda*, and receiving the LA Alliance Ovation Award nomination for that role in 2019. Also in 2019, she co-wrote and co-produced her one-woman show, *The Legend of Little Girl Blue*, which premiered to rave reviews and 19 sold-out shows.



As a singer/songwriter, music and film producer, author, playwright, and record-label CEO, Ledisi passionately advocates for the arts, lobbying for young musicians and protecting the rights of creatives. In her own words, “I am finally realizing my limitless potential as a creative and as a businesswoman.”





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# ROBERT GLASPER





## ROBERT GLASPER

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With a career bridging musical and artistic genres, Robert Glasper is the leader of a new sonic paradigm.

Evolution is his hallmark. In 2012, Robert's breakout crossover album *Black Radio* changed the face of the genre, setting a new bar for what popular music could be. *Black Radio* won the Grammy® for best R&B album, establishing him as the musician of choice for some of the world's most iconic artists – notably playing keys throughout Kendrick Lamar's *To Pimp A Butterfly* and winning another Grammy for the elastic track "These Walls."

The ongoing *Black Radio* series has since become Robert's calling card, occupying a place at the heart of a trailblazing community that includes long-time sonic brothers Mos Def and Bilal to legends including Ledisi, Lupe Fiasco, Kanye West, Jill Scott, and Erykah Badu.

To date, Robert has won the Grammy five times, with 12 nominations across 11 categories; an Emmy® Award, with Common and Karriem Riggins, for his song in Ava Duvernay's critically hailed documentary *13th*; and a Peabody Award for his composition of *Mr. Soul!* His work and accolades span all aspects of the music industry, from live touring to film scoring, composing, and producing.

Robert's eternal pursuit of furthering his sound has been a consistent theme in challenging and transforming his creative horizons, resulting in an array of successes. In 2022, he released *Black Radio III* and *Black Radio III Supreme Edition* featuring



Jennifer Hudson, Killer Mike, and the late Mac Miller, and co-founded the first Blue Note Napa Valley Jazz Festival, where he served as Artistic Director. He also created the original scores for *Run The World Season 2* and *The Best Man* television series.

With boundless innovation and an elite technique as his signature, it's no surprise that an avalanche of accolades, awards, and achievements are attached to Robert Glasper's name. Robert is an artist at the heart of a moment – and movement – to champion Black music, Black people, and the possibility of a better future.





# COCO JONES





## COCO JONES

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Raised in Nashville, Tennessee, by a mother who was a singer, and a father who played in the NFL, Coco Jones learned ambition early on. “My dad lived his dream his whole life,” she says. “That was the upbringing that we had: ‘Whatever you’re passionate about, as long as you work for it, we’ll support you.’”

Coco began recording music at the age of nine, with her mom helping Coco record demos that they burned onto CDs. “Auditions, talent shows, cattle calls...” Jones jokes, “I’d be out there handing out these little albums that my momma made on her computer.”

Coco found her way into acting through song – first as a recurring guest on Disney’s musical sketch comedy, *So Random!*, and, in 2012, as the love interest in the TV movie *Let It Shine*. Coco has flexed her range across adventure romps, dramas, holiday fare, and comedy horror (Netflix’s *Vampires vs. the Bronx*). But singing has remained close to her heart and acting may have something to do with that.

“I like to tell stories in my songs,” Coco says. “Acting helps me tap into what somebody else is feeling. Even if that specific thing didn’t happen to me, I can sing like it did because my actor mind puts me right there.”

Her 2018 single “Just My Luck,” was a clapback against the entertainment industry: “*Does my confidence offend you?*” she wonders. The video has amassed millions of views on YouTube. Newer songs like “Love Is War” brim with vulnerability and intensity as she sings about the challenges of a fractured



relationship: *“I know you’ve got scars, I’ve got ‘em too.”*

For Coco, it’s not about success so much as connection. She wants to use her voice as an instrument for change, a tool for growth on a personal level, and a means to inspire growth in her fans.

“I’ve learned that the more I open up to them, the more I discover that I’m heard and supported,” says Jones. “You can fit yourself into this song. My journey and your journey are the same. You get me; I get you.”





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# MARIO





# MARIO

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R&B artist Mario developed his talent early on, singing to a karaoke machine in his Baltimore home. At age 11, he was discovered in a local talent show and later traveled to New York City, where he was offered a record deal with Clive Davis' J Records when he was 14.

After recording "Tameeka" on the *Dr. Dolittle 2* soundtrack in 2001, Mario was primed for stardom. His first single, "Just a Friend 2002," rose to No. 3 on *Billboard's* R&B/Hip-Hop chart, peaking just one slot lower on the Hot 100. His self-titled 2002 album appeared on the Top Ten R&B/Hip-Hop and Pop list, followed two months later with a certified gold designation.

Mario's second album fared even better. *Turning Point* arrived in December 2004, powered by "Let Me Love You," which was the first No. 1 pop hit of 2005 and reigned through February. By the time the song was unseated, *Turning Point* had hit the Top Ten of the *Billboard* 200 and gone platinum. "Let Me Love You" was subsequently nominated for a Grammy® in the Best Male R&B Vocal Performance category, with *Turning Point* nominated for Best Contemporary R&B Album.

Mario landed an acting role in 2006 in the first installment of the *Step Up* franchise. In 2007, as he worked on his third album, MTV aired *I Won't Love You to Death: The Story of Mario and His Mom*, a documentary centering on his mother's struggle with heroin addiction. Mario established his Do Right Foundation in 2008, to educate and inspire children affected by the drug addictions of their parents.



In 2018, Mario released his first independent album, *Dancing Shadows*, followed by *Closer to Mars EP* in 2020, and a clutch of singles including the slow jams “Get Back” and “Used to Me” in 2021 and 2023 respectively.

In a 2022 interview celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his debut album, Mario said, “I look back and I’m proud of the man I’m becoming, because I’ve come a long way.” He went on to say, “The way I grew up, we didn’t know we could dream. Now, I dream awake and go after what I believe as an independent artist.”



# THE PEDRITO MARTINEZ GROUP





## THE PEDRITO MARTINEZ GROUP

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A master of Afro-Cuban folkloric music and the batá drum, Pedrito Martinez is also the world's first-call rumbero – playing, singing, and dancing with dozens of Cuban rumba groups.

Born and raised in the Havana neighborhood of Cayo Hueso, a traditional center of the African-derived rhythms known as rumba, Pedrito worked as a self-taught musician in his teens, performing with top ensembles in Havana. In 1998, he joined the touring band of Canadian jazz saxophonist Jane Bunnett, allowing him to leave Cuba.

Pedrito's decision to remain in North America proved auspicious when, two years later, the annual Thelonious Monk Institute Competition showcased Afro-Latin hand drumming for the first time. Pedrito entered and won first place.

He was a founding member of Yerba Buena, the highly successful band with which he recorded two albums and toured the world in the mid- to late-90s, opening for the Dave Matthews Band, Willie Nelson and Ray Charles.

Pedrito has recorded or performed with Wynton Marsalis, Paul Simon, Paquito D'Rivera, Chucho Valdez, Bruce Springsteen, Eddie Palmieri, Jackson Browne, Elton John, James Taylor and Sting, and has contributed to well over 100 albums. He was featured in *Calle 54*, the Cuban music documentary, and his talents were featured in the 2011 Academy Award-nominated *Chico and Rita*.



In 2005, he founded the Pedrito Martinez Group. The group's first studio album, *The Pedrito Martinez Group*, was nominated for a Grammy® and named one of *NPR's* Favorite Albums of 2013. It was also listed on *The Boston Globe* Critics Top Ten Albums of 2013.

*Habana Dreams*, the group's 2016 second album, was recorded largely in Cuba. In 2019, Pedrito and Cuban pianist Alfredo Rodriguez released a duo album, *Duologue*, to critical acclaim. Pedrito and Eric Clapton recorded a newly arranged version of Clapton's song, "My Father's Eyes," for Pedrito's *Acertijos (Riddles)*, which was released in 2021.

"I never went to music school in Cuba. To get in, you needed a connection, and I never had that kind of connection," he said in a *New York Times* interview. "At the same time, I'm happy with the way I learned things on the street, because you learn things you can't learn in school."





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# LALAH HATHAWAY





# LALAH HATHAWAY

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Lalah Hathaway is a five-time Grammy® Award-winning singer/songwriter and producer and a 10-time nominee. Undeniably music royalty and a 30-year music industry veteran, Lalah's music transcends genre – from R&B ballads to pop standards to soulful jazz. She has collaborated with today's top hit makers, including Pharrell Williams, Kendrick Lamar, Dr. Dre, Anderson .Paak, Robert Glasper, Rapsody, Snoop Dogg and Esperanza Spalding.

Recently awarded an honorary doctorate from Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, Lalah has also shared the stage with music legends, from Prince to Stevie Wonder to Herbie Hancock to Anita Baker. Lalah's song "Show Me Your Soul," from the hit documentary *Mr. Soul!* was featured on the shortlist for the 2021 Oscars® Best Original Song.

In December 2022, the video for Lalah's single "This Christmas" dropped. The song is a duet with her late father, Donny Hathaway, incorporating content from a previously unreleased version of his classic Christmas anthem.

*Legacy: Lalah Hathaway sings Donny Hathaway*, an orchestral tribute to her father's work – arranged and conducted by Vince Mendoza – debuted in New York in 2019 at the Lincoln Center's Out of Doors summer concert series with a sold-out show. It's Lalah's first-ever performance dedicated entirely to her father's repertoire. The show then toured Holland in 2021 with the Metropole Orkest. Australia and New Zealand got their turn to experience the show in October 2022,



where Lalah performed with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and New Zealand Symphony Orchestra respectively.

Lalah Hathaway’s long-awaited single, “The Energy,” was released in May 2023, her first original project since her Grammy-nominated album *Honestly* in 2018. Lalah says the new song “throws back to my childhood in Chicago, growing up in the summer and all that fun nostalgia.” Reviewers say it’s a wonderful, wistful nod to Lalah’s Windy City roots.



JOE





# JOE

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Joe is an accomplished R&B vocalist, whose gospel music roots helped him to produce as well as sing on his albums. The son of two preachers, Joe spent a lot of time in the church choir – singing, playing guitar, and directing. His early gospel influence expanded to include soul legends Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye, and contemporary stars Bobby Brown and Keith Sweat.

After graduating from high school in Opelika, Alabama, Joe traveled to New Jersey, where he met producer Vincent Herbert and recorded a three-song demo. He soon signed to Polygram and released his 1993 debut, *Everything*. Joe also appeared on the soundtrack to *Don't Be a Menace to South Central While You're Drinking Your Juice in the Hood*.

In 1997, Joe released his second album, *All That I Am*, which went platinum. The single “Don't Wanna Be a Player,” featured on the soundtrack of *Boozy Call*, hit the Top 40. At this time, Joe remixed a duet by Tina Turner and Barry White, “Never in Your Dreams”; produced and wrote for the debut albums of Ideal and Deja Groove; appeared on Mariah Carey's “Thank God, I Found You;” and recorded “I Wanna Know” for *The Wood* soundtrack.

Released as a single, “I Wanna Know” caught fire in early 2000, reaching the R&B Top Five and setting the stage for Joe's third album, the multi-platinum *My Name Is Joe*. His next five albums – from *Better Days* through *Signature* – reached the Top Ten of *Billboard's* R&B charts.



In 2016, Joe's twelfth album, *My Name is Joe Thomas*, became the eleventh to score in the top five on *Billboard's* Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart, while his single "So I Can Have You Back" became his fourth number-one hit on the Adult R&B Songs charts. In 2010, *Billboard* listed Joe at number 48 on the Top 50 R&B and Hip Hop Artists of the past 25 years.

An ASCAP Award recipient for his song "I Wanna Know," Joe is a seven-time Grammy® Award nominee and has been nominated for numerous other awards and accolades, including a BET Award, an NAACP Image Award, and four Soul Train Music Awards.



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# PETER WHITE





## PETER WHITE

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Over the years, Peter White has maintained a reputation as one of the most versatile and prolific acoustic guitarists on the contemporary jazz landscape. Armed with an unparalleled combination of lyricism and energy, he combines elements of jazz, pop and classical guitar to create a singular, accessible sound.

He learned his first chords on an acoustic guitar, then bought his first electric guitar in his early teens. By his late teens, Peter decided that music was his calling and scored his first professional gig at a holiday resort in England when he was 19.

After fifteen years as a backup musician and a session player, Peter launched his solo recording career with the 1990 release of *Reveillez-Vous*, which became a jazz radio favorite. He maintained an ambitious release schedule through the '90s and beyond, also appearing on recordings by many of his friends, including Dave Koz, Rick Braun, Richard Elliot, Jeff Golub, Lee Ritenour, Kirk Whalum, Boney James and many others.

*Good Day*, released in 2009, was Peter's first collection of original songs in several years. "I just started going through my backlog of material – songs that I'd never finished, some going as far back as ten or fifteen years – and I discovered that I had a lot of gems that I really wanted to show to the world," he says.

In 2012, Peter's *Here We Go* featured several high-profile guest musicians, including saxophonists David Sanborn and Kirk Whalum, and pianist Philippe Saisse. *Smile*, released in 2014, is the final CD in



Peter's trilogy of albums consisting entirely of his own material. (Peter's daughter, Charlotte, plays violin on one song.)

In a career that spans nearly four decades, over a dozen solo recordings and countless performances, Peter insists that it's the fans that keep the experience fresh.

"I'll play a live show, and someone will come to up and say, 'Oh, I loved this CD,' or 'This song helped me through a bad time,'" he explains. "The idea that someone tells me about a record that was released fifteen years ago – you can't buy that. That's priceless. That's what keeps me going – the idea that I've made a difference for someone."





# THE DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND



## THE DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND

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The New Orleans-based Dirty Dozen Brass Band is a world-famous music machine whose name is synonymous with genre-bending and high-octane performances. Celebrating over 40 years since their founding in 1977, the Dozen incorporates the traditional foundation of brass band music into a blend of genres that include bebop jazz, funk and R&B/soul.

According to Gregory Davis, “In the beginning ... We were all free to bring in whatever we wanted to rehearsal.” This sense of freedom allowed the band to incorporate bebop tunes and jazz standards into their repertoire, as well as lighthearted pieces, such as the theme song from *The Flintstones*.

The band has toured with their unique sound – which they describe as “musical gumbo” – across five continents, playing in more than 30 countries and recording 12 albums. Their popularity began to take off in 1984 during tours of Europe, New York, and California. They also released their first album that year, *My Feet Can't Fail Me Now*.

In 1986, their set at Switzerland's Montreux Jazz Festival was released as *Mardi Gras at Montreux*, followed in 1989 by *Voodoo*, with guest appearances by Dr. John, Dizzy Gillespie, and Branford Marsalis.

Later recordings featured a variety of special guests including Elvis Costello, DJ Logic, and the man who started it all, Danny Barker. The group has also toured and recorded with Widespread Panic, and spent 1995 opening for The Black Crowes tour, *Amorica Or Bust!*



The Dozen's "Mardi Gras in New Orleans" appears on the 2005 benefit album *A Celebration of New Orleans Music to Benefit MusiCares Hurricane Relief 2005*.

They were also featured on two tracks on Modest Mouse's album *Good News for People Who Love Bad News*. In 2006, the band released *What's Going On*, their version of Marvin Gaye's landmark 1971 disc, as a response to Hurricane Katrina's devastation of New Orleans exactly one year earlier.

The band performs in the 2005 documentary film *Make It Funky!* which presents a history of New Orleans music and its influence on rhythm and blues, rock and roll, funk and jazz. In 2023, the Dozen won the Grammy® Award for Best American Roots Performance.

Band Members Include: Kevin Harris – Tenor Sax and Vocals; Gregory Davis – Trumpet and Vocals; Kirk Joseph – Sousaphone; TJ Norris – Trombone and Vocals; Julian Addison – Drums; and Takeshi Shimmura – Guitar.



# DOWN TO THE BONE





## DOWN TO THE BONE

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Down To The Bone (DTTB) was formed in 1996 in the U.K., featuring music that mixed funk and jazz.

Acting as producer, writer and mastermind behind the group, co-founder Stuart Wade worked with other talented musicians and co-writers to bring the good grooves together. At the end of 1995, Stuart took a track from the soul band he was in at the time and remixed it with a stripped-down feel. The result, Down To The Bone's "Joy Is Free," met with great success.

Following this, Stuart teamed up with keyboardist Simon Greenaway to record "Staten Island Groove." The single garnered rave reviews, receiving club and radio play in the U.K.

Stuart then decided to try a complete album and lined up musicians for a collaborative effort. The name *From Manhattan To Staten* was selected to reflect DTTB's influences from "across the pond." With few expectations, Stuart decided to take the whole sound over to the U.S. to see what would happen.

He was astounded by the subsequent huge response after two important names in U.S. jazz radio, Blake Lawrence and Steve Williamson, decided to play DTTB on their stations. With support from people like DJ Chillfreeze, Marc E Copeland, Rick Laboy, Cozmic Cat and Andrea DJ Sun and some Urban radio interest, American audiences were introduced to DTTB.

It was clear DTTB happened to be in the right place at the right time. With momentum growing, *From*



*Manhattan To Staten* reached No. 2 on the U.S. *Billboard* Jazz chart, No. 3 on the Gavin Jazz chart and No. 4 in the Radio and Records jazz chart. DTTB was also the No. 1 top-selling independent jazz artist of 1999, No. 5 top-selling jazz artist and album of 1998, and No. 5 top-selling jazz artist and album in 1999.

*Dig It*, released in 2014 as DTTB's tenth album, consists of 10 original tracks that mix up soul, funk and jazz to produce the distinctive grooves that make up the act's sound. DTTB's string of radio hits in the U.S. have propelled the group's success and driven well over half a million sales worldwide.



**MAJOR.**





# MAJOR.

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His name is MAJOR., and his impact is the same. MAJOR. – a contemporary R&B singer and songwriter whose work is rooted in classic soul with a pop touch – is a powerful storyteller on stage and screen. He leans into authenticity as his superpower and his joy is infectious.

MAJOR. was raised in Houston, graduating from the city's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (following the likes of Robert Glasper and Beyoncé), and subsequently attending and graduating from Berklee College of Music. MAJOR. released his debut album, *I Am MAJOR.*, in 2016. A single taken from it, "Why I Love You," earned the admiration of Stevie Wonder and Patti LaBelle (the latter of whom performed it in concert) and peaked at No.5 on *Billboard's* Adult R&B Songs chart.

This success was followed in 2017 with "Honest," another No. 5 Adult R&B Songs placement; a remix of "Why I Love You" featuring Shaggy and Rock City; and the artist's third charting single, "Spend Christmas with You." In 2018, MAJOR. released his second album, *Even More*, featuring Kas, Nstasia, and old-school powerhouse Andre Troutman.

For the next few years, MAJOR. focused on stand-alone singles and non-traditional releases. Among these were 2019's *The Lyrical Breakdown: Readings by MAJOR. & friends* (a collection of metered, spoken-word renditions of normally belted-out tunes), 2021's *MAJOR.HOPE Motivations* (sermon-like



spoken messages of perseverance and strength set to musical backdrops), and 2022's *MAJOR. HOPE Pep Talks* (themed talks underscored by unobtrusive beats).

In 2022, MAJOR. released his powerful reimagining of the classic "Whole World In His Hands" along with a love anthem, "Baby Will You Love Me." In 2023, he released *The Hope of My Soul*, a six-song EP of mellow, gospel-tinged soul-pop that occasionally hit on a country twang.

With half a billion digital streams, four independent solo projects, network TV shows, movies, legendary cosigns, national tours, and The MAJOR. HOPE Foundation – MAJOR. is far from done. The Grammy,<sup>®</sup> two-time Soul Train and eight-time NAACP Image Award nominated entertainer promises so much more to come. And it can only be as mighty as the name his mama gave him: MAJOR.



# LAO TIZER BAND FEAT. ELLIOTT YAMIN & KAREN BRIGGS





## LAO TIZER BAND FEATURING ELLIOTT YAMIN & KAREN BRIGGS

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Keyboardist and bandleader Lao Tizer is a gifted performer known for his genre-bending mix of jazz, classical, new age, and jam-oriented music.

A native of Boulder, Colorado, with a career spanning nine albums over nearly a quarter of a century, Lao is the son of hippies with Russian-Jewish backgrounds. His ethnic family heritage, parental new age influence, and childhood set amid the sights and sounds of both '80s and '90s pop culture and his parents' '60s and '70s music combined to influence his artistic life.

Lao expressed interest in music from a young age, and first began taking piano lessons at age nine. Influenced by both classical music and jazz, he progressed quickly and was performing regularly around Boulder by his teens. During this period, he also recorded several self-produced albums, including 1994's *Arabian Dusk* and 1996's *Praeludium*.

Upon relocating to Los Angeles, Lao caught the attention of guitarist Chieli Minucci, who invited him to collaborate on new material and encouraged him to form the Lao Tizer Band. In 2001 the band delivered *Golden Soul*. Well received, it reached the Top 50 on the *Billboard* contemporary jazz chart and helped garner Lao the 2002 National Smooth Jazz Award for Best New Artist. From there, the band continued to broaden its audience, opening for such luminaries as Dave Koz and the Rippingtons.

Lao returned to the studio in 2007 with *Diversify*, which



featured guest spots from Minucci, violinist Karen Briggs, saxophonist Andy Suzuki, and others. With *Passages* in 2009, Lao focused on a minimalist expression of his musical journey but returned to a pulsating full band on the 2012 release of *Downbeat*.

The ensemble of world-renowned musicians took Lao's vision to a new level, adding rock to its jazz and world-fusion repertoire with a sizzling collection. The band expands to 15 members at times, with the addition of a string quartet, horn section and a marimba player as needed.

## ELLIOTT YAMIN

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Elliott Yamin is known for his hit single “Wait for You” and for placing third on the fifth season of *American Idol*.

Elliott first discovered his vocal talent while singing karaoke in his late teens. Although not professionally trained, he sang in a local jazz band and in amateur performance forums, citing Stevie Wonder, Whitney Houston and Donny Hathaway as influences.

Elliott's self-titled album, released in 2007, debuted at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Independent Albums chart and at No. 3 on the *Billboard* 200 and was certified gold in the United States. Retitled *Wait for You*, the album was released in Japan in 2008 and was also certified gold there.

Elliott also released two Christmas collections: *Sounds of the Season: The Elliott Yamin Holiday Collection* in



2007 and *My Kind of Holiday* in 2008.

Yamin's *Fight for Love* was released in 2009, with the album's first single, "Fight for Love", premiering on AOL Music.

His third album, *Gather 'Round*, was released in Japan in 2011. It was retitled in the U.S. as *Let's Get to What's Real* and released in 2012.

Born in Los Angeles, California, Elliott's parents were Shaul Yamin, an Israeli Jew of Iraqi Jewish descent, and Claudette Goldberg Yamin, a Jewish American of Ashkenazi descent and former professional singer known for her "fiery spirit" and for receiving the Golden Idol for Proudest Family Moment Award from Ryan Seacrest during her son's *American Idol* competition.

## **KAREN BRIGGS**

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Known as the "Lady in Red," Karen Briggs took up the violin at age 12, committed to playing professionally at age 15, and joined the Virginia Symphony Orchestra while still in college. Since then, she has performed predominantly in the jazz and contemporary instrumental genres.

Karen has performed and / or recorded with everyone from The Royal Philharmonic to Yanni to Stanley Clarke to Diana Ross to Ledisi to Kirk Franklin to Annie Lennox to the Wu Tang Clan. She has traveled across the U.S. and around the world, visiting 50 countries to entertain audiences as a featured soloist. Karen has graced the stages of such prestigious venues as the Apollo Theater, Carnegie Hall, The Taj Mahal and



China's Forbidden City.

Clever arrangements on covers such as Freddie Hubbard's "Little Sunflower," Rimsky Korsokov's "Scheherazade," "Amazing Grace" and Coolio's "Gangsta's Paradise" have received acclaim. She easily masters an array of genres from gospel to jazz to R&B to pop, hip-hop and classical pieces, all re-imagined in a manner that complements her skillful swagger on the violin.

Regarded by many as one of the most legendary violinists of our time, Karen serves as an inspiration for many of today's contemporary musicians and is an asset to any project in which she plays a part.

To date, Karen has recorded three independent solo projects – *Amazing Grace*, *Soulchestral Groove* and *Sonic Woodwork*, released in 2023.



# CHANTE MOORE





## CHANTE MOORE

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Chanté Moore was raised in a musical atmosphere. Her father loved jazz music and played it often at home. He also played the piano, and her brother played the drums. Chanté sang in a church choir throughout her childhood. As a teenager, after delivering an inspirational performance as Dorothy in a high-school rendition of *The Wiz*, Chanté decided that she wanted to pursue music professionally. Decades later, this sophisticated vocalist has placed over a dozen songs on the *Billboard* R&B chart.

At the age of 22, Chanté was discovered by producer and executive Louil Silas, who signed her to Silas Records, his MCA subsidiary. In 1992, she was featured on El DeBarge's Top 15 R&B single "You Know What I Like," and she released *Precious*, her debut album. Propelled by the singles "Love's Taken Over" and "It's Alright," the album went gold. Three more albums for Silas/MCA followed through 2000, all of which either dented or flirted with the Top Ten of the R&B Albums chart.

Although Chanté didn't release any solo material for several years, she continued to have success with collaborative work. She and R. Kelly were featured on the Isley Brothers' 2001 single "Contagious," a Top 20 pop hit nominated for a Grammy® in the category of Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal.

Chanté recorded a pair of albums – *Things That Lovers Do* in 2003 and *Uncovered/Covered* in 2006 – with her then husband, Kenny Lattimore. She followed



those releases in 2008 with *Love the Woman*, issued on the Peak label.

After Chanté and Lattimore divorced, she signed with the Shanachie label, where *Moore Is More* landed in 2013. Around the same time, Chanté appeared in TV One's *R&B Divas* spin-off *R&B Divas LA: The Rise of the Phoenix*, as well as her holiday album *Christmas Back to You*, followed in 2017.

Chanté continues to tour nationally and internationally, performing her hits and new material. Her discography has earned her critical acclaim as well as numerous awards, including two Soul Train Music Awards. She is widely recognized as one of the best contemporary female R&B singers of all time.



# KIRK WHALUM





## KIRK WHALUM

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Soulful, passionate and stirring – those are words used to describe Kirk Whalum’s music. His big, rich tenor sound, forged from his Memphis gospel roots, is unmistakable.

Kirk formed his own band in the '80s and played in the thriving Houston nightclub scene, where he developed his voice and honed his songwriting skills. It was also in Houston that Kirk met jazz pianist Bob James and joined him on tour. This resulted in five successful albums, including *Cache*, Kirk’s first number-one album. Kirk and Bob received a Grammy® nomination for their collaboration on *Joined at the Hip*.

Kirk became an in-demand session player for top artists in Los Angeles – including Barbra Streisand, Al Jarreau, Luther Vandross, Larry Carlton, Quincy Jones and, most notably, Whitney Houston. (Kirk plays the sax heard on Ms. Houston’s 1992 mega-hit, “I Will Always Love You.”)

He soon followed that achievement with his phenomenal album, *For You*, perhaps his most successful of more than 25 solo recordings to date. Others include his eclectic and much-lauded series, *Gospel According to Jazz – Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4*. Kirk also performed as the “W” with *BWB*, a popular soul/jazz group, with trumpeter Rick Braun and guitarist Norman Brown.

Kirks holds a Master of Art in Religion and is an ordained minister, serving his community when his touring schedule allows. He also hosts *Bible In Your*



*Ear*, a daily fifteen-minute podcast. In addition to music and ministry, Kirk has a passion to educate young, aspiring musicians and is currently a music professor at Memphis' Visible Music College.

The recipient of numerous awards, Kirk's acknowledgments include three Dove Award nominations, an NAACP Image Award nomination and two Stellar Awards – gospel music's highest honor. A twelve-time nominee, in 2011 Kirk won his first Grammy® Award for Best Gospel Song "It's What I Do," featuring Lalah Hathaway. He has also been honored with a Brass Note on the Memphis Walk of Fame and a star on Nashville's Walk of Fame.

In a career that's spanned decades, Kirk's sound leaves an indelible imprint on his listeners.



FRIDAYY





## FRIDAYY

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With a father who was a pastor and regularly involved his son in the church band, It's not surprising that, as an adult, Philadelphia-based rapper Fridayy ties his religious background into his music. His father, who was a pastor, regularly involved his son in the church band. By age six, Fridayy had learned to play piano, bass, and guitar.

He had a banner year in 2022. Fridayy's debut single "Don't Give Up On Me" was released; he appeared on Lil Baby's album *It's Only Me* on the track "Forever," which peaked at No. 8 on the *Billboard* Hot 100; his debut EP *Lost in Melody* became available with a guest appearance from Vory; and, as a featured artist on DJ Khaled's song "God Did," Fridayy received three Grammy® Award nominations.

## LOCAL ARTISTS

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### ZHÉ AQUEEN

Singer / songwriter Zhe´Aqueen has been studying music since she was eight years old. She graduated with honors as a vocal music major from Appomattox Regional Governors School for the Arts and Technology at age 17. Now in her 20s, she says she's "old enough to know better and young enough to connect with my lovely munchkins." Zhe´ delivers her own melodic spin on classic jams moving hearts and vibes to radiant levels.



## **ERIN & THE WILDFIRE**

Erin & The Wildfire (E&TW) started as college kids in Charlottesville, Virginia making music just for fun. Now calling Richmond home, the four best friends have evolved their sound over the past ten years, drawing influences from a wide range of artists including Emily King, D'Angelo, YEBBA, Vulfpeck, and Donny Hathaway.

Frontwoman Erin Lunsford's powerhouse vocals blends with the pop, funk and indie sensibilities of bandmates Ryan Lipps on guitar, Nick Quillen on drums, and Matt Wood playing bass. Kindred soul and keyboardist Stephen Roach joined the band in 2019.

The group's goal is to make their shows a space where the audience will feel safe and accepted. E&TW have appeared at some of the largest festivals on the East Coast including Suwannee Rising, LOCKN', FloydFest, CMJ, RoosterWalk, and more.

According to Erin, "Each show feels like it's the next and last chance to explain ourselves – a chance to connect with the audience to speak our truth." She continues, "We hope that people seeing us for the first time (and repeat viewers!) feel appreciated and comfortable and we hope they feel inspired by the tunes."

## **SHARON RAE NORTH**

Sharon Rae North has taken her talents across the country and internationally, sharing and showcasing her vocal style and subtle confidence in a combo of seriousness and playfulness during her shows.



Known as a “silky smooth songstress,” Sharon Rae puts on a fabulous performance as a headliner and an opener for many national acts, including Bob James, Joe Sample and the Jazz Crusade4rs, Patti LaBelle, Four80East, and many others.

She has performed at venues that include Serenade en Chalabre Festival in Chalabre, France; Atlanta’s Georgia Aquarium; Triad Theater and The Metropolitan Room in New York City; Blu Jazz+ in Akron, Ohio; Isaac Hayes Restaurant in Memphis; Bayfest in Mobile, Alabama; and multiple venues in her hometown of Richmond.

## **RAHSAAN CRUSE, JR.**

Rahsaan Cruse, Jr. was immersed in music even before he was born, when his mother would put headphones on her belly and play R&B music for her baby.

As a small boy, Rahsaan continued to be exposed to church music, R&B and jazz. His grandmother, a member of the Shepherd Singers, would bring her preteen grandson to rehearsals and Rahsaan gave his first performance at a jazz hot spot when he was just twelve. His exceptional talent and distinct delivery are rooted in his deeply musical family, including original members of the Ink Spots, the Grammy® nominated singer Arthur Prysock, and the Mills Brothers.

In his career thus far, Rahsaan has performed for public figures such as Dr. Bernice A. King, Roberta Flack, Steve Jordan, Kanye West, Shawn Bigby, Wynton Marsalis, Donnie McClurking, Davell Crawford, and more.



## WEEKEND PLANS

Weekend Plans creates an electrifying blend of funk, hip-hop, jazz and soul that's been captivating audiences since 2016. Hailing from Richmond, this eight-piece group has come together to express their love of music, old and new, in a way that adds a brand-new flavor to the musical melting pot of their hometown.

The group released their debut album *State of Nine* in 2019, featuring original music created for people to dance away their inhibitions. Says frontman Kayen Wilborn, "When I started this group, I didn't want anything to be synthesized. I wanted a full horn section and a full rhythm section; and not only to feature a singer, but also feature a rapper." He continues, "That way we can market ourselves to any crowd ... people who just want to dance."

Members of Weekend Plans are Kayen Wilborn, Jordan Mason, Logos The Poetic, Forrest Link, Justin Ott, Chet Frierson, Nathanael Clark, and DeSean Gault.

## JEREL CROCKET

A native of Richmond, Jerel Crockett's talent and passion for music have taken him on an incredible journey, an evolution that has led him to explore new avenues, transitioning into production and pursuing his solo aspirations following his early days playing in a jazz-fusion band.

Jerel's talents have shone on some of the biggest stages. He has opened for R&B stars Tank and Mint Condition; performed at the prestigious iHeart Radio Music Festival; and delivered a stunning rendition of



the National Anthem at an NBA game.

In addition to his captivating presence on stage, Jerel's musical talent has been showcased on various reality shows, including *Real Housewives of Potomac* and Pharrell Williams' Netflix docuseries *Voices of Fire*. Collaborating frequently with reality star Candiace Bassett, he accompanied her on the highly praised Deep Space Tour, alongside special guest MAJOR. With his masterful piano skills, Jerel brings an extra dimension of richness and depth to his performances, ensuring an unforgettable experience for concertgoers.



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