

NYBG

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Tickets On Sale Now for NYBG's Summer Concert Series: *An American Tribute*

Three Concerts Celebrate an American City, Civil Rights Leader, and Masterpiece on Respective Fridays, June 22, July 13 & 27, 7 p.m.

Early Bird Discount for Series Pass, Including All Three Concerts, Available Through Friday, April 6



Bronx, NY—The NYBG Summer Concert Series: *An American Tribute* celebrates the music of a great American city, the legacy of a great American civil rights leader, and the timelessness of a great American masterpiece. With the glass-domed Conservatory as the backdrop, this concert series, developed in collaboration with Catskill Jazz Factory and Absolutely Live Entertainment, presents three themed evenings showcasing an array of dynamic jazz talent from across the globe.

The individual concerts on June 22 and July 13 and 27 are \$48 for non-NYBG Members. An Early Bird Discount for the Summer Concert Series Pass, which includes all three concerts, is available for \$119 for non-Members through April 6.

***Salute to the Crescent City: New Orleans at 300* Friday, June 22**

The musical heritage of New Orleans comes alive in this premiere concert led by “one of the world’s major clarinetists,” Evan Christopher. In celebration of the Crescent City’s 300th

anniversary, this salute explores the marriage of traditions and the cultural diversity that established New Orleans as the birthplace of jazz. In this performance, pianist David Torkanowsky, vocalist Robin Barnes, and trumpeter Wendell Brunious join Christopher along with a host of top New Orleanian soloists, including Jeffery Miller (trombone), Morgan Guerin (tenor saxophone), Kerry Lewis (bass), and Shannon Powell (drums).

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Song
Friday, July 13

A top jazz vocalist of her generation, Brianna Thomas, joined by trombone legend Wycliffe Gordon, honors the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through the music of Mahalia Jackson and Nina Simone, two artists inextricably linked to the life and work of the civil rights leader.

Mahalia Jackson was a friend and supporter of Dr. King, and her gospels and spirituals served as the soundtrack to the civil rights movement. Likewise, Nina Simone's iconic songs of soulful passion and protest honored and were inspired by King's philosophy and leadership.

Thomas and Jordan are joined by an ensemble of powerhouse soloists, including Bruce Harris (trumpet), James Hurt (piano), and Marvin Sewell (guitar), as well as Patrick Bartley, Jr. (alto saxophone), Conun Pappas (keyboards), Fernando Saci (percussion), Ryan Berg (bass), and Kyle Poole (drums).

Old, New, & Blue: Celebrating Gershwin's Rhapsody
Friday, July 27

George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, a groundbreaking work that defined the melting pot of Jazz Age America, takes on a 21st-century identity in this specially commissioned arrangement featuring the Catskill Jazz Factory Collective, a multicultural all-star ensemble led by top trumpeter Dominick Farinacci.

Farinacci's ensemble features modern jazz masters from Venezuela, Japan, Brazil, France, Afghanistan, and America, embodying a contemporary reflection of today's America through the lens of Gershwin's American classic. *Old, New, & Blue* presents a night of modern interpretations of traditional American jazz, pop, and rock standards, culminating in the Collective's centerpiece world premiere tribute performance of *Rhapsody in Blue*.

In addition to Farinacci, the ensemble is comprised of Linda Briceno (trumpet/vocals), Braxton Cook (alto saxophone), Shenel Johns (vocals), Julie Labro (accordion), Christian Tamburr (vibraphone), Diego Figueiredo (guitar), Andre Mehmar (piano), Yashushi Nakamura (bass), Jerome Jennings (drums), Salar Nader (tabla), and Jamey Haddad (percussion).

Concert-goers can bring blankets and low-back chairs for seating on the scenic Conservatory Lawn. Before and after each concert, enjoy a stroll through NYBG's exhibition, *Georgia O'Keeffe: Visions of Hawai'i*. Doors open at 5 p.m.; the concert is from 7–8:30 p.m.; and the exhibition viewing continues from 8:30–10:30 p.m. NYBG Shop will be open until 9 p.m. Attendees can reserve a table at Hudson Garden Grill before the show, order a gourmet picnic box online to pick up and enjoy during the performance, or stop in at any one of several other dining options available during concert evenings.

Tickets are \$48 Non-Member/\$43 Member for individual concerts. A Summer Concert Series pass including all three concerts is available for the Early Bird Rate of \$119 Non-Member/\$106 Member through Friday, April 6. After April 6, the rate for the Summer Concert Series pass is \$129 Non-Member/\$116 Member. Advance purchase is recommended. Concerts are rain or shine.

Visit the Garden's Web site, nybg.org, for more information and to purchase tickets.

About Catskill Jazz Factory

Named a "regional arts think tank" and "formidable jazz incubator" by Hudson Valley's *Almanac Weekly*, and based in the heart of the Catskills, the Catskill Jazz Factory (CJF) is a dynamic jazz program founded in 2012 with an aim to support today's best young jazz artists. CJF offers year-round school workshops, concerts, mountaintop residencies, lectures, and world-class performances in diverse spaces to a variety of regional audiences across the Hudson Valley by partnering with educational facilities, arts organizations, and a variety of local non-profits and businesses. CJF brings talent to new audiences in non-traditional venues for music, putting jazz where it hasn't been before.

Previous programs boast collaborations with a number of world-class musicians, including pianists (and inaugural 2012–2013 CJF Artistic Director) Aaron Diehl, Marcus Roberts, and Dan Tepfer; trombonists Wycliffe Gordon and Chris Washburne; and vocalists Brianna Thomas and Cecile McLorin Salvant.

About Absolutely Live Entertainment

Absolutely Live Entertainment (ALE) is a festival, tour, and concert production company led by industry veteran Danny Melnick. In 2017, ALE will produce the 40th annual Freihofer's Saratoga Jazz Festival, in Saratoga, NY, on June 24 and 25 in addition to many other events. ALE also manages acclaimed alto saxophonist Rudresh Mahanthappa.

Melnick is the former Artistic Director and Senior Producer at Festival Productions, Inc. where he played a central role in over 90 festivals in Europe, Japan, and the U.S. He was the Artistic Director for the 1999–2007 JVC Jazz Festivals in New York and for the Newport Jazz 50th

Anniversary Festival in 2004. He proudly serves as the newly appointed Producer of the Newport Jazz Festival, which celebrates its 63rd anniversary August 4–6 in Newport, RI, and as the Artistic Director of Carnegie Hall's *The Shape of Jazz* series, which is in its 14th season at Zankel Hall.

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provided by the Baisley Powell Elebash Fund.*

The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad, bus, or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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