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HarlemStage

presents

THE UPTOWN NIGHTS ROUNDTABLE SOUL MUSIC NOW

A Uptown Nights Dig Deeper Initiative
Tuesday, February 3 • 7:30 pm
The Harlem Stage Gatehouse

MODERATOR

Jalylah Burrell @jalylah

PANELISTS

Abby Dobson @abbydobsonsings
Donte Gibson @itsdonte
Cali Green @caligreen
Jason King @jasonkingsays
Andre Torres @gotbeats

 @MyHarlemStage  MyHarlemStage
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#SoulMusicNOW #UPTWNS

HARLEM STAGE GATEHOUSE
150 Convent Avenue at West 135 Street
New York, NY 10031
P: 212.281.9240 ext. 19
www.harlemstage.org

ABOUT HARLEM STAGE

For 30 years, Harlem Stage's unique focus has been to identify visionary artists of color and support them by commissioning, presenting - and increasingly in recent years - producing their vital work that responds to the social and political conditions that shape our lives.

Recipient of the 2014 William Dawson Award for Programmatic Excellence and Sustained Achievement in Programming (Association of Performing Arts Presenters), Harlem Stage has a long-standing tradition of supporting such artists -- around the corner and across the globe -- including legends such as Harry Belafonte, Max Roach, Sekou Sundiata, Abbey Lincoln, Sonia Sanchez, Eddie Palmieri and Tito Puente, as well as contemporary artists like Bill T. Jones, Vijay Iyer, Mike Ladd, Tania León, Carl Hancock Rux, Nora Chipaumire, and Jason Moran.

The New York Times has saluted Harlem Stage as “an invaluable incubator of talent” and we have been hailed as an organization still unafraid to take risks. Our investment in this visionary talent is often awarded in the early stages of many artists' careers and we proudly celebrate their increasing success, most recently illustrated by members of our artist family joining the ranks as MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship awardees: Kyle Abraham (2013), Vijay Iyer (2013), and Jason Moran (2010). In 2012 we commissioned and presented one of the first the MacArthur awardees, Cecil Taylor, in a two night celebration of his genius. We are particularly proud to have commissioned and premiered new works by these bold visionaries at Harlem Stage.

In 2006, Harlem Stage opened The Gatehouse, completing a \$26 million campaign anchored by the restoration of the historic West 135th Street Gatehouse into a state-of-the-art, flexible performance, rehearsal, and support space. The Gatehouse is a New York City landmark built in 1890 as the pivotal facility within the Croton Aqueduct system for the distribution of clean water to New York City. Harlem Stage has restored the significance of this structure by creating a space where ideas and culture will now flow from Harlem to the entire city. This event marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the institution. The architecture and design renovation of the Gatehouse has been recognized with The New York Landmarks Conservancy's highest honor for outstanding preservation, the Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award, and the New York State American Institute of Architects Design Citation for adaptive reuse.

MODERATOR

Jalylah Burrell

Scholar of Black Popular Culture

Educator and multigenre storyteller, Jalylah Burrell is a music journalist, oral historian, deejay, audio editor and digital content producer. A scholar of Black popular culture, her research interests include African American women's literature and history, contemporary African diasporic literature, Black music, Black film and television history and Black aesthetic and critical practices. She is currently at work on the manuscript, *Capacity for Laughter: Toward a Black Feminist Theory of Humor*, and is completing her PhD at Yale University. A Seattle-native, she has made her home in Harlem for half a dozen years.

PANELISTS

Abby Dobson

Sonic Conceptual Artist

Abby Dobson's sound is the alchemy of R&B/Soul, jazz, classic pop and folk, forging a gem that erases musical boundaries in its making. Abby has performed at well-known venues such as S.O.B.'s, The Knitting Factory, The Cutting Room, Joe's Pub, The Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, The Apollo Theater and the legendary Blue Note - all to rave reviews. Abby won BlackPlanet.com's Soul Beach Music Festival's First Annual Competition and was featured in GIANT Magazine's September 2009 issue as an artist to watch. She was featured three times as a singer/songwriter at the New York Songwriter's Circle and was a finalist in the R&B category of the John Lennon Song Writing Competition for her song “Deeply,” which has been featured on television shows “The Shield,” “Jack & Jill” and “Any Day Now.” Abby won a BMI Atlanta Urban Music Showcase, and lent backing vocals to artists ranging from John Legend to Talib Kweli. Accompanied by her band or acoustic ensemble, Abby has opened concerts for Rahsaan Patterson, Ledisi, Dwele, Chrisette Michele, Floetry, Kindred, N'Dambi and Leela James. Abby also performs with Burnt Sugar: The Arkestra Chamber, a 20-plus member ensemble known for improvisatory orchestral performances that combine all manner of vocal, instrumental and electronic music, led by founder and conductor Greg Tate.

A recording artist and culture producer, Abby released her debut CD, “Sleeping Beauty: You Are the One You Have Been Waiting On” in 2010 on her independent record label, LadyBraveBirdMusic, to glowing reviews, which led to a slot on the inaugural Blue Note Jazz Festival in June 2011 where Abby appeared with Gregory Porter. Abby is featured on Talib Kweli's recent album, “Prisoner of Conscious”, released in May 2013, on “Before He Walked” alongside Kweli and Nelly. Abby Dobson appeared on The Tonight (Jay Leno) Show alongside Talib Kweli and Nelly in July 2013. Abby is currently featured on Talib Kweli's latest album, “Gravitas”, on “State of Grace”, which was nominated for 2014 BET Hip Hop Award for Best Impact Song. Abby Dobson is currently working on a new vocal project and hopes to move you through the power of music.

Donte Gibson

Senior Editor, SoulBounce

Donte Gibson is a music lover, writer and the senior editor of music and culture website SoulBounce. Outside of SoulBounce, his work has appeared in print and online entities such as QBR, Inc. Magazine, Okayplayer.com, Black Web 2.0 and Politic 365 and he has also been featured in VIBE Magazine. www.soulbounce.com

Cali Green

Managing Editor, Okayplayer

Cali Green works as Managing Editor and Director of Social Media and Digital Marketing for Okayplayer. Her efforts with the brand include feature interviews and profiles, as well as helping to produce and co-host "The Meetup With Muhsinah," Okayplayer's monthly Google Hangout event highlighting emerging and veteran female music producers. Her resume also includes work in publicity, artist management, and event production for clients including New York University, comedian Hannibal Buress, DJ/producer/educator Raydar Ellis, and R&B/Jazz ensemble Soul Understated ft. Mavis Swan Poole. www.okayplayer.com

Jason King

Associate Professor, NYU's Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music

Jason King is a journalist, musician, DJ, producer, and Associate Professor at New York University, where he helped found The Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music, an innovative leadership training program for aspiring music entrepreneurs at Tisch School of the Arts. He served as the program's first Associate Chair and Artistic Director and he is currently the Institute's Director of Writing, History & Emergent Media Studies. He is the principle performer, producer and songwriter behind dance music 'superband' Company Freak (www.companyfreak.com): his band's debut EP, *Le Disco Social*, was voted by Rhapsody as one of the 25 Best Pop Albums of 2014. As Creative Director of entertainment company Superlatude, Jason regularly consults for record labels, branding and marketing firms, and music technology start-ups; he has served as a branding expert in legal cases for artists like Jay-Z, Kanye West, Madonna, and Lady Gaga. Jason is the author of *The Michael Jackson Treasures*, a 2009 Barnes and Noble exclusive biography on the King of Pop, which has been translated in more than 7 languages. He has two forthcoming books: *Blue Magic*, on the role of metaphysics and energy in the music of artists like Timbaland, forthcoming from Duke University Press, and a biography on Freddie Mercury for Penguin Books. Jason appears in many music documentaries, including Spike Lee's Michael Jackson documentary *Bad 25*. Jason has contributed to publications like *Vibe*, *Village Voice*, *Slate*, *Spin*, and *Billboard* and is the host and curator of NPR's 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week R&B radio stream.

Andre Torres

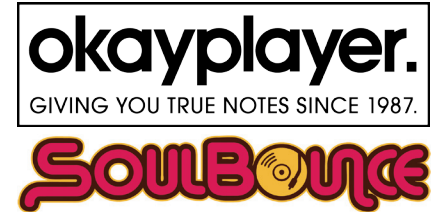
Cofounder and The Editor-In-Chief, Wax Poetics

Andre Torres is a cofounder and the editor-in-chief of Wax Poetics. He has led the company for thirteen years, spearheading creative and brand relationships. He holds a fine arts degree in painting, with an eye for both design and content. Additionally, he has served as Music Director for chef Marcus Samuelsson's Harlem bistro Red Rooster and sister music venue Ginny's Supper Club, as well as Panel Director for the 2013 CMJ Music Conference. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and three sons. www.waxpoetics.com

THANK YOU AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to each of our extraordinary panelists for their contributions to tonight's discussion and their tireless work in the field. Your work and advocacy for this music is invaluable. Special thanks to our moderator Jalylah Burrell for laying the foundation for this discourse and planting musical seeds through the "soul music saves" Uptown Nights Mixtape and Soul Music Now playlist on the Harlem Stage Spotify Page.

Additional thanks to our incredible promotional partners: Wax Poetics, Okayplayer and SoulBounce.



This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council."

HARLEM STAGE ARTIST CIRCLE

We are honored to have these celebrated artists lend their name and support to Harlem Stage :

- | | |
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* Deceased

SPRING 2015 SEASON

YOU'RE INVITED, SAVE THE DATES

In honor of James Baldwin's 90th & Billie Holiday's 100th Birthdays

The Ambrose Akinmusire Quintet

Thursday, February 5, 7:30pm, Free with RSVP

Aruán Ortiz: Inside a Rhythmic Falls

Thursday, February 12, 7:30pm, Free with RSVP

World Premiere—Stranger on Earth

A new work by Carl Hancock Rux,

Commissioned and produced by Harlem Stage

Thursday & Friday, February 19 & 20, 7:30pm, \$45

Uptown Nights Listening Session with KING

Wednesday, February 25, 7:30pm, \$10
or Free with purchase of concert ticket

Uptown Nights Concert—KING

Friday, February 27, 7:30pm, \$25

Behind the Curtain with Stew

*Learn about the creation of "Notes of a Native Song"
in a discussion with Stew*

Wednesday, March 11, 7:30pm, \$10

Cyro Baptista—Banquet of the Spirits Trio

Wednesday, March 25, 7:30pm, Free with RSVP

Uptown Nights Concert—BILAL

Friday, March 27, 7:30pm, \$25

E-Moves 16

Celebrating James Baldwin and Billie Holiday

Fridays, April 10 & 17, 7:30pm, \$20

Saturday, April 11, 7:30pm, \$20

The Takeover

Saturday, April 18, 7:30pm, \$20

**When the Moon Turns Green:
The Myth and Music of Billie Holiday**
Tuesday, April 28, 7:30pm, Free with RSVP

**Celebrating Billie's 100th Birthday
Billie Holiday & Edith Piaf "Parallel Lives"**

Curated by Nona Hendryx

Thursday & Friday, April 30 & May 1, 7:30pm, \$35

Uptown Nights Roundtable: Jazz NOW

Thursday & Friday, May 4, 7:30pm, Free with RSVP

**Supreme Sonacy: Brandee Younger
& Raymond Angry**

Tuesday, May 5, 7:30pm, \$10

Marcus Strickland's "Twi-life"

Wednesday, May 6, 7:30pm, \$10

**José James—Yesterday I Had the Blues:
The Music of Billie Holiday**

Thursday & Friday, May 7 & 8, 7:30pm, \$10 & \$35

James Baldwin and Rethinking the Path Ahead

*A Discussion with Khalil Gibran Muhammad
and Fredrick Harris*

Wednesday, May 13, 7:30pm, Free with RSVP

World Premiere—Stew: Notes of a Native Song

*A new work commissioned and produced
by Harlem Stage*

Wednesday-Friday, June 3-5, 7:30pm, \$55

Saturday & Sunday, June 6 & 7, 2pm & 7:30pm, \$55

Kyle Abraham's Counterculture

Saturday, June 20, 7:30pm, \$20

*A special offer for you—
Buy any 3 performances and save 25%.
Use code GH3425.*

Sign-up for our mailing list: bit.ly/SignUpTodayHS
and visit our website, HarlemStage.org for updates on the
Spring 2015 season and additional special ticket discounts.

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Harlem Stage deeply appreciates the many individuals and institutions that provide their generous support, making our programs possible.

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