



Celebrate the Great Women of Blues & Jazz

Music Directors

Toshi Reagon (Vocals, Guitar), **Allison Miller** (Drums)

Host

Liza Jessie Peterson

Vocalists

**Christelle Durandy, Karma Mayet Johnson, Tamar-kali,
Josette Newsam Marchak, Mem Nhadr, Imani Uzuri**

Band

Mayra Casales (Percussion), **Tanya Darby** (Trumpet), **Reut Regeve** (Trombone),
Mimi Jones (Bass), **Alex Nolan** (Guitar), **Shawme Royston** (Piano)

Dancer

Michelle Dorrance

PROGRAM

There will be no intermission.



Saturday, March 12 @ 8 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

AFRICAN ROOTS, AMERICAN VOICES

Part of the African Roots, American Voices series.

Media Sponsor: 

PROGRAM NOTES

Celebrate the Great Women of Blues and Jazz – a gathering of some of New York's best vocalist and musicians in celebration of their musical mothers. The show was conceived by Toshi Reagon, with musical Direction by Allison Miller & Toshi Reagon.

Celebrate the Great Women of Blues and Jazz was first performed at The Schomburg Women In Jazz Festival 2012. Reagon said, "I created this show thinking about the audience at the Schomburg. Whenever I was in the audience watching a show, I would be blessed to sit next to some serious music lovers and historians. They would tell me about seeing Billie, Ella, Sarah - all the ladies we know by one name because they were so powerful. I wanted to do something to not only honor those artists, but show respect and honor those folks that helped nurture their careers and in turn gave birth to mine."

Host Liza Jessie Peterson welcomes you to our "Juke Joint sanctified saloon where we are paying tribute to the Great Grand Dames, the classy and the sassy Queens of Blues, Blues, Blues, and Jazz, Jazz, Jazz, and Church, Church, Church."

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Toshi Reagon (Singer/Composer/Producer/Activist)

From her rock platform, Toshi Reagon jumps from funk to country, to spirituals and blues to folk, taking any style, updating it and making it her own. As *The New York Times* raves: "Ms. Reagon's music originates in her love of mixing things up...[her] vocal style ranges from a dirty blues moan to a gospel shout to an ethereal croon." Her latest recording is *There and Back Again* and she is the founder and creator of Word*Rock* & Sword: A Festival Celebration Of Women's Lives. To keep up with Toshi Reagon and her many projects check out toshireagon.com or the BIGLovely page on Facebook.

Allison Miller (Drummer/Composer/Teacher)

Allison Miller's band, BOOM TIC BOOM, is celebrating its sophomore release, *No Morphine, No Lilies*. Their New York City CD release concert was at the 92Y Tribeca and aired live on WBGO with Josh Jackson on "The Checkout Live." For more info visit allisonmiller.com or royalpotatofamily.com.

Mayra Casales (Percussionist/Singer/Composer)

Mayra Casales is a Cuban-born percussionist, singer and composer and the founder of Cocomama, an all-female Afro-Cuban band. Their latest release is *Woman on Fire/Mujer Ardiente*. Casales is currently working on Cocomama's new CD. cocomamamusic.com and mayracasales.net

Tanya Darby (Trumpet)

By the age of 12, Tanya Darby was already expressing the elements of a mature jazz player. She received various awards and accolades in recognition of her talents including the Jon Faddis Award for Musical Excellence for Most Promising Jazz Trumpet Talent of the Year. In addition to a busy performing career, she is active behind the scenes as a producer and writer for various artists.

Michelle Dorrance (Tap Dancer/Choreographer)

Michelle Dorrance, a New York City based tap dancer/choreographer, is an internationally renowned soloist and the founder and artistic director of Dorrance Dance. Her collaborative piece with Toshi Reagon and BIGLovely, *The Blues Project*, won a 2015 Bessie award. Dorrance was also awarded a 2015 MacArthur "Genius" Grant.

Christelle Durandy (Vocalist/Composer)

New York based vocalist and composer Christelle Durandy combines a collection of musical colors with her love for words, languages and rhythmic concepts in her new upcoming opus "No Records of Wrong". christelledurandy.com

Mimi Jones (Bassist/Vocalist/Composer)

This native New Yorker released her second album as a leader in May 2013. Visit mimijonesmusic.com or mimijones.posterous.com for more info.

Tamar-kali (Vocalist/Composer)

Tamar-kali is a Brooklyn born and bred artist who has graced the Schomburg stage as a solo and featured performer in several projects. She is a vocalist and composer with roots in the Gullah Islands of South Carolina. Her artistry has been featured in film and on international stages. tamar-kali.com

Josette Newsam-Marchak (Performer)

A New York native, Josette Newsam-Marchak was born to a musical family. She has travelled the world sharing music for over 10 years. She is currently Musical Director and Associate Pastor at New Light Baptist Church of Harlem.

Karma Mayet Johnson (Performer/Composer)

Multidisciplinary performer and composer Karma Mayet Johnson has appeared onstage at New Dramatists, Living Theater/Culture Project, The Joyce, The Kitchen and DNA, as well as Off-Broadway in *FELA!* and on MTV. She has worked with artists ranging from The Roots to Robert Wilson. She is composer of *Indigo, A Blues Opera*. Thisiskarma.net

Mem Nahadr (Performance Artist/Opera & Film Composer/Digital Engineer)

Mem Nahadr is internationally acclaimed and based in New York and Europe. With a six octave range and a mesmerizing appearance due to albinism, Nahadr continues to support the cause of art and human rights worldwide, through artworks, performances, lectures and special appearances. MNAhadr.com / PositiveExposure.com / FreeDREAD.com

Alex Nolan (Guitarist/Songwriter/Instructor)

Alex Nolan is an NYC-based guitarist, songwriter and instructor who performs with various artists including Jill Sobule, Sophia Ramos and the Amanda Ruzza Group. For more information, please visit alexnolan.com.

Liza Jessie Peterson (Writer/Actress/Poet/Educator)

Liza Jessie Peterson is a writer, actress, poet and educator whose work is rooted in social activism. She has written several plays and appeared in movies, theatre and on television. She has been teaching poetry to incarcerated adolescents at Rikers Island for over 15 years. Please visit lizajessiepeterson.com.

Reut Regev (Trombonist/Composer/Bandleader)

Born and raised in Israel, trombonist, composer and bandleader Reut Regev has been living and creating music in New York City for over a decade. Finding her own voice in various styles, Regev records and tours with some of the finest musicians in their respective fields, and also leads her own genre-defying band, R*time. reutregev.com

Shamie Royston (Pianist/Composer/Educator)

Shamie Royston, a Colorado-based musician now residing in the New York area, is a pianist, composer and educator who has traveled the world performing with many jazz artists such as Terri Lyne Carrington and John Patitucci. She has been commissioned to arrange and

compose many ensemble pieces for people like Dianne Reeves and Sean Jones, as well as many colleges and universities. For more information, please visit shamieroyston.com.

Imani Uzuri (Vocalist/Composer)

Recently praised in *The New York Times* for her "gorgeously chesty ruminations," vocalist and composer Imani Uzuri performs internationally, creating and collaborating across various artistic genres. imaniuzuri.com