

Lincoln Center's

January 24–March 27, 2018

American Songbook

Lead Support provided by PGIM, the global investment management business of Prudential Financial, Inc.

The Program

Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at 8:30 pm

Lizz Wright

Marvin Sewell, *Guitar*

Nicholas D'Amato, *Bass*

Kenny Banks, *Piano and Hammond Organ*

Brannen Temple, *Drums*

This evening's program is approximately 75 minutes long and will be performed without intermission.

Please make certain all your electronic devices are switched off.

Endowment support provided by Bank of America

This performance is made possible in part by the Josie Robertson Fund for Lincoln Center.

Steinway Piano

The Appel Room

Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall

Additional support for Lincoln Center's American Songbook is provided by Rita J. and Stanley H. Kaplan Family Foundation, The DuBose and Dorothy Heyward Memorial Fund, The Shubert Foundation, Great Performers Circle, Chairman's Council, and Friends of Lincoln Center.

Public support is provided by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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Artist catering provided by Zabar's and Zabars.com

UPCOMING AMERICAN SONGBOOK EVENTS IN THE APPEL ROOM:

Thursday, February 15, at 8:30 pm

Justin Vivian Bond Sings The Carpenters

Friday, February 16, at 8:30 pm

The Blind Boys of Alabama

Saturday, February 17, at 8:30 pm

The Songs of Scott Frankel & Michael Korie

IN THE ROSE THEATER:

Tuesday, March 27, at 8:00 pm

Rosanne Cash

Randy Newman's performance, scheduled for March 26 in the Rose Theater, has been cancelled.

The Appel Room and Rose Theater are located in Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall.

For tickets, call (212) 721-6500 or visit AmericanSongbook.org. Call the Lincoln Center Info Request Line at (212) 875-5766 or visit AmericanSongbook.org for complete program information.

Join the conversation: @LincolnCenter

We would like to remind you that the sound of coughing and rustling paper might distract the performers and your fellow audience members.

In consideration of the performing artists and members of the audience, those who must leave before the end of the performance are asked to do so between pieces. Flash photography and the use of recording equipment are not allowed in the building.

Lizz Wright



JESSE KIT

Acclaimed vocalist Lizz Wright brings brilliant color and vibrancy to original works as well as compositions by some of the greatest songwriters of our time. She has garnered widespread attention as one of the most venerable popular singers of her generation through the release of five critically acclaimed albums—from her breakout debut album *Salt* (Verve Records) to her recent full-length studio album *Grace* (Concord Records). Through an inimitable

voice, Ms. Wright sings with a soaring reflection of the cultural fabric of America; her songs embody a tradition that allows us to always feel at home, wherever we might be physically or emotionally.

Ms. Wright made a national name for herself, at age 22, as a vocalist with a touring concert tribute to Billie Holiday. At age 23, she signed with Verve Records for the release of *Salt*, which topped Billboard's contemporary jazz charts. Her subsequent albums—*Dreaming Wide Awake*, *The Orchard*, *Fellowship*, and *Freedom & Surrender* (2015)—continued to top the charts. Her critically acclaimed album *Freedom & Surrender* was included on NPR music critic Ann Powers's list of Favorite Albums of 2015; the single "Lean In" landed on Barack Obama's 2016 summer playlist.

Ms. Wright culls inspiration from her southern upbringing in Georgia, where she was the music director of a small church where her father was pastor; gospel music and call-and-response singing with the church congregation informed her first brushes with music. Singing classical repertoire with Dwight Coleman at Georgia State University (Atlanta), studying jazz and spirituals with Richard Harper of The New School (New York), personal study of the folk tradition, and traversing through the Great American Songbook all fostered a keen interest to discover her own voice across diverse genres.

Marvin Sewell

Chicago native Marvin Sewell (guitar) learned how to play his instrument by hanging out with many local basement bands. He has played with such notable Chicago musicians as Von Freeman, Ramsey Lewis, Billy Branch, Jodie Christian, Big Time Sarah, and Barbara La Shore. Mr. Sewell formed his first major jazz band in 1992 when he began working with Jack DeJohnette's group Special Edition, while also playing with cellist Diedre Murray and bassist Fred Hopkins. He has performed and recorded with David Sanborn, Marcus Miller, Jorge Sylvester, Greg Osby, Joe Lovano, George Benson, Sekou Sundiata, Peter Herborn, among a host of others, and for six years played with Cassandra Wilson, with whom he co-wrote the song "Right Here, Right Now." Mr. Sewell has toured with Sekou Sundiata and Ani DiFranco, and has performed in Kenya, Malawi, Botswana, Mozambique, Mauritius, and all over New York City. These days, he spends most of his time writing music for his own band, The Marvin Sewell Group.

Nicholas D'Amato

Nicholas D'Amato (bass) spent nearly 20 years in New York City as a freelance bassist, gaining vast experience on stage and in the studio, Broadway pit orchestras, and even the circus. He has recorded albums, television jingles, movie soundtracks, and cast recordings with many of the city's great musicians. Mr. D'Amato's solo album *Nullius in Verba*, featuring esteemed guitarist Wayne Krantz, was met with critical acclaim. Mr. D'Amato has toured extensively for the past 16 years, having played in over 40 countries to date. In 2011 he moved to Wolfville, Nova Scotia, where he accepted a teaching position at Acadia University. Since moving to Nova Scotia, he has continued to tour, playing with such notable Canadian musicians as JUNO Award winners Meaghan Smith, Laila Biali, and Dinuk Wijeratne, as well as ECMA winners Ian Janes and Charlie A'Court. In 2013 he had the honor of playing the Eastern Canada premiere of Steve Reich's *2x5* along with fellow Acadia University faculty. Mr. D'Amato has been the bassist for Lizz Wright since 2007.

Kenny Banks

Kenny Banks (piano, Hammond organ) is a composer, arranger, and performer who slips effortlessly among musical styles while retaining his own distinct sound. He has appeared on the Black Entertainment Network (BET) and the NAACP Image Awards, and also performed for President Barack Obama's inauguration and final speech to the United Nations. Mr. Banks has appeared at such venues as Carnegie Hall and the Philharmonie in Berlin, and has performed with such artists as Joe Gransden, Earl Klugh, Kenny Garrett, Wess Anderson, Lizz Wright, Kevin Mahogany, Gregory Tardy, Kirk Whalum, Albertina Walker, Carmen Bradford, Dorothy Norwood, Jennifer Holliday, Aretha Franklin, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. He also appeared in movie scenes from Tyler

Perry's *The Family That Preys*, and his composition "Hello Love" can be heard in the film *Raising Izzie*, which premiered on the Gospel Music Channel. Mr. Banks is the director/accompanist for groups at the Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta, where he makes occasional appearances at jazz clubs. He frequently records and travels abroad, performing and composing with Joe Gransden and with Lizz Wright. His CD recording *Truly Free* was released in 2010.

Brannen Temple

Brannen Temple (drums) started playing drums at the age of ten, and soon went on to perform in school jazz bands. An accomplished session drummer since the early '90s, Mr. Temple has played on records by Chris Duarte, Patrice Rushen, Chris Smither, Abra Moore, Stephen Bruton, Jody Watley, Alejandro Escovedo, and Meshell Ndegeocello, among others. In 1996 he was part of the first G3 tour, drumming for guitarist Eric Johnson, and was featured on the live album *G3: Live in Concert* (1997). Since 2000, Mr. Temple has played on records by Toni Price, Bob Schneider, Lavelle White, Darden Smith, Robben Ford, Bobby Whitlock, Katie Armiger, and on Robert Rodriguez's motion picture soundtrack *Grindhouse: Planet Terror* (2007). From 2009 to 2013 he was the live drummer for Eric Burdon & The Animals, and since 2010, occasionally tours with Chris Duarte Group and with Lizz Wright. He has also worked with Janet Jackson, Leni Stern, Fastball, Monte Montgomery, Sheena Easton, Kevin Paige, Jimmie Vaughan, Dixie Chicks, Chaka Khan, and Nelly Furtado. Mr. Temple has several local jazz/funk bands in Austin, Texas, where he currently resides, including Temple Underground and Black Red Black (featuring Red Young and Ephraim Owens).

American Songbook

In 1998, Lincoln Center launched American Songbook, dedicated to the celebration of popular American song. Designed to highlight and affirm the creative mastery of America's songwriters from their emergence at the turn of the 19th century up through the present, American Songbook spans all styles and genres, from the form's early roots in Tin Pan Alley and Broadway to the eclecticism of today's singer-songwriters. American Songbook also showcases the outstanding interpreters of popular song, including established and emerging concert, cabaret, theater, and songwriter performers.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA) serves three primary roles: presenter of artistic programming, national leader in arts and education and community relations, and manager of the Lincoln Center campus. A presenter of more than 3,000 free and ticketed events, performances, tours, and educational activities annually, LCPA offers 15 programs, series, and festivals including American Songbook, Great Performers, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Midsummer Night

Swing, the Mostly Mozart Festival, and the White Light Festival, as well as the Emmy Award-winning *Live From Lincoln Center*, which airs nationally on PBS. As manager of the Lincoln Center campus, LCPA provides support and services for the Lincoln Center complex and the 11 resident organizations. In addition, LCPA led a \$1.2 billion campus renovation, completed in October 2012.

Lincoln Center Programming Department

Jane Moss, *Ehrenkranz Artistic Director*

Hanako Yamaguchi, *Director, Music Programming*

Jon Nakagawa, *Director, Contemporary Programming*

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Regina Grande Rivera, *Associate Producer*

Viviana Benitez, *Associate Producer, David Rubenstein Atrium*

Walker Beard, *Production Coordinator*

Meera Dugal, *Programming Manager, David Rubenstein Atrium*

Nana Asase, *Assistant to the Artistic Director*

Olivia Fortunato, *Programming Assistant*

Dorian Mueller, *House Program Coordinator*

For American Songbook

Matt Berman, *Lighting Design*

Scott Stauffer, *Sound Design*

Janet Rucker, *Company Manager*

Matt Berman

Matt Berman is the resident lighting designer for Lincoln Center's American Songbook. He recently designed the lighting for Kristin Chenoweth's *My Love Letter to Broadway* at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, and for "Meow Meow's Pandemonium" with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at Royal Festival Hall. Mr. Berman continues his design work for Chenoweth, Liza Minnelli, Alan Cumming, Meow Meow, Brian Stokes Mitchell, and Elaine Paige on the road. Through his work with ASCAP and several U.S.-based charities, he has designed for a starry roster that includes Bernadette Peters, Barbra Streisand, Reba McEntire, Melissa Errico, Deborah Voigt, Michael Urie, Stevie Wonder, India.Arie, Garth Brooks, Billy Joel, and Sting. His international touring schedule has allowed him to design for iconic venues such as Royal Albert Hall, Paris Opera, Royal Theatre Carré in Amsterdam, the Sporting Club in Monte Carlo, the Acropolis, the famed amphitheater in Taormina, Sicily, as well as Luna Park in Buenos Aires, and the Sydney Opera House. Closer to home, he

has done work for the Hollywood Bowl, Alice Tully Hall, and Carnegie Hall. Other Broadway credits include the Tony Award–winning *Liza’s at the Palace*, *Bea Arthur on Broadway* at the Booth Theatre, Nancy LaMott’s *Just in Time for Christmas*, and *Kathy Griffin Wants a Tony* at the Belasco Theater.

Scott Stauffer

Scott Stauffer has been the sound designer for Lincoln Center’s American Songbook since 1999. His Broadway design credits include *A Free Man of Color*, *The Rivals*, *Contact* (also in London and Tokyo), *Marie Christine*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Jekyll & Hyde*. Off-Broadway Mr. Stauffer has worked on *Mother Freaking Hood*, *Subverted*, *Promises*, *Hereafter*, *A Minister’s Wife*, *Bernarda Alba*, *Third*, *Belle Epoque*, *Big Bill*, *Elegies*, *Hello Again*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *Pageant*, and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. His regional credits include productions at the Manhattan School of Music, Capitol Repertory Theatre, University of Michigan, Hanger Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and Alley Theatre. His concert credits include many Lincoln Center galas, as well as the Actors Fund concerts of *Frank Loesser*, *Broadway 101*, *Hair*, and *On the Twentieth Century*. At Carnegie Hall he has worked with Chita Rivera and Brian Stokes Mitchell. As a sound engineer, Mr. Stauffer has worked on *The Lion King*, *Juan Darién*, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, *Carousel*, *Once on This Island*, and the original *Little Shop of Horrors*.

FEBRUARY

FEB 9-10, 8PM

DIANNE REEVES

Grammy Award-winning vocalist Dianne Reeves returns for Valentine's Day weekend

Bloomberg Philanthropies is a proud sponsor of Dianne Reeves

ROSE THEATER

FEB 14, 7PM & 9:30PM

SONGS WE LOVE FEATURING VUYO SOTASHE AND BRIANNA THOMAS

Celebrate Valentine's Day with a special menu and performance featuring trumpeter and music director Riley Mulherkar, and vocalists Vuyo Sotashe and Brianna Thomas.

DIZZY'S CLUB COCA-COLA

FEB 23-24, 7PM & 9:30PM

DAVE DOUGLAS: DIZZY ATMOSPHERE DIZZY GILLESPIE AT ZERO GRAVITY

Trumpeter and composer Dave Douglas uses Dizzy Gillespie repertoire as a starting point for improvisation and exploration. Joining him is a powerhouse group of improvisers: Ambrose Akinmusire, Gerald Clayton, Linda May Han Oh, Joey Baron, and Bill Frisell.

This program is presented as part of the Ertegun Jazz Concert Series

THE APPEL ROOM



JAZZ.ORG

jazz at lincoln center

venue
fredrick p. rose hall

box office
broadway at 60th st. ground fl.

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