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This year the Georgia Theatre let us use their
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SPECIAL THANKS TO



ATHENS IN HARMONY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025 AT UGA
PERFORMANCE CENTER

Lethia Donae and William Kissane
Lean on Me

Stanley Stroud and Greg Veale
(What's So Funny 'bout) Peace, Love, and Understanding

Trina Meade and Amy Coenen
Crowded Table

JBaby and Nick Bradfield
Wake Up, Everybody

Jess Thompson and Maria Kamila
Blowin' in the Wind

Nicole Bechill and LB
We Are Family

10 MINUTE INTERMISSION

John Tsao
The House I Live In

Philip Kohlen and Daniel Elder
Future Shock

Trevon Johnson and Jean Spencer
Can't Ignore

Kimberly Morgan York and Ant Da Ripper
Crazy

Dr. Larry Johnson and Patrick Barry
Everything That Happens

Neal Priest, Knowa Johnson, Liz Farrell, and A. T. Martin
None of Us Are Free (If One of Us Is Chained)

SCAN CODE TO VIEW
THE FULL PROGRAM



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MEET THE PERFORMERS

Lethia Donae and William Kissane **Lean on Me**

Singer/songwriter and recording artist Lethia Donae, formerly of the Splitz Band, now performs under her own name. She was ten when she first sang at a funeral. She began playing trumpet in 6th grade and later added the French and baritone horns. As a high school junior she wrote and performed a song for a couple's wedding – and later wrote one for a church that used it for their theme. She has opened for The Temptation Review as well as southern soul singers Nellie Tiger Travis, Tucka, and Big Pokey, among others. Her parents were both musical, and so are her two children. She says, "I love music, I love entertaining. I love seeing people happy."

William Kissane is Facilities and Operations Supervisor at Nuçi's Space, a musicians' support and resource center. Two of his songs are on the new album benefiting Project Safe called Rhythm of the Steeple People. He's a fine drummer and fine artist.

Stanley Stroud and Greg Veale **(What's So Funny 'bout) Peace, Love, and Understanding**

Stanley Stroud is lead guitarist and vocalist for The Original Splitz Band. Born into a musical family, he started singing and playing guitar at a very young age. He's a school crossing guard at Chase Street Elementary School. He loves his time with his wife Katie, their kids, and grandkids. His oldest son Keio is a professional drummer who performs with 2-time Grammy Award winner Keb Mo. His youngest son Standrecus is a member, singer, and hype man with The Original Splitz Band.

Greg Veale has been a professional musician on a local and national scale since the mid-60s, providing bass and vocals on stage and in the studio. He played in many well-known Athens bands including Terry Melton's Dixie Grease, Ravenstone, Moon Dance, Elmo Pruitt, Austin Church Band, and Rack of Spam. He is a founding member of The Normaltown Flyers, that, in 2023, earned its plaque on the Athens Music Walk of Fame. Greg performed with many iconic musicians such as Jason Ringenberg, members of Drivin' n' Cryin,' and R.E.M. in addition to opening for Greg Allman, Derek Trucks, and more. He is currently a member of Rick Fowler Band, Grains of Sand, and The Wild Jordan-Tonk Cats.

Trina Meade and Amy Coenen **Crowded Table**

Trina Meade has performed with Stevie Wonder, TLC, Toni Braxton, Drivin n Cryin's Kevn Kinney and toured with the Indigo Girls. A native of Indiana, Trina relocated to Atlanta and quickly became active in the music scene. She met and befriended Andre 3000 and Big Boi of the hip hop band Outkast. Meade and her group of musicians supplied the backup sound for the group, even becoming part of the "Dungeon family," Outkast's Atlanta recording studio. She's now part of the band Yes, Ma'am Family Band with Michael Wegner and Caroline Aiken.

Amy Coenen is a licensed professional counselor in private practice who lives in Atlanta with her husband Amble Johnson (also a native Athenian) and their two children, daughter Cora (5) and son Connor (2.5). A musical theater actor, she drew great reviews as Mrs. Lovett in a production of Sweeney Todd in Atlanta. She plays traditional Irish and old-time music on fiddle and banjo. She's also a singer/songwriter in the process of recording an album of original songs.

JBaby and Nick Bradfield **Wake Up, Everybody**

Folk artist Nick Bradfield got his start in the Athens music scene at Nuci's Space Camp Amped in 2010 with the band the Second Sons, which morphed into the White Rabbit Collective after the passing of a bandmate. His latest creation is a solo album called "Unfinished Work" by Dr. Trance. He's the founder of local artistic community center Rabbit Hole Studios and various small businesses such as Athena Towing, Surf's Up Watersports, and Rabbit Hole Landscaping.

JBaby aka MrR&B (Jermaine Perry) is a soul singer/songwriter originally from Orlando. He was the 5th born of 3 sets of twins who all love music. He's been doing music for more than 15 plus years and breathing fresh life back into R&B.

Jess Thompson and Maria Kamila **Blowin' in the Wind**

Maria Kamila is a singer/songwriter from Paraíba, Brazil, who holds a degree in popular Brazilian singing from the Federal University there. She participated in The Voice Brasil in 2019; is the CEO of a vocal school; and is a member of the Brazilian forró group Os Gonzagas, which has released four albums. She has extensive singing experience, performing with bands of different styles, symphony orchestras, choirs, and on recordings for numerous artists. As a representative of the forró genre, she has won festivals and performed in almost all states of Brazil and also in Argentina and Uruguay. She's currently living in Athens to study English and learn more about American singing styles, and while she's here is working on a new album and a musical project called Perrengue Brasil.

Jess Thompson is a founder and member of the band Hotel Fiction. Born in Atlanta, she moved to Athens for school, formed her band, and has lived here ever since. She began learning the guitar from her dad at age 9 and grew up playing Beatles songs, folk songs (such as Bob Dylan's), and the blues. When she's not touring with her band, she teaches guitar, practices yoga, and writes music.

Nicole Bechill and LB **We Are Family**

Nicole Bechill is a yoga instructor, artist, musician and mother. She holds a Bachelors of Fine Art from the Savannah College of Art and Design, is a member of the band Shehehe, and teaches a variety of yoga classes including chair yoga, restorative yoga, and yin yoga. She is passionate about providing adapted and trauma-informed classes that make yoga more accessible. Mindfulness is the basis for most of her community offerings including morning mindfulness classes at the Georgia Museum of Art and botanical sketchbook in Winterville. Nicole's primary work is the manager of Revolution Therapy and Yoga. She also spends much of her time touring the band Shehehe which includes her husband Jason Fusco and good friend Noelle Shuck. Nicole's daughter Ramona is eight years old and an absolute delight, and Nicole puts being a mother at the top of the list of big accomplishments. She also enjoys spending time with friends and family, hiking, cooking, drawing, exploring, and movies.

Three-time nominee for the Athens Hip Hop Awards LB Britt is a hip hop artist, dancer, choreographer, and dance teacher. She loves sports and played basketball and flag football as quarterback. Her favorite colors are blue and purple, and her message is "Keep Going."

10 Minute Intermission

MEET THE PERFORMERS

John Tsao

The House I Live In

John Tsao, who has lived in Athens for most of his life, is an industrial electric motor design engineer for ABB. He has sung in choruses since middle school and currently sings in the Master Chorale, the Choral Society, and his church choir at First Presbyterian. He has sung with the UGA opera theatre, RespirOpera, and Southern Opera chorus in New Zealand.

Philip Kohnen and Daniel Elder
Future Shock

Philip Kohnen is a versatile musician whose experience spans ska, reggae, pop, punk, and beyond. Proficient on guitar, mandolin, bass, piano, and accordion, he brings his diverse skills to bands such as The Donner Party (Irish punk) and Klezmer Local 42 (Yiddish klezmer). Most recently he plays a key role in Bichos Vivos, a lively Forró band, and Yumbo Tron, a guitar-driven Cumbia band, showcasing his passion for exploration and dedication to the craft of music.

Daniel Elder, a proud native of Athens, is a graduate of Cedar Shoals High School and Georgia State University. Currently an Associate Broker/Realtor with Greater Athens Properties, Daniel seamlessly blends his professional career with a deep-rooted passion for music. Every Sunday he serves as the Director of Music at Thankful Baptist Church, where he leads worship and plays the organ. In addition to his church involvement, Daniel is an integral part of his family band The East Side Players, where he sings and plays the piano, sharing his love for music with audiences. His commitment to education is equally strong; through his family's nonprofit organization, Destined, Inc., Daniel tutors children in reading and serves as the bookkeeper. He's excited to be a part of this year's Athens in Harmony concert, where he looks forward to sharing his musical talents and supporting a meaningful cause in the community.

Trevon Johnson and Jean Spencer
Can't Ignore

Jean Spencer has been an Athens musician since the 1980s, singing with many bands, including Slant Six, El Caminos, and Bluewing. She has been writing and recording songs since forming 28 Days and continuing with solo projects: Where the Pavement Ends and Old Magnolia. She still occasionally sings with other groups around town and is thrilled to be a part of Athens in Harmony.

Trevon Johnson is a singer, songwriter, and producer from Athens. He is known for his smooth R&B tracks but also loves creating music that doesn't quite fit that mold. Trevon is currently employed with Human Resources at the University of Georgia. He is also an alumnus having graduated in 2018 with a Bachelor's from the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Kimberly Morgan York and Ant Da Ripper
Crazy

Anthony Taylor, Jr., known by his stage name Ant Da Ripper, is a dynamic recording artist born in Athens and raised in Hull. With an unwavering passion for Hip-Hop, Anthony has become a prominent figure in the local Athens music scene. Beyond his remarkable contributions to the Hip-Hop community here, Anthony has taken his love for music to the next level by establishing a record label and studio. As a visionary entrepreneur, he strives to create a platform for aspiring artists to showcase their talent. He continues pushing musical boundaries, experimenting with innovative sounds and storytelling techniques. Recognizing the power of music as a medium for expression and connection, Anthony also dedicates his time to imparting his knowledge and experiences to young people. With his infectious energy and through his music, he aims to inspire, uplift, and make a lasting impact on both the local and global Hip-Hop community. Follow Ant Da Ripper's journey as he continues to evolve as an artist, entrepreneur, and mentor: Instagram: @MMR_Ripper and TikTok:@antdaripper.

Kentucky native and longtime Athenian **Kimberly Morgan York** has been making music since early childhood. Her four self-released albums have received international media attention and radio play. Prior to her current projects, she has fronted local country acts The Everlovin Band and Morgandale. Kimberly tours both the United States and Canada with some of Athens' finest musicians. Her latest release FUN contains her most genre-bending music to date (including a music video collaboration with Classic City Wrestling). She is honored to be included in this year's Athens in Harmony, and the match-up with Ant Da Ripper has inspired an ongoing collaboration project -- hopefully bringing a release later this year!

Dr. Larry Johnson and Patrick Barry
Everything That Happens

A graduate of UGA, **Dr. Larry Johnson** taught math in Clarke County and later worked in Barrow County, where he retired as a principal. He and his wife are both active members of Timothy Baptist Church and examples of a happy, thriving marriage. He's a longtime member of the renowned Voices of Truth gospel choir.

Patrick Barry is a singer/songwriter, guitarist, and arts and music writer who takes inspiration from folk lineages the world over.

Neal Priest, Knowa Johnson, Liz Farrell, and A. T. Martin
None of Us Are Free (If One of Us Is Chained)

A.T. Martin, also known as southern soul and trail ride artist Mr. Mister, hails from Jefferson, GA. He sang his first solo at church when he was just four and hasn't stopped singing since. Although music is his passion, he also is the owner of a restoration business named Prolific Properties & Services.

Liz Farrell (they/them) is a singer-songwriter based in Athens. With influences of folk, jazz, and indie pop, their music manifests itself in heartfelt, intentional through-lines of ukulele and piano. You can also find them performing with local bands January, Trio Metro, and Your Ex's Pets. Liz curates Hendershot's New Faces Night, a show that gives the stage to musicians breaking into the Athens music scene.

Neal Priest is a retired ER doctor who jousts on social media with people who spread misinformation. Formerly chief of staff at St. Mary's Hospital, he has appeared in his wife Pat's fundraisers as emcee, singer, stepper, or whatever else is needed. In these isolating and distressing times, he believes that working on a musical project with wonderful people is one of life's great joys.

Hip Hop artist **Elite Tha Showstoppa**, Darrin Ellison, is a singer, songwriter, producer, host, model, actor, and DJ known for his high-energy performances, showmanship, and catchy lyrics. Popular singles include "Bounce-A-Holic," "Till We Forget What Being Broke Feels Like," and Flagpole Magazine's award-winning video "Liquor." Elite later developed the good-time band Showtime and started his popular DJ and event-planning company EliteXperience. Now disabled due to failing health, Elite is focused on recovering his health, still beloved by all his fans.

Final Performance

Nony1 is an emerging rapper known for their distinctive style and lyrical prowess. Rising to prominence in the late 2010s, Nony1 quickly captured the attention of the music industry with their innovative blend of sharp, introspective lyrics and dynamic beats. Drawing inspiration from personal experiences and societal issues, Nony1's tracks resonate with a diverse audience, showcasing a unique ability to address complex themes with clarity and authenticity. Their growing discography includes collaborations with other notable artists, contributing to a rapidly expanding fan base. With each release, Nony1 continues to push creative boundaries, establishing a formidable presence in the hip-hop scene.

Roger (BrodaGod aka Street prophet) Walker was born and raised on the east side of Athens. The St. Prophet started singing at an early age and was musically inclined, playing the drums at Thankful Baptist Church growing up. Most of his music is filled with pain, emotion, and love, keeping God first in everything he does. His dream is one day to travel across the world reaching hearts of so many loved ones through his music. He is dropping an EP next month titled "only temporary."

SHOW PRODUCERS & HOSTS

BAND MEMBERS

Bandleader **Michael Wegner** performs with numerous Athens bands including Abbey Road LIVE!, Cosmic Charlie, Whisper Kiss, and the Yes Ma'am Family Band. He plays keyboard and guitar but is also a songwriter; he was a finalist in the 2022 Vic Chesnutt songwriter contest. In 2023, after decades of backing up other songwriters and touring in tribute bands, Michael produced - finally! – his first solo album, the beautiful “Hive Mined.”

Drummer **HUNLO** is an Athens-based singer-songwriter/musician from Hawkinsville, GA. Though he moved to Athens in 2017 to attend UGA, it wasn't until 2018 that he began playing music in the local scene. As a project, HUNLO offers an eclectic experience for fans of country, folk, and rock. In addition to his work with Athens in Harmony, HUNLO is a versatile drummer who performs/performed with various groups, including Lighthearted, Elijah Johnston, Cannon Rogers, Evelia, Jacob Mallow, Mary Margaret Cozart, and Family and Friends.

Multi-instrumentalist **Mindy Towe** and bassist Scott Towe have a family band called Check the Signs that includes their two talented kids. They own the downtown sports shop The Red Zone that sells game day apparel and much more.

Tony Oscar collaborates as percussionist on several projects including the forró band Bichos Vivos, Timi Conley & Wonderland Rangers, The Sensational Sounds of Motown, Magenta Men, and others.

One of the best-known percussionists of the state of Minas Gerais in Brazil, Bill Lucas has played live and recorded over 500 albums with some of the most influential artists in Brazil. Working as a percussionist and teacher, he has traveled to Angola, France, Spain, England, Wales, Austria, Italy, India, French Guyana, and Martinique. He also launched his own CD, “Morada,” the soundtrack of Corpo Escola de Dança, Brazil's most famous dance company. He has played with the great Roberto Menescal, icon of the “bossa nova,” and also with samba icons Fabiana Cozza and Osvaldinho da Cuica.

Emerson McMaken, 13, plays keyboards and produces music. He also just made all-state band (2nd chair) for tenor saxophone. He is a proud participant in all Camp Amped programs, has a YouTube channel featuring video-game music he has programmed, and recently recorded a track with local band Women in STEM that was just released on all platforms last month. This is his third time bringing his skills to Athens In Harmony!

Trumpeter, composer, arranger, vocalist, and producer **Dashill Smith** is excited to be on board for this special event. With deep roots in hip-hop, jazz, fusion, funk, soul, afro-beat, and experimental genres, he has performed and toured extensively with the legendary Roy Ayers and performed with legendary musicians from James Brown's band such as Clyde Stubblefield, Jabo Starks, and Fred Wesley. He leads variations of his dynamic group called The Omega Level and is a member of a supergroup known as the Biological Misfits, a genre-bending musical outfit that features actor/poet/musician Malcolm-Jamal Warner.

WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to Athens in Harmony, a celebration of unity, diversity, and the power of music to bring people together. Tonight we gather not just as an audience but as a community—one that embraces different cultures, voices, and perspectives to create something truly beautiful.

Through the universal language of music, we honor the spirit of togetherness, breaking down barriers and building bridges of understanding. Each performance tonight is a testament to the strength found in harmony—whether in song, in action, or in our shared commitment to justice and equality. Thank you for being part of this experience. Your presence here supports the mission of fostering love, peace, and unity in our city and beyond. Let's raise our voices, open our hearts, and enjoy an unforgettable evening together!

Athens in Harmony founder and co-producer **Pat Priest** moved to Athens from L.A., where she worked at NBC in Burbank. She earned a doctorate from UGA's Grady College of Journalism and sometimes taught script-writing there. These days she's an independent writer and producer who invents events that raise money for vital causes, build community, and showcase the many bright stars of Athens.

Knowa D. Johnson is a seasoned entrepreneur, event and music producer, and social justice advocate based in Athens. Originally from Orlando, he relocated to north Atlanta in 2009 with his wife Mokah Jasmine Johnson to expand their business ventures in media, event production, and the music industry. In 2011 they moved to Clarke County, where they founded the Athens Hip Hop Awards, an annual event recognizing hip-hop culture and Black-owned businesses. Their advocacy work deepened with the creation of the Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement (AADM), initially formed to combat discrimination in local nightlife but later evolving into a broader civil rights organization. Knowa's contributions continue to shape the cultural and social justice landscape of Athens, inspiring advocacy and change.

Mokah Jasmine Johnson is the cofounder and executive director of the Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement. She's a dynamic speaker, educator, civil rights activist, musical artist, and entrepreneur committed to inspiring change through powerful storytelling, music, and her work as a community organizer. Mokah's dedication to community mobilization and policy change for racial justice has garnered her recognition throughout the state of Georgia. She's available for speaking engagements, women's empowerment, and anti-racism workshops. Contact: jasminejohnsonedu@gmail.com

Co-Host **Dodd Ferrelle** is in his third term as the mayor of Winterville, where he's been a leading force in the city's growth as an art hub, with the refurbished Marigold Theater, art gallery, and art-infused park. A talented singer/songwriter, he sang in Athens in Harmony years ago!

Emcee **Dr. John Olive** is a retired Professor Emeritus in Mathematics Education from UGA and a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens (UUFA). He has been the Treasurer and Board member for AADM since 2017. He also tutors undocumented students in the U-Lead program in Athens. He coordinated the volunteer online free Tutoring Program for AADM during the first two years of the COVID Pandemic and was a member of the Fondo-Solidario committee that raised and distributed half a million dollars in rental and utilities support for under-documented immigrants in the greater Athens community who were not eligible to receive the Federal stimulus checks during the pandemic. John has also appeared on-stage in productions by Town & Gown Community Theatre and Circle Ensemble Theatre. You can listen to his reading of Charles Dickens “A Christmas Carol” on WUGA's Wordland each Christmas.