



For Immediate Release:

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CONIECE WASHINGTON PAYS TRIBUTE TO BALTIMORE'S BILLIE HOLIDAY ON HER BIRTHDAY

Jazz Appreciation Month gets off to a roaring start Wednesday, April 7 with a performance honoring Billie Holliday by vocalist Coniece Washington - who shares her birthdate! Born 106 years ago, Holiday is the pride of Baltimore. Forever etched in stone as one of the most influential jazz vocalists of all time, she continues to enamor countless listeners. The emotional power behind her rough yet sophisticated voice, fueled by difficult challenges faced throughout her life, leaves audiences of all demographics spellbound.

Coniece Washington chose An die Musik Live in Baltimore as the site for this double celebration. The venue could hardly be more suitable, having earned a prominent position among the nation's leading jazz venues, fostering the careers of hometown performers on their way to achieving international success. The hybrid concert can be seen online and viewed from most any country and time zone. Limited in person seating will also be offered in the theatre.

Washington is ready for the challenge, having performed extensively throughout the National Capital region singing jazz, blues, R&B, and gospel. In addition to Billie Holiday, she has drawn influence from renowned jazz vocalists Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan and Carmen McRae. Her 2019 album *Shades of Shirley Horn* debuted on the Top 50 Jazz Album Charts, Roots Music Report's Top 30 and North American College & Community Chart. The album received numerous positive reviews from *Midwest Records*, *Jazz Weekly*, *Bebop Spoken Here* (UK), and other media.

The program features classic jazz standards made famous by Billie Holiday, several written or co-written by her. Highlights include popular blues tune "Fine and Mellow" recorded in 1939 and "God Bless the Child" recorded in 1941 and co-written by Arthur Herzog, Jr. The haunting protest song "Strange Fruit," written by Abel Meeropol in 1937 and dubbed "Song of the Century" by *Time Magazine* in 1999, will also be performed. Washington will share the stage with some of the region's finest artists.

Now based in the Washington, D.C. area, **Trumpeter Thad Wilson** is a distinguished bandleader, composer and arranger who has performed in many countries. He has worked with such names as Charlie Persip, James Moody, Benny Golson, Steve Turre, Cecil Bridgewater, Andrew White, Buck Hill, Keter Betts, Johnny O'Neal, Russell Malone, Roy Hargrove and Wynton Marsalis. He has led ensembles of all sizes, most notably the 16-piece

Thad Wilson Jazz Orchestra, and continues to perform with R&B and jazz-funk fusion group The Blackbyrds. He also composes film scores and travels widely performing them for live audiences.

Pianist Pete Frassrand is an active performer, composer and producer in the D.C. jazz scene. He has played the DC Jazz Festival, the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival, the National Cherry Blossom Festival and the Bluebird Blues Festival and appeared on television and radio.

Bassist David Marsh's prowess shines through in multiple genres: jazz, R&B, blues, pop, rock, world music, classical, funk, reggae and gospel. He has toured widely (Japan, Italy, Canada, El Salvador, Puerto Rico and the former Soviet Union), with the DC Youth Orchestra, the St. Augustine's Gospel Choir, and recording artists Nestor Torres and Gil Scott-Heron. He has also appeared at prestigious D.C. venues such as Blues Alley, The Kennedy Center, the Warner Theater and Constitution Hall.

Drummer Nick Costa is a sought-after sideman who has played the Baltimore-Washington-Annapolis triangle for over 20 years. He plays multiple styles such as jazz, gospel, rock, reggae, and R&B and has worked with prominent musicians in the area, including Clarence Ward III, Rodney Kelley and Ursula Ricks.

Guest Vocalist Marcia Baird Burns has performed in Washington, D.C., Maryland, New York, and Georgia and abroad in France, Gabon and the Caribbean. Besides Holiday, her influences include Carmen McRae, Betty Carter, Nancy Wilson, Cole Porter, Al Jarreau, Abbey Lincoln, Mighty Sparrow and Phyliss Hyman, and reflects her Caribbean heritage.

Early in his life, **Poet Seth Washington** was influenced by radio and magazines. His works are journalistic in nature and invoke a documentary style of spoken word. One of his original poems is featured on the opening track of Washington's *Shades of Shirley Horn*.

This event livestreams on April 7, 2021 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. from Maryland. Admission is \$10 for online viewing (7:00 p.m. ET/6:00 p.m. CT/5:00 p.m. MT/4:00 p.m. PT/11:00 p.m. GMT). For online tickets, visit <http://www.andiemusiklive.com/>. Additional donations are welcome. **A link to the show is emailed 15 minutes prior to the first airing of the show** and remains active for one week.

A limited number of tickets will also be available for inside the theatre at \$25 each and must be reserved in advance due to limited seating. The location is 409 N Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. Enquire by emailing andiemusiklive@gmail.com.