

Africville Stories

Starring Joe Sealy, Jackie Richardson and the Nathaniel Dett Chorale.

February 3, 2023 - 8:00 p.m.

Hammerson Hall



Sponsored by:



PERFORMANCE NOTES

7:30 p.m.: Theatre doors open

8:00 p.m.: Show time

Act 1 - Nathaniel Dett Chorale, 30 minutes

Act 2- Africville Stories, 60 minutes

**times are approximate*

Photos and videos are not permitted and strictly enforced.

Merchandise will be available in the atrium/lobby.

Late arrivals will be seated between numbers.

Lobby bar will be open at 7:00 p.m.

Note: There may be filming, photography and/or recordings at most events. By entering and by your presence, you consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded. Please contact the box office or an usher if you do not wish to be photographed or recorded.



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Africville Stories is Joe Sealy's new presentation that builds on his Juno award winning Africville Suite. Africville Stories will present poignant and uplifting new stories about the people and their community. These stories are the ones that you generally don't hear when people speak of Africville.

Established in 1847 "Africville" was nestled on the shores of the Bedford Basin at the north end of Halifax and was Canada's oldest black community, until it was raised in the late 1960's as an "urban improvement" measure. Africville had to overcome a multitude of challenges but managed to survive for more than a century, until the final building was demolished in 1970. The stories surrounding George Dixon, Joe Louis, Portia White and Duke Ellington combine to create the legacy of this unique Canadian community.

Africville Stories tells of this legacy in a narrative and musical journey. The Africville story continues right to the present time with a new tribute composition titled "The Seaview African United Baptist Church". The re-construction of the church has been discussed for years and it is currently nearing completion on the site of Africville. Its construction is seen as a small step towards compensating the "Africville" community for injustices of the past.

Africville Stories will be performed by award-winning Canadian singer-storyteller Jackie Richardson. Composer/Pianist Joe Sealy, has presented his Africville Suite in concert halls, universities and music festivals across Canada, Denmark, Norway and the USA, Joe Sealy has enjoyed a highly successful career as a musician, composer, recording artist and radio broadcaster. Recently he was appointed to the Order of Canada for his outstanding contributions to the arts



JOE SEALY, pianist and composer

For more than five decades Joe Sealy has enjoyed a successful career as a musician, actor, composer, music director and recording artist. During this time he has been featured on numerous television shows, toured throughout North America and Europe and worked with many major names in the entertainment industry. Tours have also played a significant part in Joe's career. Some of the more notable ones include: six months on the road with Blood, Sweat and Tears; a 19 concert tour of Africville Suite (including an appearance at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C.); a 20 city national tour of Timothy Findlay's Piano Man's Daughter (along with Veronica Tennant and Sylvia Tyson); and a 2 week tour of Norway and Denmark including a performance at the world famous Jazz House in Copenhagen.

In the early 1990's, Joe teamed up with bassist Paul Novotny to form a musical partnership that has produced five albums over a period of 20 years. He not only performed on these albums but composed many of the numbers. They include: Double Entendre, Dual Vision, Africville Suite, Blue Jade and Songs. All of this work and success has not gone unnoted. Joe is both proud of, and humbled by, the acclaim he has received. Major awards include: a Juno Award for CD, Africville Suite; the Dora Mavor Moore Award for music direction in the Toronto production of Ain't Misbehavin'; and a Gemini Award nomination for his musical score for the documentary film The Road Taken. . Most recently, Joe was music director for a tribute concert honouring Sarah Vaughn and Dinah Washington at a sold out event at Toronto's Koerner Hall. He continues to host a weekly radio show called "Joe's Jazz" on Jazz FM 91.

In September of 2010, Joe Sealy was invested in The Order of Canada.

JACKIE RICHARDSON, vocalist and narrator

Born in Donora Pa. and raised in Canada from the age of seven, Jackie Richardson is one of Canada's foremost singers of gospel, blues, and jazz. She is known internationally for her performances on the concert stage, nightclubs, stage, screen and in the recording studio. Her musical career has been enriched by her many live performances including performances with many great musicians including Celine Dion, Maureen Forrester, Anne Murray, Oliver Jones, Martha Reeves, Mavis Staples, and many others. Jackie's CD, "A Woman's View Through Child's Eyes", which is mainly contemporary jazz, is available at all her live performances. Her acting credits include the Dora Award-winning "Cookin' at The Cookery - The Music and Times of Alberta Hunter", for which she won a Dora Award, and "Ain't Misbehavin'". In 2011 Jackie received a Gemini Award for "The Gospel According to the Blues". A resident of Thornhill, Ontario, Ms. Richardson has received the Canadian Actors' Equity Lifetime Achievement Award, the Canadian Black Achievement Award, and the Toronto Blues Society Lifetime Achievement Award. Her family brings her much joy and support and one of the greatest blessings has been to perform with her daughter Kim Richardson.

PAUL NOVOTNY, bass

Paul Novotny knows how to make the bass talk. Singers like Jackie Richardson, Holly Cole, Carol Welsman and Molly Johnson would all agree. They have called upon Paul for his melodic and rhythmic style. Paul's production of Joe Sealy's Juno Award-winning (1997) "Africville Suite" helped to establish him as one of Canada's best record producers. Paul is also an established Film/TV composer who penned the orchestral theme for (CBC) "The National" in 2001, and in 2004 he wrote the original theme for (CBC) "The Hour" featuring George Stroumboulopoulos. Paul has also written and produced music for feature films and many national radio and TV commercials. As a jazz bass player Paul has performed with Cedar Walton, Geoff Keezer, Junior Mance, Don Thompson, Tommy Banks, and others. Since 1994, Paul has been the vice-president of Triplet Records Inc., the record label that he co-owns with his music and business partner Joe Sealy. Recently Sealy & Novotny released their fifth CD entitled "SONGS", which features nine original songs with guest performances by Dan Hill, Jullly Black, Raneee Lee, Jackie Richardson and Barbra Lica. Paul is also a professor at Humber College, School of Creative and Performing Arts in Toronto.



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THEATRE POLICIES

Food & Beverages:

Food and beverages are available prior to most shows and during intermission. Beverages, but not food, will be permitted inside the theatre. All beverages must be in a plastic cup/bottle. No outside food or beverages are permitted.

Babes In Arms:

Every person must have a ticket in order to be admitted to a performance. This policy applies to everyone, including children and infants.

Latecomers:

Will be seated at a suitable break in the performance. On-stage performances are shown on lobby monitors for the convenience of those waiting.

Cameras, Recording & Communication Devices:

Are prohibited inside the theatres for most shows. Professional equipment requires media approval. Cellular phones and electronic devices must be turned off.

There may be filming, photography and/or recordings at most events. By entering and by your presence, you consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded. Please contact the Box Office or an Usher if you do not wish to be photographed or recorded.

Scent Advisory:

Please be considerate of those in the audience who have allergies and refrain from wearing cologne and perfume.

PATRON SERVICES

Booster Seats:

There are limited number of booster seats available for use and can be requested from an usher as you enter the theatre. Please note that these are in high demand during family shows, and are subject to availability.

Assistive Devices:

Hearing enhancement devices and wheelchairs are available. See Box Office or Usher staff.

Service Animals:

Service animals are welcome to enter the Living Arts Centre to accompany patrons with disabilities.



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