



blackbox @ the edye

jazz. blues. grooves.

Curated and Hosted by
The Reverend Shawn Amos



FRI / DEC 7 / 8:00 PM

Amy Keys
BAND LEADER AND VOCALIST

Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.

There will be no intermission.

**THE
REVEREND
SHAWN
AMOS**

**PUT
TOGETHER
MUSIC**

*Jazz & Blues at The Broad Stage made possible
by a generous gift from Richard & Lisa Kendall.*

*blackbox @ the edye at The Broad Stage made possible
in part by a generous gift from Ann Petersen.*

In the early 1960s, my mother, Shirl-ee May, sang jazz and blues at Club Harlem –

a storied Atlantic City night spot, home to a generation of African-American performers. Throughout the early- to mid-20th century, jazz and blues clubs like Club Harlem were the epicenter of urban American nightlife.

New York's Cotton Club and Village Vanguard, Chicago's Kingston Mines, Kansas City's Reno Club, Los Angeles's Dunbar Hotel – these were more than just nightclubs. The great American 20th century jazz and blues scene was a crucial gathering place where stories were shared and traditions handed down.

In these sanctuaries, blacks, whites, rich and poor crossed lines to congregate and hold hands. You can hear it in the classic recordings of the day. You can see it in the monochrome photos. No doubt, people, souls were being saved.

It's in the American rhythm and the rhyme. Jazz and blues is our music. It belongs to us. This music is ours.

Jazz and blues is the tragedy and triumph of our shared history. It's the continual battle of our current circumstance. Jazz and blues cuts the shortest path from our heart to our head and up to a higher power. These deep grooves hold our fears, hopes and darkest demons.

In this trying 21st century, jazz and blues reminds us of our interdependence.

So tonight, we come together to holler, shout, moan and wail, but not in some fit of nostalgia. We are not here to scratch some ethnomusicological itch. We are here tonight because our souls need saving more than ever. Tonight, we remember our commonality, we let this music open our hearts.

Thank you, brothers and sisters, for stepping inside the blackbox. The eagle flies on Friday. Let's pitch a wang dang doodle.

- The Reverend Shawn Amos

ABOUT THE ARTIST

AMY KEYS (BAND LEADER AND VOCALIST)

She is a versatile and accomplished vocalist, writer, producer and actor. You've heard her voice in everything from the Emmy® Award-winning NBC NASCAR Super Bowl commercial to *Tarzan*. Her numerous television appearances include the GRAMMYs, *The Voice* and *Conan*, and she has toured, recorded or sung back-up with many greats such as Leonard Cohen, Natalie Cole, Phil Collins, Al Green, Queen Latifah, Sting, Josh Groban, Neil Young, Chaka Khan, Tina Turner and Mary J. Blige.