



Ranky Tanky

SUN / APR 7 / 7:30 PM

Kevin Hamilton
BASS

Quiana Parler
VOCALIST

Clay Ross
GUITAR, VOCALS

Charlton Singleton
TRUMPET, VOCALS

Calvin Baxter
DRUMS

Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.

There will be no intermission.

Photo by Peter Frank Edwards

RANKY TANKY released their eponymous debut on October 20, 2017. By December of that year, the group had been profiled on NPR's *Fresh Air with Terry Gross* and their album soared to the #1 position on the Billboard, *I-Tunes* and Amazon Jazz Charts. "Gullah" comes from West African language and means "a people blessed by God." "Ranky Tanky" translates loosely as "Work It" or "Get Funky!" In this spirit, this Charleston, S.C.-based quintet performs timeless music of Gullah culture born in the southeastern Sea Island region of the United States. From playful game songs to ecstatic shouts, from heartbreaking spirituals to delicate lullabies, the musical roots of Charleston are "rank" and fertile ground from which these contemporary artists are grateful to have grown. South Carolina natives Quentin Baxter, Kevin Hamilton, Charlton Singleton and Clay Ross first came together in 1998 fresh out of university to form a seminal Charleston jazz quartet. Now, united by years apart and a deeper understanding of home, these accomplished artists have come together again, joined by one of the low-country's most celebrated vocalists, Quiana Parler, to revive a "Heartland of American Music" born in their own backyards.

KEVIN HAMILTON (BASS) is a celebrated artist in Charleston's vibrant jazz scene. He has performed internationally with diverse ensembles such as The Charleston Jazz Orchestra, Houston Person, Gregory Hines and Rene Marie. Kevin Hamilton joined the U.S. Dept. of State's One Beat program in 2012 and holds a degree in music theory and composition from the College of Charleston.

QUIANA PARLER (VOCALIST) has one of the most sought-after voices in the South Carolina Low-Country and has graced some of the most prestigious stages in the nation. Quiana has performed with Kelly Clarkson, Ruben Studdard and Miranda Lambert, worked with producers David Foster, Adam



Photo by Peter Frank Edwards

Anders, Phil Ramone and Walter Afanasieff and appeared on national television shows *The View*, *Good Morning America* and *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* among others. Currently based in Charleston, S.C., she performs locally and nationally with her 10 piece party band Quiana Parler & Shiny Disco Ball Band.

www.quianaparler.com

CLAY ROSS (GUITAR, VOCALS) has established himself as an in-demand sideman and innovative bandleader on the international music scene, winning multiple grants through the U.S. State Department and touring worldwide as a Cultural Ambassador. Now signed to the Motema Music label, he currently tours worldwide, leading his N.Y.C.-based band Matuto. "Mr. Ross is a very deft guitarist with a rich vocabulary of folk, blues and jazz at his disposal." —*The Wall Street Journal*
www.clayross.com

CHARLTON SINGLETON (TRUMPET, VOCALS) is the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Charleston Jazz Orchestra, a 20-piece jazz ensemble of some of the finest professional musicians in the Southeast and the resident big band in Charleston, S.C.

He has toured across Europe and throughout the United States and has also shared the stage and/or worked with some of most talented entertainers in the world. Outside of music and entertainment, he is a devoted husband and proud father of two. www.charltonsingleton.com

CALVIN BAXTER (DRUMS) is playing tonight for his uncle Quentin E. Baxter, a GRAMMY®-nominated musician/producer currently on tour with Freddy Cole and Rene Marie. Calvin "is known as a gifted producer, engineer and multi-instrumentalist who is quickly garnering a reputation among musical cognoscenti as a go-to guy for R&B and Funk. His primary instrument is drums, but he is an accomplished keyboard player, singer and guitar player."
— *The Post and Courier of Charleston*.