



blackbox @ the edye

jazz. blues. grooves.

Curated and Hosted by
The Reverend Shawn Amos

The
Edye

FRI / OCT 5 / 8:00 PM

Sandra Booker
BAND LEADER AND VOCALIST

Tamir Hendelman
PIANO

Tony Pulizzi
GUITAR

Edwin Livingston
BASS

Thomas White
DRUMS

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

SANDRA BOOKER (BAND LEADER AND VOCALIST)

An American jazz singer/songwriter. Highly respected for her virtuosic scat ability, impeccable timing and phrasing, crystalline tone and bold musical individuality, Booker is in a league of her own. She has been the voice of major advertising campaigns including Coca-Cola and Ralph Lauren. Booker's native style is reminiscent of the traditional jazz icons while incorporating her deep, Creole, southern roots in gospel, R&B, neo-soul, Caribbean and Brazilian, and classical influences through precise intonation and uncompromising vocal agility. A graduate of University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), she received a BA in ethnomusicology. She has collaborated, recorded and toured with a variety of artists ranging from veterans to emerging stars including Lalo Schiffrin, Billy Higgins, Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, Garrett Morris, Harry Connick, Jr., Billy Higgins, Patrice Rushen, Tamir Hendelman, Keith David and Pepesito Reyes. In 2016, Booker established Jazz Musicians Against Cancer (JMAC) fund to provide no-cost concerts to cancer patients, families and friends, as part of her Music is Medicine campaign and tour. Perhaps legendary guitarist Kenny Burrell sums her up best when he says, "some people got it and some people don't and Sandra Booker's got it all!"