

CARRBILL

The Carr Center Performance Studio

March 25, 2023



ENDEA OWENS

WITH A TRIBUTE TO
RODNEY WHITAKER



When the Arts League of Michigan launched a Jazz Education program in the early 2000's, Ben Williams was one of the first student mentors involved in teaching the youngsters of the region about the world of jazz.

A few years later, Endea Owens was a student in the Carr Center's Summert Jazz Program under the tutelage of the great Marcus Belgrave. When Endea graduated from Detroit School of Arts, she enrolled in Michigan State University's Jazz Studies Program.

In 2019, Brandon Rose auditioned and was accepted into the Gathering Orchestra as a Geri Allen Fellow. For what turned out to be the next four years (thanks Covid!), Brandon studied and performed in this professional development program. Ultimately he turned out the house when he performed a spoken word duet in a newly commissioned work by Patrice Rushen.

For several years, the MSU Professors of Jazz served as the "house band" for the Arts League/Carr Center Jazz @the Center series. Great concerts, great artists, great music!

There were a few common denominators in all of these programs:

- › The Arts League of Michigan/Carr Center;
- › The bass and
- › Rodney Whitaker.

Endea, Ben and Brandon will showcase their incredible, God given talent, creativity and leadership as they lead their bands through an evening of great music in the Carr Center Performance Studio. They will bring cheers from you, the audience (part of the Carr Center money back guarantee of a great experience!). Heads will bob. Fingers will snap! And feet will tap.

In the back of the room, there will be two men smiling. Me and Rodney Whitaker. I will be smiling because of whatever small contribution the Carr Center has made to the development of these incredible young talents. I am grateful we could provide the opportunities.

Rodney will smile as he listens to each artist showcase their mastery on the bass. He will smile as he listens to the stories they will tell of the experiences they have had as working musicians over the last couple of decades as recording and touring artists, as the member of the house band of a popular TV show or just starting to explode as they meld the church house and the concert hall.

And Endea, Ben, Brandon and me...and oh so many more will smile back saluting *the Man, the Mentor and his Music* for all that Rodney has given to each of us, to Detroit and to the World.

On behalf of EVERYONE, I say THANK YOU RODNEY!

Your Artistic Collaborator for more than 20 years,



Oliver Ragsdale, Jr.
President
The Carr Center



the **CARR**center
PERFORMANCE STUDIO



RODNEY WHITAKER

THE MAN / THE MENTOR / THE MUSIC

3 Tribute Concerts Featuring:

| | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Endea Owens | March 25 th |
| Brandon Rose | April 27 th |
| Ben Williams | April 29 th |

thecarrcenter.org

ENDEA OWENS

March 25, 2023



Endea Owens is a Detroit-raised Recording Artist, Bassist, and Composer. She was once a student in the Carr Center Arts Academy and she has been mentored by Jazz Icons the likes of Marcus Belgrave, Rodney Whitaker, and Ron Carter. Endea has toured and performed with Wynton Marsalis, Jennifer Holli-day, Diana Ross, Rhonda Ross, Solange, Jon Batiste, Jazzmeia Horn, Dee Dee Bridgewater, and Steve Turre to name a few.

In 2018, Endea graduated from The Juilliard School, and joined the Late Show with Stephen Colbert as a member of the house band, Stay Human. Since then, Endea has won an Emmy, Grammy Award, and a George Foster Pea-body Award. Endea's work has appeared on Jon Batiste's Grammy Award-win-ning album "We Are", Oscar-nominated film Judas and the Black Messiah, and H.E.R's widely acclaimed Super Bowl LV performance. nt Artist at the Carr Center for more than 10 years now. Currently, he also serves as artistic director for The Gathering Orchestra, our Geri Allen Fellows, a professional development pro-gram for gifted,early career musicians.

BRANDON ROSE

April 27, 2023



The protégé of legends Marcus Miller and Rodney Whitaker, contemporary jazz musician Brandon Rose harnesses his gospel roots to create rhythm and blues, and soul-inspired compositions. His music seamlessly and effortlessly incorporates elements of jazz, funk, hip hop, and R&B into a full-bodied musical experience. In the 2000s, Rose achieved early notoriety on Michigan-based television programs and online streaming platforms as a child bassist. Brandon Rose began playing the bass guitar at the age of 5.

Brandon is a recent graduate of the prestigious Jazz Education program of Michigan State and for the past two years, he was a member of The Gathering Orchestra, the Carr Center's Geri Allen Fellows. He released his debut album, *Transition*, in June of 2020. As a writer, Brandon's compositions are inspired by his experiences with love and love lost, and by the social protests of the Black Lives Matter movement and other efforts for equality.

BEN WILLIAMS

April 29, 2023



For more than a decade, Ben Williams has steadily become one of the most acclaimed and versatile bassists in modern jazz. In 2009, he won the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition. He has performed/recorded with such giants as Pat Metheny, George Benson, Lauryn Hill, Wynton Marsalis, Robert Glasper and Maxwell. In 2013 and 2015 Williams received the DownBeat Magazine Critics Poll Rising Star Award for Bass. In 2009 the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Bass Competition landed him his first record-deal with Concord Records, where he recorded and released *State of Art* in 2011 and *Coming of Age* in 2015.

In 2020 Williams released, I AM A MAN. Sonically, the new album departs from the mostly acoustic instrumental settings of his previous albums. Williams imbues his love for modern R&B and hip-hop and his socio-political awareness with mesmerizing vocal-centric songs that will surely raise his profile higher in modern soul and rap circles.

RODNEY WHITAKER



Internationally renowned bassist and Origin Records recording artist, Rodney Whitaker, started his relationship with the Carr Center over 20 years ago. He founded our Jazz Education program and the MSU Professors of Jazz ensemble was our resident Jazz ensemble during the formative years. Rodney himself has been the Resident Artist at the Carr Center for more than 13 years now. Currently, he also serves as artistic director for The Gathering Orchestra, our Geri Allen Fellows, a professional development program for gifted, early career musicians.

A lifelong and dedicated educator, Rodney holds the titles of Professor of Jazz Bass and Director of Jazz Studies at Michigan State University where he has built one of the leading jazz degree programs and performing faculty in the world. For over 25 years, he has taught jazz at Michigan State University so it comes as no surprise that he also uses the stage to educate his audiences about the music he loves so dearly.

Rodney Whitaker is considered one of the leading performers and teachers of the jazz double bass in the world. He has performed and toured more than 100 legendary performing jazz artists, and is featured on over 100 recordings. He is also a former member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

Friday, April 14
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM



DETROIT CHAMBER
WINDS & STRINGS

Saturday, April 15
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM



RESONATE SYMPOSIUM

SHOWCASE

The Carr Center Performance Studio
15 E. Kirby Street
Detroit, MI

FEATURING

PAMELA Z
NATHALIE JOACHIM
ADOLPHUS HAILSTORK
MICHAEL FRAZIER
GEORGE LEWIS
PATRICE RUSHEN

WHAT IS RESONATE?

**Resonate is a multi-year collaboration
that explores the African Diaspora
through the lens of
contemporary American
chamber music.**



FOR TICKETS

call 248-559-2095 or visit
detroitchamberwinds.org/resonate