

JAZZ IN THE KEY OF ELLISON



Featuring

Will Downing Vocals

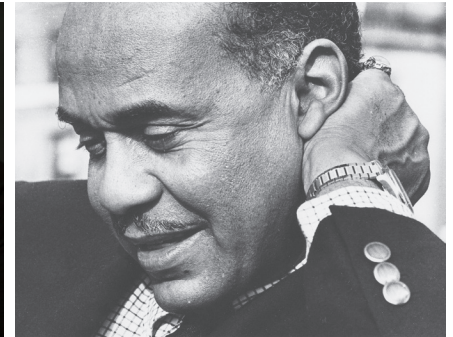
Nona Hendryx Vocals

Quiana Lynell Vocals

Nicholas Payton Trumpet

The Andy Farber Jazz Orchestra

Narrated by Roxane Gay



JAZZ IN THE KEY OF ELLISON is a new concert production inspired by the musical life of America's iconic writer **Ralph Ellison**, presented in music, words, and images. Ralph Ellison, acclaimed author of the National Book Award-winning novel *Invisible Man*, was an accomplished trumpeter who was close to many of the great jazz innovators of his lifetime – from Armstrong and Ellington to Bird and Monk. The concert celebration premiered in November 2016 at New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

This star-led evening of music and narration includes R&B and jazz vocalist **WILL DOWNING**, iconic Labelle singer/recording artist **NONA HENDRYX**, 2017 Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition winner **QUIANA LYNELL**, Grammy-winning trumpeter **NICHOLAS PAYTON**, the **ANDY FARBER JAZZ ORCHESTRA** from the Broadway show "After Midnight," and narration by best-selling author **ROXANE GAY**. Still images and video of Ellison, legendary performers including Louis Armstrong and Count Basie, and paintings by Ellison's close friend Romare Beardon provide a visual backdrop. The tour will also offer educational opportunities featuring Columbia University's Jazz and Ellison scholar Bob O'Meally joined by performers from the show.

Opus 3 Artists joins NJPAC and producer Danny Kapilian to bring this powerful evening on tour in 2018-2019.

JAZZ IN THE KEY OF ELLISON PART 1

Early Lasting Influences

Featuring music from jazz originators Louis Armstrong, Bessie Smith, Charlie Christian, Jimmy Rushing, Lester Young, Duke Ellington, and Mahalia Jackson.

JAZZ IN THE KEY OF ELLISON PART 2

Minton's and After

Featuring music by next generation greats including Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, Kenny Clarke, Coleman Hawkins, and Ray Charles.



Support for the NJPAC premiere was provided by Audible.com, the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, and the Institute for Jazz Studies in Newark.

WATCH VIDEO FROM THE NJPAC PREMIERE

AVAILABLE 2019-2020

Produced by NJPAC and Danny Kapilian

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on tour

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