



For Immediate Release

Living Jazz & SFJAZZ Present

20th Annual Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Featuring the Music of Stevie Wonder

Saturday, January 13, 2024, 6:00pm Doors, 7:00pm Show
Paramount Theatre, Oakland, CA

livingjazz.org

Living Jazz and SFJAZZ present a Musical Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at the Paramount Theatre in Oakland, CA. This special celebration will feature an exclusive artist lineup of Bay Area musical luminaries performing the music of Stevie Wonder. It was Wonder's version of "Happy Birthday" and his tireless campaigning with the King family that led directly to the enshrinement of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, observed for the first time in 1986.

This is the 20th year Living Jazz has presented this musical celebration, and the first time since the pandemic. In 2023, Living Jazz and SFJAZZ are celebrating their 40th anniversaries and four decades of serving Bay Area communities to reach, develop, and nurture current and future musicians and audiences.

The musical celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be led by Music Director Kev Choice and hosted by RyanNicole. The program will present Stevie Wonder's songs reimagined and reinterpreted through exclusive musical collaborations between Aneesa Strings, Awesome Orchestra Collective, Rhonda Benin, Nona Brown, Living Jazz Children's Project Choir, Oaktown Jazz Workshops, PHER, SFJAZZ High School All-Stars, Babatunji, the Howard Wiley Band, and more.

Since 1984, Living Jazz has transformed lives through the music, spirit, and culture of jazz in the Bay Area community, by educating students and artists of all ages and abilities. Led by Executive Director Lyz Luke, Living Jazz is expanding its programs and securing partnerships to expand its arts programs. Living Jazz holds its very popular

Jazz Camp and Jam Camp each summer along with robust year-round education programs and initiatives.

SFJAZZ serves thousands of adults and youth in communities across the Bay Area with a dynamic and innovative array of educational programs in the concert hall, classroom, and community. SFJAZZ provides rich, innovative, interactive, and informative programming in jazz appreciation, creation, and performance.

“I am excited to have Living Jazz unite with SFJAZZ to honor Dr. King,” says Living Jazz Executive Director Lyz Luke. “As we pay tribute to his enduring impact, we are thrilled to also celebrate the timeless music of Stevie Wonder, whose melodies have united hearts across generations. The day will be a joyful showcase of unity through music, honoring two extraordinary organizations and the tireless advocacy for social change through music.”

At this year’s celebration, Living Jazz will present its Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award that honors local civic trailblazers. The 2024 Award will go to Sabrina Thomas of Building Futures. Thomas has been integral in the ability for Building Futures to expand their efforts to build communities free of homelessness and domestic violence. During her 16 years of leadership, the organization has more than doubled their budget and expanded the outreach to extend between Oakland and San Leandro.

The MLK Musical Celebration has been made possible through the support of the Oakland City Council and the City of Oakland Cultural Funding Program, California Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, Alameda County Arts Commission, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation, and the Lake Merritt-Uptown District Association.

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\$13.50-\$103.50

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