

APOLLO

The Apollo Theater Presents:

Say It Loud – I’m Black and I’m Proud at 50

*Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the James Brown Anthem and
its Influence on the Music of the Black Power Movement*

*With Musical Direction by **Christian McBride***

Featuring Special Guests

Stokley Williams, Lisa Fischer, Nona Hendryx, Avery*Sunshine and Lee Fields

SPECIAL HALF-PRICE OFFER FOR HARLEM RESIDENTS

Harlem, NY – (October 10, 2018) (Updated) The Apollo Theater today announced special guests and additional programming for ***Say It Loud – I’m Black and I’m Proud at 50***, a one-night-only concert produced by the Apollo Theater and curated by musical director and multi-Grammy Award winner **Christian McBride**. The concert on **October 20, 2018 at 8:00 p.m.** celebrates the music that helped to propel the Black Power Movement forward and honors the Godfather of Soul, James Brown, as well as contemporary artists who continue to champion Black Pride. In 1968, when Brown recorded “Say It Loud I’m Black and I’m Proud,” the song became a hit and ultimately a theme for the movement. *Say It Loud* continues the non-profit theater’s commitment to articulating and projecting the African American narrative and its role in the development of American and global culture.

“Since its opening, the artists that have performed on The Apollo’s stage have simultaneously entertained and galvanized the African American community and shaped the cultural and civic discourse of the nation. We are thrilled to celebrate James Brown’s ‘Say It Loud’ anthem and the artists that it has since inspired, from The Temptations and Sly and the Family Stone to contemporary artists such as Childish Gambino, Beyoncé, and Kendrick Lamar,” said Apollo Executive Producer **Kamilah Forbes**. “*Say It Loud* will go beyond a one-night celebration, serving as a season-long theme for The Apollo, which has given voice to generations of cultural protest and empowerment.”

For this performance, McBride will lead an all-star band, featuring **Pee Wee Ellis** (tenor), a co-writer with James Brown of “Say It Loud: I’m Black and I’m Proud”; **Fred Wesley** (trombone); and **Robert “Mousey” Thompson** (drums); all who performed with Brown’s band The JB’s. Additional members of the band include **Frank Greene** (trumpet), **Lee Hogans** (trumpet), **Steve Wilson** (alto sax), **Rodney Jones** (guitar), **Eric Krasno** (guitar), **Katreese Barnes** (keyboard), **Nikki Glaspie** (drums), **Gabu Lugo** (percussion), and background vocalists **Janice Pendarvis**, **Tawatha Agee**, and **Keith Fluitt**. The event will be hosted by **Rev. Al Sharpton**.

Joining the band will be special guest vocalist **Stokley Williams**, a Grammy Award nominated singer/songwriter and lead singer for R&B group Mint Condition; **Lisa Fischer**, a famed singer who has performed around the world as a solo artist and also as a singer with the Rolling Stones, Tina Turner, Chaka Khan, and countless others; **Nona Hendryx**, a singer/songwriter and founding member of the group Labelle; **Avery*Sunshine**, a vocalist who has worked with artists such as B.B. King and Ledisi; and soul

and funk singer **Lee Fields** who has toured the world with musical legends like Kool and the Gang and Sammy Gordon.

Additional programming for *Say It Loud – I’m Black and I’m Proud at 50* includes *Live Wire: re-Volution Live – 50 years since Say it Loud* on **Thursday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m.** at The Apollo. The free event will feature a night of music and conversation with Christian McBride and Mark Anthony Neal, Duke University Professor of African and African American Studies, and DJs **KS360, LikWuid, and Mama Soul.**

James Brown first performed at The Apollo in 1959 with The Famous Flames, and went on to perform continuously throughout his career, filming his television special *Man to Man* along with the hit album *Live at the Apollo*, and in June 1968, performing eight shows over three days. Like The Apollo Theater, James Brown has a long history of being a force for change in the African American community. During the Black Power Movement in 1968, he quelled riots in Boston, where his full performance at Boston Garden was broadcast live the night after Martin Luther King’s assassination; and took his show on a three-day, USO-sponsored tour of Vietnam, performing for more than a thousand troops.

CHRISTIAN McBRIDE (*Music Director*) is a six-time Grammy Award-winning jazz bassist who can be likened to a force of nature, fusing the fire and fury of a virtuoso with the depth and grounding of a seasoned journeyman. With a career now into its third decade, the Philadelphia native’s longest-running project, the Christian McBride Band, came together in 2000 and in 2012 they released “The Good Feeling” which won the Grammy for Best Large Ensemble Jazz Album. McBride is also a mentor, educator, and advocate who has been named the artistic director of the Jazz Aspen Snowmass Summer Sessions, co-director of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, the Second Creative Chair for Jazz of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, and the Artistic Advisor for Jazz Programming at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. He currently hosts and produces “The Lowdown: Conversations with Christian” on SiriusXM and NPR’s “Jazz Night in America.” Along with his wife Melissa Walker they founded Jazz House Kids, a nationally recognized community arts organization dedicated to educating children through jazz.

STOKLEY WILLIAMS is a GRAMMY-nominated vocalist, songwriter, producer, and multi-instrumentalist and is known best as the lead singer and drummer for legendary R&B group Mint Condition. As such, he has crisscrossed the globe, touring with luminaries like Prince, Whitney Houston, Janet Jackson, and Alicia Keys. Stokley’s 2011 effort with Kelly Price, “Not My Daddy,” earned a GRAMMY nomination. The TV performances alongside Jimmy Fallon and Conan O’Brien and awards shows such as BET Honors and the AMAs. His film scores and catalogue of studio work, a veritable who’s who: Mariah Carey, Usher, Mary J. Blige, and Jill Scott.

LISA FISCHER is a vocalist and songwriter whose 1991 debut album “So Intense” received a Grammy Award for the single “How Can I Ease the Pain.” She currently tours with her band Grand Baton. A renown background singer, Fischer appeared in the Oscar-winning 2013 documentary *Twenty Feet from Stardom*, which featured clips of her legendary duets with Mick Jagger.

NONA HENDRYX is a celebrated vocalist, record producer, songwriter, musician, and author. She was an original member of the trio Labelle, whose smash single “Lady Marmalade” is a timeless classic. She has recorded solo singles such as “Transformation” and “Do What You Wanna Do,” and performed back-up for legendary acts including Parliament-Funkadelic, Talking Heads and Peter Gabriel.

EVERY*SUNSHINE is an American soul, R&B, and gospel singer whose #1 hit single “Call My Name” from her album *The Sunroom* was awarded ASCAP’s “Rhythm and Soul Song of the Year 2016” award. Avery has opened for Babyface at Madison Square Garden, performed for Smokey Robinson at his Rock ‘N Roll Hall of Fame tribute, and sung with Aretha Franklin. Avery was also nominated for a Soul Train award and a BET Centric Award.

LEE FIELDS is a soul and funk singer, who has toured the world with musical legends like Kool and the Gang, Sammy Gordon and the Hip-Huggers and O.V Wright. Most recently, Fields returned with his most triumphant and honest record yet, *Special Night*, recorded with The Expressions and released on Brooklyn's Big Crown Records.

TICKET INFO

Tickets for *Say It Loud – I'm Black and I'm Proud at 50* are available at the Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125th Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets start at \$30 and are on sale now.

HALF-OFF HARLEM

Ticket buyers that provide proof of Harlem residence (ID or utility bill) will receive discounted tickets (50% off), compliments of Coca-Cola.

SUPPORT

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About the Apollo Theater

The legendary Apollo Theater—the soul of American culture—plays a vital role in cultivating emerging artists and launching legends. Since its founding, the Apollo has served as a center of innovation and a creative catalyst for Harlem, the city of New York, and the world.

With music at its core, the Apollo's programming extends to dance, theater, spoken word, and more. This includes special programs such as the blockbuster concert *Bruno Mars Live at the Apollo*, the world premiere theatrical reading of Ta-Nehisi Coates's National Book Award-winning *Between the World and Me, 100: The Apollo Celebrates Ella*, the annual Africa Now! Festival, and the New York premiere of the opera *We Shall Not Be Moved*. The Apollo is a performing arts presenting organization that also produces festivals and large-scale dance and music works organized around a set of core initiatives that celebrate and extend the Apollo's legacy through a contemporary lens; global festivals including the Women of the World (WOW) Festival and *Breakin' Convention*; international and U.S.-based artist presentations focused on a specific theme; and Special Projects, multidisciplinary collaborations with partner organizations.

Since introducing the first *Amateur Night* contests in 1934, the Apollo Theater has served as a testing ground for new artists working across a variety of art forms and has ushered in the emergence of many new musical genres—including jazz, swing, bebop, R&B, gospel, blues, soul, and hip-hop. Among the countless legendary performers who launched their careers at the Apollo are Michael Jackson, Ella Fitzgerald, Stevie Wonder, Billie Holiday, James Brown, D'Angelo, Lauryn Hill, Dave Chappelle, Machine Gun Kelly, Miri Ben Ari, Sarah Vaughan, Gladys Knight, and Luther Vandross; and the Apollo's forward-looking artistic vision continues to build on this legacy. For more information visit <https://www.apollotheater.org/>

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