

presents...

ULYSSES OWENS JR. | Percussion J'NAI BRIDGES | Mezzo-Soprano

Reuben Rogers | Bass Ted Rosenthal | Piano Jalen Baker | Vibraphone Carol Robbins | Harp David Rosenthal | Guitar

Friday, April 28, 2023 | 7:30pm

Herbst Theatre

Notes on Hope

Divine Hope

TRADITIONAL The Lord's Prayer

EDWARD KENNEDY Creole Love Call "DUKE" ELLINGTON On a Turquoise Cloud

Heaven

TRADITIONAL There is a Balm in Gilead

The Crux of Hope

GERIALLEN Skin

HENRI DUPARC L'invitation au voyage

ERIK SATIE Je te veux

LOUIGUY La vie en rose

VALDEMAR Boi Bumba HENRIQUE

For Tickets and More: sfperformances.org | 415.392.2545

Hope Fulfilled

FLORENCE PRICE Adoration

Hold Fast to Dreams

ANDRÉ PREVIN It's Good to Have You Near Again

This program is made possible in part by the generous support of the Bernard Osher Foundation

This program is made possible in part by the generous support of Edmon and Mary Jennings

Ulysses Owens Jr. is represented by Unlimited Myles

unlimitedmyles.com

J'Nai Bridges is represented by William Guerri, LLC

ARTIST PROFILES

Ulysses Owens Jr. is SF Performances' Jazz Artist-in-Residence and makes his mainstage debut with tonight's performance.

San Francisco Performances presents J'Nai Bridges in her SF Performances debut. Sustained Success," was released by Skyhorse Publisher, and Simon and Schuster in 2021 and has been in the a top five on Amazon in the Music Business, and Arts and Entrepreneurship book categories.

In addition to his work as an author and musician, Ulysses serves on the faculty at

Two-time Grammy® award-winning American mezzo-soprano **J'Nai Bridges**, known for her "plush-voiced mezzo-soprano" (*The New York Times*), and "calmly commanding stage presence" (*The New Yorker*) has been heralded as "a rising star" (*Los Angeles Times*), gracing the world's top opera and concert stages.

Bridges is a leading figure in classical music's shift toward conversations of inclusion and racial justice. The 2021–22 season alone saw Bridges' ascent into the sphere of new music taking on several world premieres but continuing to explore the traditional roles. She is one of Kennedy Center's Next 50 leaders of cultural diversity.

Bridges' career highlights include receiving the 2016 Richard Tucker Career Grant and 2018 Sphinx Medal of Excellence, and she is a 2012 Marian Anderson award winner. She made her Metropolitan Opera debut in the Grammy® winning production of Akhnaten by Phillip Glass. Bridges has performed all over Europe and North America.

The 2022–23 season spotlights Bridges in one of her signature roles as Carmen with house debut engagements at the Arena di Verona, Canadian Opera Company, and returning to the Dutch National Opera, and Lyric Opera of Chicago in 2023. In December 2022 Ms. Bridges begins her recital engagements with a performance with the Catalyst



Ulysses Owens Jr. goes the limit in the jazz world and beyond; claiming eight successful albums of his own. Owens has also gained special attention for his performances on Grammy® Award-winning albums by Kurt Elling and The Christian McBride Big Band in addition to five Grammy® nominated albums with Joey Alexander, Christian McBride Trio, John Beasley's Monk'estra, and Gregory Porter. Both JAZZIZ and Rolling Stone picked his album Songs of Freedom as a Top Ten Album for 2019 and in 2021 his most recent Big Band release Soul Conversations, was voted the top album in May 2021 by JAZZIZ Magazine.

Ulysses is the creator of multiple online jazz drum video courses for Open Studio. He also created, filmed, and produced his own entrepreneurial course for drummers titled "Be More Than A Drummer" which teaches drummers how to expand beyond the instrument and accomplish whatever they dream of entrepreneurially. Ulysses was also host of the Open Studio weekly live YouTube series, From The Drummer's Perspective where he has interviewed many legendary drummers.

Ulysses has penned multiple articles for multiple publications (Jazz Times, Downbeat, and Percussive Arts Society.) He has released a Hallmark Drum instructional book titled: Jazz Brushes for the Modern Drummer: An Essential Guide to the Art of Keeping Time, published and distributed by Hal Leonard. His second book, The Musicians Career Guide: Turning Your Talent into

The Juilliard School in the role of Small Ensemble Director.

His passion project is his role as the Artistic Director for his family's nonprofit organization, "Don't Miss A Beat," in Jacksonville, Florida that utilizes the arts as a bridge to a better life for "At-Hope" students. Ulysses has received the "Difference Maker" Award from Beacon College; the



"Robert Arleigh White Advocacy Award" from the Cultural Council of Northeast Florida; and has been multi-year recipient of the Individual Artist Grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida. What matters to him consistently is giving back and continuing to be grateful for a new day to make a difference in the lives of others.

Quartet at 92NY in a world premiere by Jimmy Lopez, and continues throughout 2023 at Washington University, Thomasville Center for the Arts, The Cliburn, Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, San Francisco Performances, and the Mondavi Center in Davis, California. Finally, as a native of Tacoma, WA, Bridges eagerly anticipates her homecoming with her Seattle Opera debut in a concert performance of Samson and Delilah as Delilah in January 2023.