THE SHED Press Release

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Second Row: ill Camille. Photo: Cee Cee Nicole/The ViLLAGE; Smino; Phony Ppl, photo: Ryan Jay; Eryn Allen Kane, photo: Davy Greenberg; Tamar-kali, Photo: Scott Ellison Smith. Third row: PJ Morton, Photo: Alex Smith; Judith Hill; Melanie Faye, photo: Marcus Maddox; Braxton Cook, photo: Lauren Desberg; Cory Henry. Image © The Shed, 2019.

Soundtrack of America, a Five-Night Concert Series Celebrating The Influence Of African American Music With Performances by A New Generation Of Groundbreaking Artists, Opens Friday, April 5, 2019

Conceived and Directed by Artist and Filmmaker Steve McQueen, The World Premiere Commission Inaugurates The Shed

NEW YORK, APRIL 5, 2019—The Shed opens with *Soundtrack of America*, a five-part concert series celebrating the unrivaled impact of African American music on contemporary culture. Conceived and directed by Oscar-winning filmmaker **Steve McQueen** with a creative team led by **Quincy Jones** and **Maureen Mahon**, over the course of five evenings (April 5, 7, 9, 12 and 14) Soundtrack traces a musical "family tree" that ranges from spirituals and blues to jazz, gospel, R&B, rock, hip hop and house, examining 400 years of creativity and ingenuity in the face of near-constant violence and persecution.

The first seeds of the *Soundtrack* concept were sown in 2012 when McQueen was in New Orleans making 12 Years a Slave (Academy Award winner for Best Picture). "I was thinking of African American music as a narrative of sound, and I wanted to hear the sounds of the arriving Africans in the United States," says McQueen. "The music they would be playing, then going along some sort of trajectory to the present day — what would that journey sound like?

McQueen, a Turner Prize-winning visual artist before he moved into feature filmmaking, had known Alex Poots, Artistic Director and CEO of The Shed, since the early 2000s, when Poots was co-artistic director of a commissioning series at London's Tate Modern. After Poots was hired at The Shed in 2015, he and McQueen began regular discussions and meetings.

"One day," says Poots, "Steve phoned me and said, 'What if you could hear the history of African American music? A family tree of this music must exist, and what if you could hear different journeys through that tree?' I thought, 'Wow, that's an idea.' It was so multidimensional and so resonant and, to me, so perfect for a new commissioning center in New York."

McQueen and Poots felt that considerable scholarship was needed to start the project and brought on Maureen Mahon, a cultural anthropologist and associate professor in the department of music at New York University, as Chief Academic Advisor. "Steve likes to have deep background research," says Mahon. "What we arrived at was, what's a family tree of African American music? We're talking about the long history of music, so it wouldn't only be what Steve was familiar with and liked, but also had deeper historical resonance. I was doing traditional academic research and trying to talk about the roots of African American music, from the early days of what is known — folk spirituals, field hollers — and how those things transformed into the blues and into gospel. Where does jazz come in? What's the classical music side? They wanted to represent it as a condensed, chronological, visual representation that listed the names of musical genres, artists associated with those genres, and how they were connected."

Mahon helped assemble an entire team of academic advisors, which includes **Regina Bradley**, an author on trap and hip-hop; **Alisha Lola Jones**, an expert in sacred music and gospel; **Matthew D. Morrison**, whose specialty is very early African-American music; writer **Nelson George**, and curator **Hamza Walker**, whose focus is on how visual art connects with music.

"What I discovered very quickly is African American music is not a linear narrative," adds McQueen. "It doubles back on itself. It goes forward, it goes sideways, it goes upwards, it goes downwards — it's like a sphere more than anything else. In order to go forward, people go backward, using things from the past to push on into the future. I think the past is always in the present of the music."

Constructing a family tree was only part of the task; concerts needed to be curated and produced, says Poots, "and we started pretty much at the top, with Quincy Jones." In Jones' 70 years in the music industry, he's worked with the giants — Dizzy Gillespie, Sarah Vaughan, Frank Sinatra, Aretha Franklin, and Michael Jackson, to name only a few. "Quincy is the high priest of all this," enthuses McQueen.

Jones joined workshops with The Shed's academic team to "road-test and refine and develop and mold" the *Soundtrack* concept. "It was interesting working with Quincy because he's really focused on how to put on a show," says Mahon. "He was also concerned that the education component needed to be accompanied by an entertainment component. That was something he really kept in the foreground."

Jones's musical connections are, of course, unparalleled. "Because Quincy's worked with **Greg Phillinganes** so much, we're lucky to have access to him, one of the best music directors in the world," says Poots.

"He's the man who plays piano and keyboards on *Thriller*, he's Stevie Wonder's music director, was Aretha Franklin's music director — Greg Phillinganes is a genius, someone who can play so much of that repertoire and that family tree. He has put together the mother of all house bands for *Soundtrack*."

All told, there are more than two dozen early-career performers involved across five nights of programming. Poots recalls a "eureka moment" during a planning meeting with the creative team and the academics. "Someone said, 'In terms of who's going to perform this and how it's performed. What about looking at emerging artists?' The idea soon came that the family tree could be interpreted by people who'd be joining it in the future — we decided that each night, we'd select four or five emerging artists, and they would each pick two or three moments in the family tree, songs or pieces of music, that they felt led to the style of music they write and perform. Each night we have four or five branches of the family tree for audiences to hear. Each night, there is a constellation and tapestry of this remarkable music."

Helping to select the roster of young talent for these concerts was a team of music advisors that included Tunji Balogun, an executive vice president of A&R at RCA Records, and hip hop producer Dion "No I.D." Wilson, who's worked with Jay-Z, Kanye West, and Vince Staples. Some of the up-and-coming artists who will perform include R&B vocalist and Stevie Wonder protégé Sheléa and New Orleans pianist and The Late Show with Stephen Colbert bandleader Jon Batiste (Night 1); New Orleans funk band Tank and the Bangas and St. Louis rapper Smino (Night 2); vocalist and Prince collaborator Judith Hill and experimental avant-soul musician serpentwithfeet (Night 3); Los Angeles jazz saxophonist and hip hop producer Terrace Martin (Night 4); and jazz trumpeter **Keyon Harrold** and electro-soul singer-songwriter **Moses Sumney** (Night 5). It's such a diverse selection of sounds and approaches that even the artists themselves are making discoveries. "I'm learning so much about new music I wasn't familiar with yet," says Terrace Martin, whose own musical vocabulary stretches from jazz legend Herbie Hancock to Pulitzer Prizewinning rapper Kendrick Lamar.

For a complete list of performing artists, see below.

Above all, McQueen urges, Soundtrack of America promises to be a joyous occasion. "We've been dealing with mourning and commiserating, and this is a time for celebration," he says. "The music has come from many aspects of life—it's the visibility of saying 'We're here.' It's a source of pain, but it's also about humanity and perseverance and love."

Creative Team:

Steve McQueen was born in London in 1969; he lives and works in Amsterdam and London. Large-scale surveys of McQueen's work have been held at the Art Institute of Chicago in 2012 and the Schaulager, Basel, in 2013. Recent solo presentations include exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston; the Whitworth, Manchester; the Pérez Art Museum, Miami; the Museum of Modern Art; and the Whitney Museum of American Art. McQueen has previously participated in Documenta XII (2007), XI (2002), and X (1997), and the Venice Biennale (2015, 2013, 2007, and 2003), representing Great Britain in Venice in 2009.

He has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Johannes Vermeer Prize (2016), Harvard University's W.E.B. Du Bois Medal (2014), CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) (2011), OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) (2002), and the Turner Prize, Tate Gallery, London, England (1999). McQueen has directed four feature films: *Hunger* (2008), *Shame* (2011), 12 *Years a Slave* (2014), and *Widows* (2018). He won the Caméra d'Or award at the Cannes Film Festival for *Hunger* and the Oscar for the Best Motion Picture for 12 *Years a Slave* in 2014.

Named by **Time** magazine as one of the most influential jazz musicians of the 20th century, **Quincy Jones**'s career has encompassed the roles of composer, record producer, artist, film producer, arranger, conductor, instrumentalist, TV producer, record company executive, television station owner, magazine founder, multi-media entrepreneur, and humanitarian. Among the multitude of honors that he has received for his contributions are an Emmy Award, seven Academy Award nominations, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, and 28 Grammy Awards; Jones is also the all-time most Grammy-nominated artist with a total of 80 nominations. A recipient of the Republic of France's Commandeur de la Légion d'Honneur, Jones was named a 2001 Kennedy Center Honoree for his contributions to the cultural fabric of the United States of America. He was recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts as a Jazz Master, the nation's highest jazz honor, and in 2010, was bestowed the National Medal of Arts, our nation's highest artistic honor. In 2016, Jones received a Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical for the Broadway production of *The Color Purple*. The award made him one of only 21 individuals in history who have received an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Award.

Maureen Mahon, a cultural anthropologist, is an associate professor in the Department of Music at New York University. She is the author of Right To Rock: The Black Rock Coalition and The Cultural Politics of Race (Duke University Press, 2004) and articles on music and African American cultural studies that have appeared in American Ethnologist; Journal of Popular Music Studies: Women and Music: A Journal of Gender and Culture: Journal of the American Musicological Society; Ethnomusicology; EbonyJet.com; and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum website. She is chair of the Popular Music section of the Society of Ethnomusicology and serves on the American Musicological Society's Committee on Race and Ethnicity. She has held fellowships from the National Science Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the American Association of University Women. She received a 2013 – 14 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for her research on the contributions of African American women such as Big Mama Thornton, LaVern Baker, the Shirelles, Tina Turner, Darlene Love, Betty Davis, and Labelle. Her book on the subject, Black Diamond Queens: African American Women and Rock and Roll, is forthcoming from Duke University Press.

Greg Phillinganes, a Detroit native and music veteran for over 40 years, began his career in 1975 as part of Stevie Wonder's band, Wonderlove. Phillinganes went on to record, perform, tour, or write with an array of Grammy Awardwinning artists including Quincy Jones, Eric Clapton, Burt Bacharach, Jamie Foxx, Barbra Streisand, Rod Stewart, Andrea Boccelli, Herbie Hancock, Mick Jagger, Jennifer Hudson, Babyface, David Gilmour, John Legend, Willie Nelson, Aretha Franklin, Steven Tyler, Lionel Richie, Bruno Mars, Usher, Santana, Maxwell, and Ed Sheeran.

Phillinganes is an ASCAP Pop Award Winner for the song "Love Will Conquer All," which he co-wrote with Lionel Richie, and was the music director for Richie's Can't Slow Down tour, as well as Michael Jackson's Bad and Dangerous tours. A Grammy nominee himself, Phillinganes has been a cornerstone in hundreds of Grammy Award-winning and -nominated albums, including Stevie Wonder's Songs In the Key Of Life, Quincy Jones's Back on the Block, and Michael Jackson's Thriller. Phillinganes was also a member of the Grammy Award-winning supergroup Toto from 2003 to 2008 and is featured on their album and live DVD Falling In Between. Phillinganes was featured both vocally, and as a sideman, with jazz icon Herbie Hancock on his Imagine Project tour and has been music director for the Grammy Awards, the White House Celebration of Motown, and more. In 2018, he was music director for the BET special Q85: A Musical Celebration for Quincy Jones.

The GP Experience Band Members: Greg Phillinganes, Chief Music Director / Piano; Bashiri Johnson, Percussion; Donald Barrett, Drums; Alex Al, Bass; David Delhomme, Keys / Rhythm Guitar; Tariqh Akoni, Lead Guitar; Miguel Gandelman, Saxophone; Ray Monteiro, Trumpet; Garrett Smith, Trombone; Jory Steinberg, Vocals; Kenya Hathaway, Vocals.

Dion 'No I.D.' Wilson's work as a noted hip hop and R&B producer has resulted in a long list of culturally impactful records by a diverse array of artists, including Jay-Z, Kanye West, Common, Nas, Drake, Rihanna, Big Sean, and many more. One of the founders of modern Chicago hip hop, No I.D. is a legendary producer and artistic force who most recently produced Jay-Z's chart-topping album *4:44* (2017) in its entirety, earning him five Grammy nominations including Producer of the Year. Wilson also worked on Logic's album (with 6tix), *Everybody* (2017), which features guest appearances from Chuck D., Alessia Cara, Killer Mike, Khalid, and a host of others. Prior to joining Capitol Music Group, Wilson was president of West's G.O.O.D Music, became the executive vice president and head of A&R for Def Jam Recordings, and signed Common, Jhene Aiko, and Vince Staples to his label, ARTium Recordings. No I.D.'s relaunched label ARTium Recordings is also expanding to include artist management and music publishing.

Tunji Balogun is an executive vice president of A&R at RCA records, as well as the co-founder of the Los Angeles-based label Keep Cool. He has worked with such artists as Normani, Khalid, Goldlink, Bryson Tiller, Brockhampton, Kendrick Lamar, SZA, and Childish Gambino.

Advisors:

Dr. Regina N. Bradley is a writer and researcher of African American literature and culture with an emphasis on the contemporary Black American South. She is the author of numerous essays on race and popular culture and the short story collection *Boondock Kollage: Stories from the Hip Hop South* (Peter Lang Press, 2017).

Nelson George is a filmmaker, author, and critic who focuses on the contributions of Black Americans to global culture. His books include award-winning histories (*The Death of Rhythm & Blues, Hip Hop America*) and popular novels (*The Plot Against Hip Hop, To Funk and Die in LA*). He's directed cable movies (HBO's *Life Support*) and feature documentaries (*A Ballerina's Tale*, about dancer Misty Copeland), while writing for series (Netflix's *The Get Down*) and producing (Cinemax's *Tales From the Tour Bus*). His latest book is a collection of music writings, *The Nelson George Mixtape* (Pacific Publishing).

Alisha Lola Jones, PhD, is an assistant professor in the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology at Indiana University (Bloomington). Dr. Jones is a council member of the Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM), American Musicological Society (AMS), and co-chair of the Music and Religion Unit of the American Academy of Religion (AAR). Her highly anticipated book *Flaming: The Peculiar Theo-Politics of Fire and Desire in Black Male Gospel Performance* (Oxford University Press) breaks ground by analyzing the role of gospel music making in constructing and renegotiating gender identity among black men.

Matthew D. Morrison, a native of Charlotte, North Carolina, is an assistant professor in the Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Matthew holds a PhD in musicology from Columbia University, an MA in musicology from The Catholic University of America, and a BA in music from Morehouse College. Morrison is a 2018-19 fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American research at Harvard University. He has been a research fellow with the Modern Moves research project at King's College, London, and has held fellowships from the American Musicological Society, Mellon Foundation, the Library of Congress, the Center for Popular Music Study/Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Catwalk Artists Residency, and the Tanglewood Music Center. He has served as editorin-chief of the peer-reviewed music journal Current Musicology and his published work has appeared in the Journal of the American Musicological Society, Women & Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory, the Grove Dictionary of American Music, and on Oxford University Press's online music blog. His in-progress book project, Blacksound: Making Race & Popular Music in the US, considers the implications of positing sound and music as major components of identity and (intellectual) property formations, particularly the construction of race out of blackface minstrelsy.

Hamza Walker is the Director of LAXART, an independent nonprofit art space in Los Angeles. From 1994-2016, he was the director of education and associate curator at the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, a non-collecting museum devoted to contemporary art. He recently curated the group exhibition *Sperm Cult* and *Sol LeWitt: Page-works* 1967-2007, both in 2018.

Artists:

For biographies of artists, please see attached.

LOCATION:

The Shed's The Bloomberg Building
The McCourt
West 30th Street, between 10th and 11th Avenues

PERFORMANCE DATES:

April 5 (Shed's Opening Date) through April 14, 2019 April 5 and 7 at 8 pm April 9 and 12 at 8:30 pm April 14 at 8 pm

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

APRIL 5: Sheléa, PJ Morton, Rapsody, and Victory, featuring special guest Jon Batiste

APRIL 7: Braxton Cook, Jade Novah, Kelsey Lu, Smino, and Tank and The Bangas

APRIL 9: Emily King, Fantastic Negrito, ill Camille, Samm Henshaw, serpentwithfeet, and Judith Hill

APRIL 12: Cory Henry, Melanie Faye, Oshun, Sy Smith, and Terrace Martin APRIL 14: Eryn Allen Kane, Keyon Harrold, Moses Sumney, Phony Ppl, and Tamar-kali

DETAILS:

- Running time: 120 minutes
- No intermission
- Please note that each night of Soundtrack of America is a unique show with a different line-up

TICKETS:

Tickets start at \$25 and are on sale at the shed.org and via phone at (646) 455-3494.

PRODUCTION CREDITS:

Design Team:

Adam Stockhausen, Production Designer David Rockwell, Production Designer Frank Oliva, Associate Production Designer Jen Schriever, Lighting Designer David Shocket, Associate Lighting Designer

Production Team:

JoAnn Tominaga, Music Supervisor
Greg Phillinganes and Jon Kubis, Co-arrangers
Diane Louie, Music Prep Supervisor
Jim Van Bergen, Head Audio Engineer
Jasu Sims, Company Manager
Hudson Scenic Studio, Scenery and Automation Fabrication
4Wall Lighting, Lighting Equipment
Specialized Audio Video, Audio Equipment
Tait Towers, Rigging Equipment
Studio Instrument Rental, Musical Instruments
Steinway & Sons, Pianos

The Shed Program Team:

Alex Poots, Artistic Director and CEO
Tamara McCaw, Chief Civic Program Officer
Nadine Goellner, Producer
Marc Warren, Director of Production
Isaac Katzanek, Production Manager
Pope Jackson, Production Supervisor
Joe DiMartino, Technical Director
Daisy Peele, Associate Producer
Maggie MacTiernan, Director of Artist Services
Annabel Thompson, Program Assistant

About The Shed:

Opening April 5, 2019, on Manhattan's west side where the High Line meets Hudson Yards, The Shed is a nonprofit cultural organization that commissions original works of art, across all disciplines, for all audiences. From hip hop to classical music, painting and sculpture to literature, film to theater and dance, The Shed brings together leading and emerging artists and thinkers from all disciplines under one roof. The Shed's Bloomberg Building—a remarkable movable structure designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Lead Architect, and Rockwell Group, Collaborating Architect—physically transforms to support artists' most ambitious ideas. Committed to nurturing artistic invention and bringing creative experiences to the broadest possible audiences, The Shed, led by Artistic Director and CEO Alex Poots, is a 21st-century space of and for New York City.











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APR 5

PJ MORTON RAPSODY SHELEA VICTORY FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST JON BATISTE

NIGHT 1

Grammy Award- and Dove Award-winner **PJ Morton** has worked with Maroon 5 and collaborated with the likes of Stevie Wonder, Solange, and Erykah Badu. 2017's *Gumbo* garnered two Grammy nominations, and 2018's *Gumbo Unplugged* garnered three Grammy nominations and won for Traditional R&B Performance. In 2018, Morton appeared on NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts series, and released the orchestral live album *Gumbo Unplugged*. In November 2018, Morton released *Christmas With PJ Morton*.

Rapsody is a Grammy-nominated North Carolina MC signed with super producer 9th Wonder for Jamla Records and most recently with Jay-Z's Roc Nation. With *The Idea of Beautiful*, her critically acclaimed 2012 debut album, and the lone guest rap feature on Kendrick Lamar's 2015 *To Pimp A Butterfly*, she is quickly establishing herself as one of the best MCs of this generation. She has worked with some of the biggest legends and newcomers in the business, ranging from the likes of Erykah Badu, Raekwon, Big Daddy Kane, and Marsha Ambrosius to Estelle, Kendrick Lamar, Mac Miller, and Big K.R.I.T. In 2013, Rapsody released her highly anticipated mixtape *She Got Game*, hosted by DJ Drama, featuring Jay Electronica, Common, Ab-Soul, DJ Premier, and others. The project received rave reviews and was featured as one of Pepsi's Mixtapes of the Month. In 2016, Rapsody garnered a Grammy nomination for her contribution to Kendrick Lamar's sophomore album, *To Pimp A Butterfly*.

Bakersfield-born singer-songwriter/keyboardist **Sheléa** has plumbed the full range of her emotions to become a song interpreter beyond categories within the international pop music spectrum, with appearances at the White House, the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and the Emmy Awards. In 2013, Sheléa released her debut CD, *Love Fell On Me* (Breath of Life Records); the title track accompanied the end credits of the film *Jumping the Broom*, and the lead single, "I'll Never Let You Go," peaked at number 22 on the Billboard R&B chart. Her video tribute to Whitney Houston became a viral YouTube sensation receiving over a million views to date. Sheléa created a similar memorial tribute video at Capitol Studios in Hollywood for the "Queen of Soul" Aretha Franklin. After working with a who's who of music world icons including Quincy Jones, Stevie Wonder, David Foster, Narada Michael Walden, Ricky Minor, and Dave Koz, Sheléa (pronounced shuh-lay-yuh) is about to release her eagerly awaited third album, *Pretty World: A Tribute to Alan and Marilyn Bergman*, set to be launched with a star-studded PBS television special.

Victory's music is a fusion between soul music and folk music. Whether Victory is performing classics or original compositions, she has a way of tailoring each song with her voice and guitar to fit her unique style. Victory brings an entirely new youthful element to the music world, an indescribable spiritual depth mixed with her youthful interpretation of sound influencing her artistic expressions. Moreover, Victory colors a lot of her musical arrangements with rich jazz chords as she is rooted and grounded in jazz tradition.

Jon Batiste is an internationally acclaimed musician, bandleader, and composer. As an educator and television personality, he spreads his unbridled optimism coupled with a profound understanding of the arts. Born into a long lineage of New Orleans musicians, Batiste is a graduate of The Juilliard School with a master's degree. After graduating, he toured globally with his band Stay Human and currently appears nightly on national television as the bandleader and musical director for *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. Batiste is a *Forbes* 30 Under 30 honoree, musical director for the *Atlantic*, and creative director of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem. Batiste is also a coveted brand ambassador; he is featured in campaigns for Chase, Apple, Lincoln Motor Company, and numerous fashion brands including Bonobos, Ralph Lauren, Barney's, and Nordstrom. He has worked with famed photographer Annie Leibovitz, among many others, and his personal style has been profiled in various fashion publications including *GQ*, *Vanity Fair*, and *Vogue*. Batiste's mission is to share his faith, hope, and love with the world around him.

APR 7

BRAXTON **KELSEY LU** JADE NOVAH NK AND THE BANGAS

NIGHT 2

Maryland-raised saxophonist, vocalist, multi-instrumentalist, Braxton Cook is a Juilliard graduate who first broke out on the scene with the 2017 release of his solo debut album Somewhere in Between. Heavily influenced by John Coltrane, Frank Ocean, and D'Angelo, Braxton mixes the improvisatory elements of jazz, the soulful melodies of R&B, and deeply emotional songwriting into a fresh sound all his own. His music pulls from his experience as a millennial Black jazz musician in America, and his music aims to speak to the margins in society.

Although North-Carolina native Kelsey Lu is a classically trained cellist, her artistic practice sits comfortably at the intersection of visual art, activism, performance, and music. Her debut album is out spring 2019 on Columbia Records.

Jade Novah is a singer, actress, songwriter, and internet sensation who has garnered over 55 million views for her sketches and music. After singing background vocals for artists including Rihanna and Lady Gaga, Novah created several viral videos that showcase her amazing vocal range and spot-on celebrity impersonations. Her videos have been featured on Good Morning America, Headline News, in Rolling Stone, and elsewhere. Novah recently released her highly anticipated album All Blue, which debuted at number two on the iTunes R&B charts and has amassed over six million streams. Novah will be starring in the new FuseTV animated series Sugar & Toys, which debuts later this year.

After a year and a half on the road traversing the globe in support of his groundbreaking and critically acclaimed debut album, blkswn, Smino is ready to embark on something new. Smino's grandfather, father, and mother were musicians, and the rapper and singer began playing drums in his native St. Louis at an early age. After a brief stint at Columbia College and a move back to his hometown, he returned to Chicago where he connected with Classick Studios and released his first two EPs, S!ck S!ck S!ck and blkjuptr. In 2017, he dropped blkswn, which Rolling Stone hailed as one of the 40 best rap albums of the year.

Coming from New Orleans, Tank and the Bangas are surrounded by plenty of grand musical traditions. The five-piece group has a rare knack for combining various musical styles—fiery soul, deft hip hop, deepgroove R&B, and subtle jazz—into one dazzling, cohesive whole that evokes the scope of New Orleans music while retaining a distinctive feel all its own.

APR 9

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NIGHT 3

Recently, **Samm Henshaw** has signed to Columbia Records, racked up millions of Spotify streams with his two *Sound Experiment* EPs, and toured with James Bay and Chance the Rapper—both of whom, upon hearing Henshaw's rich, soulful pop, handpicked him to support them on the road. His family members have been great role models for him, and his South London roots have most shaped his identity—artistic and otherwise. "How Does It Feel," the lead single from his forthcoming debut album, is a summery, soulful, gospel and hip hop-inspired song, whose choral hooks and claps evoke the church music he grew up performing, and the single distills his philosophical ethos into a song.

Judith Hill has been praised by *Rolling Stone* for her "stellar powerhouse vocals." In addition to penning and performing her own material, Hill, who wrote her first song at the age of four, has backed such artists as Stevie Wonder and the late Michael Jackson. Hill's story is one of those told in director Morgan Neville's acclaimed *20 Feet From Stardom*, a film that shines the spotlight on the untold true story of the backup singers behind some of the greatest musical legends of the 20th century. The film has won the Film Critics Award for Best Documentary and an Academy Award for Best Documentary. The film also won the 2015 Grammy for Best Music Film. Hill, who was also featured on the film's soundtrack, was a contestant on season four of *The Voice*. Hill has already garnered much praise for her live performance as opener for Josh Groban, John Legend, and Prince, both in the US and the UK. Hill's debut album *Back In Time*, produced by herself and Prince, is out now on NPG Records. Her sophomore album, *Golden Child*, will be released this year.

ill Camille raps about love and family serving as the source of her strength, the importance of self-worth as a woman, and the necessity to nurture oneself from within even when confronted by the despair of poverty as a young artist. And you can hear all that in her album *Heirloom*, which was named one of the most important albums of 2017 by NPR. The Los Angeles-native MC and writer, who also represents the Inland Empire, has collaborated with Patrice Rushen, Georgia Anne Muldrow, Kendrick Lamar, DJ Battlecat, Ty Dolla\$ign, Dr. Dre, Damani Nkosi, and Terrace Martin among others.

Hailing from New York City, **Emily King** is a Grammy-nominated artist with pop, indie, and soul influences that she hones with carefully crafted compositions. King had a busy couple of years with headlining tours, performing on *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*, and opening for Alabama Shakes around the release of her critically acclaimed album *The Switch: Deluxe Edition*. King has become labelmates with Brittany Howard and Co., Benjamin Booker, Brandi Carlile, and many other greats as she has signed a deal with Dave Matthews's co-founded label. ATO Records.

The name **Fantastic Negrito** represents the artist's third rebirth, literally coming back from death. For Fantastic Negrito, the narrative is as important as the sound—because the narrative is the sound, which features slide guitar, drums, and piano and an urgent, desperate, edgy sensibility. Fantastic Negrito is the story of a man who struggled to "make it," who "got it," who lost it all, and somehow managed to find his way back. June 15, 2018, marked the debut of Fantastic Negrito's critically acclaimed new release *Please Don't Be Dead*, with the the *New York Times*'s Jon Pareles hailing it as "a cranked-up, slow-grinding attack on addiction and consumerism," and *Premiere Guitar* calling it "one of the year's most compelling albums." *Please Don't Be Dead* recently won a Grammy in the Best Contemporary Blues Album category—the same category Fantastic Negrito won in 2017 with his debut full length album *The Last Days of Oakland*.

serpentwithfeet is an avant-garde vocalist and performance artist whose growing body of work is rooted in dueling obsessions with the ephemeral and the everlasting—key components of his artistic journey from a childhood stint as a choirboy in Baltimore through his time at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, where he studied vocal performance before relocating to New York City. His forthcoming debut full-length album soil is a return to the sensibilities and wide-eyed curiosity of his musical youth before symmetry and sterile soundscapes ruled the roost. With the release of soil, the chameleonic serpentwithfeet (born Josiah Wise) rediscovers and ultimately returns to the unhinged version of himself he was sure he had outgrown.

APR 12

CORY HENRY MELANIE FAYE TERRACE MARTIN OSHUN SY SMITH

NIGHT 4

Cory Henry, a Brooklyn native, is a two-time Grammy Award-winning keyboardist with musical roots in gospel, jazz, and soul. His instrument of choice is the Hammond B-3 organ. Henry's 2016 release and touring project, *The Revival*, features his dynamic and improvisational performances of music ranging from old gospel to Stevie Wonder. Cory Henry and The Funk Apostles is his newest passion and project, comprised of five of the world's best musicians, handpicked to bring his musical concepts to life. The upcoming self-titled *Cory Henry and The Funk Apostles* album exhibits his vocal talents and emphasizes the new sound and vibes he wants to innovate for the world to sing along with. "We are on our way. Tell Everybody. How many bodies? Everybody!"

Melanie Faye is an R&B guitarist, songwriter, and producer who has gathered a massive fanbase by posting original songs and covers filmed in her bedroom. Self-taught on guitar, Faye's singular style, unique melodies, and familiar rearrangements span genre and eras and have caught the attention of SZA, John Mayer, Shawn Mendes, Chance the Rapper, and other artists. Her debut EP featuring contributions from Mac DeMarco and Jamila Woods will arrive on the heels of her tour with Maggie Rogers.

Terrace Martin is a Grammy-nominated producer and musician from Crenshaw, California, who has been quietly working behind the scenes with the industry's biggest names over the last decade. The son of musicians, Martin developed a lifelong love of music and an ability to flawlessly combine the worlds of jazz, funk, soul, and hip hop. His first solo album, *3ChordFold*, arrived in 2013 with appearances from Kendrick Lamar, Snoop Dogg, Ab-Soul, Robert Glasper, and others. While his 2016 release, *Velvet Portraits*, earned him a Grammy-nomination for Best R&B Album. To date, he's produced for the likes of Herbie Hancock, Snoop Dogg, Travi\$ Scott, and is a main collaborator for Lamar having produced on *good kid*, *m.A.A.d city*, and *To Pimp a Butterfly*.

OSHUN is an independent hip hop/soul duo. Using digital and acoustic sounds, heavy drums and bass, and ambient harmonic textures, OSHUN connects with the spirit of their ancestors to manifest a sweeter tomorrow for us all. Since the release of their debut mixtape ASASE YAA in 2015, OSHUN have also performed throughout the US and Brazil while remaining full-time college students at NYU. OSHUN is preparing for the release of their debut album series *bittersweet*, complete with captivating visuals, a two-month-long tour of the US and Canada, and a deeper look into their ever-evolving selves.

Sy Smith is considered one of the leaders of the indie soul movement (having released five CDs, three EPs, and one DVD). She's worked with some of the biggest names in R&B, hip hop, and jazz (Whitney Houston, Meshell Ndegeocello, The Foreign Exchange, Chris Botti, and more). This Emmy-nominated artist has been dubbed by her peers as the queen of underground soul. Since 2015, she's performed tributes to Ella Fitzgerald at Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, Toronto's Massey Hall, and elsewhere. In 2018, she released her long-awaited fifth studio project Sometimes A Rose Will Grow In Concrete, which she wrote and produced entirely herself, gaining three nominations from SoulTracks.com. Smith also co-wrote and was featured on Chris Dave and The Drumhedz's 2019 Grammy-nominated self-titled album.

APR 14

KEYON HARROLD RYN ALLEN PHONY PPL MOSES SUMNEY TAMAR-KALI

NIGHT 5

Acclaimed trumpeter, composer, and music producer **Keyon Harrold** was cited by Wynton Marsalis as "the future of the trumpet." *Rolling Stone* proclaimed that Harrold is "1 of 10 New Artists You Need to Know in 2018." He is a part of over a hundred albums of multiple genre and style from Jay-Z and Beyoncé to Keith Richards and soloist and horn arranger on Gregory Porter's Grammy Award-winning album *Take Me to the Alley* and Maxwell's *BLACKsummers'night*. His work on the *Miles Ahead* film, a biopic about trumpeter Miles Davis, gave Harrold his nickname "The Mugician," and subsequently the title of his latest album.

Eryn Allen Kane is a Detroit-born-and-raised recording artist, songwriter, producer, and actress. Her work explores stories of love, loss, social injustice, and the fragility of life. She has a great sense of curiosity for the human condition and feels a sense of duty in telling the story of those marginalized communities in our world. Kane made her mark as an emerging talent in the R&B and soul community with the independent release of her two-part debut EP, *Aviary: Act I & II.* Currently residing in Los Angeles, Eryn is working on several projects and a new body of music to be released soon.

Phony PpI is a mix of people, time, and sound that's been nurtured over generations in Brooklyn. Over the years, the bandmates have ebbed and flowed, but now they've reached their final form with these five original members: Elbee Thrie on vocal duties, Aja Grant on the keys, drummer Matt Byas, guitarist Elijah Rawk, and bassist Bari Bass. Their sound is a mix of soul, R&B, funk, hip hop, jazz, pop, and everything between and beyond. They do their own songwriting, arrangement, mixing, and production. The band released their sophomore album, $m\bar{o}'z\bar{a}$ -ik., in the fall of 2018.

Moses Sumney makes future music that transmogrifies classic tropes, like moon-colony choir reinterpretations of old jazz gems. His lyrics narrate a personal journey through universal loneliness atop otherworldly compositional backdrops. In 2017, the California and Ghana-raised troubadour widened his spectrum with his debut album *Aromanticism*, a concept record about lovelessness as a sonic dreamscape. Released to great critical acclaim, *Aromanticism* was widely regarded as one of 2017's best albums (*NPR*, *Pitchfork*, *Rolling Stone*).

Brooklyn-born-and-bred **Tamar-kali** is a second-generation musician with roots in the Sea Islands of South Carolina. As a composer, arranger, and vocalist, she defies boundaries to craft her own alternative sound—from her five-piece electric project to her Psychochamber Ensemble, a string and voice project that marries the classical music of her Catholic upbringing with post-punk sensibilities. Eager to express the infinite range of her creativity, 2017 marked her debut as a film score composer. For her work on Dee Rees's Oscar-nominated *Mudbound*, Tamar-kali's artistry and effort were rewarded with the World Soundtrack Academy's 2018 Discovery of the Year Award.

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SPRING/SUMMER 2019 AT THE SHED

THROUGH MAY 19 NORMA JEANE BAKER OF TROY

Ben Whishaw and Renée Fleming star in a dramatic work by Anne Carson exploring the lives of two iconic beauties millennia apart

THROUGH MAY 30 TRISHA DONNELLY

New work by artist Trisha Donnelly

THROUGH JUN 2 REICH RICHTER PÄRT

An immersive live performance and exhibition exploring the shared language of visual art and music

MAY 6-JUN 1 BJÖRK'S CORNUCOPIA

Björk's most elaborate staged concert to date, directed by Lucrecia Martel

MAY 10 BOOTS RILEY

A one-night-only lecture from the director of Sorry to Bother You

MAY 18-19 POWERPLAY

A women-centered celebration of radical art and healing

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SPRING/SUMMER 2019 AT THE SHED

MAY 30-AUG 25 OPEN CALL

New work from 52 NYC-based emerging artists and collectives

JUN 19-AUG 25 BEATRIZ GONZÁLEZ: A DOCUMENTARY

A new documentary film by Yanina Valdivieso and Vanessa Bergonzoli about one of Colombia's most celebrated artists

JUN 19-AUG 25 TONY COKES, OSCAR MURILLO

New works by two prominent contemporary artists

JUN 22-JUL 27 DRAGON SPRING PHOENIX RISE

A futuristic kung fu musical co-conceived by Chen Shi-Zheng and *Kung Fu Panda* screenwriters Jonathan Aibel and Glenn Berger, with songs by Sia and choreography by Akram Khan

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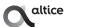
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Please visit — the shed.org for more details.

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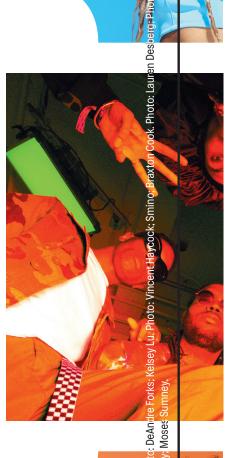
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