

ICA LIVE



Photo by Photo by Christopher Robinson

Jazz Urbane Cafe, the Longy School of Music,
and ICA/Boston present

Sweet Honey in the Rock: *Affirmations for a New World*

Saturday, November 11
Sunday, November 12

Welcome

Welcome to the ICA's Barbara Lee Family Foundation Theater.

Each year, the ICA welcomes visionary performing artists whose creativity, inventiveness, and imagination inspire us to rethink and reframe our relationship to one another and our world. Their restless, inventive artistic explorations not only showcase their extraordinary talents, but also invite us to gather together and share in the pleasures of live performance.

This fall, we are proud to share with you an extraordinary season of musical performers featuring legendary talents and emerging voices. The remarkable Joshua Redman Group, joined by singer Gabrielle Cavassa, ask us to consider, through song, the meaning of place and home. Arooj Aftab, Vijay Iyer, and Shahzad Ismaily create a mesmerizing, hypnotic soundscape in *Love in Exile*. The ever-inventive singer-songwriter serpentwithfeet explores the tender and beautiful ways queer love blossoms in a nightclub in *Heart of Brick*, featuring choreography by Raja Feather Kelly and direction by visual artist Wu Tsang. Anjimile's haunting vocals belie the strength of his stories of survival, resilience, and spiritual rebirth.

From all of us at the ICA, thank you for coming, and we hope you enjoy your time here.

John Andress

BILL T. JONES DIRECTOR/CURATOR OF PERFORMING ARTS

Like the show? Let us know!

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Program

Symphony No. 10:
Affirmations for a New World (2012)
Composed by William C. Banfield

Orchestra Prelude

1. A Higher Note
Text by Aisha Kahlil
2. Dreams
Text by Carol Maillard
3. The Day the World Woke
Text by Nitanju Bolade Casel
4. Yes
Text by Louise Robinson
5. Discourse on Change
Text by Ysaye M. Barnwell

Intermission

Sweet Honey in the Rock

SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK

Vocalists

Nitanju Bolade Casel
Louise Robinson
Carol Maillard
Aisha Kahlil
Rochelle Rice

Bass

Herman Burney

ASL Interpreter

Barbara Hunt

Sound Engineer

Kyle Homstead

Touring Manager

Katea Stitt

AFFIRMATIONS ORCHESTRA

Conductor

Saturday
Julius Williams
Sunday
William Banfield

Flute

Anabel Gil Diaz*
John Ray

Clarinet

Alexis Ona

Tenor Saxophone

Gregory Groover, Jr.*

Bass Clarinet

Elise Hill

Bassoon

Liza Knight

French Horn

Emma Chisholm

Trumpet

Richard Kelley*
Carlos Ramos*
Emmett G. Price IV*

Trombone

Danny Thornburg*
Diego Galiano del Toro

Tuba

Ben Romanow*

Piano

Anibal Cruz*

Percussion

Samuel Cerra

Drumset

Tyson Jackson*

Violin

Alyssa Barker*
Elyana Schaer
Dmitri Ascarrunz
Alexander Smith

Viola

Laura Avila
Simone Cartales
Vincent Francis

Cello

Ana Ospina
Joe Cracolici

Bass

Ron Reid*
Amitabh Goswami

*Imagine Orchestra member

Affirmations Chorus

The Spirituals of Boston Arts Academy

Belai Abraha
Kahmoni Bryant
Jordan Campbell
Chanel Castillo
Nate Codio
Mikayla Correia
Iolanthe Demos
Will Dendy
Kayla Denton
Indigo Diagne
Hildam Diaz
Bianca Fleurival
Madden Fuoco
Samaya Garcia
Deurick Gomes
Iva Gomes
Jayleanie Gonzalez
Max Innis
Ari Long-Sinnott
Nadine Paiva
Athamar Pierre
Isaiah Riffe
Julian Rodriguez
Yasmeen Sultan
Ashly Tejada
Kevin Thomas
Leinad Tineo
Patrick Ondzi Wene
Mecca Williams
Zariya Witherspoon

Longy Vocalists

Ferriel Burns
Sarah Curtis
Christiana Goslin
Monica Lopez
Cassie Kollman
Riuji Sato
David Smith

ICA PRODUCTION CREW MEMBERS

Master Electrician

Emily Bearce

Lead Audio Engineer

Kevin Corzett

Audio Engineer

Marcel Damiano

Stage Manager

Mikey Diaz

Wardrobe Mistress

Nancy Flessas

House Manager

Cidalia Santos

Crew

Dillon Brooks
Kayla Blackburn

BRIGHTER BOSTON INTERNS

Athamar Pierre
Blue

MASI INTERNS

Tatikqua Austin
Davy Cruz

Biographies

Sweet Honey in the Rock

The Grammy-nominated African American vocal ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock® marks its 50th anniversary in November 2023 with a powerful three-year celebration to honor its storied past and set the course for the future of the group, which has been described as “one of the most dynamic, versatile, and still relevant musical collectives today.”

Since its inception in Washington, D.C. (1973), Sweet Honey in the Rock has thrived as a performance ensemble founded on the missions of empowerment, education, and entertainment.

Their current roster includes vocalists Carol Maillard, Louise Robinson, Aisha Kahlil, Nitanju Bolade Casel, and Rochelle Rice, with Romeir Mendez on upright acoustic/electric bass and American Sign Language interpreter Barbara Hunt.

Throughout five decades, the ensemble members have worked to create engaging and socially conscious music that consistently takes an active stance toward making our planet a better place for all to live. Their musical landscape embraces multiple genres/generations and addresses civil and human rights, women’s issues, gun violence, death, love, spirituality, children’s songs, and so much more.

Connecting to the ever-evolving cultural and political landscape, they were the featured performers at the 125th Anniversary of Paul Robeson and the 50th Anniversary of the Ms. Foundation and were among the performing artists for the Harry Belafonte 95th Birthday Celebration. They have also lent their voices to the Jane Fonda–led “Fire Drill Friday’s” on Capitol Hill highlighting the urgency global climate change threats, and their music has been included in the soundtracks of *Freedom Song*, *Mercy*, *Dear Mama*, and the HBO special *My Family*.

On June 19, 2020 (Juneteenth), Sweet Honey became one of the first artists to address the constraints of the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown by connecting with audiences through an innovative livestream performance at the historical Lincoln Theatre in Washington D.C. Performing live without an audience and separated onstage by individual Plexiglas panels, the ensemble employed large video monitors which were filled with the faces of the virtual audience. This unique set-up allowed for a two-way interaction between the performers and the audience, which served as a benefit for the Equal Justice Initiative and was viewed by over 150,000 people worldwide.

In the fall of 2021, the ensemble co-wrote and performed their first theatrical piece, "When Day Comes," in collaboration with Ricardo Khan, the Founding Director of Crossroads Theatre in New Brunswick, NJ.

Sweet Honey in the Rock® . . . their voices have graced so many of the world stages —Carnegie Hall (over 30 times), Sydney Opera House, Royal Albert Hall, the Kennedy Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, just to name a few – and they have performed extensively on every continent (except Antarctica; just waiting for the invitation!).

William Banfield

Composer, educator, author, and jazz guitarist Dr. Bill Banfield served as Professor and Director of the Africana Studies Center at Berklee College of Music. He taught in the Composition Department and in the graduate program from 2005 until his retirement in 2020, when the college named him Professor Emeritus Founding Director of Black Music Culture Studies for his service to the institution. He served as the Endowed Chair Humanities, Fine Arts, Professor of Music, Director of American Cultural Studies/Jazz, Popular, World Music Studies at the University of St. Thomas, MN (1997–2005) and assistant professor, African American Studies /Music at Indiana University (1992–97), where he developed the Undine Smith Moore Collection of Scores and Manuscripts of Black Composers.

Banfield currently holds the post Senior Scholar in Residence at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge. He was commissioned by Quincy Jones to write a curriculum for teaching the history of American popular music (2009–13).

Banfield is an award-winning composer whose symphonies, operas, and chamber works have been performed and recorded by major symphonies across the country including: the National, Atlanta, Minneapolis, Dallas, Akron, Detroit, New York Virtuoso, Grand Rapids, Akron, Richmond, Toledo, Savannah, Chicago Symphonia, Indianapolis, Sphinx, Sacramento, and San Diego symphonies.

In 2019 Banfield was appointed research associate at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage (CFCH), one of the Smithsonian's twelve research and cultural centers. In 2021 he became composer-in-residence for the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra (2021–27) and Interlochen Music Academy. In 2023, he was awarded the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for his career contributions of service in arts and education.

A native Detroiter, he received his Bachelor of Music from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, a Master of Theological Studies from Boston University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in composition from the University of Michigan. He studied composition under T.J. Anderson, George Russell, Theodore Antoniou, William Bolcolm, and Bill Albright.

He is founder/director of Jazz Urbane, a contemporary jazz art recording label dedicated to producing creative new artists. In 2014 Jazz Urbane released a seminal recording produced by George Duke and included such leading artists as Christian Scott, Terri Lyn Carrington, Najee, Greg Osby, and Grace Kelly. The label has produced and released fifteen albums internationally.

Julius Williams

Julius P. Williams, conductor and composer, has conducted American Orchestras in Dallas, Buffalo, Oakland, New Jersey, New

Haven, Hartford, Knoxville, Vermont, Akron, Paducah, Norwalk, Sacramento, Savannah, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the Vermont Philharmonic, as well as, the Oberlin Opera Theater and the Oberlin Opera, Connecticut Opera, the Armor Artist Chamber Orchestra, and the Kalistos Chamber Orchestra in Boston. He was Music Director of the Washington Symphony from 1998 to 2003. He was also the Artistic Director of the Music Festival of Costa del Sol in Spain, and Artistic Director of the School of Choral Studies and Principal conductor of the orchestra of New York State Summer School of the Arts for ten seasons in Saratoga, New York. He has served as Assistant Conductor to the late Maestro Lucas Foss with the Brooklyn Philharmonic and with the American Symphony in New York. He is President of the Immediate Past International Conductors Guild and Co-Chair of the League of American Orchestras Conductors Constituency. He is also currently Music Director and Conductor of Trilogy, an opera company in New Jersey, and Professor of Composition and Conducting at the Berklee College of Music in Boston as well as Artistic Director of the Berklee Contemporary Symphony Orchestra. He has served as cover conductor for both the Boston Pops Orchestra (BSO) and the Rhode Island Philharmonic. He was composer-in-residence with the Boston Symphony Project. In Europe, Maestro Williams has performed and recorded with Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Moscow Conservatory Symphony Orchestra, the Dubrovnik Symphony of Croatia, the Principal Military Orchestra of the Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation, the Dvorak Symphony Orchestra, the Volvodanska Symphony of Serbia, the Brno State Philharmonic, and the Bohuslav-Martinu Philharmonic Orchestras. A prolific composer, Maestro Williams has composed works for virtually every genre of contemporary classical performance, including opera, ballet, orchestra, chamber ensemble, chorus and solo voice, dance, musical theatre, and film. His music has been performed by countless symphony orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony, the St. Louis Symphony, Dallas Symphony, and the Boston Pops. He

serves as a guest curator for Sirius XM Radio. His recordings are on the Albany, Centaur, Roven, and Naxos Record labels. His profile has been featured on *CBS Sunday Morning*.

Imagine Orchestra

Created in 1992 by composer Dr. Bill Banfield, the Imagine Orchestra is a Boston hybrid chamber group with an eclectic modern approach in style and orchestration. Imagine Orchestra is currently ensemble-in-residence at the Longy School of Music. The ensemble's seminal recording *Live at The Landmark* (Innona Recordings) brought the group's work critical praise from industry veterans Dr. Billy Taylor, David Baker, and Maria Schneider.

The Spirituals of Boston Arts Academy

The Spirituals of Boston Arts Academy was founded in 2009 by Interim Head of School Tyrone Sutton. Under the current direction of Music Department Chair Michael W. Bradley, this auditioned group of 30 sophomores, juniors, and seniors at Boston Arts Academy (BAA), the city's only public arts high school, explores the evolution of the African American sacred choral music tradition. In addition to their 2015 victory on *Sing That Thing!*, the Spirituals also won a gold medal at the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association Festival that same year. They have performed at numerous community events, including recently for the inauguration of Governor Maura Healy and the homegoing celebration of Civil Rights Activist Melvin King. Several members of past ensembles have majored in music in college and have received full scholarships at leading music colleges including Boston University, Berklee College of Music, New England Conservatory, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and the Hartt School of Music. This spring the Spirituals will perform for the American Choral Directors Association Eastern Conference and will travel to Williamsburg, Virginia to compete in the Heritage Music Festival.

Michael Bradley, the Spirituals Director

Michael W. Bradley has been an active member of the arts community both locally and abroad for more than fifteen years. Mr.

Bradley attended Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he graduated with a B.M. in Music Education. Now in his tenth year of teaching, Mr. Bradley currently serves on the voice faculty of Boston Arts Academy, where he teaches Vocal Technique, Music Theory, Contemporary Vocal Ensembles, and the award-winning Spirituals ensemble. He continues to maintain an active schedule as a composer, arranger, performer, and director in the fields of choral and gospel music. Prior to his work at the Boston Arts Academy, Mr. Bradley worked as a general music and choral director in Boston and Cambridge Public Schools respectively and the Director of Secondary Choral and Instrumental Education and Theater Studies for the Gill-Montague Regional School District. Mr. Bradley's choirs have had the opportunity to compete and place in national competitions and perform for such prominent figures as Yo-Yo Ma, Damien Woetzel, and at the White House for First Lady Michelle Obama.

Jazz Urbane Cafe

Jazz Urbane Cafe is an urban arts venue, scheduled to open in the fall of 2024, that spotlights the local and national artists who define and celebrate the diverse cultural traditions that make Boston a unique and global city. Its arts program will consist of nightly musical performances from local artists on the Jazz Urbane Recordings label (the Cafe's sister company) and across greater Boston. Jazz Urbane Cafe will also offer other presentation modes — ranging from film screenings to dance to dramatic theater to multimedia installations — to provide a holistic presentation of form and expression.

Tastefully complementing the performance series will be an exciting culinary program designed to make the Cafe a full-sensory experience. Dinner, lunch, catering, and takeout menus will feature a fusion of global flavors with many ingredients sourced locally. The commitment to unique, sensuous flavors will extend to the Cafe's bar program, where offerings will include craft spirits and beers and a wine selection curated to be both approachable for casual wine drinkers and thrilling for wine lovers.

Longy School of Music

The Longy School of Music of Bard College prepares students to make a difference in the world. Through groundbreaking conservatory training, Longy students discover new ways to make their music matter while expanding their vision of what a life in music can mean. Longy welcomes all kinds of musicians, eliminating barriers to ensure access for students who are passionate about changing lives and impacting communities through music. Longy prepares students to meet the challenges of a changing global landscape head-on, giving them the skills to reach new audiences and engage new communities.



Upcoming Performances



Photo by Fabian Hammerl

Anjimile December 8

Anjimile won the world over with the clear-eyed honesty of his first record — a meditation on spirituality and liberation, bolstered by Anjimile’s delicate, earthy vocals. *Giver Taker* drew on musical influences ranging from African pop and Sufjan Stevens to a childhood spent in the church. *Rolling Stone* magazine deemed it one of the 50 best albums of 2020. In his sophomore album, *The King*, he continues exploring what it means to be a Black trans person in America.

The ICA is pleased to welcome Anjimile back to Boston after a 2021 move to the South. Anjimile first hit the stage in Boston while a music industry student at Northeastern University. He recorded several EPs and albums on his own, and his star rose when his 2018 NPR Tiny Desk Concert contest entry was deemed the best out of Boston. *The King* showcases the perfect marriage between Anjimile’s lyricism and musicality and the power of brilliant production.



Photo by the Adeboye Brother

BLACK HOLE—Trilogy and Triathlon

Fri, Feb 9, 2024, 8 PM

Sat, Feb 10, 2024, 8 PM

BLACK HOLE—Trilogy And Triathlon is a multidisciplinary performance choreographed by the award-winning movement artist Shamel Pitts and co-created and performed by his Brooklyn-based arts collective TRIBE. Deeply inspired and infused by the spirit of Afrofuturism, the performance combines dance, original sound, video projection, and light design in a tale of vitality and tenderness, darkness and light, personal growth and collective empowerment.

In *BLACK HOLE*, a trio of Black performers (all of African heritage) shares the stage in a narrative of unity, vigor, and unrelenting advancement. Their journey originates in the darkness of the titular Black Hole, understood not as a cosmic void but a metaphorical place of transformation and potential. Engulfed in an evocative soundscape of original music, sound samples, and spoken word, the dancers embark on an hour-long uninterrupted journey in movement.

Now on View at the ICA



Installation view, *Forecast Form: Art in the Caribbean Diaspora, 1990s–Today*, the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, 2023–24. Photo by Mel Taing.

***Forecast Form: Art in the Caribbean Diaspora,
1990s–Today***
Oct 5, 2023 – Feb 25, 2024

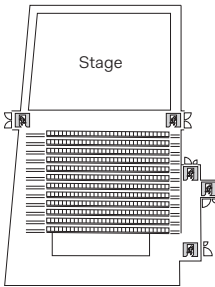
Forecast Form: Art in the Caribbean Diaspora, 1990s–Today takes the 1990s as its cultural backdrop, gathering artworks by 28 artists who live in the Caribbean or are of Caribbean heritage, or whose work is connected to the region. The exhibition is anchored in the concept of diaspora, the dispersal of people through migration both forced and voluntary. Here, diaspora is not a longing to return home but a way of understanding that we are always in movement and that our identities are in constant states of transformation. Challenging conventional ideas about the region, the exhibition reveals new ways of understanding the Caribbean as a place defined not by geography, language, or ethnicity, but by constant exchange, displacement, and movement.

Membership gets you more!

Join today to begin a year of inspiration and discovery. ICA members enjoy special access to our exhibitions, performances, and events, while also providing vital support to the museum and the arts in Boston.

Learn more about ICA Membership opportunities at icaboston.org/membership or by emailing membership@icaboston.org.

Learn more about the ICA at icaboston.org.



Barbara Lee Family Foundation
Theater Fire Exits

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