



LEELA JAMES

WHEN YOU WISH UPON  
A STAR

HASTA LA MUERTE

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PROGRAM



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CENTER**  
FOR THE ARTS



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## CHANDLER CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Dynamic leaders, loyal supporters and visionaries describe the Board members of Chandler Cultural Foundation. The Chandler Cultural Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation established in 1989 to program and raise funds for the Center's artistic and outreach programs. Ticket sales and other earned income cover only part of the Center's programming expenses, which means that the Chandler Cultural Foundation's fundraising efforts play a vital role in delivering quality arts programs at an affordable cost to the public.

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# WELCOME TO THE CHANDLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS!



On behalf of the staff and volunteers of the CCA, welcome to Chandler Center for the Arts. Thank you for joining us for our 34<sup>th</sup> Season!

It is an honor to serve you in Downtown Chandler's premier arts and entertainment destination. It is our commitment to create

an experience that is welcoming for everyone. If you have feedback about your experience while you are here, please share that with me or a member of our staff.

In addition to the diverse range of artists and genres that make up this year's season, we are very proud to present two musical theatre productions on the Steena Murray Mainstage. *North: The Musical* (Feb 23-24, 2024) features an original score filled with jazz and Black roots music and an uplifting story set against the backdrop of the Underground Railroad. Created by composer, musician, and vocalist Ashli St. Armant and co-commissioned by Chandler Center for the Arts, *North: The Musical* will make its return as part of its national tour. Be our guest at *Disney's Beauty and the Beast: Live in Concert* (Mar 23-24, 2024), a vibrant concert version of the Disney Broadway show with an orchestra and chorus on stage, accompanying a costumed cast and dazzling animated scenery.

We could not present an outstanding season like this one without the incredible support through your ticket purchase, membership, or donation. Your support enables us to provide free arts experiences to over 15,000 families, seniors, and veterans each year. If you want to do more, visit [chandlercenter.org/donate](http://chandlercenter.org/donate) and consider a deeper investment in your local arts center.

Let us dim the house lights, turn up the stage lights and forget the world outside. It is showtime!

With gratitude,

**Michelle MacLennan**

*General Manager, Chandler Center for the Arts*

*Michelle MacLennan*

**2023/24 SEASON**



# OUR IMPACT

In the **2022-2023 SEASON**, the Chandler Center for the Arts had the following impact on our community.

**50** cultural and nonprofit organizations used the CCA for their performances, recitals, and events

**3,099** creative workers engaged

**215** volunteers donated **8,700** hours of their time to the CCA

**7,000** young people were reached with performing and visual arts programs through Connecting Kids

**160,530** patrons experienced the arts through diverse programming, of those individuals, **15,500** attended **FREE** programs



## WELCOME TO CHANDLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS!

On behalf of the City of Chandler, thank you for choosing the Chandler Center for the Arts. With so many unique and vibrant entertainment options, I am confident you will have an exceptional experience.

The Chandler Center for the Arts is an integral part of Chandler. The diversity and dynamic energy that makes up our unique community are showcased and celebrated beautifully through a variety of artistic performances at the Center. They offer a range of entertainment from all categories, the 2023-2024 Season includes Beth Hart (GRAMMY®-nominated powerhouse vocalist), Clint Black (country music icon), and Howie Mandel (comedy legend and judge from *America's Got Talent*) just to name a few.

With outstanding customer service, some of the best entertainment in the Valley, and Chandler's bustling and lively Downtown, you are sure to have an unforgettable experience.

Enjoy the performance, we look forward to seeing you again soon.

**Mayor Kevin Hartke**  
*City of Chandler*



### CHANDLER CITY COUNCIL

*Front row, from left:* Councilmember Jane Poston, Councilmember Angel Encinas, Councilmember Matt Orlando, Councilmember Christine Ellis. *Back row, from left:* Councilmember OD Harris, Mayor Kevin Hartke, Councilmember Mark Stewart.



### CHANDLER CULTURAL FOUNDATION

*Back row, from left:* David Woodruff, Christopher McMullan, Michelle Mac Lennan  
*Front row, from left:* Jennifer Sanchez, Julia Marreel, Mari Jo Woolf-Whitaker, LaTricia Woods, Susan Baker, Terri Rettig, Erica Castro, Peppur Chambers, Sherida McMullan  
*Not pictured:* Steena Murray, Mike Halle, Candy Yu, Jeanne Forbis, Linda Carol Yarbrough



### CHANDLER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (CUSD) GOVERNING BOARD

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## A Distinct Performing Arts Center

Chandler Center for the Arts serves as a leader and one of the most collaborative multi-theatre performing and visual arts facilities in the country. Through a partnership between the City of Chandler, the nonprofit Chandler Cultural Foundation and Chandler Unified School District, the Chandler Center for the Arts is the central space for Chandler's cultural activities. Serving a diverse community comprised of many ages, backgrounds and interests, the Center presents outstanding performances, exhibitions and events for the public each weekend, while providing a state-of-the-art facility for Chandler's students to use for their arts curriculum and school performances during the week.

The Chandler Cultural Foundation, which was formed upon the Center's opening in 1989, oversees all artistic programming and operations, and provides fiscal oversight for the Chandler Center for the Arts on behalf of the city.

The Chandler Cultural Foundation is comprised of 15 board members; all of whom are appointed by the Mayor. The members review and approve proposed management policies of the CCA, as well as review the budgets of the CCA's operating and endowment funds.

# THANK YOU

## TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

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Steena Murray

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## Jerry Brooks Legacy Society

Mayor of Chandler from 1984-1988, Jerry Brooks was a visionary leader, dedicated to the cultural life of Chandler. In his honor, the Chandler Cultural Foundation established the Jerry Brooks Legacy Society. Those who give to the Legacy Society are dedicated to ensuring a lasting foundation of support for Chandler Center for the Arts, in keeping with Jerry's vision for a strong cultural center for Chandler and its residents.

Harriet Rickert Barnes

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*List of supporters as of September 20, 2023.*

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# BECOME A MEMBER



Chandler Center for the Arts Members are an important group of individuals who, through their support, help provide performances and visual arts to more than 210,000 people, in addition to vital education programs for Chandler's youth.

You can become a member for as little as \$50 per year, with increasing levels of benefits and perks according to your level of giving.

## MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE:

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Visit [chandlercenter.org/member](http://chandlercenter.org/member) or call 480-782-2680

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# LEELA JAMES



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023 | 7:00 P.M.

What sets the acclaimed R&B and soul singer-songwriter Leela James apart is her fearless approach to music. “The best artists stay true to who they are, no matter the scale,” she believes. These values have allowed Leela to remain a consistent figure in R&B, still topping the charts with a discography of quality soul music spanning nearly two decades. Leela’s music is a constant reminder of what it is to be human – to love, to regret and to dream. Leela’s stellar career first began when she burst onto the scene in 2006 with her debut album *A Change is Gonna Come*. She has since released seven albums and toured successfully across the US and Europe with some of the biggest names in music. She performed her classic, “Fall For You” on the ABC hit show *Dancing with the Stars*, and starred on TV’s *R&B Divas: Los Angeles*, along with several guest appearances on a host of shows.

Leela’s talents are undeniable among her peers in the industry and her music continues to resonate with core fans today. This songbird has earned countless spots on the *Billboard* charts, including No. 1 on the *Billboard* Adult R&B Airplay Charts and in 2021, the No. 8 *Billboard* Urban Adult Song of the Year for the

hit single “Complicated.” Leela’s classic albums have also earned her the Soul Train “Centric Soul Award” and nominations for “Outstanding New Artist” and “Best R&B Collaboration” at the NAACP Image Awards (2008), “Best R&B/Soul or Rap New Artist” at the Soul Train Music Awards (2008) and scoring her first award from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for her 2014 classic wedding song, “Fall for You,” now certified Gold, selling more than 500,000 equivalent units.

The soul singer, coined by James Brown as the goddaughter of soul, has always had a natural ability to communicate a mixture of emotions with the husky and bluesy tone of her voice and, as a child growing up in Los Angeles, was nicknamed “Baby Etta” after Etta James. In 2012, she released *Loving You More...In the Spirit of Etta James*, an album in tribute to her idol. Leela’s other musical influences range from soul to funk to jazz, including legends like Chaka Khan and Al Green. The songstress continues to rock crowds performing an array of classics and new hits, including the latest single, “Right Back In It.” You can catch her on tour this fall, performing in cities such as Atlanta, DC, Houston, Charlotte and more.

# WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR: A JAZZ TRIBUTE TO 100 YEARS OF DISNEY



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023 | 3:00 P.M.



Awarded "Most Influential African American in the Bay Area" in 2005 and "Best Jazz Group" in 2013, vocalist **Dr. Kim Nalley** is already being called "legendary" and "a San Francisco institution." Nalley was discovered by Michael Tilson Thomas, singing to packed audiences live with no amplification. MTT recorded her singing and invited her to sing with the San Francisco Symphony. Subsequently, she became a Rounder Records recording artist.

She went on a worldwide tour, gracing concert halls from Moscow to Lincoln Center and festivals from Umbria Jazz to Monterey Jazz.

Nalley had a solid background in classical music before switching to jazz for the freedom it provided. A true Renaissance woman, Kim Nalley has been a featured writer for JazzWest and SF Chronicle's City Brights, and shortlisted for a GRAMMY® nomination. She also earned her Ph.D. in history at UC Berkeley and is a published scholar.

Nalley's many philanthropic endeavors include founding the Kim Nalley Black Youth Jazz Scholarship, fundraising for Richmond-Ermet Aids Foundation, BLM, Next Village, SF-Marin Food Bank, and Department of Economic and Covid relief sponsored in part by Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts as part of their 2020 Artists Respond grant program.



Born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina, **Sean Mason** taught himself, by ear, how to play the piano at the age of 13. His original musical roots included mostly what he heard growing up: gospel, R&B, and soul, but then he discovered jazz and decided to make a career of it. After his studies at both the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and The Juilliard School, Sean quickly made a name for himself in New York City, consistently performing and touring with many jazz legends, including Branford Marsalis, Wynton Marsalis, Herlin Riley, among many others. He is most noted for his ability to fluently play many different styles of music, spanning across multiple genres.



and generations of artists - and while continuing to be an in-demand sideman, Sean also leads his own band, The Sean Mason Quintet, which primarily performs his original music and tours around the world. Aside from his performing career, Sean works in the film and theater space: in film, as the pianist for *Ma Rainey's Black*



**Sasha Dobson** has performed all over the world in diverse contexts as a leader and first-call collaborator. The singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist represents one-third of hit trio Puss n Boots, alongside Catherine Popper and Blue Note Artist Norah Jones, with whose band Sasha has toured fairly regularly for the past

*Bottom* (Netflix) and *Tulsa Burning: The 1921 Race Massacre* (The History Channel). In theater, Sean has worked on both *Hadestown* (Broadway) and *Phantom of the Opera* (Broadway), and is a freelance music director for various creative projects spanning multiple genres and styles.

eight years. As a guitarist and songwriter, Sasha bonds intuitive phrasing and refined storytelling chops with her honest, witty lyric-writing. Daughter of vocalist Gail Dobson and highly sought pianist and arranger, the late Smith Dobson, Sasha developed a core understanding of the lineage of jazz from an early age - one that has allowed her to develop into the powerhouse singer and multi-instrumentalist she's become. In addition to traveling the world as a three-dimensional performer, Sasha spent her early days in New York hitting as a leader at many of the city's noted venues including Jazz at Lincoln Center and Smalls Jazz Club where she and her band are a regular fixture. In recent years, she's led her own project at Farm Aid and opened for Willie Nelson. In 2020, Sasha released *Simple Things*, her anticipated EP, featuring Don Was on bass and production and Jay Lane on drums. Her 2021 release of *Girl Talk*, featuring guitarist Peter Bernstein, reflects her most personal contribution to music to-date.



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2023

**Bruce in the  
USA**

11/4/23

**Howie Mandel**

11/5/23

An Evening with  
**John Cusack**  
with a special  
screening of  
**High Fidelity**  
11/17/23

**\*On & On:**

**José James  
Sings Badu**

11/18/23

**\*Daniela**

**Padrón:**  
Around the World  
/ Alrededor del  
Mundo

11/19/23

**Pink Martini**  
featuring China  
Forbes: Tons of  
Tinsel Tour

12/15/23

New Year's Eve  
Celebration: **Best  
of Broadway**

12/31/23

**The Righteous  
Brothers: Bill  
Medley & Bucky  
Heard**

1/20/24

**Take It Easy:**  
Songs Of The 70s  
1/21/24

**The Peking  
Acrobats**  
2/4/24

**La Marisoul  
& The  
Love Notes  
Orchestra**  
2/17/24

**Country Gals**  
2/18/24

**North: The  
Musical**  
2/23/24 -  
2/24/24

**The World-  
Famous  
Glenn Miller  
Orchestra**  
2/25/24

**The Wailin'  
Jennys**  
3/3/24

**Trinity  
Irish Dance  
Company**  
3/9/24

**PROUD Tina:**  
The Ultimate  
Tribute to Tina  
Turner

3/10/24

**iLuminate**  
3/15/24

2024

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**Disney's  
BEAUTY AND  
THE BEAST:**  
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3/22/24 -  
3/23/24

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The '50s &  
'60s**  
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*Shows and dates subject to change.*



# LAS CAFETERAS PRESENTS HASTA LA MUERTE: A DAY OF THE DEAD MUSICAL EXPERIENCE



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023 | 7:30 P.M.

Las Cafeteras has taken the music scene by storm with their infectious live performances and crossing of musical genres. Their electric sound and energy has taken them around the world performing at shows anywhere from Bonnaroo to the Hollywood Bowl, WOMAD New Zealand to Montreal Jazz, & beyond!

Born and raised east of the Los Angeles river, Las Cafeteras remix roots music and tell modern day stories. Las Cafeteras create a vibrant musical fusion with a unique East LA sound and positive message. Their Afro-Mexican beats, rhythms and rhymes deliver inspiring lyrics that document stories of a community seeking love and justice in the concrete jungle of Los Angeles.

Using traditional Son Jarocho instruments like the jarana, requinto, quijada (donkey jawbone) and tarima (a wooden platform), Las Cafeteras sing in English, Spanish and Spanglish, adding a remix of sounds, from rock to hip-hop to rancheras. Las Cafeteras use music as a vehicle to build bridges among different cultures and communities. They create 'a world where many worlds fit'.

They have performed in the good company of Mexican icons Caifanes, Lila Downs, Colombian superstar Juanes, Los Angeles legends Ozomatli, folk/indie favorites Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros, Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, and Talib Kweli.

The LA Times described Las Cafeteras as “uniquely Angeleno mishmash of punk, hip-hop, beat music, cumbia and rock...live, they’re magnetic.”



**Denise Carlos, MSW**

Vocals, Jarana  
Primera, Zapateado

Denise Carlos, MSW (She/Her/Ella) is a lyricist, lead vocalist, jaranera

and teaching activist for the East L.A. band Las Cafeteras, who have increasingly gained national recognition for their vibrant musical fusion of AfroMexican/ East L.A. sounds and a socially conscious message. Denise is a proud Chicana daughter of Mexican immigrants. She was born and raised in (South East) Los Angeles. Denise holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from California State University, Los Angeles, and a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work from Loyola University in Chicago, where she focused her career in community mental health. As an activist, Denise has dedicated her 15 years as an internationally touring artist in developing critical thought around community feminism, Chicana identity, and building with various communities of color through dance and musical expression.



**Hector Paul Flores**

Vocals, Jarana  
Segunda,  
Zapateado

Hector Flores is an L.A.-based artist using song, film, and story telling

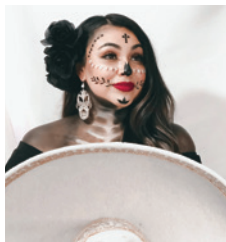
to elevate, shift and shine a light on the narrative of BIPOC communities over the last ten years as a musician and cultural worker. He is also an Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Las Cafeteras. The eldest of six children, Hector was raised in East Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley with parents born of Indigenous and Mexican roots. He graduated from Cal State Long Beach and before transitioning to a career

as an artist, he was an organizer for over ten years in South and East L.A.



**Jose Guadalupe Cruz Cano**  
Drums, Cajon

The second-born child of immigrant parents from Jalisco, Mexico, Jose grew up in Oxnard, California. His interest in music was sparked in sixth grade seeing his future middle school's concert band perform and he immediately joined the percussion section. His first drum kit came in high school after seeing some friends play at a family party. Over the years he would go on to be part of several other local bands before becoming one of the founding members of Las Cafeteras in 2006. He dedicates most of his time now to music production, recording, songwriting and regularly collaborating with other musicians and producing other artists. Jose earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering from California State University Los Angeles, and started several businesses before dedicating himself to music full-time. Outside of music, he is an advocate for entrepreneurship, home ownership, and good financial planning. Sustainable living, social justice, mindfulness, good health, the outdoors, art, and boxing are some of his passions. He currently resides in Oxnard, California, where he owns and operates his own studio.



**Jasmine Lopez**  
Violin, Vocals

Born and raised in Modesto, California, Jasmine Lopez moved to Los Angeles at the age of 18 in pursuit of a singing career. She is a versatile vocalist and musician with a background

in mariachi. She has toured and performed all over the country with her former bands and received two GRAMMY® nominations during her time with Mariachi Divas. After seven years of being a member in several musical projects, Jasmine is excited to have begun her solo career. She started touring with Las Cafeteras in 2022.



**Jesus Gonzalez Ramirez**  
Keys, Vocals

Jesus was born in Cordoba, Veracruz, Mexico. He started playing the flute in elementary school and at the age of eight. His grandfather Marcelino taught him his first lines on a guitar of a famous son jarocho. In middle school, Jesus played the tololoche (a traditional musical instrument from southern Mexico) and at the age of 15, he started his studies of classical music. Jesus went on to receive a graduate degree in popular harmony, composition, and counterpoint, playing jazz with many of Veracruz's renowned jazz artists. Later in his journey, his piano teacher, Salomon Sanches, invited Jesus to be a part of Cordoba City's Children Choir working with the municipality for various cultural events. Not fully content with so many musical phases, Jesus decided to migrate to the United States, establishing himself in Los Angeles, where he has worked with various local and international bands as a performer and session musician. This is how he was called to Las Cafeteras, now collaborating on some songs including their new song, "Oaxaca Love Song Number 2."



**Xocoyotzin Moraza**  
Requinto Jarocho, Vocals

Xocoyotzin (pronounced Sho-ko-yot-seen) is a multi-instrumental musician, born and raised in Southern California. He is a graduate of the University of California Los Angeles with a degree in ethnomusicology. Xocoyotzin is regarded as a master of the son jarocho musical genre, having studied and performed the genre for 36 years. He is currently a member of Conjunto Jarocho Zacamandú, under the direction of Master Tomas Herrera. In addition, he is the harpist for his group Rey Fresco, who has shared the stage with many iconic musicians such as Ziggy Marley, Jack Johnson, Modest Mouse, Taj Mahal, and Los Lobos. Xocoyotzin Moraza has toured internationally, participated in many recording sessions, and will continue to do so.



**Jorge Pococ Mijangos**  
Requinto Jarocho, Jarana, Vocals

Jorge Mijangos is a multi-instrumentalist, master son jarocho musician and luthier. Born in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, he began playing music at the age of five. He has since performed throughout the Americas at esteemed venues such as The Walt Disney Concert Hall, Santa Barbara Bowl as well as the NHCC. He currently lives in Ventura, California, with his wife and newborn son, where he teaches youth music and builds custom son jarocho instruments.



**Moisés Baqueiro**  
Bass, Musical Director

Moisés is the musical director and bass player for East LA's darlings, Las Cafeteras. Born and raised in Mexico City, Moisés comes from a lineage of musical pioneers. He is a direct descendant of musical pioneers - Cirilo "Chancil" Baqueiro, Geronimo Baqueiro Fsofer and Antonio Mediz-Bolio.

Moisés migrated to the US in 1991, enrolled in ESL classes upon arrival, and a year later, started attending Fullerton College where he studied music theory and composition. On December 12, 1994, he bought his first instrument, a bass guitar, and immediately immersed himself into the Roc en Español scene of Los Angeles, becoming one of its primordial characters and pioneers.

In 2001, he joined bilingual/bicultural seminal band Los Abandoned, the same year he got the ASCAP award for best Latin rock band Satélite. He was hired to direct the house band for Mexican Comedian Franco Escamilla on Hispanic television network Estrella TV in 2015.

Baqueiro collaborated with Las Cafeteras in 2015 on "Oaxaca Love Song Number 2," a song that puts Oaxaca, Mexico, in a 1960s rock and roll utopia and, a few years later, was invited to become musical director for Las Cafeteras.



**Adriana Rafaela**  
La Catrina

Adriana Rafaela is an actress, dancer and singer from Harbor City, California.

As an actress she has worked in countless films, TV shows, commercials and



music videos. She was recently featured on GRAMMY®- nominated artist Lupita Infante's music video "Pa' Dentro."

As a dancer she has graced the stage with acclaimed artists such as 30 Seconds to Mars, Los Tigres Del Norte, Lupita Infante, Lila Downs, Shaila Durcal, and Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán.

As a singer she toured with Las Cafeteras to provide support vocals and Zapateado to their high energy concerts.



**Angelina Rivera**  
*Bailadora, La Catrina understudy*

Angelina Rivera is currently a Psychology major at California State University Los Angeles and a dance instructor at Thee Academy. For the past five years, she has performed with Ballet Folklórico de Los Angeles. Angelina is excited to be a part of *Hasta La Muerte* (HLM) because the cast is so committed and passionate about the meaning behind this show. While it means something different to all of us, it also connects us to each other, to our culture, and most importantly, to our families and ancestors. Shoutout to my parents who have pushed me to do amazing things (this is definitely one of them), I love you. During this season of Día de Los Muertos, I will be dedicating my performance in HLM to my beautiful baby niece in heaven, Savannah Garcia.



**Dante Espinoza**  
*Bailador*

Dante Espinoza was born and raised in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, and has been dancing folklórico for 13 years. He is excited about the *Hasta La*

*Muerte* production because it is something new for him. It has been such a great experience to work with such dedicated and passionate professionals. Dante hopes the audience will experience something magical during the performance, just as the performers have experienced.



**Jennifer Rodriguez**  
*Bailadora*

Jennifer Rodriguez was born and raised in Los Angeles. She is the daughter of Mexican immigrants from the city of Zacatecas, Mexico. She graduated from California State University Los Angeles, with a Bachelors of Arts in Communication Studies. Jennifer has danced Mexican folklórico for nine years. She is currently working for a school district and is studying software development at California State University Long Beach.



**Sammie Faith Rivera**  
*Bailadora*

Sammie Faith Rivera has been dancing since she was two years old and immediately fell in love with being on the stage. She loves teaching the art of dance; she has been a dance instructor and professional dancer for five years. She loves captivating the audience and feeling their energy. Sammie is excited about HLM and is honored to tell the stories of her ancestors. She has always wanted to perform with Las Cafeteras and enjoys working with everyone on this production. Día de los Muertos is an important celebration for her family, so performing in this production has become very special.

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\*Base price. Venue fees apply.

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12/10 at 3:00 pm  
12/16 at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm  
12/17 at 3:00 pm

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Ballet Etudes is supported in part by the Arizona Commission on the Arts,  
which receives support from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts.

# THEY'RE SO VAIN: SAMMY MILLER AND THE CONGREGATION



Sammy Miller and The Congregation are on a mission to put the generosity back into jazz and bring art back to the people. A native of Los Angeles, Juilliard trained GRAMMY®-nominated drummer Sammy Miller has been hailed as “the perfect player scholar” (*The Wall Street Journal*). He has spent the last decade electrifying audiences from Lincoln Center to The White House with special guests, including Wynton Marsalis and Jon Batiste. Miller founded *Playbook* ([www.thisisplaybook.com](http://www.thisisplaybook.com)) to continue his mission of spreading joyful jazz and to bring conservatory training to K-12 band students. *Playbook* is an online education platform uniquely designed to support band teachers and help them turn their students of all skill levels into lifelong musicians.

In this performance, the band celebrates nineteen hundred and seventy-three. From getting it on with Marvin Gaye to the yellow brick road with Elton John, it was a year filled with such fabulous music that they feel it should be spelled out in full! That year also brought us Pink Floyd’s *Dark Side of the Moon*, Stevie Wonder’s *Innervisions*, Herbie Hancock’s *Headhunters* and a long list that goes on and on.

Join Sammy Miller and the The Congregation for their fresh take on these classics...fifty years later. Are you ready to get it on?

**SAMMY MILLER**, DRUMS + VOCALS

**BEN FLOCKS**, TENOR SAX

**DAVID LINARD**, PIANO

**JOHN SNOW**, BASS

**MOLLY MILLER**, GUITAR

**KUHOO VERMA**, VOCALS

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023 | 7:30 P.M.**



# BONEY JAMES: DETOUR



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023 | 7:30 P.M.**

*Detour*, on Concord Records, is chart-topping jazz/R&B sax player Boney James' 18<sup>th</sup> studio album. Appropriately titled, this latest album is a subtle stylistic turn that builds on the commercial success of 2020's *Solid*, his highest charting release ever on the pop charts, peaking in the Top 10 on the *Billboard* 200.

"The urge to write again came from the joy of being back on the road, performing in front of live audiences," explains Boney. "I had shut down creatively when the pandemic hit. It was the disruptive and disorienting detour we *all* took when the world locked down, and that's reflected in the more experimental directions some of the new music takes.

The thing about a detour is you may take a different route, but you still get to your destination."

Like *Solid*, *Detour* provides a welcome respite from an increasingly foreboding world filled with political strife. It's a trip through James' distinctive contemporary jazz/R&B landscapes, layered in quicksilver watercolor images and cinematic set pieces. *Detour* represents the next extension of Boney James' trademark blend of genres which includes blues, soul, roots, classical, art-pop and hip-hop.

"There are some people who think I'm a legend," laughs Boney about his status as one of the best-kept secrets in music. "And others who have never heard of me. It's kind of a nice place to live and play in. I do sense a great deal of positive energy towards the music I've been making recently and for that, I'm tremendously grateful."

*Detour* was recorded largely at Boney's L.A. home studio in his backyard (live drums and percussion were tracked at venerable Sunset Sound), with both regular collaborators like former band guitarist, now an in-demand writer/producer, Jaius "J-Mo" Mozee (Anderson.Paak, Nicki Minaj, Anthony Hamilton) and hot newcomer BeatsMadeByFresh, aka Christian Frazier. Among the other musicians on the album are keyboardist Tim Carmon (Eric Clapton), longtime drummer Omari Williams and bassist Alex Al, renowned percussionist Lenny Castro, and guitarists Big Mike Hart and Paul Jackson Jr.

Nicknamed by bandmates while on tour in Oslo, Norway, after jokingly threatening to starve himself on a threadbare per diem, Boney or Bones or Boneman (though his wife calls him Jimmy) has put in his proverbial 10,000 hours as a musician, performer, writer and producer. At age 10, the New Rochelle, NY native picked up the sax after 2 years on the clarinet

and never looked back, parlaying his love of R&B – Motown, Stevie Wonder, Earth Wind & Fire, Curtis Mayfield and Grover Washington, Jr. – into a musical aesthetic. He turned pro before his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday and became an in-demand touring sax and keyboard player for Morris Day, the Isley Brothers, Teena Marie, Bobby Caldwell, Randy Crawford and many others.

Increasingly frustrated by playing other people's music, Boney launched his own solo career with 1992's *Trust* on the indie Spindletop Records. His subsequent 17 studio albums – including a pair of Christmas records – have been released by Warner Bros., Verve and Concord, with 1995's *Seduction*, 1997's *Sweet Thing* and 1999's *Body Language* all RIAA certified gold. In 2015, Boney's *futuresoul* spent 11 weeks atop the *Billboard* Contemporary Jazz Chart and was the best-selling Contemporary Jazz Record of 2015.

During his 30-year career, Boney has earned four GRAMMY® nominations ("I'm not gonna lie... I'd still love a statue," he says), two NAACP Image Award nominations, and a *Soul Train* Award, while a dozen of his albums have landed at #1 on *Billboard*'s Contemporary Jazz Album chart. His collaborators in the past include a who's who of R&B and soul: Raheem DeVaughn, Faith Evans, George Benson, George Duke, Dwele, Al Jarreau, Philip Bailey, Anthony Hamilton, Jaheim, Eric Benét, Dave Hollister, Stokley Williams, Kenny Lattimore and Angie Stone.


For the inimitable Boney James, life begins at 60. The cat in the hat is back and better than ever, enjoying life with his wife of 37 years, actress/director Lily Mariye.

"What drives me is my love of making music and my desire for people to hear what I've made," he says. "I still love the communal aspect of playing live. There's nothing else like it."



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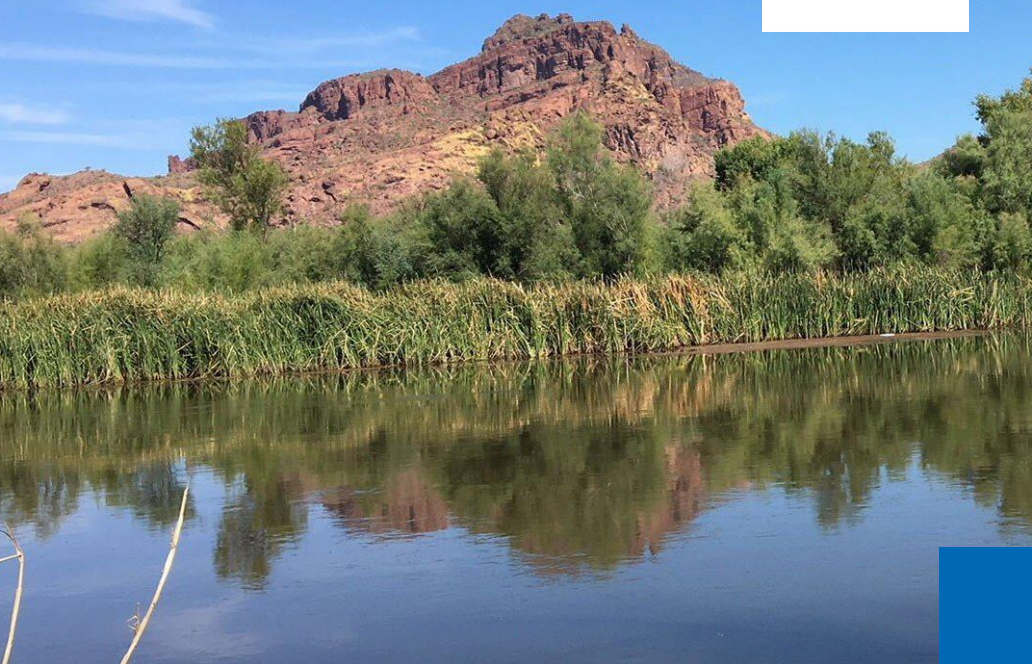
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