



# ULYSSES OWENS JR. & GENERATION Y

## PHILADELPHIA DEBUT

**DRUMS** Ulysses Owens Jr.

**TRUMPET** Anthony Hervey

**ALTO SAXOPHONE** Sarah Hanahan

**PIANO** Luther Allison

**BASS** Philip Norris

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 @ 8 PM

Annenberg Center, Harold Prince Theatre/Livestream Event

There will be no intermission.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

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Drummer. Educator. Author. Creative entrepreneur.

A drummer who *The New York Times* has said “take[s] a back seat to no one” and “a musician who balances excitement gracefully and shines with innovation.”

Performer, producer and educator **Ulysses Owens Jr.** goes the limit in the jazz world and beyond, claiming eight successful albums of his own. Owens has also gained attention for his performances on Grammy® Award-winning albums by Kurt Elling and the Christian McBride Big Band, in addition to five Grammy®-nominated albums with Joey Alexander, Christian McBride Trio, John Beasley's Monk'estra and Gregory Porter. Both *JAZZIZ Magazine* and *Rolling Stone* picked his *Songs of Freedom* as a top ten album for 2019. His most recent Big Band release, *Soul Conversations*, was voted the Top Album in May 2021 by *JAZZIZ Magazine*. Released on the Outside In music label, it received rave reviews and was added to multiple playlists on Apple Music, Spotify and Sirius XM.

Owens is also the creator of multiple online jazz drum video courses for Open Studio: *Finding Your Beat*, *The Art of Swing* and *Jazz Drumming 101: Everything you need to know to get the gig*. He also created, filmed and produced his own entrepreneurial course titled *Be More Than A Drummer*, which teaches drummers how to expand beyond the instrument and accomplish whatever they dream of entrepreneurially. Owens was the host of the highly successful weekly live YouTube series, *From The Drummer's Perspective*, for Open Studio, where he interviewed Lewis Nash, Terri Lynn Carrington, Nate Smith, Peter Erskine, Matt Wilson, Herlin Riley, Chris “Daddy” Dave, Cindy Blackman and many other legendary drummers.

As an author, Owens has penned articles for multiple publications (*Jazz Times*, *Downbeat* and Percussive Arts Society.) He has released a Hallmark Drum instructional book titled *Jazz Brushes for the Modern Drummer: An Essential Guide to the Art of Keeping Time*, which is published and distributed by Hal Leonard. His second book, *The Musicians Career Guide: Turning Your Talent into Sustained Success*, is a career narrative and instructional book about music business, entrepreneurship and career development for creative students. It was released by Skyhorse Publishers and Simon and Schuster in June 2021 and has been in the top five on Amazon in the music business and arts and entrepreneurship book categories.

In addition to his work as an author and musician, Owens serves on the faculty at The Juilliard School in the role of Small Ensemble Director. He also serves on the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging committee, and teaches several workshops and courses within the Alan D. Marks Entrepreneurship Center annually.

His passion project is his role as the Artistic Director for his family's non-profit organization, Don't Miss A Beat (DMAB), in Jacksonville, Florida, which utilizes the arts as a bridge to a better life for students. In 2021, DMAB produced its inaugural community event, The Don't Miss A Beat Jazz Festival, at Woodstock Park in partnership with the City of Jacksonville, and over 2,000 people were in attendance. Owens has also received the Difference Maker Award from Beacon College, the Robert Arleigh White Advocacy Award from the Cultural Council of Northeast Florida and has been a multi-year recipient of the Individual Artist Grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida.

Owens remains consistently in-demand for new projects and consulting opportunities, remaining one of the most sought-after drummers, educators and thought leaders of his generation. Yet, what matters to him consistently is giving back and continuing to be grateful for a new day to make a difference in the lives of others.