



# SHEMEKIA COPELAND

**VOCALS** Shemekia Copeland

**GUITARS** Arthur Neilson, Willie Scandlyn, Cary Samsel

**BASS** Kevin Jenkins

**DRUMS** Dan Hickey

Zellerbach Theatre

Friday, February 7 @ 8 PM

There will be no intermission.

---

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born and raised in Harlem in 1979, **Shemekia Copeland** first stepped on stage with her famous father, John Copeland, at New York's Cotton Club when she was eight. Upon release of her Alligator Records debut, *Turn The Heat Up*, in 1998, Copeland, then only 18, instantly became a blues and R&B force to be reckoned with. *The New York Times* and CNN, among many others, praised her talent, larger-than-life personality, dynamic, authoritative voice, and true star power. With each subsequent release, Copeland's music continued to evolve. From her debut through 2005's *The Soul Truth*, Copeland earned eight Blues Music Awards and a host of *Living Blues* Awards. Her 2000 album, *Wicked*, received the first of her five Grammy® Award nominations. After two successful releases on Telarc (including 2012's Grammy®-nominated *33 1/3*), Copeland returned to Alligator Records in 2015 with the Grammy®-nominated and Blues Music Award-winning *Outskirts Of Love*, melding blues with more rootsy, Americana sounds.

With 2018's *America's Child*, Copeland brought out the first of her celebrated trilogy of albums concerning the state of the world, sung from her perspective as a young Black woman and new mother. *MOJO Magazine* named *America's Child* the #1 blues release of 2018. It won both the Blues Music Award and the *Living Blues* Award for Album of the Year. In addition to earning a Grammy® Award nomination, Copeland's groundbreaking 2020 follow-up, *Uncivil War*, was named the 2020 Blues Album of The Year by *DownBeat*, *MOJO Magazine* and *Living Blues Magazine*. "Shemekia Copeland is a powerhouse," said *Rolling Stone*. "She can do no wrong." She received her fifth Grammy® Award nomination for *Done Come Too Far*, which closed the trilogy with a searing set of truth-to-power, rock, and Hill Country blues-fueled songs. "Shemekia Copeland is an antidote to artifice," said *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. "She is a commanding presence, a powerhouse vocalist delivering the truth."

Copeland has performed thousands of gigs at clubs, festivals and concert halls all over the world. She has appeared in films, on national television and NPR, and has been the subject of major feature stories in hundreds of magazines, newspapers and internet publications. She's sung with Bonnie Raitt, Keith Richards, Carlos Santana, Dr. John, James Cotton and many others, and has shared billing with The Rolling Stones. She entertained U.S. troops in Iraq and Kuwait in 2008, a trip she says, "opened my eyes to the larger world around me and my place in it." In 2012, she performed with B.B. King, Mick Jagger, Buddy Guy, Trombone Shorty, Gary Clark, Jr. and others at the White House for President and First Lady Obama. She has showcased on PBS's *Austin City Limits*, was featured in a six-minute story on the *PBS News Hour* and was the subject of a major Sunday magazine piece in *The Washington Post*. In April 2022, she performed at the United Nations General Assembly Hall to a worldwide audience of millions as part of International Jazz Day celebrations. In 2023, Copeland was a guest on the Grammy® Award-winning compilation album, *Basie Swings The Blues*, on the Candid label. She continues to receive regular radio airplay on stations all over the globe. Additionally, Copeland hosts her own popular daily blues radio show on SiriusXM's *Bluesville*.

With the Grammy®-nominated *Blame It On Eve*, Copeland embarks on what she calls "a vacation from all the heaviness." *Blame It On Eve* contains plenty of Copeland's trademark bold and courageous songs, but here, Copeland is also looking to unplug from the weight of world. "My last three records have dealt with breaking news," she says. "This record is for people like me who want a break from the news."