

JONTAVIOUS WILLIS

Harold Prince Theatre

Friday, March 7 @ 8 PM

There will be no intermission.



This performance is co-presented with World Cafe Live.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jontavious Willis was born and raised in rural Georgia, an environment with deep cultural roots that provides the inspiration he has continuously drawn upon to create his unique sound. He spent much of his childhood singing gospel music at the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church with his grandfather, which provided his first setting to perform for an audience. An early phenom, his passion for the blues was sparked at age 14 when he came across a YouTube video of Muddy Waters playing "Hoochie Coochie Man." He achieved widespread acclaim when living legend Taj Mahal invited Willis to accompany him onstage in 2015, describing him as his "wonderboy." Willis was invited to open for Taj Mahal and Keb' Mo' during their joint TajMo tour in 2018, giving him the opportunity to perform on a national stage.

Blue Metamorphosis, Willis' acoustic debut album released in 2016, garnered rave reviews in *Living Blues Magazine* and *Blues & Rhythm Magazine* and won the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge Award in 2018 for Best Self-Produced CD. His Grammy® Award-nominated sophomore album, *Spectacular Class*, surveyed an array of blues styles with lively ensemble performances. Willis features prominently in solo shows and festivals across the world, sharing his unique blend of time-honored yet modern and intellectual yet danceable blues with all.