

TYSHAWN SOREY

MEMBERS, DON'T GIT WEARY

DRUMS Tyshawn Sorey
TRUMPET Adam O'Farrill
TENOR SAXOPHONE Mark Shim
PIANO Lex Korten
BASS Tyrone Allen II
VOCALS Fay Victor

Zellerbach Theatre
Friday, February 6 @ 7:30 PM

There will be no intermission.



Media support for this performance provided by WRTI 90.1 fm.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Tyshawn Sorey (Drums)

Composer and multi-instrumentalist Tyshawn Sorey has performed globally with his own ensembles, as well as alongside industry titans including John Zorn, Bill Frisell, Joe Lovano, Vijay Iyer, Jason Moran, King Britt, Claire Chase, Roscoe Mitchell and Steve Lehman, among many others.

The bar is set high for Sorey's continued evolution and success. He was named the 2024 Pulitzer Prize in Music winner for his composition *Adagio (for Wadada Leo Smith)*, after being recognized as a 2023 Pulitzer Finalist for *Monochromatic Light (Afterlife)*. Previously, Sorey soared onto the international landscape as a 2017 MacArthur Fellow and a 2018 United States Artists Fellow. Adding to his reputation as a multi-faceted talent, *DownBeat* recognized Sorey with its 2023 Critics Poll Award as a Rising Star Producer, while annually placing him near the top of its composer and drum set performance lists. Other recent accolades include the Pew Fellowship, the Fromm Fellowship, the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Goddard Lieberson Fellowship and the Koussevitzky Prize.

Sorey has composed works for the International Contemporary Ensemble, Talea Ensemble, soprano Julia Bullock, PRISM Quartet, JACK Quartet, TAK Ensemble, Brooklyn Rider, A Far Cry, cellists Seth Parker Woods and Matt Haimovitz, the San

Francisco Contemporary Music Players, bass-baritone Davóne Tines, Alarm Will Sound, pianist Awadagin Pratt and vocal group Roomful of Teeth, pianist Sarah Rothenberg, violinist Johnny Gandelsman and tenor Lawrence Brownlee, as well as for countless others. His music has been performed in notable venues such as the Library of Congress, the Walt Disney Concert Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Hollywood Bowl, the 92nd Street Y, Park Avenue Armory, the Donaueschinger Musiktage, Lucerne Festival and Lincoln Center. His compositions are published by Edition Peters.

Sorey joined the composition faculty of the University of Pennsylvania in 2020, where he maintains a vigorous touring schedule in addition to his academic duties. He was selected as a Peabody Resident at Johns Hopkins University for fall 2023 and has taught and lectured on composition and improvisation at an impressive assortment of institutions, including Columbia University, Harvard University, Darmstadter Ferienkurse, Wesleyan University, The New England Conservatory, University of Michigan, The Banff Centre, Berklee College of Music, Mills College, University of Chicago and The Danish Rhythmic Conservatory.

In 2023, Sorey debuted a musical collaboration with percussion ensemble Yarn/Wire titled *Be Holding*, a multimedia adaptation of the book-length poem by Ross Gay about the beauty and cultural significance of Julius Erving's momentous sky hook dunk during the 1980 NBA Finals. The production included performances by professional wordsmiths Yolanda Wisher and David A. Gaines, along with students from Girard College, and was featured in *The New York Times*. Sorey's trio featuring pianist Aaron Diehl and bassist Harish Raghavan is currently touring with Sandbox Percussion Ensemble, performing a newly commissioned piece in honor of the Max Roach Centennial titled *Cogitations*. In the future, Sorey plans to continue pushing boundaries, extending cultural norms and reformulating public perceptions of modern Black/Afrodiasporic creative practice through the breadth and depth of his works.

Adam O'Farrill (Trumpet)

Brooklyn-bred artist Adam O'Farrill has been heralded as "among the leading trumpeters in jazz and perhaps the music's next major improviser" (*The New York Times*). Born into a musical legacy that includes composer Chico O'Farrill and pianist Arturo O'Farrill, Adam O'Farrill has since collaborated with artists such as Mary Halvorson, Hiromi, Vijay Iyer, Anna Webber, Tyshawn Sorey, Mulatu Astatke, Samora Pinderhughes, Son Lux, Kevin Sun and Mali Obomsawin. His most recent album, the 1930s-inspired *For These Streets*, was featured on NPR's Alt.Latino, *Bandcamp's Best of Jazz April 2025* and in *DownBeat* which wrote, "*For These Streets* is an ambitious outing of orchestral soundscapes and dreamy meditations brought to life by an all-star octet." Prior to this, O'Farrill released *HUESO*, featuring his quartet, *Stranger Days*, which was recorded following a residency at Morning Glory Farm, exploring the integration of farming work into the creative process. For his work as a composer and bandleader, O'Farrill has received awards, commissions and grants from the ASCAP Foundation, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, The Hermitage Foundation, The Jazz Gallery, Roulette, The Shifting Foundation and South Arts, in addition to winning the 2021 *DownBeat* Critics Poll for Rising Star Trumpet.

Mark Shim (Tenor Saxophone)

When legendary vocalist Betty Carter asked saxophonist Mark Shim to join her band for a three-month world tour in 1995, he became the first and only saxophonist that the iconic singer would ever utilize for an overseas tour. Remarkably, Shim was only 21 years of age at the time. Since that auspicious debut, Shim has made an impact on the musical world with his unique brand of creativity and inventiveness. Over the course of

his 30-year career, Shim has recorded three albums for the prestigious Blue Note label, including the critically acclaimed *Turbulent Flow*. He has also had the honor of touring extensively with legendary drummer Elvin Jones in the last incarnation of his Elvin Jones Jazz Machine band, as well as with many other distinguished and influential artists, including Terence Blanchard, Terri Lyne Carrington and Vijay Iyer. A native of Jamaica who came to the United States with his family when he was five, Shim began playing the saxophone at age 11. He went on to study music at Virginia Commonwealth University and William Paterson University before plunging into the New York jazz scene where he currently resides and is highly sought-after as an educator and performer.

Lex Korten (Piano)

New York City's own Lex Korten has steadily risen to become a pivotal pianist in the contemporary jazz community both as a prolific, diverse sideman (Tyshawn Sorey, Melissa Aldana, Joel Ross, Zoh Amba, etc.) and as an ambitious band leader in his own right. Acknowledged by *DownBeat*, PopMatters, WNYC and more for his charismatic, vulnerable improvisatory approach and unquestioned musicianship, Korten seeks to nurture a deeper multidirectional experience between artists and listeners, and to honor his adopted home among the great Black American musical art forms via close mentorships with Geri Allen, Benny Green and others. His debut LP *Canopy* was recently met with widespread critical acclaim, landing on multiple year-end lists cataloguing the best releases and debuts of 2025.

Tyrone Allen II (Bass)

In recent years, Tyrone Allen II has proved not only to be one of the most consistently in-demand sidemen in the NYC scene, but a generational talent. Since 2018, his name has not only appeared in publications like *The New York Times*, *JazzTimes* and WBGO, but was featured in the 2024 *DownBeat* Critics Poll for Rising Star Jazz Group as one third of the Sullivan Fortner Trio. In 2025, Allen made his debut appearance in the Rising Star Bassist category of the same poll.

Before moving to NYC, Allen had already earned recognition as a sideman and intermittent leader. His credits prior to moving to NYC included Terri Lyne Carrington, Jerry Bergonzi, Genevieve Artadi, George Garzone and the late great Ralph Peterson in his Fo'Tet. Though this final iteration of the Fo'tet's recording remains unreleased, the spirit of Peterson's teachings and playing lives on in Allen, as he dedicates a track on his early 2026 debut album, *UPWARD*, to Peterson. As a leader, in addition to his own groups, he co-led BRAHIM! with Abe Nouri, the current keyboardist for Billie Eilish. Though the band is currently inactive, the self-titled album stamps a formative time for the group, as well as Allen and Nouri's roots of collaboration.

Allen's early performing and recording credits included Jazzmeia Horn, JD Allen, Louis Cole, Bruce Harris and Rodney Green. Since 2021, Allen's sideman credits have broadened, as well as his output as a leader. He appeared on records with Nicole Glover, Joy Guidry, Wendy Eisenberg and George Burton and has been touring extensively with Sullivan Fortner's trio, culminating with a run at the legendary Village Vanguard in early 2025. Recordings of Fortner's trio, featuring Allen, will be available in 2026. In addition to his creative music credits, Allen is currently the bass chair of the 10-time Tony Award-winning Broadway show *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*.

In 2024, the debut of Allen's solo project under the moniker "TY.000" (Ty-thousand) was released. His band, TAIiQ (the Tyrone Allen II Quartet), has been performing more frequently in recent years. He was the 2024 Tribe for Jazz Artist in Residence in Columbus, OH, where he performed as TY.000 and with TAIiQ, as well as a sideman on other projects.

Fay Victor (Vocals)

Victor is a sound artist/bandleader that uses performance, improvisation and composition to examine representations of modern life and blackness. Victor has released 13 critically acclaimed albums as a leader and has performed with luminaries such as Gary Bartz, Archie Schepp, George Lewis, Nicole Mitchell, Tyshawn Sorey, Randy Weston, Misha Mengelberg, Roswell Rudd and Moor Mother. Victor's performance highlights include the Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, Hammer Museum, Kolner Philharmonie, Symphony Space, Earshot Jazz Festival, Kennedy Center, Big Ears Festival and Bimhuis.

Victor is a member of the esteemed new music group, International Contemporary Ensemble, and as a composer, Victor's work has been performed on stages in Berlin, New York, Miami, Bangkok, Mexico City, Glasgow and Boston. With an esteemed reputation as an educator, Victor is on the faculty of the College of Performing Arts at the New School and at Long Island University in addition to teaching clinics and masterclasses around the world. In 2025, Victor was a visiting professor at Harvard University in the Department of Creative Practice and Critical Inquiry. Victor is the Board chair for the Jazz Leaders Fellowship, an initiative of the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music to fund black women/non-binary jazz leaders of the present and future. In April, Victor will premiere a concert-length piece in tribute to her mother entitled *Faith, The Gift*. Victor will premiere this work as a George Wein Fellow through the Jazz Gallery in New York City.

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