

Meshell Ndegeocello Shares Love From James Baldwin Tribute Album & Plays Tiny Desk For Black Music Month



Credit: Andre Wagner

Meshell Ndegeocello shares “Love” from her forthcoming *No More Water: The Gospel of James Baldwin* and performs her second Tiny Desk Concert for their Black Music Month celebration. “Love” fetes vulnerability and connection in a shower of hi-hats, sweet melody, sacred choruses, and Meshell’s funk-wielding bass. She performed the single along with “Travel,” and “Thus Sayeth The Lord,” from the album. “Virgo” is from her 2023 album *The Omnichord Realbook* and “Outside My Door” is from her 1993 debut album *Plantation Lullabies*. *No More Water* will be released on Baldwin’s centennial August 2nd and Ndegeocello will headline the [BRIC Celebrate Brooklyn Festival](#).

Tour Dates

July 5 – Love Supreme Festival – East Sussex, United Kingdom
July 7 – Casa del Jazz – Rome, Italy
July 8 – Bremen Theater – Copenhagen, Denmark
July 10 – Marseille Jazz des Cinq Continents – Marseille, France
July 12-14 – North Sea Jazz Festival “Artist In Residence” – Rotterdam, Netherlands
July 16 – Jazz a Sete Festival – Sete, France
July 19 – Festival Jazz en Ville – Vannes, France
July 21 – Stuttgart Jazz Open Festival – Stuttgart, Germany
July 23 – Jazz in Marciac – Marciac, France
Aug. 2 – BRIC Celebrate Brooklyn – Brooklyn, NY
Aug. 4 – Newport Jazz Festival – Newport, RI
Aug. 7 – Denver Botanic Gardens – Denver, CO
Aug. 8 – Ravinia Festival – Highland Park, IL
Sept. 15 – New Mexico Jazz Festival – Santa Fe, NM
Sept. 16 – MIM – Phoenix, AZ
Sept. 20 – The Center for the Arts at the Armory – Somerville, MA
Sept. 21 – Empire State Plaza Performing Arts Center – Albany, NY
Sept. 22 – Wexner Center for the Arts – Columbus, OH
Sept. 26 – Infinite Dream Festival – Iowa City, IA
Sept. 28 – Wisconsin Union Theater – Madison, WI
Sept. 29 – Door Community Auditorium – Fish Creek, WI
Oct. 3 – World Café Live – Philadelphia, PA
Oct. 5 – The Music Center at Strathmore – North Bethesda, MD
Oct. 6 – New Jersey Performing Arts Center – Newark, NJ
Oct. 31 – Jazz0nze+ Festival Lausanne – Lausanne, Switzerland
Nov. 1 – Enjoy Jazz-Alte Feuerwache – Mannheim, Germany
Nov. 3-4 – Stadtgarten Konzertsaal – Cologne, Germany
Nov. 6-7 – Musikbrauerei – Berlin, Germany
Nov. 9 – Rockit Festival – Groningen, Netherlands
Nov. 10 – Le Guess Who? Festival – Utrecht, Netherlands

Nov. 11 – De Roma – Antwerp, Belgium
Nov. 12-13 – New Morning – Paris, France
Nov. 15 – Koko – London, United Kingdom
Dec. 2-5 – Jazz Alley – Seattle, WA
Nov. 7 – Walter Art Center – Minneapolis, MN

Messhell Ndegeocello Releasing James Baldwin Tribute Album



Credit: Andre Wagner

Meshell Ndegeocello has announced her next album, *No More Water: The Gospel Of James Baldwin*. The album originates in a 2016 concert at The Harlem Stage Gatehouse during their annual showcase honoring Baldwin. Ndegeocello had read Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time* the previous year and found it "life-changing" and a "spiritual text." Her interaction with Baldwin's work came at an important time for her. She says, "It came when I was ready to look in the mirror. I've had to play *Plantation Lullabies* at a few shows. Looking back, I had an interesting perspective, but the dialogue was limited. It was more like a cathartic experience for a young person of color, whereas now I'm going, 'How can I get us all to love each other? How can I get us all to see this for what it is?'" The music is modeled after the Black church with themes of Baptism, testimony, praise and resurrection. Ndegeocello co-produced the album with Chris Bruce and is working with frequent collaborators like Justin Hicks and Josh Johnson. Esteemed poet Staceyann Chin also appears on *No More Water*. "Travel" is the first single and Hicks takes over with his poetic answer to Baldwin's suicide motif. Chin's words in "Raise The Roof" holds racist murdering cops accountable and rants against a system that has devalued Black life for more than 400 years. The anger Baldwin had towards America for its treatment of Black people and his trenchant essays about the trauma of racism have a sonic counterpart in the honesty and fire of both singles.

No More Water is Ndegeocello's second album for Blue Note. *The Omnichord Realbook* released in 2023 was her debut album for the storied jazz label. *No More Water* will be released on August 2, 2024, which would have been Baldwin's 100th birthday.

Media Questions Of The Week



Will [Billy Porter](#) capture the essence of James Baldwin in the upcoming biopic he is writing and starring in as the late writer?

Janelle Monae, Samuel L.

Jackson & More Want You To Know Your Baldwin

<https://www.facebook.com/MicMedia/videos/1435311906491595/>

Raoul Peck's *I Am Not Your Negro* documentary about James Baldwin is doing well at the box office and has a new promotional campaign led by Janelle Monae. The Know Your Baldwin piece features a variety of people including Monae, Common, Samuel L. Jackson, Lupita Nyong'o and more reciting lines from Baldwin's work and reminding you to 'Know Your Baldwin.' If you haven't seen the film you can find tickets [here](#).