

Igmar Thomas' Revive Big Band Pays Tribute To J.Dilla & Thelonius Monk With The Talib Kweli-Assisted Thelonius



Igmar Thomas' Revive Big Band honors rap and jazz innovators J.Dilla and Thelonius Monk with "Thelonius," featuring Talib Kweli. The two-part suite is a reimagining of Dilla's instrumental "Thelonius" from Common's *Like Water For Chocolate* and Monk's bebop standard "Thelonius." Summerstage commissioned Thomas in 2016 for *A Journey Through The Legacy Of Black Culture*, and he debuted "Thelonius" at Rumsey Field in Central Park. Thomas, who is the music director of Lauryn Hill's touring band, guides the Revive Big Band and Talib

Kweli through a lazy swinging beat and a commanding brass section on the second single from the band's forthcoming album. Thomas explained "Thelonius" in a press release:

"‘Thelonius’ demonstrates exactly how closely related jazz and hip-hop are and how they can once again easily evolve into one another. It brings together the best of two musical worlds... To take the energy even further, I composed an original final section of the song that explodes into a high-octane hip-hop Big Band shout chorus."

"Thelonius" will appear on Igmarr Thomas' Revive Big Band's *Like A Tree It Grows* album, due to drop on October 25th. The album is a tribute to Megan Stabile, the founder of the Revive Music Group, whose vision of connecting younger rap fans and traditional jazz snobs helped create the Revive Big Band.