

**Moses Sumney Collabs With Syd  
& Meshell Ndegeocello For Hey  
Girl(s)**



Credit: Max Hemphill

Moses Sumney links with Syd and Meshell Ndegeocello for an updated rendition of “Hey Girl,” retooled as “Hey Girl (s).” “Hey Girl (s)” connects two generations of R&B outliers in a promise to wait for love in an arrangement of coy rhythm,

space, and a saxophone blowing jazz phrases. Sumney's *Sophcore* EP came out in 2024, and this remix is his first release of 2025. He fulfilled a dream by working with Ndegeocello, who he cites as a major influence. The R&B/Funk legend who just won another Grammy for Best Alternative Jazz Album was honored to work with Sumney. Syd ended 2024 with the "I Need It" duet with Tank. Sumney's *Sophcore* showed up last August after releasing his double album, *grae*, in 2020. The singer has a busy year planned with the recent announcement that he is the face of Rabanne's Million Gold fragrance and his role as Feste in Public Theatre's *TWELFTH NIGHT*. He will join the cast, which includes Lupita Ny'ongo, Sandra Oh, Peter Dinklage, and Jesse Tyler Ferguson, and runs from August 21 until September 14th. Last summer he starred in the horror movie *MaXXXine*.

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## **Meshe'll 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 – JazzOnze+ 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

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# Meshell 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 Ndegecello’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.

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# Meshell Ndegeocello's Red Hot & Ra: The Magic City Album Stream



Meshell Ndegeocello's curated *Red, Hot & Ra: The Magic City* is a tribute to the work of the late Afro-jazz futurist Sun Ra. The album is the latest in the Red Hot Organization's series of projects started three decades ago to raise awareness and money for A.I.D.S. Ndegeocello uses Sun Ra as a muse to produce abstract sketches of his work instead of cover songs. Every composition is original and reflects Sun Ra's visionary status by tapping the creativity of contemporary voices. In some places, Sun Ra actually appears when he is sampled recanting the band's travels and his philosophy on "Solipsistic Panacea (Black Antique)" and "Departure Of The Seven Sisters." Ndegeocello delves into the spirit of Sun Ra's expression with a variety of collaborators including Marshall Allen who is the leader of the late musician's Arkestra. Hip-Hop/punk rocker Pink Siifu provides ethereal poetry and scraggly-whispered rap on "El-soul The Companion, Traveler" and "Yet Differently Not- Mars Hall (in)."

"#9 Venus The Living Myth" pays homage to Sun Ra's respect for other planets and his avant-garde jazz with a cacophony of saxophones, percussion eruptions, choral-like chants, and quotes from the master himself. The Justin Hicks-penned "Reproductive Manatees" has Sun Ra's early proto-funk keyboard experimentation and parts that sound like sung prayers. Ndegeocello's creative decisions encapsulate Sun Ra's sonic and philosophical creed of jazz-based musical freedom and respect for other life forms and planets. *The Magic City* presents all the spookiness, improvisation, mystery, and elusiveness of Sun Ra and his Arkestra who were waiting on



aliens decades before George Clinton's mothership landed in D.C.