

Patrice Rushen To Debut New Jazz Work With Orchestra



Patrice Rushen will debut a commissioned jazz piece with a special concert in Detroit. The pianist, composer and bandleader will premiere The Resonate Suite with The Gathering Orchestra Nonet at the Carr Center on Saturday, March 21st at 7:30 PM. The show is the result of the Carr Center's Gathering Orchestra Residency where Rushen is the 2022 resident. Rushen will spend one week with the center's orchestra under Rodney Whitaker's direction. The Resonate Suite is three parts representing three decades and is written for three saxophones, trumpet, trombone, piano, drums, bass and guitar. The piece is the first of a larger group of works to be performed by the nine-piece ensemble.

Rodney Whitaker is the director of The Gathering Residency a two-year fellowship that offers young musicians from 18 to 28 the opportunity to work with professional mentors on standards, new music and original compositions. The fellowship was pared down to nine musicians during the pandemic and this caused the 2021-2022 cohort to be performed virtually.

Rushen's new piece was commissioned as part of the Resonate multi-year collaboration between Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings and the Carr Center that aims to explore the African diaspora through the lens of American chamber music. She is among seven composers to create works that will be performed with collaborators that include Bowling Green University, Western Michigan University, the Carr Center, Oberlin Conservatory, Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings, Michigan

State University, and the University of Michigan/An Arbor. The Resonate Project will have a 2023 symposium hosted by the Carr Center and chaired by Rushen.

The residency is among Rushen's several accomplishments over a five-decade career. Her 1982 single "Forget Me Nots" had a second life after it was featured in the blockbuster 1997 film *Men In Black*. A career that was based in jazz in the '70s moved into a successful R&B period in the '80s. She is the first woman musical director of The Grammys , the NAACP Image Awards, the People's Choice Awards and HBO's Comic Relief V. She was the music director for Janet Jackson's Janet world tour. Her seventh album *Straight From The Heart* continues to inspire artists and Richmond, Virginia collective Butcher Brown covered her "Remind Me" with Alex Isley in 2021.

Tickets for the show can be purchased at thecarrcenter.org and there is the option to register for viewing the live stream of the concert.



The Gathering Orchestra Nonet

Butcher Brown Revisits Patrice Rushen With Alex Isley

Listen to Butcher Brown revisit Patrice Rushen's ["Remind Me"](#) from her 1982 album *Straight From The Heart*. The West Virginia band's version is a little less dreamy but earthier with the addition of a saxophone. Alex Isley's vocals come through with a celestial glow. The band released their *Encore* album last summer and "Remind Me" is the most current addition to their discography. Their NPR Tiny Desk concert last spring gave them

their biggest introduction to date. Brown and Isley matched well and have both sets of fans anticipating more collaborations in the future.Â

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Patrice Rushen Preparing New Compilation



Getty Images

Patrice Rushen is putting together a compilation of the best recordings from her days at Elektra Records. The R&B and jazz star who was a fixture during the '70s and '80s with hit songs like "Haven't You Heard" and "Forget Me Nots" the latter which was used for Will Smith's "Men In Black." Rushen's new compilation features 15 of her charting singles and some of the songs will have 12-inch versions. *Remind Me: The Classic Elektra Recordings 1978-1984* will be released July 19th.Â

[youtube id="Amzp7W0RkPA"]

Knights of the West Social

Club Presents “Spring Fling Extravaganza Awards Show” With Patrice Rushen, Chico DeBarge and more



The City of Angels will soar on a heavenly, musical flight when the **Knights of the West Social Club** presents the “**The Spring Fling Extravaganza Awards Show**,” a benefit concert event featuring the legendary **Patrice Rushen**, on **Saturday, April 16** at the **Prince Hall Memorial Auditorium**. A Melodic bliss is sure to bless the rafters as multi-Grammy nominated pianist Patrice Rushen is joined by soulful crooner **Chico DeBarge**, master violinist **Karen Briggs**, **Sir Stringfellow & The Mo Betta Experience Band** and comic king **Shang Forbes** for a grand evening of celebration and entertainment.



Karen Briggs



The Knights of the West Social Club, an extension of Western Knights #56 Free and Accepted Masons, continue their legacy of service with this wonderful presentation, as a portion of the proceeds from the evening will be donated to St. Jude Children's Hospital, Breast Cancer Awareness, The John and Evelyn Friar Scholarship Fund and Robert W. Brown Scholarship Foundation. Local community leaders that have helped to shape and influence the lives of Los Angeles residents will also be recognized and honored. The performances begin at **7:00 p.m.** at the Prince Hall Memorial Auditorium, located at **9027 S. Figueroa St. in Los Angeles.**

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A classically trained pianist, Rushen has spent a lifetime honing the skills that make her one of the music industry's most versatile and sought after artists. Admired by many for her groundbreaking achievements, Rushen has amassed an impressive list of "firsts," including the first woman to serve as musical director for the 46th, 47th and 48th Annual Grammy Awards; the first woman in 43 years to serve as head composer/musical director for television's highest honor, the Emmy Awards; and the first woman musical director of the NAACP Image Awards, an honor she held for 12 consecutive years.

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"We are extremely proud to have Patrice Rushen highlight this special occasion, alongside phenomenal artists, as we pay tribute to our community honorees," cites **Aaron Harris**, co-chair, special projects committee for the Knights of the West Social Club. "Our lodge has a tradition of commitment to our community and this concert continues our legacy. We are hoping the community comes out to support our honorees while enjoying a relaxing evening of great music."

Ticket prices range from \$40.00 to \$75.00 and can be purchased atÂ <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/western-knights-presents-the--spring-fling-extravaganza-2016-tickets-23071232678?aff=ebrowse>

For additional event information go toÂ <http://theloop411.com/-eblast/knightsofthewest.html> or call [\(323\) 481-0228](tel:(323)481-0228) or [\(213\) 479-0267](tel:(213)479-0267).