

CONTACTS: Deirdre Hopkins
(215) 599-2291, deirdre@visitphilly.com
Daniel Davis
(267) 546-0758, daniel@visitphilly.com
Tweet Us: [@visitphillypr](https://twitter.com/visitphillypr)

Tweet It: This June, African American Music Appreciation Month—a.k.a. Black Music Month—comes home to @visitphilly for a 40th anniversary: vstphl.ly/2E2r8te

**PHILADELPHIA CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC
APPRECIATION MONTH IN JUNE 2019**

Born-in-Philly Event Includes The Roots Picnic, Odunde, Live Jazz & WDAS Summer Block Party

PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 2019 – African American Music Appreciation Month turns 40 this June, and Philadelphia, the place where Black Music Month began, will honor the occasion with live sounds and spectacular festivals. The month starts with the annual **Roots Picnic**, where the born-and-raised band marks the 20th anniversary of their iconic *Things Fall Apart* album at, for the first time, The Mann Center for the Performing Arts. The celebration continues with live performances all over town, including **Malidelphia, Mir Fontane, Odunde** and so many more.

The best way to experience African American Music Appreciation Month in Philly is by sleeping over. Live Nation concertgoers can take advantage of the **Visit Philly Live Nation Hotel Package**, which comes with free hotel parking and perks for Live Nation concerts including **Bobby Brown with Bell, Bev, Devoe** at The Met and **NAV** at The Fillmore. The hotel package is bookable online at: visitphilly.com/features/visit-philly-live-nation-hotel-package.

African American Music Appreciation Month History:

On June 7, 1979, pioneering songwriter and record producer Kenny Gamble, one half of The Sound of Philadelphia, on-air radio personality and music activist Dyana Williams (then Gamble's spouse), and Cleveland radio DJ Ed Wright met with President Jimmy Carter to declare June "Black Music Month." In 2000, Congress made that declaration law. In 2016, President Barack Obama renamed the commemoration "African American Music Appreciation Month."

Black Music in Philly:

Philadelphia has long been known for African American music. It's where, in 1901, United Methodist preacher Charles Albert Tindley wrote the lyrics to *We Shall Overcome* and where Marian Anderson, famed contralto opera singer was born and raised. Philly is home to the jazz destination Clef Club of Jazz

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& Performing Arts and Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff's The Sound of Philadelphia, producer of 175 gold and platinum albums, 80 number one hits and a catalogue of more than 3,000, still-sampled recorded songs. Billie Holiday and John Coltrane spent much of their lives in Philadelphia as well.

A Walk of Fame along South Broad Street, also known as the Avenue of the Arts, reveals other notable African American musicians with Philly connections. Among them: McFadden & Whitehead, Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes, Teddy Pendergrass, Jill Scott, Sister Sledge, Billy Paul, Tammi Terrell, The Delfonics, Marion Williams, Boyz II Men, Patti LaBelle, Chubby Checker, The Soul Survivors, The Trammps, Sister Rosetta Tharpe and McCoy Tyner. The city's modern music legacy grows via vital artists such as The Roots, Freeway, Lil Uzi Vert, Christian McBride, Santigold, Jazmine Sullivan, Chill Moody and Donn T.

Here's a look at how African American Music Appreciation Month will play out in Philadelphia:

First Week: June 1-7, 2019:

- **Common: *Let Love Have The Last Word*** – The GRAMMY®, Academy and Golden Globe-winning rapper and actor comes to Marc Lamont Hill's vibrant, connected bookstore-cafe in historic Germantown to discuss his newly released memoir. Free. **June 1.** Uncle Bobbie's Coffee & Books, 5445 Germantown Avenue, (215) 403-7058, unclebobbies.com
- **Get Organized** – The Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia continues its mission of preserving, representing and continuing Philadelphia's jazz legacy with performances like this concert, where organist Joey DeFrancesco joins the acclaimed group for a serious session. **June 1.** Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, 300 S. Broad Street, (215) 893-1999, kimmelcenter.org
- **The Roots Picnic** – The pioneering hip-hop band brings together established and up-and-coming multi-genre artists for a day of music and community in West Fairmount Park. Now in its 12th year—but its first at this venue—the picnic includes all-star performances by The Roots, celebrating the 20th anniversary of seminal album *Things Fall Apart*, as well as H.E.R., 21 Savage and the City Girls. **June 1.** The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, 5201 Parkside Avenue, (215) 546-7900, rootspicnic.com/philly
- **Motown Tribute Show – Volume III** – Vocalist Tonya Lynette joins prominent jazz drummer Webb Thomas & his Soul Patrol for a showcase of classic Detroit Motown sound. **June 1.** Chris' Jazz Cafe, 1421 Sansom Street, (215) 568-3131, chrisjazzcafe.com
- **Fantastic Negrito** – Oakland's flashy, of-the-moment, psychedelic, GRAMMY-awarded, modern bluesman tells stories that make one of Northern Liberties' newer venues feel a bit like the Bay Area. **June 2.** The Foundry at The Fillmore, 29 E. Allen Street, (215) 309-0150, thefillmorephilly.com/foundry
- **Mother Bethel AME Spring Concert: *Musical Moments*** – Gospel music is the heartbeat of Black music, which makes the nation's oldest African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church a fitting venue for a free, spiritual, springtime *Musical Moments* concert. Free overflow parking available. **June 2.** Mother Bethel AME Church, 419 S. 6th Street, (215) 925-0616, facebook.com/MotherBethel.org

- **Jamila Woods, Nitty Scott, MC** – An R&B songstress inspired by the likes of Erykah Badu and Kendrick Lamar, Woods has a soulful sound that emphasizes her own and a more universal Black experience in songs like *Sunday Candy* (with Chance the Rapper) and *Blk Girl Soldier*. **June 3.** The Foundry at The Fillmore, 29 E. Allen Street, (215) 309-0150, thefillmorephilly.com/foundry
- **Xavier Wulf, Reco Havoc, Beau Young Prince, Marty Grimes** – East Memphis rapper Xavier Wulf has assembled his own HollowSquad Tour to feature young, up-and-coming rap artists, including Philadelphia's own Reco Havoc, creator of the hit, *Lucas*. **June 4.** The Foundry at The Fillmore, 29 E. Allen Street, (215) 309-0150, thefillmorephilly.com/foundry
- **Melanie Fiona** – The R&B songstress came on the scene with hits *It Kills Me*, *4AM* and *Wrong Side of A Love Song*. Now, preparing to release her third studio album, the powerful, soulful vocalist visits University City. **June 4.** World Cafe Live Philadelphia, 3025 Walnut Street, (215) 222-1400, worldcafelive.com
- **PNC Presents Live @ Lunch** – Midweek middays mean live lunchtime performances at Dilworth Park. This week, it's jazz group the **V. Shayne Frederick Trio (June 5)** and soul singer **Ty Lemar (June 6)**. 1 S. 15th Street, dilworthpark.org
- **Who Got The Jazz** – Free local jazz blasts into the open air at Cherry Street Pier as part of a midweek summertime concert series sponsored by VISIT PHILADELPHIA®. **June 5 and 19.** Columbus Boulevard & Cherry Street, delawariverwaterfront.com
- **George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic** – Legendary funk and soul man—soon to be 78 years old—goes on the road one last time with Parliament Funkadelic, Dumpstaphunk, Fishbone, Miss Velvet and The Blue Wolf and Galactic. **June 6.** Franklin Music Hall, 421 N. 7th Street, (215) 627-1332, bowerypresents.com
- **Dan Blackberg/Rabbi Yosef Goldman** – For this world premiere—and bring-your-own-bottle (BYOB) performance—composer Blackberg and trombonist Goldman fuse jazz, klezmer, Middle Eastern and North African sounds. This is the year's grand finale of the Kimmel Center's Jazz Residency program. **June 6.** 300 S. Broad Street, (215) 893-1999, kimmelcenter.org
- **Bobby Brown & Bell Biv DeVoe** – New Edition's Bobby Brown, Ricky Bell, Michael Bivins and Ronnie DeVoe reunite on their RBRM-4 The Love Of It Tour, playing hits for the youngsters who loved them when *Candy Girl*, *Cool It Now* and *Mr. Telephone Man* were fresh and new. **June 6.** The Met, 858 N. Broad Street, 1 (800) 653-8000, themetphilly.com
- **Jackiem Joyner, Gerald Veasley** – Having just released *Evolve*, his fifth studio album, contemporary jazz saxophonist and composer Joyner gets live on North Broad Street with fellow contemporary jazz composer and bassist Veasley, a collaborator of Grover Washington Jr. **June 6-7.** SOUTH Jazz Club, 600 N. Broad Street, (215) 600-0220, southjazzkitchen.com
- **Warriors of the Wonderful Sound 4 and Ruth Naomi Floyd Ensemble** – Christian jazz vocalist and Philadelphia native Ruth Naomi Floyd and the Warriors of the Wonderful Sound 4, a collective dedicated to promoting excellent jazz, present "Philadelphia Stories Original Music." **June 6.** Clef Club of Jazz & Performing Arts, 738 S. Broad Street, (215) 893-9912, clefclubofjazz.org
- **Brian McKnight** – Smooth, soulful, '90s love-songster Brian McKnight remains a lasting influence on modern R&B, but truth be told, his fans will be listening for his romantic renditions of *Back at One* and *One Last Cry*. **June 7.** Tower Theater, S. 69th & Ludlow streets, Upper Darby, (610) 352-2887, venue.thetowerphilly.com
- **Rennie Harris & Puremovement** – The world's first professional street dance theater group returns to its Philly roots with a family-friendly celebration of 1970s funk music and thoroughly modern hip-hop. **June 7-8.** Merriam Theater, 250 S. Broad Street, (215) 893-1999, kimmelcenter.org

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Second Week: June 8-14, 2019:

- **The PAC Exhibit** – Tupac Shakur remains one of the world’s most influential rappers even more than 20 years after his death. Philly Art Collective celebrates Tupac’s life and legacy at this pop-up tribute exhibit. Free. **June 8.** 253 N. 3rd Street, phillyartshow.com
- **West Philly Porchfest** – Tree-lined, proudly, internationally diverse West Philly makes itself heard with free, all-afternoon concerts held on various front yards, porches, stoops and such. Porchfest’s dozens of performers come in all colors; Black artists include Dr. Ketchup, DJ Shango, POP Steel Band, more. westphillyporchfest.com
- **Odunde Festival** – A week of events leads up to a major African and African American culture block party—the largest such street festival on the East Coast—in grand Philadelphia style along South Street. Odunde celebrates the Yoruba New Year beginning with a spiritual procession to the Schuylkill River and ending with a lively street fair, complete with music, dance and food inspired by African and African American cultures. **June 9.** 23rd & South Streets, (215) 732-8510, odundefestival.org
- **Marcus Strickland** – The acclaimed saxophonist is the June headliner for the popular, free late afternoon-early evening Jazz in the Park series at Spruce Street Harbor Park. **June 9.** Columbus Boulevard & Spruce Street, delawariverwaterfront.com
- **Sittin’ In: Live Sessions** – The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts hosts its free, laid-back, monthly showcase of new, cutting-edge artists and performing genres. Guests can track the artists and chat with other guests with the hashtag #whoissittinin. **June 12.** 300 S. Broad Street, (215) 893-1999, kimmelcenter.org
- **Zapp Band** – Members of the Zapp Band have been making funky dance music together since the 1970s and impart their original energy to the Zapp VII Tour. Newcomers will recognize their sounds and samples from tracks they’ve contributed to by Jay Z, Lil’ Kim, Snoop Dogg and more. **June 12.** World Cafe Live Philadelphia, 3025 Walnut Street, (215) 222-1400, worldcafelive.com
- **PNC Presents Live @ Lunch** – Midweek middays mean live lunchtime performances at Dilworth Park. This week, it’s contemporary jazz group **Vertical Current** (**June 12**) and chill hip-hop artist **Boogieman DeLa** (**June 13**). 1 S. 15th Street, dilworthpark.org
- **Orrin Evans & The Captain Black Big Band** – In mid-June, this GRAMMY-nominated ensemble kicks off a Thursday night residency at Chris’ Jazz Cafe, **June 13-July 25.** 1421 Sansom Street, (215) 568-3131, chrisjazzcafe.com
- **Malidelphia with Timbalona, Ogunlano And More** – The African and African American musicians that comprise Malidelphia take inspiration from Ira Bond, a Philadelphia native influenced by his time in the West African country. The band fuses Philadelphia jazz and hip-hop with traditional African styles and instruments. **June 14.** World Cafe Live Philadelphia, 3025 Walnut Street, (215) 222-1400, worldcafelive.com

Third Week: June 15-21, 2019:

- **Philly Beats – The Music and Musicians** – Philly funk and R&B sounds come to the Clef Club of Jazz & Performing Arts by way of Philly Beats, featuring pianist Alfie Pollitt and saxophonist George Bussey. **June 15.** 738 S. Broad Street, (215) 893-9912, clefclubofjazz.org
- **NAV, Killy** – NAV officially came on the rap scene when he was featured on Travis Scott’s sophomore project. Now, the Canadian singer and rapper is on his Bad Habits Tour for his own sophomore album, which debuted at No. 1 on the *Billboard* charts. **June 15.** The Fillmore Philadelphia, 29 E. Allen Street, (215) 309-0150, thefillmorephilly.com

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- **Kindred Presents** – Local legends Kindred the Family Soul present a June installation of their conversation and performance series, featuring Mali Music and Black Alley. **June 17.** Clef Club of Jazz & Performing Arts, 738 S. Broad Street, kindredthefamilysoul.com
- **PNC Presents Live @ Lunch** – Midweek middays mean live performances at Dilworth Park. This week, it's trumpeter/singer **Honeychile (June 19)** and MusiQology jazz makers **Bridget Ramsay & Vince Anthony (June 20)**. 1 S. 15th Street, dilworthpark.org
- **Christian Sands High Wire Trio** – The leader of this threesome is a young, dynamic jazz pianist, who gained renown for both his group's recent performance at the Monterey Jazz Festival and the release of the EP, *Facing Dragons*. **June 21-22.** Chris' Jazz Cafe, 1421 Sansom Street, (215) 568-3131, chrisjazzcafe.com

Fourth Week: June 22-June 28, 2019:

- **YBN Cordae** – With a tour and new album entitled *The Lost Boy*, YBN Cordae, part of the young rap collective YBN, has been to Coachella and comes to Philly all on his own. **June 25.** Union Transfer, 1026 Spring Garden Street, (215) 232-2100, utphilly.com
- **PNC Presents Live @ Lunch** – Midweek middays mean live performances at Dilworth Park. This week, it's **Latin Groove Band** (Mitlas Group) (**June 26**) and classic soul artist **Elle Gyandoh (June 27)**. 1 S. 15th Street, dilworthpark.org
- **Mir Fontane** – Camden, New Jersey's Fontane crosses the Delaware for his Who's Watching The Kids 2 Tour, performing hits like the *Bodega Remix*, which features fellow New Jersey artist, Fetty Wap. **June 27.** Theatre of Living Arts, 334 South Street, (215) 992-1011, venue.tlaphilly.com
- **Rich The Kid** – With hit songs like *New Freezer* and *Plug Walk*, Rich The Kid is part of the new generation of up-and-coming rap artists. His *The World Is Yours 2* tour promotes the new album of the same name. **June 29.** Theatre of Living Arts, 334 South Street, (215) 992-1011, venue.tlaphilly.com

Last Weekend (through July Fourth): June 29-July 4, 2019:

- **WDAS Summer Block Party** – Live Nation and Philadelphia's urban adult contemporary radio station WDAS 100.3 come together for the WDAS Summer Block Party. The solid Neo-Soul and R&B lineup includes Philadelphia's own Jill Scott, Jazmine Sullivan and Musiq Soulchild, along with hip-hop icon Ma\$e. **June 29.** The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, 5201 Parkside Avenue, (215) 546-7900, manncenter.org

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Note to Editors: For high-resolution photos and high-definition B-roll of Greater Philadelphia, visit the Photos & Video section of visitphilly.com/mediacenter.