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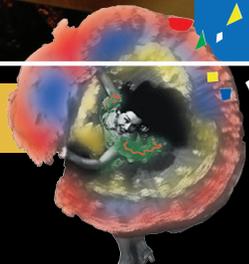
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## greetings, friends!



John Schreiber  
President & CEO

Did you notice something different about the landscape of NJPAC's "front yard" when you arrived for this performance?

One Theater Square, the 22-story residential tower under construction across the street, represents a dream come true for the original founders of the Arts Center. In the 1980s, long before NJPAC was built, then-Governor Tom Kean (an urban development prophet, as it turned out) envisioned a campus that would reach beyond theater walls by activating a live/work/play environment in the downtown.

In November 2016, after a decade in the planning, NJPAC and Dranoff Properties, Inc. broke ground for Newark's first high-rise luxury apartments since 1960. The 245 residences—10% of which are designated as affordable housing—are vital to serving the growing demand for urban living in this vibrant district.

Concrete was poured and smoothed, girders were hoisted and anchored into place, and in September 2017 a topping-off ceremony was held for One Theater Square. Model units will be open for viewing by prospective tenants in May, with move-ins commencing this Summer.

Our project is another jewel in the crown of a downtown empowered to become a 24/7 destination. Adjacent to NJPAC's property, at One Rector Street, is a 23-story tower under construction by Boraie Development. The 1929 New Jersey Bell building, an Art Deco skyscraper at 540 Broad Street, will be converted into apartments by L&M Development Partners and Prudential—the same team behind the restoration of the nearby historic Hahne & Co. building. The Arts Center itself is exploring the feasibility of transforming its 6.5 acres of available land into an exciting mixed-use neighborhood, composed of a hotel/conference center, additional residences and an education and community center.

The rejuvenation of the city's center, born of a promise by institutions, businesses and citizens to build a thriving community, is now happening right before our eyes.

Best regards,

John Schreiber

SNEAK PREVIEW



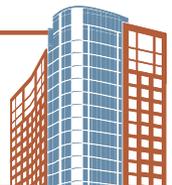
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Photo: Harry Pratt

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# the 2018-19 classical season

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**“Classical music listeners  
can count on a lot of  
dynamic artistry in the  
three-concert Bank of  
America series, which  
was curated to showcase  
many of the world’s  
greatest instrumentalists  
in spectacular programs”**

—David Rodriguez,  
*NJPAC’s Executive Vice President and  
Executive Producer*

Yannick Nézet-Séguin leads the  
Philadelphia Orchestra



For the 2018-19 Classical music season, NJPAC is making a special overture to family audiences.

The announcement of the three-concert **Bank of America Classical Series** for next season arrives with the debut of NJPAC's **Orchestra + Film Concert Series**—a novel way for grown-ups to guide a young person to the orchestra. Offered as an add-on, three-concert subscription, the *Orchestra + Film Concert Series* features screenings of blockbuster movies, accompanied by a note-by-note performance of the score by the **New Jersey Symphony Orchestra**.

In addition, series subscribers will be able to go to the front of the line for specially priced tickets to **A Chanticleer Christmas** on December 1, before seating is open to the general public.

"Classical music listeners can count on a lot of dynamic artistry in the three-concert Bank of America series, which was curated to showcase many of the world's greatest instrumentalists in spectacular programs," said **David Rodriguez**, NJPAC's Executive Vice President and Executive Producer.

"In response to patrons who want to nurture an appreciation for orchestral music in their children and grandchildren, three hit family movies will be presented with a live score—an irresistible experience for kids," he added.

Starting with the *Bank of America Classical Series*, music lovers are sure to welcome the return of **Valery Gergiev** leading his **Mariinsky Orchestra** of St. Petersburg in Prudential Hall on Saturday, November 3. Pianist **Denis Matsuev**, who was guest soloist when the orchestra last appeared at NJPAC in 2013, is back with more soul-stirring Rachmaninoff—this time the *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. (Fun fact: Rachmaninoff first recorded the piece in 1934 with the Philadelphia Orchestra at RCA studios in Camden.)

The orchestra also has programmed Debussy's languid symphonic poem *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* (Afternoon of a Faun) and Mahler's Symphony No. 5, a roaring tour-de-force. Of the latter, the great conductor Herbert von Karajan once said, "The fantastic finale almost forces you to hold your breath."

The mighty **Philadelphia Orchestra** will return to Newark on March 15, 2019 under the music directorship of its electrifying young conductor, **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**. The Canadian maestro, the Music Director Designate of the Metropolitan Opera, is concluding an acclaimed, decade-long tenure with the Rotterdam Philharmonic, but continues a dizzying schedule of engagements with orchestras and opera companies around the globe.

This time, the Fabulous Philadelphians will arrive with *wunderkind* pianist **Jan Lisiecki**, who will perform Mendelssohn's bravura Piano Concerto No. 1 in G minor. Rounding out the evening will be Haydn's overture to his opera *L'isola disabitata* (The Deserted Island) and Schubert's fiendishly challenging Symphony No. 9 in C Major, dubbed "The Great" for its majesty.

Three of the world's finest virtuosos present a program of trios on May 5, 2019. The alignment of classical superstars **Joshua Bell** on violin, **Jeremy Denk** on piano and **Steven Isserlis** on cello has all the makings of one of NJPAC's hottest tickets next season: Their appearance at the Arts Center is one of only five concerts they will perform together nationwide.

Bell, Denk and Isserlis, who teamed on the recording *For the Love of Brahms* (Sony Classical) to critical acclaim in 2016, are planning something profoundly moving for the NJPAC audience. The afternoon concert will showcase Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, known for its passionate

## the 2018-19 classical season

finale; Shostakovich's elegiac Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, a World War II-era lamentation; the expressive Trio **élégiaque** No. 1 in G minor, written by Rachmaninoff when he was 19, and the poetically seductive Piano Trio in A minor by Ravel.

Mozart may not make babies smarter, but wise elders were quick to learn that kids can be taught concert-going etiquette by watching a beloved film on the giant screen, accompanied by heart-pounding, live music on stage. And grow to love the orchestral experience.

In the recent past, the Arts Center has presented packed-to-the-rafters concerts that sonically illustrate the adventures of boy-wizard Harry Potter, such as *The Chamber of Secrets* and *The Prisoner of Azkaban*. Two more installments are on the way.

**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire in Concert™**, with accompaniment by the NJSO, will open the *Orchestra + Film Concert Series* on Saturday, October 27. Shown in high-definition on Prudential Hall's 40-foot screen, the fourth adventure in J.K. Rowling's episodic franchise (rated PG-13) picks up at the Triwizard Tournament, where the title hero and his friends face even more daunting challenges in the battle against Lord Voldemort.

The rich music composed for *Goblet of Fire* by Patrick Doyle (*Sense and Sensibility*) brought fresh emotional gravitas to the series, with darker melodic undercurrents. For his work, Doyle won both the International Film Music Critics Award and the ASCAP Film & Television Music Award.

**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix in Concert™**, the fifth installment (also rated PG-13), will follow on Saturday, June 1, 2019, when the NJSO players bring to life a spellbinding score by GRAMMY-nominated composer Nicholas Hooper. The plot hinges on the mysterious source of Harry's nightmares as the Hogwarts School chums practice Defense Against the Dark Arts in secret and endure the unendurable Professor Umbridge.

The third event in the *Orchestra + Film Concert Series* falls between each of the Potter chronicles, during the winter holidays. On Saturday, December 15, the classic animated film **Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas Live in Concert** arrives from Disney in Concert Live-to-Film. Danny Elfman's Oscar-nominated score for this 1993 favorite (rated PG) will be performed by the NJSO, along with a choir, and conducted by John Mauceri of Hollywood Bowl Orchestra fame.

Songs like "What's This?" and "Oogie Boogie's Song" endear young film buffs to this story about Jack Skellington, Halloween Town's beloved Pumpkin King, who embarks on a misguided mission to steal Christmas from Santa.

Subscribers to either or both series are eligible to purchase tickets to **A Chanticleer Christmas** on Saturday, December 1, at a special price. Chanticleer, a multiple GRAMMY-winning, *a cappella* ensemble of 12 men, will make its NJPAC debut with a program of popular song and music of the season.

For subscription information, visit [njpac.org](http://njpac.org) or call 1.888.MY.NJPAC (696-5722).

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## calendar of events

sep – nov 2018



**the gipsy  
kings**  
sep 23



**christine  
ebersole**  
oct 27



**mariinsky  
orchestra  
valery gergiev**  
nov 3

### september 2018

Fri	Sep 7	7 & 9:30PM	Trevor Noah
Sat	Sep 8	7PM	
Thu	Sep 13	8PM	Jo Koy
Fri	Sep 14	7PM	
Sat	Sep 15	7PM	<i>The Broadway Princess Party</i> hosted by Laura Osnes
Sat	Sep 15	8PM	KEM with special guest Marsha Ambrosius
Tue	Sep 18	7PM	Gracias Choir Christmas Canata
Sat	Sep 22	8PM	Oscar D'León with Tony Vega and Los Hermanos Moreno
Sun	Sep 23	7PM	The Gipsy Kings
			<i>Produced in association with John Scher/Metropolitan Entertainment</i>
Tue	Sep 25	8PM	Café Tacvba <i>Niu Güeis Tour 2018</i> with special guest Ruen Brothers

### october 2018

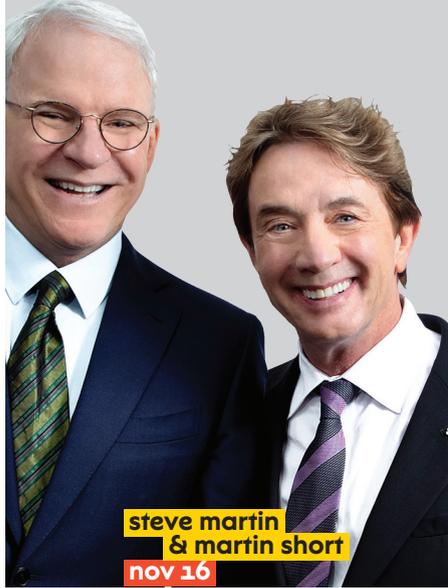
Thu	Oct 4	8PM	New Jersey Speakers Series: James Comey
Tue	Oct 9	7:30PM	<i>Whose Live Anyway?</i> Jeff Davis, Joel Murray, Ryan Stiles, Greg Proops
Fri	Oct 12	8PM	<i>Welcome to Night Vale</i> with special guest Mal Blum
Sat	Oct 13	6 & 8:30PM	<i>Baby, Dream Your Dream: Great Women Writers of the American Songbook</i>
Sat	Oct 13	8PM	Lotus Land: The American Rush Tribute
Thu-Sun	Oct 18-21		The Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival
Sat	Oct 20	8PM	Eric Johnson: <i>Ah Via Musicom Live</i>
Thu	Oct 25	8PM	New Jersey Speakers Series: Doris Kearns Goodwin
Sat	Oct 27	3PM	<i>Too Marvelous for Words:</i> Christine Ebersole & Robert Kimball Celebrate Johnny Mercer
Sat	Oct 27	2 & 7:30PM	<i>Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire™</i> In Concert with the NJSO *
Sun	Oct 28	3PM	Michael Feinstein Celebrates the Crooners

\* Presented in collaboration with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra HARRY POTTER characters, names and related indicia are © & ™ Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. J.K. ROWLING'S WIZARDING WORLD™ J.K. Rowling and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. Publishing Rights © JKR. (s18)

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**gregory porter  
& dianne reeves**  
nov 8



**steve martin  
& martin short**  
nov 16



**lalah  
hathaway**  
nov 10

**november 2018**

Thu	Nov 1	7PM	<i>Jersey Moves! Festival of Dance:</i> Nimbus Dance Works/Rutgers University
Fri	Nov 2	8PM	Sebastián Yatra and Manuel Turizo U.S. Tour 2018
Sat	Nov 3	6PM	Bethany Vespers: Roy Hargrove Quartet **
Sat	Nov 3	7 & 9:30PM	Kathleen Madigan: <i>Boxed Wine &amp; Big Foot</i>
Sat	Nov 3	8PM	Mariinsky Orchestra led by Valery Gergiev
Wed	Nov 7	12PM	Bobby Sanabria & ¡Quarteto Aché! at Gateway **
Thu	Nov 8	7:30PM	Antonio Sánchez: <i>BIRDMAN LIVE</i> **
Thu	Nov 8	8PM	Gregory Porter & Dianne Reeves **
Fri	Nov 9	7:30PM	<i>Guitar Passions:</i> Sharon Isbin, Romero Lubambo, Stanley Jordan **
Fri	Nov 9	8PM	Congas y Canto: Sheila E., Eddie Palmieri, Tito Nieves, Christian McBride Big Band **
Sat	Nov 10	1:30PM	WBGO Children's Concert: Oran Etkin **
Sat	Nov 10	3PM	<i>Look for the Silver Lining:</i> Tribute to Jerome Kern **
Sat	Nov 10	8PM	Marcus Miller, David Sanborn & Lalah Hathaway **
Sun	Nov 11	7PM	Los Temerarios
Sun	Nov 11	8PM	Jazz Vinyl Revisited: Joni Mitchell's <i>Mingus</i> & Terri Lyne Carrington performs <i>Money Jungle</i> **
Tue	Nov 13	7PM	Newark History Society: Sarah "Sassy" Vaughan: <i>The Life and Legacy of Newark's Own</i> **
Fri	Nov 16	7PM	NJMEA All State Jazz with special guest Javon Jackson **
Fri	Nov 16	7:30PM	Cécile McLorin Salvant **
Fri	Nov 16	7PM	Steve Martin & Martin Short: <i>An Evening You Will Forget for the Rest of Your Life</i> with Jeff Babko & The Steep Canyon Rangers <i>Produced in association with John Scher/Metropolitan Entertainment</i>
Sat	Nov 17	8PM	Maz Jobrani
Sun	Nov 18	11AM & 1PM	Dorthaan's Place Jazz Brunch: Eric Alexander Quartet **
Sun	Nov 18	3PM	Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition **
Thu	Nov 29	8PM	New Jersey Speakers Series: Gloria Steinem

Artists, dates, times, locations and programs subject to change at any time.

\*\* Part of the TD James Moody Jazz Festival



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Panasonic congratulates NJPAC on 20 years as one of the leading cultural institutions in the tri-state area and looks forward to continuing our shared mission to inspire and amaze. Visit us at [PanasonicMovesUs.com](https://PanasonicMovesUs.com)

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*NJPAC presents*

# Beres Hammond

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This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

## meet the artists



### Beres Hammond

There isn't an aspect of romantic relationships that Beres Hammond hasn't transformed into a classic (reggae) song; whether written from the perspective of a keen observer or willing and sometimes unwilling protagonist, each is delivered with Beres' signature smoky, soulful grit. Beres can't stand leaving his woman so early in the morning on the sultry, R&B tinged "No Disturb Sign," taken from his 1993 Elektra Records release *In Control*. He takes over showing a misguided brother how to treat a woman on "Step Aside," yet he fails to heed that song's counsel and regrets doing so on "I Could Beat Myself." Beres professes the outrageous lengths men will go to impress women on "Full Attention," displays a sentimental unwillingness to leave after years together on

the gorgeous lovers' rock tune "No Goodbye," from his album *A Moment In Time* (VP Records). He broaches the topic of infidelity with humorous bravado and suspenseful story telling on "Double Trouble," which stands as an unofficial cheaters anthem 20 years after its original release.

Widely acknowledged as Jamaica's greatest practicing singer-songwriter, Beres' beloved hit-filled repertoire, amassed over the past 40 years, is also rife with songs that simply, yet with profound effect, articulate the commonalities of life's struggles and triumphs, irrespective of one's class or creed, race or religion. Sufferers everywhere will identify with Beres' exasperation generated by "Another Day In The System" and his defiance of the "overnight scheme...designed to keep me down" on "Putting Up Resistance" the song's defiant, empowering message as relevant today as it was when initially released 22 years ago. The internal strength required to deal with life's inequities is beautifully summoned on "Black Beauty" while "Give It All You Got Today" reminds the listener to always do their best, as time is limited for all of us.

Then there are the numerous Beres songs that celebrate music including the effervescent ode to dancehall "Can You Play Some More" and the blissfully nostalgic "Rockaway" ("those were the days when love used to reign"). With an abundance of cherished tunes to

his credit, it's not surprising that a diversity of artists from audacious singer/songwriter Tanya Stephens to dancehall superstar Mavado have name-checked Beres in their songs. On his 2001 duet with the venerable songster "Dance 4 Me" Grammy Award-winner Wyclef Jean expressed the reverence with which Beres' talents are regarded when he declared, "all you fake singers, bow down to the legend."

Lush romantic musings and insightful social criticisms dominate *One Love, One Life*, Beres' self-produced two-disc set of previously unreleased material. Each of the album's 19 tracks is quintessentially Beres: his vocals, as rich and flavorfully bittersweet as dark chocolate, embody the spiritual fervor heard in the secular ballads of Sam Cooke, the laid back cool/political consciousness of 1970s Marvin Gaye and the gritty "Pain In My Heart" passion of Otis Redding. The aforementioned soul icons profoundly influenced the development of Beres' style, as did Jamaican greats including Leroy Sibbles, lead singer of the Heptones, velvety crooner Ken Boothe and the legendary vocalist Alton Ellis, one of the pioneers of rock steady, reggae's direct forerunner.

His 26<sup>th</sup> studio album, *One Love, One Life* features Beres' most inspirational lyrics delivered with a gut-wrenching conviction that is rarely heard in today's prefabricated popular music landscape.

Beres' impassioned preacher at the pulpit delivery on the gospel-tinged "Still Searching" denounces the various "*mayhem caused by men*" in its musical sermon. He wails against hypocrisy on "The Truth Will Live On," his sentiment punctuated by a dub-heavy drum and bass ending. "*Why keep trusting a friend who conveniently misunderstands where you want to go and your purpose in this life,*" asks Beres on the stirring "Can't Make Blood Out of Stone"; similarly, he urges facing reality on the first single "You Stand Alone," set to an irresistible one-drop rhythm. "*My people where is your pride, are you always gonna be denied?*" Beres queries on the eloquent roots-rock unity anthem "Family": whether related by blood or a shared desire for something better in life "*family stands like a mountain, love flows like a fountain,*" sings Beres.

Love among the human family is a recurrent theme in the music of Hugh Beresford Hammond, born the ninth of ten children in Jamaica's garden parish St. Mary, on August 28, 1955. As a child Beres made regular trips to downtown Kingston's record shops to mingle with the era's popular singers including the late Bob Marley and Peter Tosh. At a precocious 11 years old, Beres recorded his first single for producer Clancy Eccles, which, unfortunately wasn't released until he became a star some 20 years later. Beres initially attracted attention with his victories at the Merritone Talent competitions in the early 1970s. In 1975 he joined the

## meet the artists

fusion band Zap Pow as lead singer, remaining with them for four years while simultaneously pursuing solo recordings. His debut solo album, the aptly titled *Soul Reggae* released in 1976 sold well throughout Jamaica while a subsequent single released the same year, the soulful ballad “One Step Ahead,” zoomed to the top of the Jamaican charts where it remained for three and a half months. The frustrations of releasing hit records without monetary compensation due to the rampant exploitation within Jamaica’s music industry led to intermittent pauses in Beres’ career; his exasperation, however, became the catalyst for the development of his own label/production company Harmony House in the early ’80s, which enabled him, at last, to reap financial returns from his recordings.

Since the release of his first Harmony House single, “Groovy Little Thing” in 1985, Beres’ singles have repeatedly touched the upper tiers of reggae charts worldwide. His 1987 hit “What One Dance Can Do” elicited a string of hit answer records including Beres’ own “She Loves Me Now”; released at the dawn of reggae’s digital revolution, both songs reached the national tally in England and established Beres’ stardom on the dancehall reggae circuit. Even farther-reaching acclaim arrived in 1990 when Beres laid his vocals over a sumptuous synthesized rhythm created by Penthouse Records founder Donovan Germain. The singer barely remembers recording

“Tempted to Touch” in 1992 but the song nonetheless shot to the top of reggae charts in Jamaica, the US and in England.

Twenty years on, Beres has improbably maintained his hit-making streak and continues his reign as Jamaica’s most esteemed singer. Nowhere is that adoration more apparent than at his riveting, dependably sold out concert performances. As he tears through hit after hit, Beres often extends the microphone towards the audience who exuberantly sing along, often drowning out the extremely delighted performer on stage.

Recent recruits as well as longstanding Beres fans will find plenty to sing along to on *One Love*, *One Life* including the celebration of good old dancehall vibes on “Prime Time” and the up-tempo “Don’t You Feel Like Dancing” and “Can’t Waste No Time,” featuring the spirited sax phrasing of the maestro Dean Fraser.

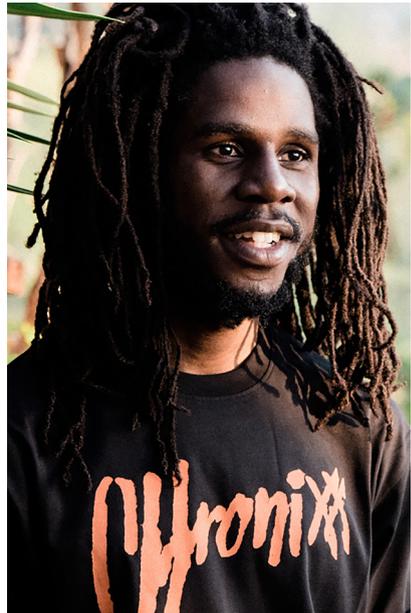
Beres’ exceptional story telling skills shine as he relates the story of a breakup that, thankfully, didn’t happen on “Crazy Dream,” celebrates the years with his lady on “The Song” and recounts changes for the better in the life of a “Lonely Fellow”; far from lonely, Beres is the consummate sweet talking suitor on the lovers rock gems “Keep Me Warm” and “In My Arms,” the latter co-produced by Collin “Bulby” York.

Breaking up is hard to do but staying together isn’t so easy either

and Beres' granular pain-etched delivery incomparably renders the reflective R&B nugget "More Time" (co-produced by Michael Fletcher), the disillusionment within a once promising union, "No Candlelight" (co-produced by Donovan Germain), the inevitable doubts that creep into relationships ("Shouldn't Be") and a futile search for that special someone that concludes with an extended stay at the heartbreak hotel ("My Life").

The title cut on *One Love, One Life* adapts a reworking of Studio One's immortal mid-'60s "Love Me Forever" riddim to a synopsis of Beres' career: "*The journey's been rough sometimes choices are not there then comes the day when I'm down to I don't care/the heavens declare and all my fears just disappear and I am singing again*". The song also summarizes Beres' ongoing approach to music making: "*I feel no shame, I ain't singing for fame...*"

Indeed: for Beres Hammond fame is an inevitable byproduct of recording, producing and performing music at an unparalleled level of excellence.



### **Chronixx**

Jamaican musician Chronixx has ignited a torch in people's hearts the world over and is confidently lighting the path for an entire generation of youths to rediscover roots and culture.

Born Jamar Rolando McNaughton on October 10, 1992, Chronixx was musically nurtured from an early age by his father, dancehall artist Chronicle, and grew up surrounded by the likes of Burro Banton and Gregory Isaacs. His remarkable ascension in the music industry began in the background; harmonizing for artists such as Lutan Fyah and providing production assistance for tracks sung by Popcaan, Konshens and others.

## meet the artists

Today, Chronixx is a respected artist in his own right after his career was stimulated by the unfortunate passing of both his blood brother in 2007 and his brother-in-arms, Lil' J.O.E., in 2010. The first EP, *Hooked on Chronixx*, was released in 2011 and immediately put the budding artist on the radar of music lovers and industry heads alike with "Start A Fyah," "Warrior" and the breakout single "Behind Curtain" standing out as a fan favorites far beyond Jamaican shores.

The *Dread & Terrible Project* was released in April 2014—a set comprised of seven tracks plus three dub versions—immediately topping the *Billboard* (US) and iTunes reggae charts in both UK and Japan. Neither an album nor an EP, the *Project* includes the widely received "Capture Land" and a short film based on one of its tracks, "Rastaman Wheel Out" (directed by Ras Kassa), to critical acclaim.

Hit single "Here Comes Trouble" captured late night host Jimmy Fallon's attention while on vacation in Jamaica. The chance encounter lead to a personal request for the young musician to perform live on *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon* in July 2014. A concert held in Central Park the following week was a roadblock affair from the outset, thousands of attendees turned out including Rolling Stones' frontman Mick Jagger celebrating his 71<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Chronixx toured for the first time in 2013 when he went to Europe

with his own band Zincence Redemption. He has embarked on solo tours from the Americas to the Oceanic region, including sold out shows in New York (Irving Plaza), three shows in London (including Somerset House), Trinidad & Tobago, Australia, Canada and Japan, and was the first band to perform a two-part tour of Jamaica (*Capture Land Tour*).

2016 saw him play to thousands across east Africa and Japan for the first time plus a highly-praised support slot at the opening night of the Stone Roses' 5-nights at Manchester City FC's Etihad stadium. "Who Knows," a collaboration with Protoje, soared to new heights in the UK courtesy of a remix by famed-drum & bass producer. New solo music came in the form of the acclaimed *Roots & Chalice* mixtape with Brooklyn's Federation Sound.

With so much accomplished in such short time, the world is bracing for greater wonders from this young man who walks with an old soul. For Chronixx himself, music is a mission and history is still being made every day.

"Prepare your minds and hearts for this revolution."

# fulfilling wishes

## ADP's Debbie Dyson affirms commitment to children and community

Debbie Dyson, President of National Account Services & Client Experience at ADP and a fast-rising star at the international payroll and human capital management company, happens to be a huge Michael Jackson fan.

Although possibly not quite as huge a fan as some in the audience of *Invincible: A Glorious Tribute to Michael Jackson* when it played at NJPAC in the summer of 2015.

"I'm a bit of a Michael Jackson nut, but you could tell there were some fanatics there, wearing the one glove and all that," she remembers, laughing.

But while she loved the show—even the hologram of Jackson—for Dyson, the real surprise of the evening was NJPAC. A recent transplant to New Jersey from her native California, Dyson had won the tickets to the Jackson show in a raffle and said that discovering the Arts Center, with its "luxurious" theater and restaurant, was like finding "this hidden treasure."

It would not be her last visit to the Arts Center.

"It couldn't have been more than a month later that John (Schreiber, NJPAC's President and CEO) reached out about the opportunity to join the Board. And I thought, well, everything happens for a reason. It was kind of weird how it all fell into place!"

Dyson now sits on the NJPAC Board of Directors, and was instrumental in working with ADP when it became the sponsor of the Arts Center's Community Engagement Department, increasing

the company's long-standing annual support for NJPAC in order to boost its efforts to bring the arts and cultural literacy beyond the Art Center's campus and into schools, parks, houses of worship and community centers throughout Greater Newark. This new partnership expanded ADP's dedication to NJPAC beyond its already-significant support for the institution, which dates back decades.

"Our former CEO, Josh Weston, clearly has a passion for NJPAC, and there's a little bit of honoring the commitment of what Josh has contributed. But at the same time, we're a very large company, we sit in New Jersey, this is our corporate location. And our commitment to the arts is phenomenal because we can see the impact," she says.

"But I think the mission—in terms of how NJPAC has evolved and continues to evolve, reaching back into the community—is incredibly appealing to ADP and matches our very diverse, very inclusive mission."

NJPAC's Community Engagement programming, which ranges from literacy and performance programs offered at libraries throughout Essex and surrounding counties, to NJPAC's annual weekend of Martin Luther King Day celebrations, "fits all the values we strive for," Dyson says.

"It's like we're standing behind this with you, and it has our name attached to it," Dyson explains. "When John was on stage at the MLK event, and he called us out as the community partner, that meant a lot to us." (cont.)

**“My philosophy is: How do I pay it back, pay it forward? How do I help others?”  
She notes that her mother reinforced her passion for educational causes.**



*Debbie Dyson, President of National Account Services & Client Experience at ADP*

## “The passion here for children, and for education, and hope and opportunity, that’s what appealed to me—what more could I ask for?”

Particularly, she notes, when the gospel concert featuring Mary Mary turned out to be such a rousing performance.

“It was packed, people were in the aisles,” she remembers. “It was an unbelievable event. I was like: ‘Are we at church?!’”

The new partnership also fits Dyson’s personal mission—paving the way for more women like her to make their mark.

Dyson, who started as a client account manager at ADP decades ago—“answering the phones,” she says—is now a direct report to the company’s CEO. Her stratospheric rise led to her being named one of *Black Enterprise* magazine’s 300 Most Powerful Executives in Corporate America, among other honors.

She says that her success at the company was never a personal goal per se, but simply an outgrowth of a won’t-quit work ethic. “I try to stay present and in the moment, and let the results and the work speak for themselves,” she says.

But one of the perks of having reached the C-suite at a massive company like ADP, she says, is the opportunity it gives her to give back.

“My philosophy is: How do I pay it back, pay it forward? How do I help others?” She notes that her mother, who passed

away about nine years ago, reinforced her passion for educational causes.

“She grew up in a very different time, a very challenging time for an African-American female. And she asked me, with the good fortune I’ve been given, to try to help children who were not able to get an education—because she was one of those children. So I’m on a mission. I’m happy with my work, but at the same time, I want to fulfill this wish.”

So to this day, she’s known at ADP for never saying no to speaking opportunities, or to younger colleagues seeking advice.

“My admin, Pat, will tell you: I do not say ‘No.’ It makes it hard on the calendar sometimes, but I never, never say no. You want me to come talk to the girls in your Junior Achievement club? No problem. I’m there.”

And working with NJPAC, particularly its Community Engagement programming and its Board, fits into that personal mission as well, she says.

“The passion here for children, and for education, and hope and opportunity, that’s what appealed to me—what more could I ask for?” she says.

“Who ever would have thought that this gift would be laid in my lap that gives me the opportunity to try to do something more?”

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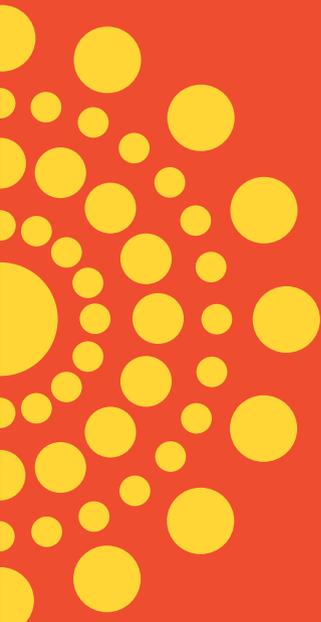
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**Late Seating Policy:** Latecomers and persons leaving the theater midshow will be seated/re-seated at the discretion of the management.

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**Lost and Found:** Any found items should be returned to NJPAC Security or Guest Services staff. If you believe you have lost an item, call (973) 297-5868. Found clothing items will be held for 30 days after which they will be donated to a local shelter.

**Mobile Device Courtesy Reminder:** Please respect performers and fellow audience members by ensuring that all cellular phones and mobile devices are turned off during performances.

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