

# *PRE-HOLIDAY CONCERT*



## *A TRIBUTE TO*

## *GREAT JAZZ DIVAS*

Saturday, November 19, 2016  
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

(8:00 to 8:30 Meet and Greet) VIP

Academy for Academics & Arts  
4800 Sparkman Drive NW  
Huntsville, Alabama 35810



This program has been made possible by a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts

Please silence  
cell phones



**PLEASE**  
NO FOOD OR  
DRINK  
ALLOWED

in the Theatre.

Thank you

-----

### PROGRAM

**6:00 pm – 6:20 pm** ..... Selections by HSO (Huntsville Symphony Orchestra) Strings

Composers AND lyricists

Cheek to Cheek	Irving Berlin
Summertime	George Gershwin/Ira Gershwin/Dubose Heyward
Bess, You Is My Woman	George Gershwin/Ira Gershwin/Dubose Heyward
This Time the Dream's on Me	Harold Arlen/Johnny Mercer,
Stars Fell on Alabama	Frank Perkins/Mitchell Parish
Blue Tango	Leroy Anderson
Sophisticated Lady	Duke Ellington
It Don't Mean a Thing	Duke Ellington

**6:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

Welcome & Performance by Helen Keniston Oney

Women in Jazz Performances

**7:00 pm – 7:15 pm**  
Intermission

**7:20 pm – 8:00 pm**

Women in Jazz Performance and Finale

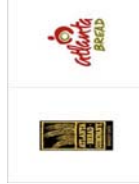
**8:00 – 8:30** VIP Meet and Greet

**END**

NAME THEM



Sponsors



**All concession proceeds  
donated to AAA CHOIR**

**Booster Club**

The Academy for Academics and Arts Choirs under the direction of Emily Stoddard, has a long tradition of choral singing. The choir has performed in New York, Tennessee, Disney World, at Alabama Music Educators Association Conference and even sang with Shania Twain the well-known country singer. They have received Superior ratings at choral contests and won many awards for their excellence as a Middle School Choir. This year the choir is fundraising for their next choral competition in St. Louis, MS.

A portion of proceeds benefit their trip! What an opportunity to compete and visit some of the historical jazz sites in St. Louis, MO, May 2017.

2ND ANNUAL  
ALABAMA WOMEN IN JAZZ FESTIVAL  
Coming in 2017

JOIN MAIL  
[www.valleyartsandentertainment.org](http://www.valleyartsandentertainment.org)



Graphic Design: Nikaela Jones  
Typography Design: Keekee360 Designs

**Canderiah Smothers  
(SARAH VAUGHAN)**

Canderiah Smothers is the youngest daughter of Pastor Emma White and William Smothers. After high school, she attended Alabama A&M where she majored in Telecommunications and Performance. In 2003, Canderiah was a finalist on the hit TV show, **American Idol, Season 3**. Her roommates were Fantasia Barrino and Latoya London, and, next door was Jennifer Hudson who both she and Fantasia called Pastor Emma White, "mama". Canderiah is the Office Manager of Speakin' Out News. In January 2017, will start her own Cheering Academy called **Can Kics Academy**.



**Songs & Composer**

**This Man I Love, George Gersthwin  
Misty, Erroll Garner**

**Brittney A. Seward  
(NINA SIMONE)**

Born in Detroit, Michigan to two music minded individuals, Brittney Alexandria Seward has been a star in the making, performing on many different stages, with her own band Culture Shock RS and, as a featured vocalist with **KUSH Reggae Band**. Blessed with a silky smooth sultry voice, she has managed to work on a studio recording, as well as shoot her first video for her **single "SupaNova"**. She works under the moniker "**Alexandria the Great**."



**Songs & Composer**

**Feeling Good, Anthony Newly and Leslie  
Bricusse**

**I Love You Porgy, George Gersthwin**



**Annie Readus-Erskine  
(ETTA JAMES)**

Born, reared and educated in Huntsville and Madison County, Annie is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alex (Vera Jones) Readus. She enjoys singing and is no stranger to the stage. Annie has been featured in several stage productions, such as **Heaven Bound, The Wiz, Crowns** and locally Mahone Productions has featured Ms. Readus-Erskine's talents in the NAACP award winning play, **When the Past Comes Back**.

**Songs & Composer**

**At Last, Mack Gordon and Harry  
Warren**

**The Very Thought of You  
Ray Noble**



501c3 since 2006 (charitable organization)

**Founder/Director, Patrice Bivins**

Through music we provide dynamic musical programming and services designed to engage and promote the careers of emerging artists and established artists. We provide meaningful encounters of musical excellence by partnering with schools and other community organizations to underserved multi-generational audiences and youth.

**Program Planning**

Director.....Patrice Bivins  
Music Direction.....Peter Harrison/Musicians Team  
Song Selections.....Divas Performers Consultation  
Rebekah Klein (Emmas' Catering).....Catering Consultation  
Janice Hicks.....VAE advisory board  
Hosts/Will Call.....Faye Readus-Devere

**Special Thanks**

Academy for Academics and Arts  
Amelia VanAllen, Principal  
Emily Stoddard, Choir Director  
Xanthia Elmore, (2016-2017) Academy Choral President  
James Bennett, Technical theater teacher/Theater Manager



**Musicians:**

Violin - Mark Reneau  
Violin - Laura Elrod

Viola - Charles Hogue  
Cello - Carlton McCreery

**DIVAS MUSICIANS**

Devere Pride Quartet, Upright Bass  
"Bo" Berry, Jazz Trumpeter

Marcus Pope, Popes School of Percussion, 1801 Jeff Road Huntsville, 35806  
Peter M. Harrison, Keyboards, Owner, Quality Music Services 16019 Shropshire Dr.  
Huntsville, AL 35803

## Emcee

### Helen Keniston Oney (Ruth Brown Bessie Smith)

Helen Keniston Oney is a musician, a radio announcer, a writer, a community activist and a passionate member of the Bahá'í Faith.

"Music has had a very powerful influence on me," says Helen, who has been singing since she was a little girl, and has always been fascinated at how music brings people together. Her desire to share the gift and power of music has resulted in a music ministry where she uses music to worship God, and encourages all others to do so. She gives workshops throughout the Southeast on Singing to Build Community, Singing for the Confidence-impaired and Singing as a Spiritual Practice. Keniston Oney also teaches voice to singers of all ages.

Currently, Helen is the host and producer of "Blues Classics" on WJAB, mentors a weekly Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment group, in addition to serving as one third of the vocal group, Sacred Flame, and doing local house concerts with Microwave Dave. She has sung from California to India with such groups as the Bahá'í Gospel Singers, the Voices of Baha, the Reston Chorale, and the One Human Family Harvest Tour Choir. In previous years, Helen co-founded and co-directed the New Jubilee Bahá'í Gospel Choir with Eric Dozier in Nashville, TN, as well as co-founding the biennial Wings to the Spirit arts conference in Pensacola, FL. She founded & directed the Alabama chapter of the One Human Family Workshop Choir for seven years.

Raised in a very small village in New Hampshire, Helen resides in Huntsville, Alabama with Bill, her husband of 28 years. They have been raising their three children in Huntsville for nearly 2 decades. When she isn't busy singing, talking, laughing or teaching, she spends time gardening, blogging, studying history and collecting more yarn than any one person could ever hope to knit. She's writing her first book, and is on twitter at @helenkosings.



#### Songs & Composer

##### St. Louis Blues, WC Handy

**Mama He Treats Your Daughter Mean,**  
Johnny Wallace and Herbert J. Lance

### Kelle Jolly (BILLIE HOLIDAY)

Kelle is a graduate of South Carolina State University in Music Education. She is an accomplished professional vocalist, songwriter, musician who has performed in the US and Japan. Kelle is the 2011 Mountain Soul Vocal Competition Winner and the founder of **Knoxville Women in Jazz Jam Festival in 2015**. She is a guest touring artist on this show.

#### Songs & Composer

**What a Difference a Day Makes**  
Maria Grever and Stanley Adams

**Drinking Again, Johnny Mercer and Doris Tauber**

### Naima Scales (BETTY CARTER)

Naima hails from Wedowee, AL, a small town nestled between Atlanta and Birmingham. Her voice blossomed under the direction of Richard Tucker, while attending Alabama A&M in 1992. She has also performed in London; and, sung background for Melisa Morgan, opened for Comedian Joe Tony, as well as Cee-Lo Green. Her current **EP Single Release Stepper's Ball** is a song written by Naima and Huntsville Native Rudi Deville. It is filled with Chicago Two-Step Jazz undertones.



#### Songs & Composer

**All of Me, Gerald Marks and Seymour Simons**

**Summertime, George Gershwin**



### Rosalind Atterberry Smith (DINAH WASHINGTON)

Born in Chicago, but moved to Blytheville Arkansas, Rosalind started singing in her church at the age of 5 years old. In March 2016, Rosalind made a trip to audition for the legendary Apollo Show in New York. She was chosen amongst 200 people to come back and perform on the July 20th show. She stated that, "with God's help, I came out with the victory in first place. The Apollo has always been a dream of mine as a little girl". **2016 Apollo Show Winner.**

#### Songs & Composer

**What a Little Moonlight Can Do,**  
Harry M. Woods

**Beware My Heart, Vaughn Monroe**

