



## *Barack Obama Presidential Library*

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**Folder Title:** Printed Materials - [Program for] a Performance at the White House: Women of Soul, 03/06/2014 [3 copies]

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THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA

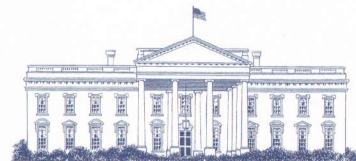
*welcome you to*

THE WHITE HOUSE

*for*

*In Performance at the White House:*

*Women  
of  
Soul*



*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

## In Performance at the White House

*In Performance at the White House* is a music series distributed for national television broadcast by PBS and produced since its inception in 1978 by WETA, the flagship public broadcasting station in the nation's capital. WETA created *In Performance at the White House* to showcase the rich fabric of American culture in the setting of the nation's most famous home. Throughout the years, the series has embraced virtually every genre of American performance from pop, country, gospel, jazz and blues to theatre and dance. Past programs have presented such talent as cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, dancer and choreographer Mikhail Baryshnikov, jazz icon Sarah Vaughan, country music singer Merle Haggard, and the United States Marine Band.

During the Obama administration, there have been eleven *In Performance at the White House* programs to date, from February 2009 to the most recent broadcast in May 2013. These events have honored the musical genius of Stevie Wonder, Sir Paul McCartney, Burt Bacharach, Hal David and Carole King as each was honored with the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song; celebrated Hispanic musical heritage during Hispanic Heritage Month; marked Black History Month by featuring the music of Motown, Memphis Soul, the Blues, and from the Civil Rights Movement; explored the rich roots of Country music; and spotlighted Broadway and the unique spirit of the American musical.

*Women of Soul: In Performance at the White House* will be broadcast on PBS stations nationwide on Monday, April 7 at 9 p.m. (ET). The program will also be broadcast via the American Forces Network at a later date to American service men and women and civilians at U.S. Department of Defense locations around the world.



## Tessanne Chin

Born into a family of musicians in Kingston, Jamaica, Tessanne Chin has been a performer for most of her life. Her 2006 song "Hideaway" was a Jamaican radio hit. Before competing on the NBC singing competition show *The Voice*, which she won in 2013, Chin had already collaborated with multiple reggae artists, including Third World and Shaggy. Along with favorite opera, R&B, and soul artists, Chin cites her parents—who first exposed her to music—as among her biggest influences.

## Melissa Etheridge

A 15-time GRAMMY Award nominee and two-time winner, Melissa Etheridge is a prominent American rock music singer-songwriter. In 2007, Etheridge won the Academy Award for Best Song for "I Need to Wake Up," for the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*. Etheridge supports a number of causes, including gay rights, cancer research and the environment. Her latest single, "Uprising of Love," was inspired as a call for unity in response to the Russian government's recent treatment of the LGBT community. She also formed a coalition by the same name.

## Aretha Franklin

Recognized as the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin is one of the best-selling female artists of all time, renowned for hit songs such as "Respect" and "(You Make me Feel Like) A Natural Woman." Among her honors, she has twenty GRAMMY Awards, a GRAMMY Lifetime Achievement Award and the National Medal of Arts, presented by President Clinton. In 2005, Franklin received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, reflecting her role as an inspiration for civil rights and feminist movements over the past several decades, as well as her musical achievements.

## Ariana Grande

A singer, songwriter and actress, Ariana Grande is one of the 21st Century's fastest-rising superstars. Her ubiquitous double-platinum smash "The Way," featuring Mac Miller, ushered in Grande's 2013 debut album, *Yours Truly*, which topped the *Billboard* Top 200 upon release. With an immense vocal range and irresistible charisma, she kicked off her career on Broadway with the musical *13*. Now, Grande's readying her second full-length album for a 2014 release and preparing for the biggest and best chapter of her career yet.

## Patti LaBelle

A legendary entertainer with more than 50 years of success in show business, Patti LaBelle has garnered countless honors including two GRAMMY Awards, two American Music Awards, five NAACP Image Awards and millions of records sold worldwide. She is lauded for her work as both a solo artist and as a member of the groundbreaking groups Patti LaBelle and The Bluebelles and Labelle. In addition to her accomplishments in music, LaBelle is an actress, successful entrepreneur, best-selling author and supports various charitable organizations and initiatives.

## Janelle Monáe

A GRAMMY Award-nominated singer-songwriter, performer, producer and CoverGirl spokesperson, Janelle Monáe is known for her unique style and groundbreaking sound. In 2010, Monáe released the highly-anticipated and critically-acclaimed album *The ArchAndroid*, which earned her two GRAMMY Award nominations. In 2013, her celebrated album *The Electric Lady* reached No. 5 on the *Billboard* Top 200 Chart. The video for the album's first single, "Q.U.E.E.N.," received a coveted MTV VMA Moonman. Monáe also received *Billboard*'s prestigious 2013 Rising Star Award.

## Greg Phillinganes

A native of Detroit, Greg Phillinganes is one of the world's most prolific keyboard artists. His music career began in 1975 with Stevie Wonder as part of the Wonderlove band. Since 1979, he has gone on to record, perform, tour and/or write with a staggering array of GRAMMY Award-winning artists that include Quincy Jones, Eric Clapton, George Harrison, Ray Charles, Mick Jagger, Usher and Diana Ross. Among his credits as a musical director, Phillinganes led Lionel Richie and Michael Jackson's first solo tours and The 60th EMMY Awards.

## Jill Scott

A celebrated poet, actress, and singer-songwriter whose neo-soul sound blends jazz, R&B and spoken word, Jill Scott began her artistic career as a poet in her hometown of Philadelphia. She has gone on to become a GRAMMY and NAACP Image Award-winning musical artist, admired for her heartfelt, honest lyrics and her silky soprano vocals. Additionally, Scott demonstrates a passion for giving back to her hometown through her Blues Babe Foundation, which provides financial assistance and mentoring for college-bound students of color from the Philadelphia region.

# In the East Room

*Remarks by*  
THE PRESIDENT

*Performances by*

TESSANNE CHIN

ARIANA GRANDE

MELISSA ETHERIDGE

PATTI LABELLE

ARETHA FRANKLIN

JANELLE MONÁE

JILL SCOTT

GREG PHILLINGANES  
*Music Director*



*Program subject to change*

