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A Musical Experience, 10/21/2016]

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The President and Mrs. Obama

welcome you to

The White House
for a performance in celebration of

Love and Happiness
A Musical Experience



Friday, October 21, 2016

On the South Lawn

Remarks by
The President

Program Hosts
Regina Hall
Terrence J

Performances by
Adam Blackstone
& the BBE All-Star Band
Bell Biv DeVoe
Busta Rhymes
Common
De La Soul
Janelle Monáe
Jill Scott
Kierra Sheard
Michelle Williams
Reginald Golden Singers
The Roots
Usher
Yolanda Adams

Speakers
Angela Bassett
Bradley Cooper
Jesse Williams
Leslie Odom, Jr.
Samuel L. Jackson

Program subject to change

ADAM BLACKSTONE
& THE BBE ALL-STAR BAND

Adam Blackstone is the musical director for this evening's performance, accompanied by the BASSic Black Entertainment (BBE) All-Star band. The credits of these gifted players range from composing for Queen Latifah and Al Green to touring with Jay-Z, Rihanna, Janet Jackson, Madonna, Kanye West and Justin Timberlake.

ANGELA BASSETT

Angela Bassett's talent and abilities as an actress, director, and executive producer in both television and film have garnered the respect and acclaim of her peers and fans. An Emmy ("American Horror Story"), DGA Award ("Whitney"), and SAG Award ("Betty and Coretta") nominated performer, she is best known for her Oscar-nominated and Golden Globe winning spectacular portrayal of Tina Turner in the biopic "What's Love Got to Do With It."

BELL BIV DEVOE

Ricky Bell, Michael Bivins and Ron DeVoe, also know as "Bell-Biv-DeVoe," (BBD), bridged the gap between R&B and Hip-Hop for over 25 years. A byproduct of 1980's vocal quintet New Edition, the group's debut platinum album "Poison," sold over 4 million copies. In 2017, BET will premiere "The New Edition Story" three-part miniseries. Accolades include GRAMMY® nominations, American Music Awards, Soul Train Awards, 2013 STMA Lifetime Achievement Award. In January 2017, BBD will release a new album, "Three Stripes."

BRADLEY COOPER

Bradley Cooper is an award-winning actor, producer and activist. He is known for many critically acclaimed roles in films such as "American Sniper," "Silver Linings Playbook," "The Place Beyond the Pines," "American Hustle," "The Hangover," and "Limitless." Additionally, he starred in multiple productions of "The Elephant Man" in New York, London and Williamstown. Bradley will make his directorial debut next spring with "A Star is Born."

BUSTA RHYMES

Busta Rhyme's Hip-Hop career began at the age of 16 as a member of Leaders of the New School (L.O.N.S.). Soon after L.O.N.S. released their first album, Busta's increasing popularity gave him the opportunity to pursue a solo musical career. In between making albums, he made his acting debut in the hit movie "Higher Learning" (1995). He continues to explore executive opportunities by opening doors for other artists under his record label, The Conglomerate Entertainment.

COMMON

Common, an Academy Award and GRAMMY® winner, continues to break down barriers with diverse roles and continued success at the box office. In 2015, he won the "Best Original Song in a Motion Picture" Academy Award. He most recently appeared in the David Ayer's comic book movie, Warner Brothers' "Suicide Squad." Common recently wrapped up production on Judy Greer's "A Happening of Monumental Proportions" which will premiere in 2017. Upcoming projects include "John Wicke 2" in 2017 and his fall 2016 album "Black America Again."

DE LA SOUL

De La Soul is a GRAMMY® Award-winning, legendary Hip-Hop trio from Long Island, NY. The dynamic group is best known for their classic 90's hits "Me, Myself, and I," "A Roller Skating Jam Named 'Saturdays,'" and "Ring Ring Ring (Ha Ha Hey)." Members Dave, Pos, and Maseo have performed together in front of sold-out crowds around the world for over 30 years. On August 26th, they released their first studio album in 12 years titled "And the Anonymous Nobody," which debuted at #1 on Billboard's Rap Albums chart. Guests on the album include Usher, David Byrne, Estelle, and more.

JANELLE MONÁE

Janelle Monáe is a GRAMMY® nominated, singer-songwriter, performer, producer and CoverGirl spokesperson known for her unique style and groundbreaking sound. In 2010, Monáe released the critically acclaimed "ArchAndroid," which earned her two GRAMMY® nominations. In February of 2015, Janelle launched her very own label, "Wondaland Records." She was most recently featured in the Super Bowl 50 Pepsi commercial titled, the "Joy of Dance." In 2017, Janelle takes her talent to the silver screen, in which she will star as a lead actor in the upcoming dramas "Hidden Figures" and "Moonlight."

JESSE WILLIAMS

Jesse Williams is best known for his role as Dr. Jackson Avery on ABC's "Grey's Anatomy." Most recently, he served as a Senior Producer and Correspondent for the EPIX series "America Divided," Executive Producer of the documentary "Stay Woke: The Black Lives Matter Movement," and star in the upcoming thriller "Jacob's Ladder." As a civil rights activist, Williams gained international attention for his 2016 BET Humanitarian Award acceptance speech. He also co-hosts "Open Run," a sports podcast, which he co-owns with LeBron James' UNINTERRUPTED network.

JILL SCOTT

Three-time GRAMMY® Award-winning singer-songwriter, New York Times best-selling poet, and critically acclaimed actress are only a few titles held by Jill Scott. In 2000, she released her much anticipated debut record, "Who is Jill Scott? Words & Sounds, Vol. 1," a double platinum album that earned Scott GRAMMY® nominations, including Best New Artist. Most recently, Jill starred in "Get On Up: A James Brown Biopic." Jill was also the lead character in the HBO/BBC mini-series filmed on location in Botswana, "The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency." In 2015, Jill released her highly anticipated fifth studio album "WOMAN." After a nationwide sold-out tour, Jill is currently working on Lionsgate's "Coco" and FX's "Snowfall."

KIERRA SHEARD

As a GRAMMY® nominated and multiple Stellar & Dove award-winning artist, Soul Train Lady of Soul recipient, Kierra's sixth and current project is the #1 chart topping digital EP entitled "LED." Singing since age 9, Kierra now 29, is the daughter of Karen Clark Sheard (of the renowned Clark Sisters) & Bishop J. Drew Sheard (Pastor of GEI COGIC-Det, MI). Kierra is a graduate of Wayne State University, with a B.A. in English. In addition to her musical career, Kierra also has her own plus size clothing line called: Eleven60.

LESLIE ODOM, JR.

Multifaceted performer Leslie Odom, Jr. completed his run on Broadway starring as Aaron Burr in the hit musical, "Hamilton," a role that earned him the 2016 Tony Award for Lead Actor in a Musical and a GRAMMY® Award as a principal soloist on Hamilton's Original Broadway Cast Recording, which won the 2016 award for Best Musical Theater Album. Other Broadway credits include "Rent" and "Leap of Faith." TV credits include the NBC musical series, "Smash" and "Law & Order: SVU." Leslie's debut solo album, "Leslie Odom, Jr.," was released in June.

MICHELLE WILLIAMS

Michelle Williams burst onto the international stage as a member of Destiny's Child, one of the most successful recording groups of all time. The group made history selling millions of albums and garnering honors including GRAMMY® and American Music Awards. Since then, Michelle has established a successful solo career, releasing four acclaimed albums, the most recent being 2014's "Journey to Freedom." In addition to music, Michelle is an accomplished actress, having starred in Broadway productions of "Aida," "The Color Purple," "Chicago," and "Fela!" She's also starred in her own TV show, "Fix My Choir," and recently launched a signature home collection, "Believe at Home."

REGINA HALL

Regina Hall began her acting career in the late 1990s while simultaneously earning a master's degree from New York University. With numerous film and television credits to her name, Regina Hall has emerged as one of Hollywood's most sought after comedic actresses. She will next be seen in "Girl Trip" opposite Jada Pinkett Smith, Queen Latifah, and Tiffany Haddish. Directed by Malcom D. Lee, the film is due out by Universal in Summer 2017. Hall most recently appeared in Screen Gems' "When The Bough Breaks" opposite Morris Chestnut and Jaz Sinclair. Additionally, Hall was seen on the big screen in Warner Brothers' "Barbershop 3."

REGINALD GOLDEN SINGERS

Reginald Alan Golden is a music director, producer, songwriter and educator from Cleveland, Ohio. Golden is a 2013 Howard alumnus and is currently seeking a Master of Music degree from Howard where he is scheduled to graduate December 2016. The Reginald Golden Singers, a group of vocalists, have been connected through Howard University, Fresh Encounter, and the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses, Inc.

SAMUEL L. JACKSON

Appearing in well over 100 films, Samuel L. Jackson is one of the most respected actors in Hollywood. Jackson's portrayal of Jules in Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction" made an indelible mark on American cinema. More recently, he co-starred in "The Avengers," which opened to a record-shattering \$200 million weekend. Jackson has received Academy Award and Golden Globe nominations, as well as a Best Supporting Actor award from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts. In 2011, Jackson made his Broadway debut in "The Mountaintop," where he portrayed Martin Luther King, Jr. The play also starred Angela Bassett and was directed by Kenny Leon.

TERRENCE J

Television and film actor, philanthropist, host, producer, and author Terrence "J" Jenkins has quickly become one of the most recognizable faces in Hollywood. Terrence is the host of "Coupled," an all-new dating series from Emmy-winning producer, Mark Burnett, which premiered this spring on FOX, and "The Dunk King" which premiered this summer on TNT. From hosting to acting in worldwide box office hit films including "Think Like a Man" and "Think Like a Man Too," the New York native has shown skilled versatility among a vast number of different arenas.

THE ROOTS

The legendary Roots Crew, consists of Black Thought (MC), Questlove (drums), Kamal Gray (electronic keyboards), F. Knuckles (percussion), Captain Kirk Douglas (electronic guitar), Damon Bryson (sousaphone) and James Poyser (electronic keyboard). The Roots have become one of the best known and most respected Hip-Hop acts in the business, winning four GRAMMY® Awards. Additionally, "The Roots Picnic," a yearly star-studded mix of musicians, has become a celebrated institution. The Roots were named one of the greatest live bands around by Rolling Stone and became the official house band on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon."

USHER

Usher has been ranked by the Recording Industry Association of America as one of the best-selling artists in American music history, having sold more than 65 million albums worldwide. He has won numerous awards, including eight GRAMMY® Awards, and was named the #1 Hot 100 artist of the 2000s. This year he released "Hard II Love," his eighth studio album and furthered his acting career with his critically acclaimed performance as Sugar Ray Leonard in the film "Hands of Stone." Usher has also proven to be a major philanthropic force. Founded in 1999, his New Look Foundation empowers youth from impoverished communities to become leaders.

YOLANDA ADAMS

Yolanda Adams carries the torch for contemporary gospel & inspirational music. With 13 releases, Yolanda has earned a multitude of accolades including four GRAMMY® Awards. Not only is Yolanda a phenomenal vocalist, she is also an author ("Points of Power"), product designer, record company executive (N-House Music Group), mother, and the host on her award winning nationally syndicated radio show "The Yolanda Adams Morning Show."



