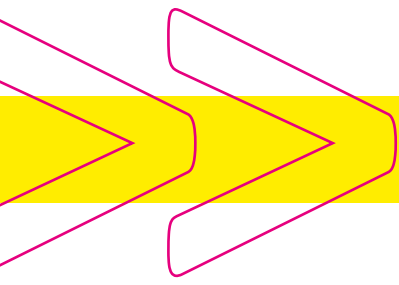




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FEEL THE BEAT: KST Presents Soundwaves Steelband

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Fight off the winter blues with **Soundwaves Steelband** at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, February 28, at Kelly Strayhorn Theater. This is a Pay-What-You-Can FAMILYtime event. Soundwaves, under the direction of KST Resident Artist Matthew Docktor, is KST's premier youth steelpan music ensemble. This unique program has featured talented students 12–18 from the Pittsburgh Barack Obama Academy of International Studies, Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts High School (CAPA), Pittsburgh Urban Christian School, and St. Edmund's Academy for the past two years. Other youth ensembles from the area will also give performances, including **Sankofa Village**.

Under the instruction of Shabaka Perkins and Erin Perry, the Sankofa Village shares drum and dance cultures of West Africa, the Caribbean, and the African Diaspora. Participants range in age from seven to 17. The ensemble has performed at August Wilson Center, Heinz History Museum, Three Rivers Arts Festival, and Umoja Arts Festival. Their motto is "We will make the world a better place. We are Sankofa Village."

The Soundwaves ensemble rehearses at KST's Alloy Studios in twice-weekly sessions, learning steel band techniques, music theory essentials, and elements of ensemble performance. Drawing from a pool of smooth jazz and classic pop covers, Soundwaves has performed throughout Pittsburgh at African Arts in the Park, A Fair in the Park, Three Rivers Arts Festival, and Market Square.

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Photo credit: Mark Simpson

Meet the Band



Teona Andrews, a senior at the Obama Academy, has played steelpan for six years and joined Soundwaves in 2012. She plans to stay in Pittsburgh after high school and study psychology.



Malik Griffin is a Pittsburgh native and senior at Obama Academy, where he plays in the drum line of the marching band. He has played steelpan for three years and joined Soundwaves in 2012.





Tylik Griffin, Malik’s brother, is a Pittsburgh native and senior at Obama Academy, where he is on the football team and marching band. He has played steelpan for two years and joined Soundwaves in 2012.



JB Parker-Blier, a native of Atlanta, Ga., is a junior at CAPA. He has played steelpan for five years and joined Soundwaves in 2012.



Leland Ralston is a Pittsburgh native and sophomore honors student at Obama Academy. He has played with Soundwaves since 2012.

Meet the Director



Mathew Docktor shares his enthusiasm for steel drums through performances, demonstrations, and clinics. As a member of the band **Steelheads** of Flint, Mich., he has performed nationally and internationally at the Montreux Jazz Festival, London Heritage Festival, and Jazz Vienna. The Steelheads opened for the Canadian Brass at the Murat Theatre, headlined at the Bands of America Festival, and performed two showcase concerts at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention.

Docktor has a Bachelor’s degree in music from Central Michigan University, where he specialized in steelpan performance as a member of the Robert Hohner Percussion Ensemble. After graduation, he moved to Pittsburgh and joined Steel Impressions, which performs throughout the region with a focus on educating the public about the steel drums.

About the Kelly Strayhorn Theater

As the last of nine theaters from the 1950s heyday of East Liberty, the Kelly Strayhorn Theater uses the arts as a catalyst for continuing community revitalization. The theater, in its 12th season, continues to play a key role in the transformation of Pittsburgh’s East Liberty neighborhood. An intimate, professional equipped, 349-seat multiple-use performance venue, the theater demonstrates its commitment to Pittsburgh artists and audiences. The KST is a favorite venue of emerging local artists, regional artists and arts organizations who take risks and present new work. Noted Pittsburghers Gene Kelly and Billy Strayhorn, the namesakes, are among the 80 area artists honored on the theater’s Gallery of Stars. The building, opening in 1914, is the former Regent Theatre, which served the East End as a movie house for eight decades.

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