

KST PRESENTS

MUSIC | COMMUNITY

FULLY EXPRESSED

THE LYRICIST'S JOURNEY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
8:00PM

KST PRESENTS
FALL 2022

THE SOUL OF EAST LIBERTY



Let me tell ya what I've got / That nobody's gonna take away / I got my tongue, I got my chin / I got my heart, I got my soul / I got my back, I got my sex / Got life, I got my life.

— Nina Simone, *Ain't Got No, I Got Life*

After the **High Priestess of Soul** belts a long list of what she ain't got in *Ain't Got No, I Got Life*, she ends with adamant ownership of what she does — her entire body and soul. Throughout her career, Nina Simone unapologetically wielded what she had through her music in order to shift and shape the future. Like the work of artists who reflect the times, **the spaces where we create, share experiences with, and care for one another hold the soul of our community.** They lift up what we value and express new possibilities for our collective futures.

The Fall '22 KST Presents season celebrates **The Soul of East Liberty** by exploring what communities need to thrive — control over our stories, our bodies, and our futures. We are overjoyed to support artists **who unapologetically claim their right to possess their stories and own their futures**, and look toward a future in which we're all thriving where we live.

This September marks the debut of **BOOM Gallery**, a new partnership through which BOOM! Concepts curates visual art for the gallery at Kelly Strayhorn Theater with work from **J. Thomas Agnew, DS Kinsel, and J.L. Mallis**. On Saturday, September 17 we present **Fully Expressed**, a concert of local emcees curated by and featuring **Adam "FRH" Golden**. The following week we welcome California and Brooklyn-based **7NMS | Marjani Forté-Saunders and Everett Saunders** back home to KST with **PROPHET: The Order of the Lyricist**, a new dance-theater work tracking the journey of the Emcee as a literary figure. **The Alloy School** is also back in September with an 8-week session of classes including **Hip Hop, West African, Jazz Ballet, Creative Play** and **DanceFit**. Learn more at the *Orientation for Participants and Caretakers* on September 17.

October kicks off with a Freshworks showing from **Alyssa Velazquez**. Join us at KST on Saturday, October 29 for our family-focused **Halloween Mayhem**, then get ready for a packed November featuring world premieres on November 11 – 12 from **Fail-Safe**. The month continues with Boston-based **The Theater Offensive's Gow of a Rosde** on November 18 – 19. November's creative momentum peaks at Suite Life, KST's annual celebration of our namesakes Billy Strayhorn and Gene Kelly. Finally, in December we welcome Freshworks artist **Michelle Johnson** to close out the season.

It is more vital now than ever that Kelly Strayhorn Theater stoke creative experimentation, community dialogue, and collective action rooted in the liberation of Black and queer people. **This fall, join us in celebrating The Soul of East Liberty and owning what we've got.**

JOSEPH HALL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



TO SEE MORE OF THE FALL SEASON, VISIT
[KELLY-STRAYHORN.ORG/THE-SOUL-OF-EAST-LIBERTY-FALL-2022/](https://kelly-strayhorn.org/the-soul-of-east-liberty-fall-2022/)

ABOUT KELLY STRAYHORN THEATER

Kelly Strayhorn Theater is a non-profit community performing arts center in East Liberty, with two venues running along historic Penn Avenue. KST's Alloy Studios is a cultural hub in the heart of East Liberty, and the historic Kelly Strayhorn Theater is located in the thriving business district. More than 20 years after its founding, KST is a home for creative experimentation, community dialogue, and collective action rooted in the liberation of Black and queer people.

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THE LYRICIST'S JOURNEY

ABOUT THE SHOW

Building towards the premiere of 7NMS' *PROPHET: The Order of the Lyricist*, **Fully Expressed, The Lyricists' Journey** brings together Pittsburgh based Emcees for a celebration of their artistry. The evening showcases performances and songwriting mastery from artists who express themselves through hip hop, highlighting the personal pathways, trials, and triumphs that have brought them closer to full expression. Curated by **Adam "FRH" Golden**, *Fully Expressed* features **YS1 Yusef Shelton Da First, Lys Scott, DehKewlz**, and **FRH Golden** himself along with **Arie Cole**.

Following the concert **Everett Saunders, Marjani Forté-Saunders**, and **Rahaman Kilpatrick** engage the artists in a discussion about the Emcee's craft.

Curator and Performer: **Adam "FRH" Golden**

Performer: **DehKewlz**

Performer: **Lyss Scott**

Performer: **YS1 Yusef Shelton Da First**

DJ: **Arie Cole**

Lighting & Scenic Designer: **Jonathan Bucci Productions**

Media Designer: **Joseph Amodei**

Associate Media Designer: **Davine Byon**

Sound Engineer: **Steve Graham**

Audio Design & Integration: BPCFG: **Broughton Ganaway**

Associate Scenic Design & Stage Manager: **Garrett Lynch**

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Adam "FRH" Golden (he/him) is an accomplished multidisciplinary artist and creative entrepreneur. He connects with audiences through Hip Hop music, songwriting, spoken word, and podcasting. Golden utilizes these disciplines to champion and uplift the intersection of self-expression, systemic community empowerment, and entrepreneurship. His commitment to these values is reflected in



his artistic and brand name, FRH (Fly Revolutionary Hustler). Musically, FRH Golden is regarded as a top tier lyricist who fearlessly enters the realms of deep introspection and sobering truths of what's needed to improve the often-neglected communities he has called home. FRH Golden has released two full length albums: *Fly Revolutionary Hustler, Vol 1* and *Relationship Goals: The Best and Worst of Times*. He has recorded and released 17 singles and has been featured on several songs with collaborators. Golden is readying his third album for release. This album, tentatively titled "Made for the Soul", is in collaboration with Pittsburgh (Highland Park) based producer Hussein "pvkvsv" Pwono. The project is filled with soul stirring content over rich and invigorating hip hop production that has heavy elements of Funk, Soul, and Jazz.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

DehKewlz (He/him) is a Rap/Hip Hop artist born in Pittsburgh, PA but raised in Portsmouth, VA. He was introduced to the thought and practice of making music back in 2003 when he was only in the 3rd grade. Since that day, he was deeply in love with music but he didn't begin to take it seriously until 2010 which so happened to be the year he moved back to the city of Pittsburgh to finish his last 2 years of high school. Dehkewlz went from writing and Rehearsing verses in his room everyday, to releasing music on DSP's with little to no fans checking for it. Due to his consistency and will to wake the people up and make'em listen, Dehkewlz fan base slowly began to grow year by year. Sadly, a major part in his long journey was the passing of his 2 year old son Kiyan Spears on October 28, 2017. Although the most heartbreaking and difficult time of his life, Dehkewlz did not let this tragedy defeat him. The words in his songs became more meaningful. He showed more of an open, vulnerable side. The music was no longer just for fun but for therapy. The hardships of life itself is what molded the artist, musician, lyricist, songwriter and legend you all know of today. FLY HIGH KIY!!! This is Dehkewlz.



Lys Scott (she/they) is a small town girl with big dreams. As a first generation Thai-American, Lys has projected many aspects of her persona over the years trying to fit in, and stand out. From high school class clown, to introverted 20 something battling with anxiety and depression after coming out as an LGBTQ member, Lys went on a winding journey of self discovery. Destiny aligned her with her band mates through a job working at a restaurant. Lys later lost that job due to Covid, but the uncertainty of isolation and all that it brought forced Lys to put pen to paper and begin writing. Those journal entries would later become the master works that created her debut album, squashed dreams and broken wings. Her fighter mentality shone through as her music evolved in the creation of her second album, PUNK KIDWELL, named in her late grandparents honor. Many singles and performances would follow where her band Lys Scott Deluxe began to play a vital role in her musical identity. Nowadays you can catch them all performing on stages like WPTS radio, Mr. Smalls, Deutschtown music festival, and the Government Center. (photo by erica caltury)



A Ys1 Yusef Shelton Da First (He/Him) Pittsburgh's Favorite, Homewood native Ys1 Yusef Shelton Da First is a Hiphop Artist, entrepreneur and social activist who raps to ignite purpose. Yusef is keenly interested in the intersection of music, business, and motivating young people — especially Black men and boys.



Arie Cole (He/Him) is an open format DJ based in Pittsburgh, PA. His sets mix sounds designed to make you groove in one moment and rage in the next. More than a DJ, Arie Cole curates the vibe with sharp cuts and face scrunching mixes of songs you're more than familiar with or hearing for the first time. He is currently a resident at Umami and Brillobox, where he co-hosts Slappers N Bangers, a party that celebrates Hip Hop, Trap, and RnB. No Matter the party, Arie Cole is coming with new gems and familiar sounds.



ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Rahaman “Kil” Kilpatrick (He/him)

In 1984, when Rahaman “Kil” Kilpatrick was 10 years old, he saw Run DMC performing “Rock Box” on American Bandstand & he knew he wanted to be part of the hip hop culture. While other kids were asking their parents for toys for Christmas, Kil begged his parents to buy him two turntables so he could be a DJ. In 1992 Kil began attending



Morgan State University & saw an article in Vibe magazine that Bobbito wrote highlighting the dopest hip hop radio shows. When he saw Morgan’s show Strictly Hip Hop 88.9 was named he knew he had to become part of that show! For the next 7 years from 1994-2001 Kil hosted Strictly Hip Hop which is currently the longest running hip hop radio show on the east coast. After graduating from Morgan State, Kil dedicated his life to helping teens in Washington DC by running numerous teen centers throughout the city. He’s gone on to become a music producer who has produced by groups such as MOP, Maffew Ragazino, RJ Payne and Pete Rock’s 1st artist signed his record label Amxxr. He also hosts by a weekly hip hop podcast Apt. 5B.

Everett Saunders (he/him) is a Father, composer, sound designer, audio engineer, performer, and organizer working in scoring and sound design for film, theater, and music production. Clients include Ron Howard’s Project Imagination, award-winning filmmaker and screen writer Damon Colquouhoun, Sony Music, DJ Cassidy’s Paradise Royal, and projects with internationally renowned contemporary



dance company Urban Bush Women. In addition to *PROPHET: The Order of the Lyricist*, his collaboration with Marjani Forté-Saunders, Saunders will be premiering three new scores and music projects in 2019-20 with choreographer Jaamil Kosoko, visual artist/director Edgar Arceneaux, and new music recording artist Myra Flynn.

Marjani Forté-Saunders (she/her)

is a choreographer, performer, educator, community organizer, and mother. She refers to dance and embodiment as her sorcery—revolutionary, transformative, wild, ancient, and fresh. Her practice is informed by years in anti-racist organizer training and as a lead facilitator with Urban Bush Women’s Builders, Organizers and Leaders through Dance. She is anchored in a steady collaboration with partner and composer Everett Saunders.



DANCE | MUSIC | COMMUNITY

7NMS | MARJANI FORTE SAUNDERS & EVERETT SAUNDERS PROPHET: THE ORDER OF THE LYRICIST

Friday & Saturday, September 23 - 24
8:00PM

Kelly Strayhorn Theater | 5941 Penn Ave.
Pay What Moves You: \$15 - \$35

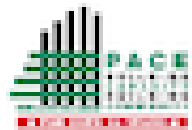
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