

## KST PRESENTS

SPECIAL EVENT | MUSIC

# SIMPLY THE BEST

A TINA TURNER TRIBUTE CONCERT  
WITH DWAYNE FULTON

Saturday, March 16  
7:30pm - 9:30pm



KST PRESENTS  
WINTER/SPRING 2024

# BRAVE ACTIONS BOLD VOICES

**Give me a lifetime of promises / And a world of dreams / Speak the language of love / Like you know what it means**

**- Tina Turner**

The Winter/Spring 2024 KST Presents season promises to bring you **simply the best**. From a **Tina Turner tribute concert** to **Abolitionist Expressions**, a visual art exhibition showcasing incarcerated artists, KST continues to celebrate the **Brave Actions** and **Bold Voices** in our community.

We begin the year with **Youth & Family Programming**. **Justice in Action: A Celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** gathers performances and activities centering social justice. Later in February, **The Alloy School** returns with new recreational classes for all ages.

Our Winter/Spring **Freshworks Residencies** support new performance in process from three local artists. First, **Caroline Yoo** and **Davine Byon** present *Prophecies & Soy Sauce Shots*, an experiment in storytelling that spans from the past, present to future. Then, **Anna King Skeels** brings *unstitch*, a new performance examining our relationship to our bodies.

The **Local & Global Performance** series welcomes two weeks of programming from multi-disciplinary artists **Edisa Weeks** and **Mita Ghosal**. After a movement workshop, welcome dinner & artist talk, Edisa's April engagement culminates in the Pittsburgh premiere of **3 RITES: Liberty**, an excavation into the foundations of Liberty in America. **Mita Ghosal's** weeklong May programming brings *Lost on a Loom* to KST's Alloy Studios, examining lost South Asian Histories through Indian textiles and movement.

We can't wait to journey through the winter into the spring with you feeling **warm, inspired, and part of a brave, bold community**.

Sincerely,

**Joseph Hall**  
Executive Director

**JOSEPH HALL**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



# 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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## MUSIC

# SIMPLY THE BEST

## A TINA TURNER TRIBUTE CONCERT WITH DWAYNE FULTON

### ABOUT THE WORK

Dynamic, earthshaking, magnetic: the explosive energy and unforgettable music of Tina Turner comes to thaw us all out this March at Kelly Strayhorn Theater. Follow Musical Director **Dwayne Fulton**, lead vocalist **Chanell C.J. Harris**, and a potent group of local musicians on a nightlong journey across Tina's star studded half-century career. Also featuring musicians **Julia Flowers, Zuliakha, Krystyn Kirkland, J.R. Jones, Michael Davis,** and **Gary Davis**. As Rolling Stone magazine put it in 1969, Tina Turner "comes on like a hurricane. She dances and twists and shakes and sings and the impact is instant and total." Wear comfortable shoes for this one, folks – you'll be spending little time in your seat!

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

With over 30 years of experience as a pianist, music director, and composer, **Dwayne Fulton** fully understands the power of the arts and its influence on the earth. Dwayne is the founder and Chief Executive of Kingdom People Productions and The SouLyfe Cafe.

Dwayne has had the honor of accompanying Grover Washington, Jr., Roger Humphries, Sean Jones, and Nathan Davis. He has also shared the stage with Keith Sweat, Guy, Fred Hammond, Bobby Jones, Kirk Franklin, The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and Michael Bubl . Prior collaborators include Pittsburgh Festival Opera, The Kuntu Repertoire Theatre, Kelly Strayhorn Theater, DeMaskus Productions, and the August Wilson African American Cultural Center.



**Chanell C.J. Harris** is a singer-songwriter, performer, and executive music licensing manager. Since recently returning to her native city of Pittsburgh, Chanell has curated and created original music for The Writer's Landscape, a permanent exhibition at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center. Chanell is an ASCAP

FILM & TV Award winner for her original work on the BET hit show *Real Husbands of Hollywood* where she also served as Music Supervisor. Chanell performs regularly in Downtown Pittsburgh's Con Alma with the band Tempo Noir. Having spent 10 years in the Music to Picture industry, Chanell is now focusing her talents on creating a music catalog for underserved markets, emerging streaming, and media platforms.



## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Julia Flowers**, a native of Pittsburgh, PA., has been singing since the age of 11. Julia has been a faithful member of the Mt. Ararat Baptist Church Praise Team for the past 15 years. She has sung with artists including Trini Massie and 4 The Caz of Christ, Travis Malloy, among others. Julia has also sung Background vocals for artists including Anita Wilson, Tod Galberth, Kelontae Gavin, Geoffrey Golden, Stevie Wonder, and Common. Julia is a graduate of California University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resource Management. And most importantly, Julia is the proud parent of the beautiful and precious Gia Rose.



**J.R. Jones**, a dedicated member of Mount Ararat Music Ministry since 1998, contributes his musical talents to local choirs and groups. Noteworthy achievements include drum accompaniment on live recordings like Patrick Polk & Worship's, *An Awesome God* and Mount Ararat Music Ministry's, *Called to Relationship*. In 2014, J.R. and his bandmates from The Brydge released their debut album, *Living Lyfe: The Experience, Vol. 1*, this year celebrating their 10th anniversary with new music and a concert. Grateful for the opportunity to share his gift through drumming, J.R. remains committed to enriching the world through his musicianship.



**Krystyn Kirkland**, a Pittsburgh native, has been singing since childhood. Her passion for music began at Rogers Creative and Performing Arts middle school, nurtured by her musically talented parents. She's collaborated with local and national artists, specializing in professional background singing while also adept as a lead vocalist. Married to producer Jerome O. Kirkland Jr., they co-own Vivid Music Group, striving for excellence in musicianship. As a mother of three, Krystyn balances her music career with nurturing her children, Christian, Sydney, and Nia.



**Zuliakha**, originally from Philadelphia, has been active in Pittsburgh's music and theater scene since 2001. From church solos to backing up local and major recording artists, Zuliakha's heart is in every note she sings. When she is not on stage, the artist enjoys quality time with her family, mentoring, and teaching adults, children and youth in her field of Early Childhood Education.



## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Michael Davis**, a versatile guitarist, excels in lead and rhythm across diverse genres including classical, gospel, and musical productions. Formerly an instructor at the Afro-American Music Institute under Dr. James Johnson, he contributed to gospel recordings for artists like Anita Levels and groups like Kingdom People. His stage presence extends to gospel musicals like *Forgiven* and *From Chains To Gains*. Michael performed in Kelly Strayhorn Theater's Prince musical tribute concert, *When Doves Cry*, in 2022. Currently, Michael's musical journey continues with residencies at Covenant Church of Pittsburgh and performances with groups like The Brydge and Spirit-Filled, showcasing his enduring passion for music.



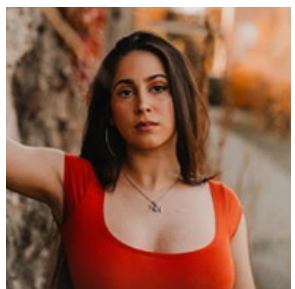
**Gary Davis**, also known as "Down Home", has performed with many local and national artists. Davis is the bass player for Pittsburgh's House of Soul band which has opened for high profile stars such as Aretha Franklin, the Commodores, the Dramatics, the SOS Band, Janet Jackson, Kool & the Gang, Maze featuring Frankie Beverly, Bobby Womack, 112, and the Whispers.



**Sharnell Younger**, a seasoned dancer and choreographer, captivates audiences with 15 years of experience. After working with industry names like Bone Thugs n Harmony and Da Baby in Los Angeles, she returns to Pittsburgh teaching *Sexy in Heels* at Firewall Dance Theatre. With a passion for movement, Sharnell inspires others onstage and in the studio, promoting self-expression and artistry.

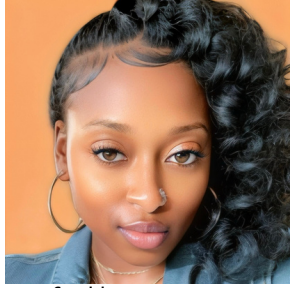


**Arianna Jolguera** is a native of Miami, Florida. While receiving her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Point Park University she expanded her vocabulary by tapping into different styles such as shuffling, hip hop and burlesque dancing. Aside from dancing, Arianna wishes to dive deeper into her other passions such as performance art, film, modeling and merging dance with her spirituality. She hopes to spread the message of embracing one's self as they truly are through her artistry.



## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Hailing from Pittsburgh, Egypt Nurae cultivated her love for dance from a young age. Her journey led her to Los Angeles, where she trained extensively and embarked on a successful career. Through hard work and dedication, she booked jobs with various artists and international acts, showcasing her talent on a global stage. Her



unwavering passion for dance continues to fuel her career, as she looks forward to pushing boundaries, exploring new opportunities, and making a lasting impact in the dance world.

**Jahmara Lanae Ryan Younger** is an accomplished dancer with over 20 years of experience. Specializing in hip hop and vogue dance, she has captivated audiences with her dynamic performances. From the vibrant streets of LA to the lively stages of Pittsburgh, PA, Jahmara has left her mark in the dance community. Her passion for movement and dedication to her craft have propelled her to new heights, making her a sought-after talent in the industry.



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