

**Be About Love
VIRTUAL FESTIVAL GUIDE**

October

**LOVE
Politik!**

One world, indivisible!

**Speak out
for humanity,
for the planet!**

www.blackfish.com

**ART AND PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL
October is a Political Month!**

Blackfish Gallery extends its heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors and partners who have made this programming possible.

Regional Arts & Culture Council
 Wilsonville Arts & Culture Council
 Wilsonville Festival of Arts
 Ulrich H. Hardt
 Anonymous Donors
 Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble
 Charbonneau Festival of the Arts
 Lost Productions PDX



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

- | | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| Week 1 | September 30, Wednesday
October 1, Thursday
October 2, Friday | Artist & Performer Interviews
Virtual First Thursday
SONGWRITERS & POETS
Jon Koonce, Nicole Campbell, and Stephen Cohen, and poets Alberto Moreno, Merridawn Duckler, V. Falcón Vázquez, Octaviano Merecias-Cuevas, and Anis Mojgani (Poet Laureate of Oregon) |
| Week 2 | October 7, Wednesday
October 9, Friday
October 11, Sunday | Artist & Performer Interviews
PERFORMANCE NIGHT
Kayla Banks (dancer & choreographer); Merridawn Duckler (playwright) presents "Closer: Love & Sex" featuring Jamie M. Rea; Thick in the Throat, Honey (Claudia F. Savage & John C. Savage) present spoken word and jazz improvisation
FAMILY CONCERT: 3 Hand Stephen |
| Week 3 | October 14, Wednesday
October 16, Friday | Artist & Performer Interviews
INDIE MUSIC NIGHT
Bug Toast and Olivia Awbrey Band |
| Week 4 | October 21, Wednesday
October 23, Friday | Artist & Performer Interviews
JAZZ & PERFORMANCE NIGHT
Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble presents music written and performed for this festival by Marilyn Keller (lyricist; vocalist) and Darrell Grant (composer; pianist) |
| Week 5 | October 28, Wednesday
October 30, Friday | Artist & Performer Interviews
BLUES NIGHT
Terry Robb, Norman Sylvester, LaRonda Steele Band |

CURATORS

Christopher Shotola-Hardt (Chair), Stephen Cohen, Merridawn Duckler, Alberto Moreno

Blackfish Gallery acknowledges that the land on which we sit and which we occupy in the Pearl District of Portland (and that of the greater Portland Metro Area) rests on traditional village sites of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin, Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other tribes who made their homes along the Columbia River. We take this opportunity to thank the original caretakers of this land.

In the spring of 2017, the Syrian refugee crisis was a global concern. As the son and grandson of war refugees, it was hard for me to fathom the rampant, xenophobic rhetoric and lack of empathy for people who have had to flee their homelands. We performed a well-attended benefit concert, entitled “Be About Love,” for the Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) here at Blackfish Gallery. That evening, my progressive folk ensemble Bug Toast was joined by singer-songwriters Stephen Cohen and Nicole Campbell, and poet Alberto Moreno. When the concert was over, all of the performers agreed that we needed to do more of these kinds of concerts and include more artists. That was the birth of the idea for this group art exhibition and month-long festival.

I have been planning this programming for a year and a half, and very early on recruited my good friends and oft co-collaborators Stephen Cohen and

LOVE

Politik!

One world, indivisible!
Be About Love

Merridawn Duckler to help identify artists and performers whom we admire and whose body of work fits our theme. Alberto joined in as well, and helped curate our wonderful lineup of poets. A year and a half ago, I could not have foreseen the COVID-19 pandemic (forcing our festival to “go virtual”), nor that our nation’s systemic racism would reach a boiling point and that the streets of Portland would erupt in nightly protests in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Immigrant crises continue, of course, and now these historic, devastating wildfires bring our environment and concerns over climate change to the forefront. It seems that everything is coming to a critical point, where we all need to decide about what kind of future we wish to have. Will we choose to love and care for other people? Will we choose to love and protect our natural world? Will we be too discouraged by violence and fear, or will we endeavor to maintain hope for the future, and commit to working hard, together? Can we Be About Love?

I wish to thank all of my artist colleagues at Blackfish Gallery – a model community

that works together – and especially my planning committee that has done an incredible amount of work: Rita Alves, Kelsey Birsas, Myra Clark, Stephen Cohen, Merridawn Duckler, Paul Missal, Edie Overturf, and our gallery director, Kristin Solomon. Thank you to the Regional Arts & Culture Council, the Wilsonville Arts & Culture Council, Ulrich H. Hardt, and anonymous donors for funding this programming. Thank you to David Barth of Lost Productions PDX for filming and editing the majority of our virtual performances.

– Christopher Shotola-Hardt, Chair
Love Politik: One world, indivisible! /
Be About Love Festival

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

*The deadline to register is
October 13th*

To register online, go to:

<https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/registration.aspx?lang=en>

Alternative to registering online:

Complete a Voter Registration form and return it to your county elections office. <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL500.pdf>

**Forms are also available at
Blackfish Gallery during gallery hours.**

WELCOME TO THE BLACKFISH GALLERY VIRTUAL ART AND PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL!

Program Notes



Blackfish Gallery, Photo Alice Christine Walker, Blackfish Gallery Member

BLACKFISH GALLERY presents a month-long group exhibition entitled *The Love Politik: One World, Indivisible!* Programming includes the *Be About Love VIRTUAL Festival*, featuring curated musical acts (in jazz, blues, folk, and indie genres) along with performance art, theater, poetry, and dance.

Enjoy all of the Friday night performances and our Sunday Family Concert on the video player on our home page (www.blackfish.com).

The exhibition presents juried and members' works of visual art. This programming takes its inspiration from such figures as Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, César Chávez, Delores Huerta,

BLACKFISH GALLERY MISSION

At Blackfish Gallery

- We seek out and present outstanding visual art within the context of thought-provoking ideas.
- We provide a forum and a venue for artists creating unique work that may exist beyond commercial boundaries.
- We reach for a broader and more diverse audience by continuing to program exhibitions and events with themes having significance for a wide cross section of our community.

Nelson Mandela, Mr. Rogers, Greta Thunberg, Jane Goodall, Mother Teresa, and many others from throughout history and around the globe.

Blackfish organizers encourage invoking these and others from the international arts scene in a call to loving arms on behalf of an urgently felt need to present works that celebrate all love, love for humanity, love for the planet. Members of Blackfish Gallery seek to impact all audiences, whether those customarily visiting the gallery or first-time visitors, in this month-long, arts-driven forum on the topic of love. Gallery members share concern over current philosophical and political divisions which can leave us feeling hopeless, powerless, and alone. Because of its stature and experience, the gallery is in an excellent position to provide a platform for a wide variety of artists to speak out, to question, to share and to educate. By including voices from all corners of the globe—giving expression to diverse backgrounds/perspectives/beliefs—this visual show and allied performances present a unique opportunity to encourage dialogue, challenge notions, and draw audiences into a cross-fertilization of new understanding and creative actions. The theme of love is intentionally being brought to the public in an election month where people will need supportive community and creative outlets, regardless of outcomes.

— Christopher Shotola-Hardt, Chair
Love Politik, One World, Indivisible / Be About Love Festi-

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

7:30 PM (PT)

Interview with the Artists

LIVESTREAM

On Blackfish Gallery Facebook page – free and open to all!

More information on [Blackfish Gallery Facebook](#)



Christopher Shotola-Hardt



Merridawn Duckler



*Stephen
Cohen*

Alberto Moreno



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1,

6-9 PM (PT)

Virtual First Thursday

LIVESTREAM

On Blackfish Gallery [Facebook live event](#) – free and open to all!

<https://www.facebook.com/BlackfishGallery/>

VIRTUAL OPENING RECEPTION

Live Performance by
STEPHEN COHEN

Interviews with:
CHRISTOPHER SHOTOLA-HARDT
ALICIA DECKER
MERRIDAWN DUCKLER
STEPHEN COHEN

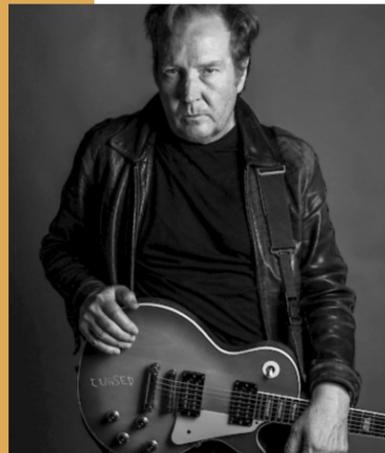
AND ARTIST Q & SESSIONS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 7:30 PM (PT)

Featured Songwriters & Poets

WATCH THE PERFORMANCE ON VIDEO PLAYER AT

WWW.BLACKFISH.COM



JON KOONCE

<https://jonkoonceandthelostcause.com/>

Jon Koonce is a treasure from his days in the 70s playing in Portland bands such as Sleazy Pieces in legendary clubs like La Bamba, Euphoria, Last Hurrah, and Sak's Front Avenue. He left the drum throne and went on to fronting his own band, Johnny & The Distractions, and getting signed to A&M Records based on his success in the Northwest. The band toured the country, opening for arena shows for Asia, J. Geils Band, and Tom Petty. This was followed by a solo album, also on A&M. Notable quote from Jon Koonce: "It has been said, 'If you're not about the truth, you're not qualified to play any kind of music'."



NICOLE CAMPBELL

www.nicolecampbell.com

"Her muscular, graceful voice seemed to be coming from some place deep inside her soul, and arrived as an emotional plea or catharsis. Sparse arrangements and instrumentation put the thrust of delivery squarely on Campbell and she never missed a note."

– The Oregonian



STEPHEN COHEN
(www.3handstephen.com)

3 Hand Stephen (AKA Stephen Cohen) is performing, recording, singer/songwriter and visual artist Stephen Cohen, who uses voice,

acoustic guitar, cigar box guitars, a unique miniature guitar, and a homemade 1 String Thing instrument in his music. Stephen has performed in concerts and at festivals across the United States and in Belgium and Spain. His first album, *The Tree People*, originally released in Eugene, Oregon, in 1979, has been reissued in this century, to international critical acclaim, by record companies in Japan and Spain. Stephen's 2006 children's album, *Here Comes the Band*, has led to a series of workshops, residencies and interactive family performances. Stephen led a team of musicians and artists to a cistern deep underground at Fort Worden, Port Townsend, Washington, and created a short film/music video/work of art, *The Cistern Symphony*, in 2012. *The Cistern Symphony* was shown at the AVI Festival in Jerusalem, Israel, in 2016. Stephen was a featured visual artist at the Joshua Tree Music Festival in California in 2019, installing and demonstrating his musical, playable *Family of Sculptures* for all to enjoy. Stephen's newest album, *Where Do We Go?* features Stephen with guest artists pianist Yuan-Chen Li and vocalist Maeve Stier.

POETS

MERRIDAWN DUCKLER

www.merridawnduckler.com

Merridawn Duckler is a poet and text-based installation artist with performative work at LACMA and the Phoenix Art Museum, and residencies at Centrum, Caldera, and Yaddo. She's the author of *INTER-STATE*, *dancing girl press*, and *IDIOM*, winner of the Washburn Prize. Recent work in *Ninth Letter*, *Seneca Review*, *Emry's Journal*, *Mid-American Review*. Fellowships/awards include Southampton Poetry Conference, Poets on the Coast, Death Rattle Festival, Rowan Scholarship, University of Texas. She's an editor at *Narrative* and at the philosophy journal *Evental Aesthetics*. *IN SPIRIT* on the Oregon artist Rick Bartow had a sold-out run at the Newport Performing Center.



Friday, October 2nd, 7:30 p.m., Continued



ALBERTO MORENO
www.albertomoreno.com

Alberto Moreno is a poet and former columnist for El Hispanic News. He is a Governor-appointed board member of The Oregon Humanities Council Writers in the Schools program. His soon-to-be-published book, "Slumming it With God" touches on the intersection of the ecstatic-divine. A former Undocumented Immigrant, Alberto Moreno is a native of Durango, Mexico.



V. FALCÓN VÁZQUEZ

Falcón Vázquez is a contemporary poet shedding light on social, cultural, and gender issues through the awareness of self. Integrating body, mind, and spirit, she allows the audience to become aware of their own identities and realities, shifting the perspective that even though we go through our own stories we are not alone. In her work, she has created a fusion of different writing styles giving a unique life to each poem, challenging the norms of poetry, and many times prefers to write in free verse venturing out to experience an abstract truth.

Falcón Vázquez has been published in three different anthologies in the US and Spain: "Poesía Erótica" (Madrid, Spain), an anthology exploring a safe and inoffensive expression of poetic eroticism; "1era Antología Oregoniana", an anthology featuring Spanish poetry in Oregon; and "Terra Incognita: Oregon Poets Write for Ecological, Social, Political, and Economic Justice." She has also been published in the magazine "Nuestra Andalucía" (Cádiz, Spain), with poetry translated to Andaluz Spanish. Falcón Vázquez continues expressing life's learning and healing through her books.

ANIS MOJGANI
www.thepianofarm.com

Anis Mojgani is the current Poet Laureate of Oregon. A two-time individual champion of the National Poetry Slam and winner of the International World Cup Poetry Slam, he has been awarded residencies from the Vermont Studio Center, AIR Serenbe, The Bloedel Nature Reserve, The Sou'wester, and the Oregon Literary Arts Writers-In-The-Schools program. The author of five books of poetry, he has done commissioned work. Anis' work has appeared on HBO, National Public Radio, and as part of the Academy of American Poets Poem-A-Day series; and in the pages of such journals as Rattle, Platyplus, Winter Tangerine, Forklift, Ohio, and Bat City Review. Known for his performances and well regarded for them the world over, Mojgani has performed at hundreds of universities across the U.S.; festivals around the globe such as the Sydney Writers' Festival, Jamaica's Calabash Festival, and Seoul's Young Writers' Festival; and for audiences as varied as the United Nations and the House of Blues. Originally from New Orleans, Anis currently lives in Portland, Oregon.



OCTAVIANO MERECIAS-CUEVAS

Portland, Oregon, is a digital visual storyteller, public speaker, trilingual writer, and seasoned educator, who works with social-emotional brain-targeted practices facilitating workshops, talks, discussion, forums, conferences, and digital-collaboratories with groups in the US and abroad. A transnational citizen, a bicultural Oregonian, he was born and raised in a small village in the Mixtec mountains of Oaxaca, Mexico. Octaviano holds a Master's Degree from the School of Language, Culture & Society at OSU and a teaching Certification focused on Higher Education issued by the Derek Bok Center at Harvard University. Mr. Merencias is a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University in the Mind, Brain and Teaching Program.



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7
7:30 PM (PT)

Interview with the Artists

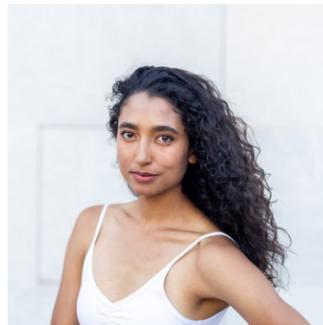
LIVESTREAM

On Blackfish Gallery Facebook page – free and open to all!

More information on [Blackfish Gallery Facebook](#)



Claudia F. & John C. Savage



Kayla Banks



Arvie Smith

Alice Christine Walker



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 7:30 PM (PT)
Performance Night

WATCH THE PERFORMANCE ON VIDEO PLAYER AT
WWW.BLACKFISH.COM



MERRIDAWN DUCKLER
PLAYWRIGHT / POET /
WRITER
(merridawnduckler.com)

Merridawn Duckler is a poet and text-based installation artist with performative work at LACMA and the Phoenix Art Museum, and residencies at Centrum, Caldera, and Yaddo. Her play, IN SPIRIT, on the Oregon artist Rick

Bartow had a sold-out run at the Newport Performing Arts Center. She's the author of INTERSTATE, dancing girl press, and IDIOM, winner of the Washburn Prize. Recent work in Ninth Letter, Seneca Review, Emry's Journal, Mid-American Review. Fellowships/awards include Southampton Poetry Conference, Poets on the Coast, Death Rattle Festival, Rowan Scholarship, University of Texas. She's an editor at Narrative and at the philosophy journal Evental Aesthetics.

Merridawn Duckler presents a play for mature audiences, "Closer: Love & Sex." It features Jamie M. Rea.





**KAYLA BANKS,
CHOREOGRAPHER
& DANCER**
(www.kaylambanks.weebly.com)

As a performing artist, I want my work to represent the issues that we face in the world. My work is relevant to present issues and addresses themes that relate to human nature and existence. I want to tackle these issues through dance because movement expresses feelings that my words cannot express. I want to challenge my au-

audience to think about conflicts in multiple ways and to find meaning in their lives. I want my audience to be observant members of society and to step out of their day-to-day lives in order to see the world around them. Performing arts is a medium for reporting news outside of news media that relates to present topics on a more emotional and spiritual level.

Kayla Banks is a professional choreographer, dancer and actress from Denver, Colorado, where she received her B.A. in Performing Arts and Business Administration from Colorado State University. She has trained with NW Dance Project, Cleo Parker Robinson, and at the International Blacks in Dance Conference. She has danced professionally with Impact Dance Company, Cleo Parker Robinson, and Dancing Earth Indigenous Contemporary Dance Creations. She has performed in an original work by Anya Pearson in New York City at The Public Theater under the choreographic direction of Emily Bufferd. Under the New Expressive Works residency program she debuted an original work in March 2019 around multi-ethnicity. She currently teaches on Zoomland and coordinates programs for Jacob's Pillow International Dance. Her focus is on wellness, technique, spirituality and expression. She hopes to continue making an impact in her community.

THICK IN THE THROAT, HONEY
CLAUDIA F. SAVAGE & JOHN C. SAVAGE
(thickinthethroathoney.com)

Portland, OR-based performance duo Thick in the Throat, Honey (Claudia F. and John C. Savage) began in 2007 at The Atlantic Center for the Arts. Morphing the traditions of jazz, spoken word, experimental music, chants, and devotional intoning, the duo is known for their unique melding of the disparate. They were semi-finalists in the 2020 Creative Capital Awards.

Arab American poet Claudia F. Savage, M.A., regularly collaborates with other disciplines and has been awarded residencies at Ucross, Jentel, Hambidge, and Mineral School. Her poetry, essays, and interviews have most recently been in *Columbia Journal*, *Denver Quarterly*, *water-stone review*, and *BOMB*. She is the author of *Bruising Continents* (Spuyten Duyvil, 2017), *The Last One Eaten: A Maligned Vegetable's History* and *The Hour of Anjali*. She teaches privately throughout the country, as a Writer in the Schools in Portland, and through Literary Arts in Portland. She is also a member of the Literary Arts Youth Program Advisory Council. Her collaboration with Detroit visual artist Jacklyn Brickman, reductions, about motherhood and ephemerality will be exhibited in 2021.

John C. Savage has been compared to Rahsaan Roland-Kirk, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Noah Howard, Herbie Mann, and Colin Stetson. He is known equally as "a thoughtful and rigorous improviser" and "a badass, knock-down-drag-out force to be reckoned with" (*Willamette Week*). John has received honors from New York University, the Oregon Arts Commission, and Portland's Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC), and holds a Ph.D. from NYU in music performance. His album *Black Heron and the Spoonbill* (PJCE Records, 2015), featured Claudia's poetic work which "captured the feel of the album's carefully layered soundscapes" (*Willamette Week*).



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

2 PM (PT)

Family Concert

WATCH THE PERFORMANCE ON VIDEO PLAYER AT

WWW.BLACKFISH.COM

3 HAND STEPHEN AKA STEPHEN COHEN
(www.3handstephen.com)

Stephen uses voice, acoustic guitar, cigar box guitar, a 1-of-a-kind miniature guitar, a home-made 1-string-thing instrument, and original musical sculptures, and encourages his online audience to sing, dance, and to bang on, pluck, and blow into any found objects and instruments they can find at home, in his

virtual performances for children and families. Stephen's 2006 children's album *Here Comes the Band* has inspired an ongoing series of family concerts, workshops, and residencies at museums, art centers, libraries, and schools, including children's and family performances at the Long Island Children's Museum (where he did performances and workshops every year for 7 years), the Bay Area Discovery Museum in Sausalito, California, The Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia, the Providence (R.I.) Children's Museum, The Kids Discovery Museum in Bainbridge Island, Washington, the Freight and Salvage Coffee House in Berkeley, California, and most every library in the Portland, Oregon area, including a 6-year series of children's performances at the Lake Oswego Library. He did album release concerts celebrating *Here Comes the Band* at the Old Church Concert Hall and at Blackfish Gallery in Portland in 2006. He was a showcase artist at Kindiefest at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. He performed his family concert/performance piece *Let's Go Walking*, accompanied by a wonderful cast of musicians and dancers at the Recital Hall at Classic Pianos in Portland in 2018, and at the Multnomah Arts Center (funded in part by the Regional Arts and Culture Council) in 2020.



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

7:30 PM (PT)

Interview with the Artists

LIVESTREAM

On Blackfish Gallery Facebook page – free and open to all!

More information on [Blackfish Gallery Facebook](#)



Christopher Shotola-Hardt



Olivia Awbrey



Angennette Escobar

Edie Overturf



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

7:30 PM (PT)

Indie Music Night

WATCH THE PERFORMANCE ON VIDEO PLAYER AT
WWW.BLACKFISH.COM



OLIVIA AWBREY
(www.olivia-awbrey.com)

Portland, Oregon, guitarist, singer and lyricist Olivia Awbrey crafts transcendental guitar riffs that pierce through her self-aware and culturally critical storytelling, making way for a new voice on the indie rock scene that parallels the heavy hitters. Her debut, self-released EP *Fight or Fight* quickly found popularity and led to sold out

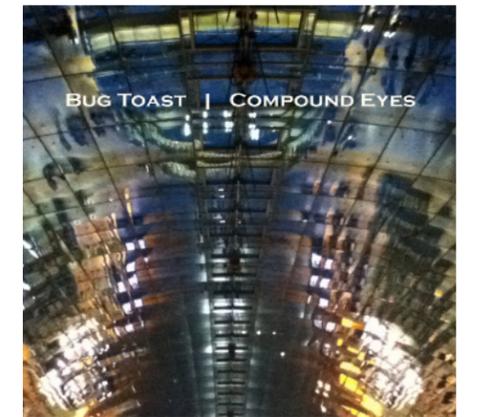
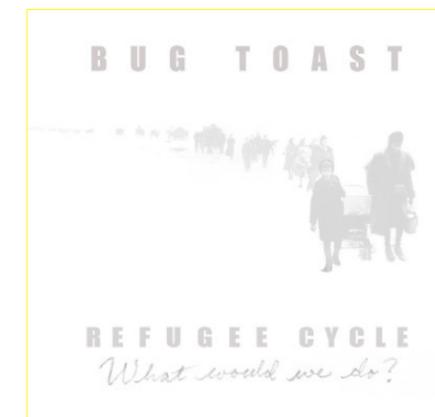
shows throughout the West Coast and UK. A singer-songwriter by nature, Awbrey balances sardonic critique of politics and culture with measured optimism and witty self-interrogation of her place in the world as a queer woman. Her debut LP, *Dishonorable Harvest* (Quick Pickle Records), is an unparalleled blend of guitar feedback and pop-infused synth lines, of poetic intrigue and relatable angst.

BUG TOAST
(www.bugtoastmusic.com)

Bug Toast defies categorization, playing original, genre-bending, world-influenced, progressive folk on bouzouki, accordion, guitar, bass, and violin, with textured instrumentation, vocal harmonies and interesting time signatures. Blended from two musical families, the combination of brothers, wife and husband makes for familial yet unfamiliar music. The group develops the arrangements together, creating richly textured, interwoven pieces with careful attention to counterpoint, voicing, harmonies, and rhythms.



Bug Toast last performed at Blackfish Gallery in April 2019, when they presented their RACC-funded *Picture This: A Blackfish Oratorio* in celebration of the gallery's 40th Anniversary in 2019 (Merridawn Duckler wrote the libretti, and Bug Toast composed and performed the music). In time for the Be About Love VIRTUAL Festival, Bug Toast celebrates the release of two new recordings: their political album *Be About Love*, and their EP *Refugee Cycle: What Would We Do?* Bug Toast are Dave Andrews, Mark Andrews, Christopher & Susanne Shotola-Hardt.



Bug Toast's 2020 album releases all fit into the themes of the programming for the Be About Love Virtual Festival.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

7:30 PM (PT)

Interview with the Artists

LIVESTREAM

On Blackfish Gallery Facebook page – free and open to all!

More information on [Blackfish Gallery Facebook](#)



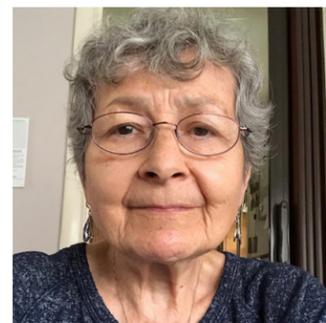
Darrell Grant



Marilyn Keller



Hector Hernandez



Jana Demartini

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

7:30 PM (PT)

Jazz & Performance Night

WATCH THE PERFORMANCE ON VIDEO PLAYER AT

WWW.BLACKFISH.COM

PORTLAND JAZZ COMPOSERS ENSEMBLE HAS CURATED

A set of new songs written and performed especially for the Be About Love Festival by Marilyn Keller (lyricist; vocalist) and Darrell Grant (composer; pianist): songs that deal with the times we are living in, and how we will come through together.

Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to create original jazz music that engages and supports our community's diverse artists, cultures and place. In operation since 2008, PJCE is the only organization dedicated to commissioning and performing original music by Portland musicians, building a broad audience through unique, collaborative and community-oriented programming that builds bridges between communities in this vibrant city.

Learn more at
<http://pjce.org>





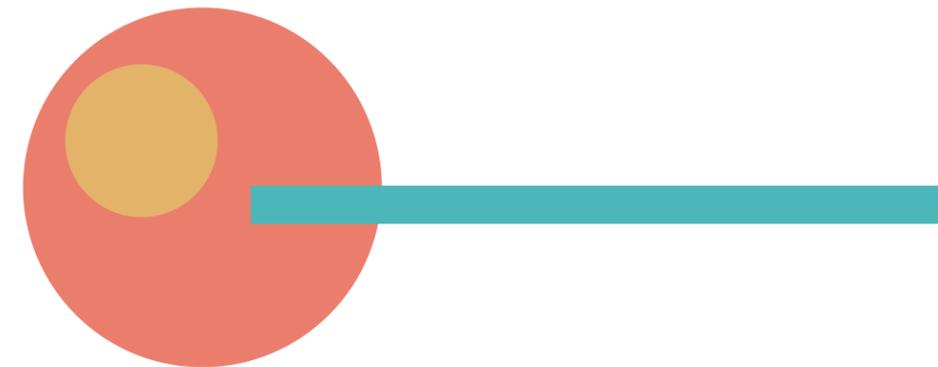
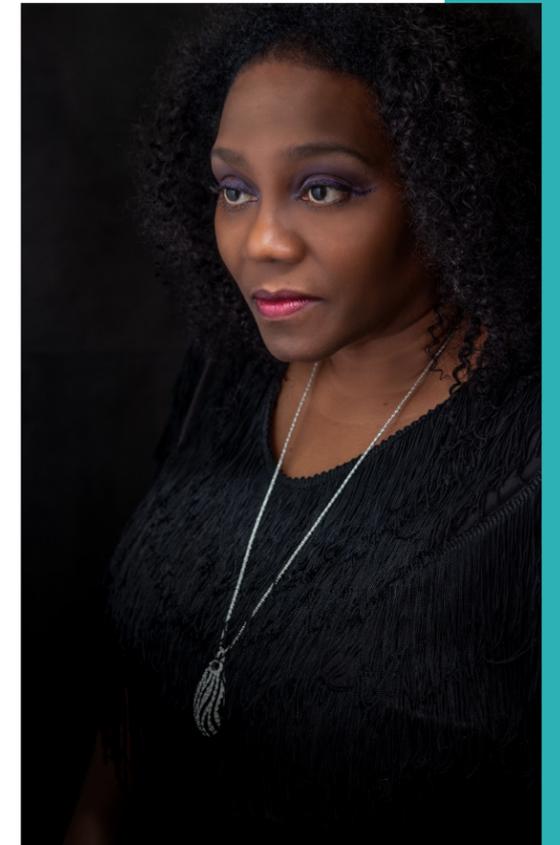
DARRELL GRANT
(www.darrellgrant.com)

Since being introduced to international audiences in 1988 as the pianist in vocalist Betty Carter's trio, Darrell Grant has built an international reputation performing with jazz luminaries including Frank Morgan, Tony Williams, Roy Haynes,

Greg Osby, Christian McBride, Terence Blanchard, and Esperanza Spalding among many others. He has been featured on National Public Radio, and has toured as a bandleader and solo artist throughout the U.S., Canada, Asia and Europe. His critically acclaimed albums as a leader include his 1994 debut CD, *Black Art*, selected as one of the year's top ten jazz CD's by the New York Times, *The New Bop*, *Twilight Stories*, *Smokin' Java*, and *Truth and Reconciliation*. Locally, Darrell performs as a member of The Bridge Quartet, with whom he recorded two CD's, and fronting his own contemporary trio project *All4 Naught*. Darrell was inducted into the Jazz Society of Oregon Hall of Fame in 2009, and in 2011 was the first recipient of the Kamelia Massih Outstanding Faculty Prize in the Arts from Portland State University, where he is a Professor of Music and directs the Leroy Vinnegar Jazz Institute. He is a recipient of a 2015 Individual Artist Grant from the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC).

MARILYN KELLER
(www.marilynkeller.com)

Marilyn T. Keller, 2016 Jazz Society of Oregon Hall of Fame Inductee, is a 38-year veteran of music and stage performance in Jazz, Gospel, R&B, Pop, Blues, and theater, nationally and internationally. Her musical roots are diverse. Marilyn has built a career that has taken her as a feature artist to Denmark, Sweden, Norway, The Netherlands, Spain, Australia, Russia and the UK for concerts, festivals, nightclubs and recording work. Her voice can be heard on multiple recordings, movie sound tracks, commercials and documentaries. Marilyn's formative jazz training was as a member of the Mt. Hood Community College Vocal Jazz Ensemble and as the vocalist fronting the award-winning MHCC Jazz Lab Band. She can be seen frequently at clubs, restaurants, festivals and holiday events throughout the Pacific Northwest. She remains active, performing with Don Latarski, Darrell Grant, Tom Grant, Black Swan Classic Jazz Band, Pressure Point Band and the Augustana Jazz Quartet, among many others.



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

7:30 PM (PT)

Interview with the Artists

LIVESTREAM

On Blackfish Gallery Facebook page – free and open to all!

More information on [Blackfish Gallery Facebook](#)



Norman Sylvester

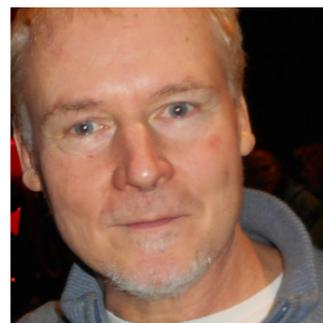


LaRhonda Steele



Carol Benson

Larry Cwik



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

7:30 PM (PT)

Blues Night

WATCH THE PERFORMANCE ON VIDEO PLAYER AT

WWW.BLACKFISH.COM

TERRY ROBB
(www.terryrobb.com)

Terry Robb is hailed as a blues guitar virtuoso and one of the finest acoustic guitarists on the international scene. His signature fingerpicking style has earned him international acclaim from worldwide audiences, esteemed music critics and his distinguished peers. Incorporating elements from Delta blues, ragtime, country, swing and jazz, Robb has built a unique blues sound that has made him a legend in his prolific music career spanning four decades.

With more than 15 albums under his name, Robb's award-winning, blues-chart topping discography features collaborations with John Fahey, Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater, Maria Muldaur, Ike Willis (Frank Zappa) and Curtis Salgado. His albums have soared to #1 on the Living Blues Radio Report and charted in the Billboard Blues Album Chart, IBBA Blues Album Chart (UK) and Roots Music Report Blues Chart. He has performed as a solo artist at festivals, theaters and clubs across the United States, Canada and Europe; toured with John Fahey, Buddy Guy, Steve Miller and Robin Trower, and shared the stage with B.B. King, Albert Lee, Joe Cocker, Bo Diddley, John Hiatt, David Crosby, George Thorogood, Leo Kottke, Johnny Winter and countless more all-stars. He has appeared as a guest of "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," the NBA Trail Blazers and the Oregon Symphony.





LARHONDA STEELE
(larhondasteele.com)

LaRhonda Steele began her musical journey in Jones, Oklahoma, at age 13, singing her first solo in church one Sunday morning. Her journey continued to Portland, Oregon, Porretta, Italy and beyond, culminating into an powerful legacy of musical experiences.

An International Artist she and Organist Louis Oain toured 4 Cities in Colombia, South America. Over the years she has enjoyed working with local, national and international artists: including Curtis Salgado, Norman Sylvester, Janice Marie Scroggins and Gino Vannelli

Performing in Porretta, Italy at the 30th annual Porretta Soul Festival that honors American Soul Music, the Lincoln Center

with Obo Addy in 2005 and her yearly appearances at the Safeway Waterfront Blues Festivals are just a few of the highlights of her career. LaRhonda currently enjoys directing the Portland Interfaith Gospel Choir, serving as music director for the Portland Center for Spiritual Living. Her work with B3 organist "King Louis" Pain and their CD "Rock me Baby" received 4 out of 5 stars in Downbeat Magazine and is currently being played throughout Europe. She also enjoys working with her own band The LaRhonda Steele Band in which her husband Mark is the keyboardist and co-producer of their collaboration "Artistic Differences." The CD features 12 original songs written and co-written by the duo. Her CD "My Soul's Song" features some of her gospel favorites.

Ever thankful for the support she has received from the musical community and her fans, her legacy of the love of music will continue on through and as the "Irresistible Soul Music of LaRhonda Steele."

NORMAN SYLVESTER
(www.normansylvester.com)

Norman Sylvester "The Boogie Cat" was inducted into the Oregon Music Hall Of Fame on October 8, 2011, at the Newmark Theater in Portland, Oregon. This honor has given the Boogie Cat a new surge of energy. Norman has released a new CD of 10 original songs "Blues Stains on my Hands", a tribute to all the Pioneers of Blues who traveled the Chitlin' Circuit keeping the Blues and Its History alive.

Norman is one of the most engaging showmen around the Northwest. Weddings, festivals, corporate parties and club venues all call on his band for spectacular music and entertainment! Influences from his Southern Baptist early years and the Gospel Quartet his father, Mack Sylvester, toured with (they were as sharp with their fashion as they were in their harmonies), these examples show in Sylvester's own performance. There is the work for the paycheck and the work for your passion. Norman's music is most definitely his passion! The Boogie Cat has paid his dues and now he is living his dreams.

Norman "The Boogie Cat" Sylvester was born in Bonita, Louisiana, September 16, 1945. He and his family boarded a Union Pacific Train for work in the Northwest in the Fall of 1957 when he was 12 years old, but his family's Southern Traditions have never left him. The Boogie Cat totally dedicated to soul healing force of Music.

Norman is a "family and community first" musician. He has mentored many young talents in our area, Patrick Lamb, Gretchen Mitchell, Jolie Clausen, Joseph Konty, Alden Harris and Gunnar Roads to name a few. He teaches through grants and Ethos "A History of American Music" in our local schools. Sylvester and his band also use their power of music to perform for many benefits, charities and individuals in need.



Lost Productions Pdx



503 512 9095
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Lost Productions



Lost Productions is here to help; we love elevating people and playing a role in the creation of artistic expression. Our job is not to be seen or heard but instead turn

the spotlight towards you, literally; via light, sound and film. Our partners include musicians, companies, brides, producers and community organizers. We help them achieve their visions and get the message they want out of their minds and into the world

Lost Productions filmed the majority of our virtual performances.

We have graciously received a generous grant from RACC and sponsorship from the Wilsonville Arts & Culture Council, but we still have a \$5,000 gap in our funding to cover all our expenses. Would you please consider sending some love our way in the gesture of sponsoring this multi-disciplinary community art project?

All funds from this GoFundMe campaign go towards compensating performers and poets.

To find out more about how to sponsor the project and the different levels of sponsorship, follow [this link](#).



Blackfish Gallery, Photo Alice Christine Walker, Blackfish Gallery Member

Thank you for supporting this important endeavor from Blackfish Gallery and our many community partners. May you be the change you want to see in these challenging times!

BLACKFISH GALLERY

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