

2021/2022 SEASON



HANCHER AUDITORIUM

A TRIBUTE TO ARETHA FRANKLIN: THE QUEEN OF SOUL

FEATURING DAMIEN SNEED
AND SPECIAL GUEST KAREN CLARK SHEARD

Thursday, March 10, 2022
7:30 pm



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A TRIBUTE TO ARETHA FRANKLIN: THE QUEEN OF SOUL

FEATURING DAMIEN SNEED
AND SPECIAL GUEST KAREN CLARK SHEARD

Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 7:30 pm
Hancher Auditorium, the University of Iowa

DAMIEN SNEED, vocals, piano, keys
KAREN CLARK SHEARD, guest vocalist
CHENEE CAMPBELL, vocals
MARKITA KNIGHT, vocals
ANITRA MCKINNEY, vocals
ALICIA PETERS-JORDAN, vocals
ALFRED RUTHERFORD, Hammond B3, keys, extra vocals
GABRIEL MICHAEL CARTER, aux keys
RONALD "CJ" ALEXANDER, bass guitar
NATHANIEL TOWNSLEY, drums

Songs will be announced from the stage.

A Tribute to Aretha Franklin: The Queen of Soul
appears by arrangement with IMG Artists, LLC
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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

With a legendary career spanning several generations and a multitude of genres, Aretha Franklin truly earned her title, “The Queen of Soul.” Wrought in the Baptist congregations of Detroit, Franklin’s expressive and powerful vocals, complemented by skillfully executed yet profound piano melodies, propelled her to international stardom in the sixties. Beloved by musicians and listeners alike, Aretha is recognized as the most successful female recording artist in history with 112 charted singles on Billboard, 18 Grammy Awards, and over 75 million records sold.

Aretha Franklin continued to perform well into the later years of her illustrious life. During this time, musician, vocalist, and composer Damien Sneed toured along with Aretha, developing a strong mentee relationship with the soul legend. In *Tribute to Aretha Franklin: The Queen of Soul*, Sneed pays homage to the monarch herself with fresh renditions of her most cherished hits including “Respect,” “Knew You Were Waiting,” “Bridge Over Troubled Water,” “Precious Memories,” “Think,” “Until You Come Back To Me,” “Daydreaming,” “Freeway,” “Natural Woman,” and others. Backed by an accomplished cast of jazz, gospel, and soul musicians and vocalists, Damien Sneed’s multi-media tribute will be a tender and spiritual reflection upon the life of an iconic industry titan.

Joining the tour will be four-time Grammy Award-winner and multiple Stellar and GMA Dove Award-winner Karen Clark Sheard. A gospel music legend and a part of a musical dynasty, Clark Sheard is renowned throughout the music industry for her signature, one-of-a-kind multi-octave vocal range and ability. Her musical style with the legendary Clark Sisters and as a solo artist has inspired a host of today’s brightest pop divas including Beyoncé, Mariah Carey, Missy Elliott, and Faith Evans, among countless others.


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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Damien Sneed

As a multi-genre recording artist and instrumentalist, Damien Sneed is a pianist, vocalist, organist, composer, conductor, arranger, producer, and arts educator whose work spans multiple genres. He has worked with opera, classical, jazz, pop, R&B, and gospel legends, including the late Aretha Franklin and Jessye Norman, which he is featured on Norman's final recording, *Bound For The Promised Land* on Albany Records. He also worked with Wynton Marsalis, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Ashford & Simpson, J'Nai Bridges, Lawrence Brownlee, and many others. Sneed has served as music director for Grammy Award-winning gospel artists The Clark Sisters, Richard Smallwood, Donnie McClurkin, Hezekiah Walker, Marvin Sapp, Karen Clark Sheard, Dorinda Clark-Cole, and Kim Burrell, among others.



Photo: Photography by Starlic

Sneed's most recent studio recording is *Damien Sneed: Unplugged*, an all-gospel collection of soulful and inspirational songs, recorded in a spare studio setting with Sneed on piano and vocals alongside several noted vocalists, including Cheneé Campbell, Linny Smith, Tiffany Stevenson, and Matia Washington. In January 2020, Sneed released his debut classical album, *Classically Harlem* and *We Shall Overcome Deluxe* on his boutique label, LeChateau Earl Records, which was established in 2009 to reflect his varied musical interests. Previous recordings also include *Jazz In Manhattan* (September 2019); *The Three Sides of Damien Sneed: Classical, Jazz and Sanctified Soul* (July 2018); *Broken To Minister: The Deluxe Edition* (March 2015); *Spiritual Sketches* (June 2013); and *Introspections LIVE* (January 2010). Sneed is a 2020 Dove Award-winner for his work as a featured producer and writer on The Clark Sisters' project, *The Return*, released on March 13, 2020.

For more information on Damien Sneed and LeChateau Earl Records, go to damiensneed.com and lechateauearl.com.

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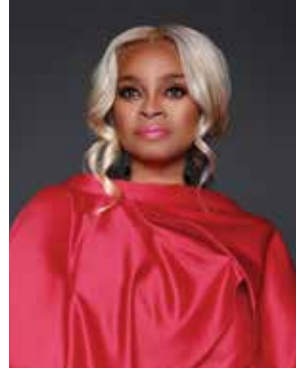
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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Karen Clark Sheard

Four-time Grammy Award-winner and multiple Stellar and Dove Award-winner Karen Clark Sheard is a gospel music legend and a part of a musical dynasty. Clark Sheard is renowned throughout the music industry for her one-of-a-kind multi-octave vocal range and ability. Her musical style, both with the legendary Clark Sisters and as a solo artist, has inspired a host of today's brightest pop divas, including Queen Latifah, Beyoncé, Mariah Carey, Missy Elliott, and Faith Evans, among others.



Through the years, The Clark Sisters have recorded 20 albums, including GMA Dove Award-winner and Grammy Award-nominated *Heart and Soul* (1987) and Grammy Award-nominated *Conqueror* (1988) and *Sincerely* (1983), while crafting enduring gospel anthems such as “Endow Me,” “Pray for the USA,” “Name It Claim It,” and “Is My Living in Vain?”

In 1997, Clark Sheard launched a solo career with *Finally Karen* on Island Black Music. An instant hit, it sold nearly half a million copies, garnered four Stellar Awards (Female Vocalist of the Year, Contemporary Female Vocalist of the Year, Music Video of the Year, and Best Children's Performance for “Will of God,” featuring daughter Kierra Sheard), and a Grammy nomination. Clark Sheard continued her solo career with other hit CDs, including *2nd Chance* (Elektra, 2002), *The Heavens Are Telling* (Elektra, 2003), and the GMA Dove Award-winner, *It's Not Over* (Word Records, 2006).

In 2007, she reunited with her sisters, The Clark Sisters, for their No. 1 comeback album, *Live...One Last Time* (EMI Gospel), for which The Clark Sisters won the 2008 Grammy Award for Best Gospel Album. They won a second Grammy for Best Gospel Performance for “Blessed and Highly Favored,” the lead single from that album. Clark Sheard, who wrote and led the song, won a third Grammy that year for Best Gospel Song (a Writer's Award). The Clark Sisters were part of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Grammy Awards that year, joining Aretha Franklin, BeBe Winans, and others as performers for the evening.

In 2010, Clark Sheard stepped away from her solo recording work to record “Wait On The Lord,” a duet with Donnie McClurkin from his album, *We Are All One*. The record won a Grammy Award for Best Gospel Performance.

Lifetime honored The Clark Sisters in a biopic titled *The Clark Sisters: The First Ladies of Gospel*, which details their humble beginnings, struggles to find their place, to later becoming the best-selling gospel group in the music world. The movie first aired in April 2020 and featured re-recordings of some of The Clark Sisters' biggest hits like “You Brought The Sunshine.” The biopic earned raves for its actresses, including Clark-Sheard's daughter and fellow gospel songstress Kierra Sheard.

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Hancher is grateful for the generous support of all our donors, especially during this past year of challenges. We welcome and thank those of you who joined us as first-time donors this year. We thank those who donated the value of your tickets for the cancelled performances in the spring of 2020. We thank those completing your pledges to the Fund for Rebuilding Hancher. And we thank our donors who have created and are creating endowed funds to support Hancher in perpetuity. That steady support will be critical to our ability to serve the campus, community, and state in the years to come.

We've weathered the pandemic and will continue to adjust to the changes in university funding because of your steadfast generosity—both financially and in terms of ongoing encouragement. Thank you all!

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