



For Immediate Release

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CONIECE WASHINGTON CONCERT PAYS TRIBUTE TO ETHEL ENNIS

On Saturday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. Maryland vocalist Coniece Washington returns to An die Musik in Baltimore to pay tribute to the late Ethel Ennis, long known as Baltimore's first lady of jazz. Commissioned by the venue's Henry Wong, the concert can be enjoyed in person or online.

Washington has a long record of creating wonderful thematic programs and this show no exception. Music lovers who catch the concert will find themselves learning more about Ennis and the music she chose to perform and record in her storied career.

Washington will cover tunes like "Close Your eyes" written by Bernice Petkere in 1933 and "Open Your Eyes You Can Fly." With music by Chick Corea and lyrics by Neville Potter, the latter tune was first released by Gary Burton in 1973. Both songs were recorded in Annapolis, Maryland by Ennis for her 1980 album *Live at the Maryland Inn*. Ennis was as beloved in that town as she was in Baltimore. She famously decided to remain in the area and set the course of her career, forgoing industry offers to leave home and allow RCA management to "make her a star."

Washington will also include the Ennis original "Hey You" from the 2005 album *Ennis Live at Montpelier*. Coniece Washington, who was in the audience at Montpelier, immediately became a fan and found herself "in awe" during the entire concert. She recalls that Ennis "was funny and engaging as she reminded the audience to remember life is short and they must do what they want to do before they leave this earth."

Ethel Ennis tended towards the ballad style and Washington chose to pepper this concert with upbeat songs popularized by another Baltimore heroine - Billie Holiday. In 2021, Washington paid tribute to Billie Holiday in another An die Musik concert which enjoyed a huge audience. She wanted to bring some of that energy into the new show. Fans can anticipate hearing tunes such as "Fine and Mellow," "East of the Sun" and "Now or Never."

Well known in the Baltimore-Washington-Annapolis triangle, Coniece Washington has performed extensively throughout the region singing jazz, blues, R&B, and gospel. She has drawn influence from renowned jazz vocalists Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Sarah Vaughan and

Carmen McRae. Her 2019 album *Shades of Shirley Horn* enjoyed fine reviews and extensive airplay.

In this special appearance, Coniece Washington will be accompanied by pianist Pete Frassrand, bassist David Marsh, drummer Nick Costa and trumpeter Clarence Ward III. She has also commissioned poet Seth Washington (no relation) to write a poem for Ethel Ennis. Says Washington, "I am thrilled to pay tribute to Ms. Ennis." As she honors Ennis and Holiday (with whom she shares a birthday), she hopes to bring happiness to Ennis's husband Bill Arnet and satisfy jazz lovers who cherish the memories of these great women, who contributed so greatly to the jazz tradition.

An die Musik Live is located at 409 North Charles Street. Tickets are \$25 for in theater attendance and \$15 for online listening. Visit the venue website for important information regarding health and safety policies and to purchase tickets: <https://andiemusiklive.com>

Every year, Jazz Beyond Borders presents and promotes many Women in Jazz events in the month of March, which is Women's History Month! See the calendar page of <http://www.jazzbeyondborders.com> for more events.