



RENÉE GEORGES & GEORJAZZ: JAZZ TAPESTRIES

“Renée Georges brings a high quotient of glamor and vocal know-how to every performance. Georges is an L.A. native with an extraordinary career. After touring with MC Hammer and Ray Charles, (she) has emerged as a headliner under her own name, gracing stages in the U.S. and abroad.”

– *Prince George’s Suite Magazine*

For the first time ever, on Friday, May 19 Montpelier Arts Center will host jazz vocalist Renée Georges and Georjazz in concert. Led by trombonist DuPort Georges, the band features some of the region’s most respected musicians: pianist José André Montañó drummer/percussionist Nasar Abadey and bassist Herman Burney.

Their program, “Jazz Tapestries,” introduces catchy originals and includes beloved standards the singer has performed around the globe. Enjoy immensely popular “Georgia on My Mind,” made popular by Ray Charles. It’s a song Renée Georges recalls hearing him sing every night, just before she and the other Raelettes took the stage on their far-reaching tours.

Jazz lovers will especially appreciate hearing “Footprints.” Composed by jazz hero Wayne Shorter in 1966, the piece is known for its systemic use of African-based cross-rhythms. Arranged by respected DMV jazz pianist Allyn Johnson, this version alternates between a waltz and 4/4 time. Original lyrics by Renée Georges have helped make this unique take a proven crowd pleaser in live performance. Less familiar, but every bit as enticing is the Duke Ellington gem, *Black Butterfly*, written from 1936-37. The song speaks to the struggle and often lonely journey of black woman in America.

Look forward to originals such as “What Sound Does Your Color Make,” and “When I’m Gone” penned by the singer herself. A mashup of “La vie en rose” and “What’s Goin’ On” adds to the interest before the show closes with “Hit the Road, Jack!” Renée Collins adapts the lyrics to tell her story as one of the last Raelettes to ‘hit the road’ with the legendary genius of soul.”

Sharing the stage with the singer is her husband, collaborator and bandleader, trombonist DuPort Georges. DuPort Georges holds an M.A. in performance and arranging from Queens College in New York and a B.M from the William Paterson University in New Jersey. On faculty at Duke Ellington School of the Arts, he also teaches jazz trombone at University of District of Columbia. In addition to his work with the Ray Charles Orchestra, his international career includes performances with the Duke Ellington Orchestra, Count Basie Orchestra, Jimmy Heath Big Band, Charles Mingus Big Band and Cab Calloway as well as the “Black and Blue” European tour. He has recorded on Verve Records, Candid Records and Jive Records. The highly traveled couple are based in Prince Georges County.

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