

PROGRAM PACKAGES



OurStories in the Music®: Let's Dance – From the Plantation to the Cypher

OurStories in the Music®: Let's Dance – From the Plantation to the Cypher takes audiences on a multimedia, interactive journey through the evolution of Black artistry – from hidden rituals, and the music of enslaved Africans to the bold movements of the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Arts Movement, and the rise of hip-hop. This high-energy experience highlights the power of dance and performance as tools for storytelling, resilience, and social justice. Through the lens of the legendary dancer, choreographer, anthropologist, and activist Katherine Dunham, and guided by Dr. Mariama's personal stories of mentorship under Ms. Dunham, audiences see how dance became a bridge connecting generations and art forms worldwide. Featuring live dance moments, music, and participatory elements, this program invites attendees to witness, move, and celebrate the artistry that shaped a global culture.

OurStories in the Music®: The Sound of Our Survival

OurStories in the Music®: The Sound of Our Survival is a powerful, multimedia journey into the heart of jazz— America's classical music – and the blues that came before it. More than a history lesson, this interactive performance blends live storytelling, rare personal anecdotes, dance, and multimedia elements to show how Black musicians used music as a language of survival, education, and joy. Led by Dr. Mariama, who shares first-hand stories of the jazz pioneers she knew personally, this experience invites audiences to reflect, move, and celebrate. Whether in a one-hour virtual session or a two-day deep-dive workshop, participants will leave with a deeper understanding of jazz as a tool for healing, connection, and empowerment – and its impact on today's music culture.



OurStories in the Music®: Jazz & Democracy – The Soundtrack of Freedom

OurStories in the Music®: Jazz & Democracy – The Soundtrack of Freedom is a multimedia, interactive experience that explores jazz as more than music – it's a force that shaped global history. From World War II to the Cold War, jazz became America's cultural ambassador, reshaping international perceptions and amplifying the voices of the marginalized. This dynamic program blends live storytelling, dance, and participatory moments to show how jazz bridged borders – crossing lines of race, gender, culture, and class – while telling a universal story of triumph over adversity. Led by Dr. Mariama, who shares personal relationships with iconic jazz pioneers, audiences will walk away inspired by the power of music as a tool for healing, empowerment, and social change.

