



MacDowell Virtual National Benefit

Invest in Artists **October 19, 2020**

Program

Welcome Remarks
from MacDowell Board Chair **Nell Painter***

Greeting from **Andrew Sean Greer***

“Democracy” from *Soft Power*
by David Henry Hwang & Jeanine Tesori*
performed by **Karen Olivo**
with remarks from **Jeanine Tesori***

MacDowell: Our History, Mission, and Future
narrated by **Nell Painter***

Excerpt clip from *Lingua Franca*
with remarks from **Isabel Sandoval***

The Inaugural Marian MacDowell Arts Advocacy Award
honoring ARRAY
introduction by **Jane Alexander***
presentation by **Darren Walker**
acceptance by **Ava DuVernay** on behalf of ARRAY

Program

Greeting from **Tayari Jones***

A Tribute to Audre Lorde*
performed by **Marsha Stephanie Blake, Eisa Davis*,
Karen Pittman, and Charlayne Woodard**
directed by **Whitney White**
music by **JJJJerome Ellis***

“Inside the Mind Of...” from Grandmother
by **Austin Yip***
performed by **Patrick Yim**

Closing Remarks from **Nell Painter***

** denotes MacDowell Fellow*

Check out our silent auction!

ibidmobile.net/tmc/auction

Featuring artwork by MacDowell Fellows, special virtual and socially distant experiences, and limited edition collectibles.

Bidding closes on October 19th at 9:00 p.m. ET. Good luck!

Artist Participants



JANE ALEXANDER* is an actress, an author, and a wildlife conservationist. She served as Chairman of the NEA under President Clinton. She has performed in over 100 plays, 75 films for TV and the big screen and is the recipient of numerous awards for her roles. Her recent book *Wild Things, Wild Places* details her global travels with field biologists. Recent acting work of hers can be seen on television, specifically Lifetime TV and Amazon's forthcoming series *Modern Love*. At MacDowell, Jane wrote a one woman multi-media show about birds, incorporating music, projections and six themes.



MARSHA STEPHANIE BLAKE was nominated for both Emmy and Critics Choice Awards for her portrayal of Linda McCray in Ava DuVernay's acclaimed miniseries *When They See Us*. She's been on and off Broadway in various performances ("The Merchant of Venice" with Al Pacino and Lily Rabe, "Joe Turners Come and Gone" with the late great Roger Robinson, "Othello" with Daniel Craig, David Oyelowo, Rachel Brosnahan) and on television in *ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK*, *THIS IS US*, *HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER*, *THE BLACKLIST*, to name a few. Films *The Photograph*, *The Laundromat*, *See You Yesterday* and *Luce* are currently streaming online. Upcoming projects include *Social Distance*, a Netflix anthology and the feature *I'm Your Woman* which she filmed with Rachel Brosnahan and acclaimed writer/producers Julia Hart and Jordan Horowitz.



EISA DAVIS* is a Brooklyn-based, Berkeley-born writer, composer, and performer working on stage and screen. A 2020 Creative Capital Awardee, Herb Alpert Award recipient, Cave Canem fellow, and Obie winner for Sustained Excellence in Performance, Eisa was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama for her play *Bulrusher*, and wrote and starred in the stage memoir *Angela's Mixtape*. Other work includes *The Essentialisn't*, *Ramp* (Ruby Prize winner), *The History of Light* (Barrymore nomination), *Paper Armor*, *Umkovu*, *Six Minutes*, *Warriors Don't Cry*, *Mushroom*, *||: Girls :||*, *Chance :||*, *Music :||* and the collaborations *Active Ingredients* and *Hip Hop Anansi*. Eisa wrote for both seasons of the Spike Lee Netflix series *She's Gotta Have It* and has released two albums of music. She is the executive producer and writer of a *Little Rock Nine* limited series spearheaded by Seth MacFarlane's *Fuzzy Door*, *UCP*, and the late Chadwick Boseman. Performance work includes *Betty*, *Succession*, *The Looming Tower*, *After The Wedding*, *House of Cards*, *The Wire*, and more.



AVA DUVERNAY Winner of BAFTA, Peabody and Emmy Awards, Academy Award nominee Ava DuVernay's directorial work includes the Oscar-winning civil rights drama *SELMA*, the Oscar-nominated social justice documentary *13TH* and the Disney children's adventure *A WRINKLE IN TIME*, which made her the highest-grossing Black woman director in American box office history. In 2019, she created, wrote, produced and directed the Emmy Award-winning limited series *WHEN THEY SEE US*. She is currently producing the fifth season of her acclaimed series, *QUEEN SUGAR*. Winner of the 2012 Sundance Best Director Prize for her second independent film *MIDDLE OF NOWHERE*, DuVernay amplifies the work of Black artists, people of color and women of all kinds through her multi-platform arts collective *ARRAY*.

Artist Participants (cont.)



JJJJEROME ELLIS* is a black stuttering composer, performer, and writer. His current practice explores blackness, music, and disabled speech as forces of refusal and healing. Jerome's work has been heard at the Poetry Project, Sotheby's, Soho Rep, and WKCR. He's a 2019 MacDowell Fellow, a writer in residence at Lincoln Center Theater, and a 2015 Fulbright Fellow. Jerome collaborates with James Harrison Monaco as James & Jerome. Their recent work explores themes of border crossing and translation through music-driven narratives. They have received commissions from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Ars Nova.



ANDREW SEAN GREER* is the Pulitzer Prize winning author of six works of fiction, including the bestsellers *The Confessions of Max Tivoli* and *Less*. Greer has taught at a number of universities, including the Iowa Writers Workshop, been a TODAY show pick, a New York Public Library Cullman Center Fellow, a judge for the National Book Award, and a winner of the California Book Award and the New York Public Library Young Lions Award. He is the recipient of a NEA grant, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. He lives in San Francisco.



TAYARI JONES* is the author of four novels, most recently *An American Marriage*, which she worked on at MacDowell. The novel was awarded the Women's Prize for Fiction (formerly known as the Orange Prize), Aspen Words Prize and an NAACP Image Award. Her other titles include *Silver Sparrow* and *Leaving Atlanta*. Jones, a member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, has also been a recipient of the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, United States Artist Fellowship, NEA Fellowship, and Radcliffe Institute Bunting Fellowship. Jones is a graduate of Spelman College, University of Iowa, and Arizona State University. She is an Andrew D. White Professor-at-Large at Cornell University and the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Creative Writing at Emory University.



KAREN OLIVO is a television, film, and stage actor who is currently playing "Satine" in *Moulin Rouge, The Musical*. Olivo is also recognized for her Tony Award winning performance as "Anita" in the acclaimed 2009 Broadway revival of *West Side Story*, a role for which she also earned Drama Desk, Drama League, Outer Critics Circle, and Astaire Award nominations. Some of her Broadway theater credits include originating the role of "Vanessa" in the Tony Award-winning musical, *In the Heights* (2008 Astaire Award), starring as "Faith" in the Broadway production of *Brooklyn The Musical*, and in Jonathan Larson's Pulitzer- and Tony Award-winning musical, *Rent*. Olivo is also recognized for her many television appearances including a series regular, recurring & guest-starring roles on "Harry's Law", "The Good Wife," "Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior," "Chase," "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," "Conviction," and "Law & Order." Olivo is also an educator teaching at Northwestern University, NYU-Tisch, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse as well as working as a visual artist and writer. In 2018 Karen released her first solo album, *LEAVE*.

Artist Participants (cont.)



KAREN PITTMAN is an accomplished actress in American theatre, television and cinema. She has originated many theatre roles including Jory in Ayad Akhtar's Pulitzer Prize Winning TONY nominated play, "Disgraced," of which she received the 2015 Theatre World Award. Her most recent cinematic release, the award winning "Pipeline," written by Dominique Morrisseau, was adapted from a play in which she starred in at Lincoln Center Theatre. She was nominated for both an Outstanding Lead Actress' Lucille Lortel Award and Broadway League's Distinguished Performance Award for the role of Nya Joseph. Karen originated the role of Charlotte in Claudia Rankine's "The White Card" in its debut production in collaboration with ArtsEmerson and American Repertory Theatre, at The Paramount Theatre. She has worked in numerous Broadway and off-Broadway plays in New York City, and in regional theatres across the country.



ISABEL SANDOVAL* is a New York-based filmmaker and MacDowell Fellow in film whom The Museum of Modern Art has cited as a "rarity among the young generation of Filipino filmmakers". Her acclaimed third feature *Lingua Franca* premiered in Venice and was acquired by Ava DuVernay's ARRAY, debuting on Netflix in August 2020. Her second film *Apparition*, a Marcos-era nun drama, is considered a modern Philippine classic. During her time at MacDowell, Isabel wrote her upcoming feature, *Tropical Gothic*, a haunting 16th-century romantic drama with traces of Hitchcock's *Vertigo*.



JEANINE TESORI* has written a diverse catalog for Broadway, opera, film and television. Along with Missy Mazzoli, Ms. Tesori is one of the first female composers commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera. Her musicals include *Fun Home* (Tony Award, Pulitzer finalist); *Soft Power* (Pulitzer finalist); *Caroline, or Change* (Olivier Award); *Violet*; *Shrek*; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; *Twelfth Night*; *A Free Man of Color*; and *Mother Courage* (starring Meryl Streep). Her operas include *Blue* (Libretto, Tazewell Thompson); *A Blizzard on Marblehead Neck* (Tony Kushner); *The Lion, The Unicorn and Me* (J.D. McClatchy); and the upcoming *Grounded* (George Brant). In addition to her work as a composer, she is the founding artistic director of New York City Center's Encores! Off-Center Series; the founding creative director of *A BroaderWay*, an arts empowerment program for young women; and a lecturer at Yale University.



DARREN WALKER is president of the Ford Foundation, a \$13 billion international social justice philanthropy. He is co-founder and chair of the Presidents' Council on Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy. Before joining Ford, Darren was vice president at Rockefeller Foundation, overseeing global and domestic programs. Darren co-chairs New York City's Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments, and Markers, the New York City Census Task Force, and the Governor's Commission and serves on The Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform and UN International Labour Organization Global Commission on the Future of Work. He serves on many boards, including Carnegie Hall, the High Line, VOW to End Child Marriage, the Committee to Protect Journalists, the National Gallery of Art, and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Artist Participants (cont.)



CHARLAYNE WOODARD is a two-time Obie Award winner & Tony Award nominee. Off-B'way: Hamlet (Gertrude); War (Mother); Substance of Fire (Marge Hackett); The Witch of Edmonton (Witch); In The Blood (Hester); Fabulation (Ondine); The Caucasian Chalk Circle (Grusha); Twelfth Night (Maria); Stunning; Sorrows and Rejoicings. Regional: Zealot; A Midsummer Night's Dream (Titania); The Taming of the Shrew (Katherine); The Good Person of Szechuan. B'way: Ain't Misbehavin' (Original cast); Hair (revival). Film: Glass; Unbreakable; The Crucible; Eye for an Eye; Things Never Said; Sunshine State. TV: Pose (series regular); Run For The Dream: The Gail Devers' Story (title role; Showtime); recurring roles on Law and Order; Special Victims Unit, ER, Terminator: The Sarah Connors Chronicles. Guest Star: The Leftovers; The Blacklist. Playwright: Pretty Fire, Neat, In Real Life, The Night Watcher; Flight. Guest Faculty: Cal Arts; USC. Training: The Goodman School of Drama. Lifetime member of the Actors' Studio.



AUSTIN YIP* is an award-winning composer whose works have been performed worldwide. Recent collaborations and awards include "Koto", a 30-minutes site-specific work for Rosetta Contemporary Ensemble and Kyoto Art Center; "Eurydice", an hour-long videodance collaboration with Centre de Vidéo Danse de Bourgogne, France; "Metamorphosis", winner of the CASH Golden Sail Award in 2017, commissioned and performed by the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra; "Road Business", a marimba concerto for Jack Van Geem, former Principal Percussionist of the San Francisco Symphony; and "Underneath//Emptiness", an audio-visual work written for Unheard-of//Ensemble (US). Yip is a MacDowell Fellow (as a Gardner & Veil Read Fellow), and his works are published by Donemus (Netherlands). He is currently a lecturer at the Hong Kong Baptist University.



PATRICK YIM is a Honolulu-born violinist who has performed throughout the world at venues including Carnegie Hall and David Geffen Hall (New York), Seoul Arts Center, Harpa Concert Hall (Reykjavík), Hong Kong City Hall, Severance Hall (Cleveland), Orchestra Hall (Chicago), Teatro alla Scala (Milan), and the Musikverein (Vienna). Yim made his solo debut with the Honolulu Symphony and in recent years has performed concerti of Bach, Brahms, Bruch, Lalo, and Mozart. Recent chamber music highlights include a performance in Carnegie Hall with members of the Emerson Quartet as part of the New Music for Strings Festival, a collaboration with world-renowned pipa virtuoso Wu Man in Lou Harrison's Concerto for Pipa and String Orchestra led from the concertmaster chair, and a collaboration with Juilliard Quartet violinist Joel Smirnoff involving the premieres of two newly commissioned works.

Acknowledgements

Directed by **Joe Langworth**
Executive Producer **Ruby Locknar**
Technical Producer..... **ibid mobile**
Edited by **Wide Iris**
Director, "A Tribute to Audre Lorde" **Whitney White**
Assistant Director, "A Tribute to Audre Lorde" **Sivan Battat**

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Thanks to our virtual table artist presenters Jasmine Amussen, Burkhard Bilger, Hernan Diaz, Rosemarie Fiore, Andrew Sean Greer, Anna Haber, Cecil Howell, Daniel Lazour, Patrick Lazour, Jaime Lowe, Dennis Norris II, Julie Orringer, Julia Solomonoff, Tess Taylor, Scott Wheeler, and Jung Yun.

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