



FIRSTWORKS' 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

MAY 2, 2024 | BALLROOM AT THE PROVIDENCE G

TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE

6:30 PM | Doors Open; Raffle Ticket Sales Begin

7 PM | Pop-Up Performances by Becky Bass, Sidy Maiga and DJ Brazao

7:30 PM | Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca Performance (Part I)

8:00 PM | Celebratory Remarks

8:30 PM | Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca Performance (Part II)

9 PM | Cake Cutting & Toast to FirstWorks' 20th Anniversary

9:15 PM | Finale Performance by Sidy Maiga and DJ Brazao

9:30 PM | Farewell & Raffle Winners Announcement

Throughout the evening:

Mix and mingle with Friends of FirstWorks

Show your support: Purchase a raffle ticket or FirstWorks merchandise

Enjoy light bites and a FirstWorks Signature Cocktail/Mocktail (Cash Bar)

Watch FirstWorks' 20-year History Slideshow

SPECIAL THANKS

Jay Coogan, Isabella Porter

Emilia Baptista, Brendan Chipley Roane

Akanksha Aga, Lowes Hotels

Renaissance Providence

The VETS



MANY THANKS TO OUR HONORARY HOST COMMITTEE

Aidan & Kate Petrie

Bill & Helena Foulkes

Buff Chace & Jenn Bramley

Catherine & Rob Taylor

Chris Cannon

Deming & Jane Sherman

Elizabeth Howlett & Mike DiBiase

Fred & Joyce Butler

Isabelle & Alex Tadmoury

Johnnie Chace

Kara & David Milner

Kathleen Pletcher & Jay Coogan

Kyle & John Adamonis

Leslie Ravestein & Richard Lewis

Lorne Adrain & Victoria Huijie Zhu

Melissa Snape

Normand & Nancy Benoit

Richard & Margaret Ratcliffe

Stanley & Beth Weiss

Tomás & Eva Ávila

Wendy & Andrew Kagan

Wendy MacGaw

William H. Warren & Ellie Siegel

ABOUT SOLEDAD BARRIO AND NOCHE FLAMENCA



Formed in 1993 by Martín Santangelo and his Bessie award-winning wife, Soledad Barrio, Noche Flamenco has been hailed by critics everywhere for its transcendent and deeply emotional performances. Born of passion and the desire to present the authentic form of flamenco to audiences throughout the globe, Noche Flamenco is noted for creating a diverse theatrical body of work that expresses the rigorous, spellbinding aesthetic of flamenco and exceeds the

highest artistic expectations. All aspects of flamenco - dance, song, and music - are interrelated and given equal weight, creating a true communal spirit within the company - the very heart and soul of flamenco. Performance highlights include Lincoln Center, the Joyce Theater, Joe's Pub and Noche Flamenco's home base at the West Park Presbyterian Church in NYC. The group also tours extensively across the U.S., Canada, Europe, the Middle East, Argentina, and Australia. Noche Flamenco has been recognized with awards from the National Dance Project, the MAP Fund, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Lucille Lortel Award for Special Theatrical Experience, an Exceptional Artist Award for Soledad Barrio from Dance Magazine, the Vilcek Prize in Dance and a Bessie Award for Outstanding Performer at the Joyce Theatre. Learn more at www.soledadbarrioandnocheflamenco.com.

ABOUT BECKY BASS



New England treasure Becky Bass is known for her "euphoric steel pan playing, soulful voice, and powerful stage presence." A native of St. Croix, Becky is thrilled to share her exhilarating native Caribbean Soul steel pan music solo, or with her band for special events from intimate gatherings to weddings, festivals, and large-scale fundraisers. A graduate of Brown University in Theatre Arts & Performance Studies, she is a two-time Urban Music Award winner as well as an

accomplished film, stage, and TV actress. She plays regularly with the groups Zili Musik, Natural Element, and Sidy Maiga & Afrimanding throughout New England. This summer she made headlines as the solo vocalist for the New Jersey Symphony's world premiere of Farah (Joy) for Voice and Orchestra. Composer Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR) wrote the piece specifically for Becky's "incomparable voice." Past performances include appearances at the National Gallery of Art, New York City's Lincoln Center, Chicago's Underground WonderBar, and the Off-Broadway theater LaMaMa. Learn more at www.beckybas.com.

ABOUT SIDY MAIGA



Sidy Maiga is a Djembe Master from Mali. As a teenager, he apprenticed under some of Mali's most renowned Master Drummers. Sidy has been an active member of the local music scene, playing not only traditional Malian music, but also a fusion of Malian music with Latin, Blues, and Brazilian. His love for sharing his music and culture with the community inspired him to begin Afrika Nyaga, a West Africa Dance and Drum Festival.

This festival brings together both local and international musicians and dancers to perform across Rhode Island. Maiga has received the MacColl-Johnson Fellowship (2012), the RISCA Folk Arts Fellowship (2012 and 2022). Sidy has performed on stages with many international artists. Sidy has released two albums, *Maliden* (2011) and *Africa United* (2014), which features musicians from across the world. He's now recording his third album. Maiga has since pushed his craft further by completing his degree at Berklee College of Music (2020), where he studied music production, business, and composition. Sidy's djembe that he had been playing for over 20 years is currently being displayed at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Learn more at www.sidymaiga.com.

ABOUT DJ BRAZAO



DJ Brazao developed a passion for music early on, influenced by his father, a drummer for the renowned group Os Tubarões. Though initially drawn to drums, he found his calling in DJing after organizing parties with friends Jorge and Adilson. Encouraged by his surroundings, he delved into DJ basics, aided by his friends and seasoned DJs like Nery Nos Manera and DJ Ivan LLuv. Starting at local events and gradually progressing to nightclubs, DJ Brazao overcame stage fright with

Adilson's support. A pivotal moment came when Adilson left him alone to DJ, forcing him to conquer his fears. This experience propelled his confidence, leading to relentless practice, equipment upgrades, and a deep dive into music genres. DJ Brazao's journey underscores the transformative power of passion and perseverance in pursuing one's dreams.