

White to Natalie Cole

SUNDAY **DEC. 01, 2019** 7:30PM

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS TERRACE THEATER

2700 F. Street, NW, Washington, DC 20566

TYGRESSA SINGS NATALIE

A Tribute to Natalie Cole

"Tygressa Sings Natalie" has been a dream of mine as an artist for many years. However, it was first expressed verbally during a meeting where, as part of a behavioral interview assessment, the question was asked: "If you could do one thing on your bucket list, what would it be?" Without hesitation, and because of my love for singing, I replied, "I would like to pay homage to Natalie Cole, singing her songs accompanied by a live orchestra." When asked, "What would that look like and who would be in attendance?" Like when that 11 year old little girl first fell in love with Natalie and her music, with much excitement, I quickly answered, "There would be thousands of people in the audience ... my family (my support system), friends, and if I could make it happen, Natalie Cole herself would be sitting in the front row!" From that day forward, and as a result of that inspiration-filled meeting, motions were put into play — the set list, talented musicians and singers, rehearsals dates, etc. Although Natalie's untimely death ensued just one year later, the desire to perform a tribute in her honor has never been stronger! Thus, "Tygressa Sings Natalie" is realized.

A very special 'Thank You' to that someone who "sparked the inner flame" and being instrumental in me living a dream.

I appreciate you.

ENJOY THE SHOW!

MISSION

To encourage and support music education in environments where children have the desire to learn, play and sing.

About Tygressa Jones

Tygressa Jones, most **I** affectionately known as 'Ty' by many, was only 11 years old when her musical curiosity was drawn to Natalie Cole's sultry yet powerful vocal tones and style. She recalls at such a tender age singing "I'm Catching Hell (living here alone)" and feeling every bit of the pain and regret the lyrics aligned with such incredibly orchestrated music would suggest. It was where and when she began to experience the emotional effects of meaningful lyrics. Having claimed the albums of her older brother, Ric, who was a local Deejay – The Black Dragon – at the time, Ty learned and mimicked every song on those albums - Side A and Side B – lyric for lyric, note for



note. Being a member in her elementary school chorus was also very instrumental in the development of her voice and vocal range. As a result of chorus, the Carpenters is her all-time favorite singing group!

Born the fifth of six children – three sisters and two brothers – Ty attended public schools in the suburbs of Maryland, graduating ahead of her class at the age of 16. The first in her family to attend college, Ty furthered her education by earning a Bachelor of Science, Master of Business Administration and Juris Doctor degrees, and serves as Chief of Staff on the Executive leadership team at her employer.

Ty comes from a musically inclined and talented family where her mom, sisters and brothers sing, play and love to dance. Ty's father died when she was only two years old—he too was a percussionist.

Music was always in their home and her mom enjoyed joining the children in dance and song. Ty remembers having very little materially, but recalls having all that really mattered: family, love, food, and of course music.

Ty participated in the local area and school talent shows with duet partner and childhood 'boyfriend', Martin Lawrence (renowned comedian), where they sang and won talent contests with their vocal overlays to Denise Williams and Johnnie Mathis's - Too Much, Too Little, Too Late; Roberta Flack and Donnie Hathaway's - The Closer I get to You; and Peaches and Herb's - Reunited. She also showcased talent with her neighborhood girlfriends to tunes by The Emotions, Sister Sledge, High Energy, and The Jones Girls, just to name a few. In Junior High School, Ty was a vocalist with a local 'Go-Go' band, Unity Band & Show. Ty later competed and won in the area's Coors Light Super Talent Showcase and auditioned and performed for three consecutive weeks on The World's Famous Showtime at the Apollo, having been prepped in advance for stage presence by national recording artist, Renee Diggs of the singing group Starpoint. On Showtime at the Apollo, Ty won first place the first and second weeks of her performances where she sang "Lean on Me" by Melba Moore and placed third her final week before being sent home. The call from Ed McMahon of Star Search never came.

Ty's intimate exposure to the studio work and backstage preparations of several esteemed Atlantic Records recording artists only fueled her desire to perform in live settings. Named "First Lady" by fellow band members of their Classic Old School R&B and Funk band, Tomorrow's Time (2010), they wow'd mature audiences with their selection of 70's music, where she led vocals on songs of artists such as Chaka Khan, Lyn Collins, Mavis Staples, Betty Wright and Gladys Knight, among others. After five great years with the original members of Tomorrow's Time, the band continues today with new players and exists as T-Time "Refunked" – Tomorrow's Time Band.

The love of music and Ty's passion for singing is apparent in her insistence to realize her dream. Her prayer is to keep the music of the incomparable Natalie Maria Cole alive and heard as The Natalie Cole Project Band puts "Tygressa Sings Natalie" on stage!

EMCEE

Nick "Dr. Nick" Johnson, a Washington, D.C. native, has spent the past 25 years in radio, hosting various formats, from Old School R&B to Blues to Southern Soul. He currently hosts a weekly program, "Southern Soul Rumpin'," on WPFW-FM, 89.3 in D.C. He is also the MC of various shows around the Washington metropolitan area at venues like Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, The City Winery, and The Carlyle Club, among others.



VOCALISTS



Timothy Brooks, better known in entertainment as "TreSoul the Artist," was born and raised in Southeast, D.C., and is the oldest child of two boys of parents David and Alfredia. At the age of five, Tré began his musical career singing in local choirs and trio harmony groups and eventually landed a vocal & band lead position with a popular top 40 variety act called "Marquise." In the mid 90's, Tré completed his radio internship at the American

Radio Institute in Southern Maryland, then completed a comprehensive recording engineering certificate at Omega Studios in Rockville, MD. In true multi-talented fashion, Tré is also professional photographer, voiceover, and graphic designer.

Trésoul's breakout moment came in 2004 when he collaborated with legendary jazz fusion duo group Greg & Gary Grainger as they released the original single "Always Love," in which Tré co-wrote and arranged. Since then, Tré has performed live and worked with artist such as Will Downing, Marcus Johnson, Keith Sweat, Norman Connors, Gerald Albright, Raheem DeVaughn, Tygressa Jones, Shirletta Settles, Deborah Bond, and more. His latest musical endeavors include developing his signature band BlaqPearlDC, where he features his brand as well as professional global talent.

Currently, Trésoul resides in PG County, MD with his wife Monica and two daughters. He works full time for the federal government and is often the first call to render the national anthem for high visibility ceremonies.

Shelton Cornelius Price is a native Washingtonian who has no fear of the stage. Singing in his junior choir as a young kid and performing in several plays and elementary, junior high, and high school, Shelton became to love entertaining. Presently, he has performed with the Glen Leonard Temptation Review, Skip Mahoney and the Casuals, God's Miracles, and his own solo act the Cornelius Project. He also performed with several bands,



choirs, and various artist in the DMV and abroad. Shelton starred in plays as the Professor, Quick Pay Ray, and other rolls in Straighten Up Productions, Inc. by Kathy Van Creek. Shelton is pleased to share his talents with the Tygressa Sings Natalie audience.

Angela Stewart is the daughter of Florence and Charles Stewart. She is the middle child of six girls. Angela began singing at the age of 4. Her first live performance was with her siblings at Howard University Dental School in 1970 where they rendered the song, "Devotion," originally performed by EWF (Earth, Wind, and Fire) under the leadership of Donald Tate, an Alumni of Howard University. The performance received a standing ovation. Several participants encouraged her parents to seek vocal lessons to further the children's career.



The sisters volunteered and performed in various churches and nursing homes throughout the D.C area. Later, they took different paths; but Angela continued to sing, competing in talent shows and performed with different local bands. In 1987, she performed as a lead and background singer with a local band, E.U. (Experience Unlimited). She also performed on the same platform with the Doo Whoop Group the Marquees under the leadership of the late Gail James 2014.

Angela began singing with Tygressa, the lead vocalist of Tygressa Sings Natalie seven years prior as a background vocalist, sharing her sultry and blues-like voice. Angela is grateful for the blessings and opportunities God continues to bestow upon her.



Geri Stewart, a Washington, D.C. native, joined Tygressa Sings Natalie and the Natalie Cole Tribute Band in March 2019. Geri's voice has been characterized as beautiful, powerful, and emotionally moving. She brings the warm and soulful, alto vocals to the solos and harmonies she sings.

Geri loves to sing and has always desired to be a performer. She began singing background vocals at the

tender age of five with her older sisters, under the direction of her mother. At the age of fourteen, she briefly sang background vocals for a local R&B band. She is a member of the United Voices Choir, First Baptist Church of Glenarden, and has also performed as a soloist at various church, social, community, and professional events around the DMV.

Her love of music started with Gospel and later she grew fond of R&B, jazz, and pop. Some of her favorite vocal artists are Tremaine Hawkins, Ella Fitzgerald, Anita Baker, and Michael Jackson.

When Geri is not singing, you'll find her enjoying the company of family and friends, planning social events, or reading a really good book.

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Alton "Al" Carter is a featured guitarist, vocalist, arranger, and band director who hails from Bowie, MD. From live performances to studio sessions, his guitar technique consistently delivers clean rhythms, smooth harmonies, and soaring solos. His five-octave range provides pitch-perfect support for background vocals.

Al began singing in church and playing with local bands as a teenager. His style is heavily influenced by a "gumbo" of genres including gospel, funk, jazz, reggae, rock, and



blues. Al is co-founder and guitarist for DMV-based Another Day Band. He also performs regularly with Setoria (three-time Josie Award winner), The Marc Staggers Project (Expansion Records), and Tygressa Sings Natalie.



Christopher Barnes is a two-time Grammy nominated singer, songwriter, producer, pianist and instrumentalist from Mitchellville, Maryland. He began singing and playing piano at the age of one. Chris graduated from Charles Herbert Flowers High School and attended Bethune-Cookman University where he studied piano, receiving a B.A. in Music (Piano) Performance. After his first year in graduate school at Georgia Southern University, he met Philadelphia-based producers, Carvin and Ivan, who have produced for many top-selling R&B, Hip Hop, and Pop acts. Collaborating with Carvin and

Ivan, Christopher has produced for artists such as Ledisi, Mario, New Edition, Estelle, Tamia, Raheem DeVaughn, Chris Brown, Rudy Currence, Stokley Williams (Mint Condition), and several others in his young and constantly evolving career. He has worked on Grammy nominated albums such as Ledisi's, "Pieces of Me" album, where he served as co-producer, songwriter, and instrumentalist on the 12th track titled, "I Gotta Get To You." He has also contributed work on Tamia's "Beautiful Surprise" album, which he helped produce for track #9, "Still Love You," with co-writing credits alongside Jazmine Sullivan. Both Albums received the Nomination for "Best R&B Album" consecutively 2 years in a row for 2012 and 2013.

Curtis Greenhill is the auxiliary keyboardist with Tygressa Sings Natalie. His interest in playing music began when he was nine years old after his parents brought an air organ into the home. He became a fixture on that organ, playing jingles from various commercials. He attended Summer in the Parks events that featured live bands, which accelerated his motivation to become a musician.

Curtis decided to start a band with his friend and bass player Charles "Reds" Adkins. Using second-hand equipment, the duo practiced every day. When they began to acquire paid gigs, they used their earnings to purchase better equipment. However, due to a few misfortunes, the band broke up.

After a 40+ year hiatus, Curtis decided to give it one more try. He began playing with different projects before landing a spot with Tomorrow's Time Band: Refunked. That's where he started playing with Tygressa, now Tygressa Sings Natalie.

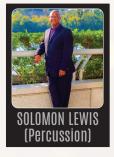
Keith Jones, a native of Washington, D.C., currently runs the day-to-day operations of SeaDepth Entertainment, LLC and performs as a drummer. Keith began playing the drums by ear, at the age of five. He grew up in church and served as a drummer along with his close friends.

Keith attended the Owings, Maryland N.E. Majorette Drum Corp, where he received instruction and the rudiments of the percussions from a Military instructor



who also taught the Military drum line. Having enjoyed a variety of performing experiences, Keith presented on many stages opening for artists such as Marsha Ambrosius & Avant, R&B at Howard University; Lil Kim, Rap/Hip Hop at Show Place Arena; Patty Label, R&B at Show Place Arena; Xscape, R&B at Carter Barron Amphitheatre; Pieces of a Dream group and many local artists. Currently, Keith can be heard at local clubs around the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and many private events.

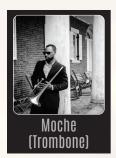
Solomon Lewis's musical career began in the church, playing for several choirs as a percussionist. He joined a new group developed from local church members led by organist, Sam Kendrick. Through their collaboration, the group Sam Kendrick and the Nation of Holiness was founded. As a member, Solomon toured up and down the east coast playing with the band in which the gospel message did not get lost in the up-tempo R&B feel. He's been fortunate to share the stage with gospel legends such



as William Becton & Friends and Kirk Franklin and the Family. He also helped record a CD and collaborated and played with some the finest musicians in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

Throughout his musical career, Solomon had the good fortune to play at numerous events and festivals and participated in a gospel choir competition "Verizon How Sweet the Sound" in 2009. He has been playing with a variety of Jazz, Pop R&B and Neo Soul bands. His musical influences vary from Prince, Michael Jackson, the Brothers Johnson, George Duke, Stevie Wonder, The Doobie Brothers, Kenny Loggins, the Eagles, Bob James, Ralph McDonald, Earth Wind & Fire, to Chuck Brown. He also played with local bands including Thinkfastjak, Special Occasion Band, Another Day Band, and Tygressa Sings Natalie.

Solomon Lewis enjoys playing many different musical styles and is constantly listening and learning so he can adapt and play a variety of genres with any and all musical artists.



Moche is a jazz-funk, infused trombonist that delivers a musical enthusiasm and style not normally seen. Mosche has performed across the U.S. delivering the heart and soul at many occasions such as weddings, private events, corporate functions you name it. From rap artist Wale to Grammy nominated Anthony Brown & Group TherAPy. Mosche has a long sheet of collaborations. In addition to his trumpet playing, Kenneth McDonald is a jazz, smooth jazz, R&B composer, band leader, sectional player, and recording artist.

Chester Saunders is a graduate of Frederick Douglass High School - The Cab Calloway Music and Fine Arts Program. He has been playing trumpet for the last 16 years, starting from the sixth grade, under the direction of Wendell Hairston.

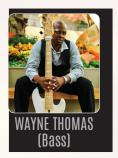
Chester has played for Russell Simmons, Bill Clinton, P. Diddy, and many more. He became a member of Tri-M (Modern Music Masters) during high school and continued to play jazz all over the east coast with the



Dukes of Jazz Combo. In college, he played with the Coppin State University Pep Band and Jazz Combo, where he led the trumpet section and jazz combo.

His talents led him to start his own group, The Rose Gold Experience. They received an "Award of Service" from the Mayor of Baltimore City. The group played at many functions and events in Maryland, D.C., and Virginia.

Chester currently teaches fourth grade, general education in Baltimore County and works closely with the school's band program offering brass and improvisation lessons.



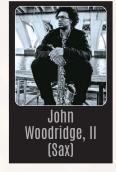
Wayne Thomas's passion to play bass guitar began in junior high school in the beginning band class, where he learned to play the trumpet. A friend, Deon Jones, who was in the same class on bass, sparked that passion in him. From that point, he was inspired to learn to master the craft, borrowing his brother's guitar teaching himself bass lines to songs such Peter Frampton's "Do You Feel Like We Do" and EWF's "Reasons Live," and so on. Wayne took formal lessons the last two years in junior high and years

later, with Anthony Wellington (Bassology). He studied and listened to many genres of music: gospel, rock, classic rock, R&B, jazz, smooth jazz, and more. His influences range from Verdine White, Larry Graham, Jaco Pastorius, Geddy Lee, Michael Anthony, Rich Brown, Anthony Wellington, to name a few.

Wayne Thomas has had the pleasure of working with artist such as, Tanya Jackson, Marc Staggers, Mark St. John Ju'not Joyner, Marcus Johnson, Rasha Jay, Julio Matta, and Brian Cunningham.

Accomplishments: CD credit: The Julio Matta Project (In Your Heart and Soul); Current gear: Rickenbacker 4001, Fender Jazz (Marcus Miller), Sire (Marcus Miller) P7 (5) & M7 fretless (5), Peavy Mark 4 combo, Genz Benz 4x10, SWR Redhead, SWR Workingman 10, Hartke KB15.

John Woodridge, II is a musician and educator with more than 10 years of performance experience. He first touched the saxophone in the seventh grade where he showed a natural talent for performing. He went on to become a student at Duke Ellington School of the Arts (class of 2010) under the direction of Davey Yarborough, then studied at Brandon University in Manitoba, Canada where he received a jazz performance scholarship (class of 2014).



John has been nominated for the "Wii Music Project" (2009), performed at the White House (2009), performed

at the Kennedy Center for Stevie Wonder, and with Gene Chandler along with the Duke Ellington School of the arts Big Band. He has performed with saxophonist and composer Dave Pietro, Peter Apfelbaum (New York Hieroglyphics), trumpeter Greg Gisbert (Buddy Rich Big Band), and award-winning trombonist, Luis Bonilla. While currently being a freelance musician, John has played saxophone and clarinet for various bands from The Moonlighters, the Natalie Cole Tribute Band, and the up and coming R&B symphony Orchestra. When John is not performing, he uses his experience and skills teaching his students at Music & Arts.

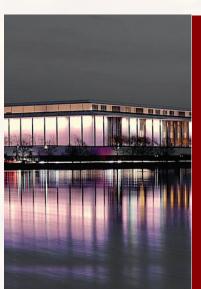
DANCER



Johna Jones, daughter of John and Tygressa Jones, is a native of the Washington Metropolitan area. Johna, like her mother, had a connection to music beginning at the young age of three. However, her connection to music was not through singing, it was through dance. She began her training with Donna Apperson at Donna's Dance, a studio where she took ballet/pointe, tap, and jazz. She then went to train with Robin Tasha-Ford at The Washington School of Ballet. With many years of training, Johna was

given the opportunity to audition and attend The Joffrey School of Ballet & Jazz and Contemporary Summer Intensive in 2012.

Following her graduation from St. Mary's Ryken High School in 2014, Johna went on to college to study Architecture. With little free time, she still managed to keep dance in her routine. Johna was a member of the dance team her first year of college. Her sophomore year was full of changes. She changed her major and joined the dance company and was a member until senior year. Johna graduated with a B.S. in Construction Management and is now a Project Engineer for The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company in Washington, D.C.



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Thank you for supporting Tygressa Sings Natalie!

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Industrial Bank joins the chorus of congratulatory accolades in celebrating Tygressa! We are excited for you and extend well wishes for a wonderful performance in Tygressa Sings Natalie...Remembering Natalie Cole, A Tribute.



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Ms. Tammy Westbrook grew up as a member of a military family, which exposed her to a myriad of cultural experiences throughout the United States and Europe. She is a proud graduate of Parkview High School in Sterling, Virginia.

Tammy pursued a career in the office management/administrative career field and is currently employed as an Executive Assistant for RLJ Lodging Trust in Bethesda, Maryland.

Her interest in photography began in the 1990s when she started taking pictures at various family events. After realizing her passion for the hobby and her gift of taking photographs, she continued to hone her skills by taking pictures at various venues (parks, concerts, and public/private social events) around the Metro-D.C. and Northern Virginia area. What started out as an outlet and hobby, has morphed into a passionate pursuit of a successful career as a professional photographer.

Ms. Westbrook is currently based in Gaithersburg, Maryland. However, she is available to accommodate photography requests within metro D.C., Maryland, and Northern Virginia areas.





Chanel R. Dews is a native of Prince George's County Maryland and an alum of Suitland High School. She majored in dance at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts Program under the training of Janette Gillis and Linda Hallman-Darr. She was member of Explicit Dance Works Company created and directed by Shalyce Hemby and had rigorous ballet and pointe training with Robin Tasha-Ford at the Washington Ballet, Suitland High School and Paula Brown's Performing Arts Center.

Chanel danced at Spotlight Studio of Dance under the direction of Troy Brown and Winette McGovern. In August 2014, she enrolled at VCU and studied dance and choreography. During her freshman year, Chanel joined Johnnie Cruise Mercer/theREDprojectnyc dance company in his work, "Undoing the Silence." She also had the pleasure of working with Dr. Elgie G. Sherrod in her work, "TWINE." In 2016 and 2017, she visited Los Angeles, California with Bryan Clawson in his Hollywood Biz program and was honored to meet and train with Alec Clawson, Bobby Dacones, Fresh Redding, Phil Wright, Sienna Lyons, Jayson Wright, and many more.

Chanel has a BFA in Dance and Choreography from VCU. She is a jazz instructor at her former studio (PBPAC) and a part of Capitol Movement Inc. professional contemporary company.

Jon Ross is an inspiring self-taught photographer and videographer aka Hybrid Shooter, as well as an editor that goes by the nickname "Jay Visualz," the CEO of Vital Visualz based in Oxon Hill, MD and operates in the D.C., MD, VA metropolitan area.

Visualz,

202-704-4786 | vitalvisualz321@gmail.com

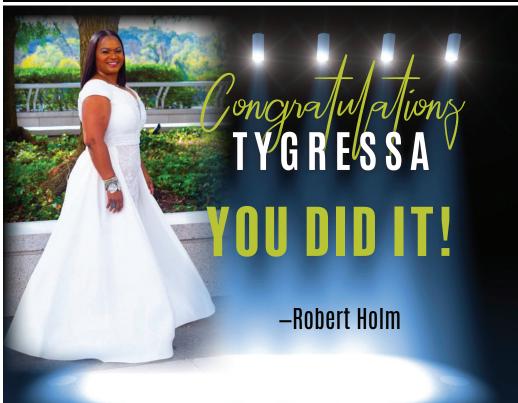
Jay started as a hobbyist back in 2006 wanting to vlog and create cinematic car videos for YouTube, which is where he found his passion for videography. Starting with his phone and a couple editing apps to create and see what he can produce, Jay wanted to take his visuals to another level and was able to purchase a high-end professional camera to advance his craft.

Connecting with like-minded individuals in the same field, Jay came on-board with a DC-based production company to learn the ropes as well as the ins-and-outs of the professional side of the business. That influenced him to develop a passion to create and expand his business in social media promotion content for individuals, small businesses, and major corporations and then moving on to interviews, events, weddings, real estate, travel, product shoots, production, etc.

As his business grew, Jay networked with entrepreneurs and mentors who have helped him in his quest to be successful in his field, learning how to create and review contracted work. Jay has executed work for The Greater Washington Black Chamber of Commerce, Broughton Construction, Fort Myers, Simon Property Group, and many more

Along with his friendly, inviting customer and professional service, Jay's goal is to produce visual content that meet and exceed his clients' expectation and build a team of like-minded individuals to exceed and execute all projects effectively.





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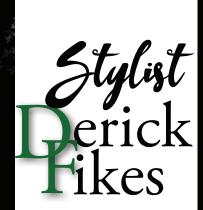
Congratulations

Tygressa Sings Natalie and NCTB

and Special Honor

to the baddest Bassist in the DMV, Wayne Thomas.

I am so proud of you. Have a great show. I love you.
—Your #1 fan, *Angelina*.



Special Congrats

TYGRESSA SINGS NATALIE

It's a pleasure to be a part of the team.

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To Our Superstar...



Your passion and perseverance are admirable. Over 20 years ago, you were on the stage of the Apollo Theater. Now, you are gracing the stage at The John F. Kennedy Center. We are SO proud of you.

Congratulations! Love, John and Johna



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Family and Friends Michele Friend, Graphics Colonel Barnes, NCTB Sound Tech

BEAUTY TEAM
Crystal Dickerson (Hair)
Connie High (Makeup)
Aram Boutique (Dresses)

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DATES

Saturday December 14, 2019

Thursday
February 6, 2020
Happy Heavenly
Birthday to Natalie Cole

LOCATION

Bowie Center for the Performing Arts - Black Box 15200 Annapolis Rd., Bowie, MD

City Winery DC, The Wine Garden 1350 Okie St., NE, Washington, D.C.

Please contact the venue for more information, or visit TygressaSingsNatalie@comcast.net.



SPECIAL THANKS

"I'd like to say, tonight's a special night"... Natalie Cole

My heart is so full of joy to have this very opportunity to perform Tygressa Sings Natalie with such very special musicians and singers here at the John F. Kennedy Center!

My 'fullness' comes from the sheer joy I feel each time we perform this tribute paying homage to Natalie.

My 'fullness' comes from the understanding these musicians and singers have about why this tribute is so incredibly special to me.

My 'fullness' comes from the giving of their time and talent to make sure every show performed is better than the time before.

My 'fullness' comes from knowing that the willingness, collaboration, and commitment to practice, practice, practice has so easily become the norm.

My 'fullness' comes from the men and women in this show knowing my story and believing in me and my vision to keep Natalie's legacy alive.

My 'fullness' comes from the fun and the challenging times we may have together learning, rehearsing, and performing.

There is SO much about tonight that has me 'full' that I cannot express in words. At a minimum, please allow me to THANK EACH AND EVERYONE ONE OF YOU for being here tonight—in whatever capacity—sharing in this momentous occasion with us.

Thank you!
—Tygressa Jones, Tygressa Sings Natalie



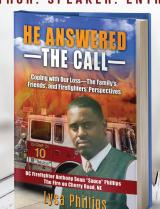
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