

KST PRESENTS

MUSIC

SUNSTAR FESTIVAL

WOMXN & MUSIC

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 18-19, 2022

6:00PM LOBBY OPENS

7:00PM - 10:00PM PERFORMANCES

KST PRESENTS: SPRING 2022 WELCOME HOME



**“When I think of home/ I think of a place where there’s love overflowing/
I wish I was home/ I wish I was back there with the things I been
knowing” – “Home,” The Wiz, music lyrics by Charlie Smalls**

Following Dorothy’s (Diana Ross in *The Wiz*) adventures through the Land of Oz, a fantastical NYC, she finally discovers her “world full of love...like home” and is transported back to Harlem with help from Glinda the Good Witch (Lena Horne). This final scene from *The Wiz* reminds me that it takes a “brand new day,” a journey through self discovery to teach us to love and find our home.

What does home mean to you? Is it a place, a feeling, a community? During the pandemic, we all spent a lot of time in our apartments and houses, but that doesn’t necessarily mean we were at home. To me, art and the theater has always provided that journey to home. A place where I can fully, freely express myself and be with others who love and appreciate the authentic me. Over the years, Kelly Strayhorn Theater has had the great privilege of being an artistic home to so many, from internationally acclaimed performers to neighborhood kids taking their first ballet class at KST’s Alloy Studios.

KST has been my home too. I started here as an intern back in 2009 and even after I left Pittsburgh, I always cherished the friends and memories made here. I knew there was just something special about this place. Home has a funny way of calling us back, doesn’t it?

Now as Executive Director, I want KST to continue to be a home for all of us. Whether you feel more at home on the stage or sitting in the audience, this is for you!

This spring, we are excited to introduce our new pricing policy: **Pay What Moves You**, an accessible scale of ticket prices. Over the last few years, we heard feedback from artists and audiences alike—our ticket prices needed to better reflect the value and importance of art, as well as supporting artists to live well and thrive. **Pay What Moves You** encourages audiences to choose an equitable price that best fits their budget, while also still fairly compensating artists. It is also your opportunity to affirm the value of art! Go for the top tier if you can afford to! It helps us keep the first tier affordable for those who need it.

Welcome home to Kelly Strayhorn Theater with a season of beautiful, challenging, and contemporary performances that speak to our current moment. You may cry, you’ll definitely dance, and most importantly, you will feel reconnected to this powerful collective of friends.

**JOSEPH HALL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**TO SEE MORE OF THE SPRING SEASON,
VISIT [KELLY-STRAYHORN.ORG/SPRING-2022](https://www.kelly-strayhorn.org/spring-2022)**

ABOUT KELLY STRAYHORN THEATER

Kelly Strayhorn Theater is a non-profit community performing arts center in East Liberty, with two venues running along historic Penn Avenue. KST's Alloy Studios is a cultural hub in the heart of East Liberty, and the historic Kelly Strayhorn Theater is located in the thriving business district. More than 20 years after its founding, KST is a home for creative experimentation, community dialogue, and collective action rooted in the liberation of Black and queer people.

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SUNSTAR FESTIVAL

WOMXN & MUSIC



FRIDAY MARCH 18, 2022

**NAIROBI
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS**

7:15PM KING JMP (JHORDAN PRICE)

7:30PM THE CHILDLIKE EMPRESS

8:05PM SAVANNAH SHANTELL

8:20PM NAIROBI

9:00PM DJ FEMI

JUICED UP JOEY

SATURDAY MARCH 19, 2022

**NAJJ ANDREA
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS**

7:15PM DIARRA IMANI

7:30PM GEÑA Y PEÑA

8:05PM DEJAH MONEA

8:20PM NAJJ ANDREA

9:00PM ICY PISCES FKA DJ AESTHETICS

A'LEIGHSHA

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Nairobi is a singer-songwriter, rapper, actress, poet, artist, director, teaching artist, visual artist, and activist from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She is a member of 1hood Media, where she is blessed to use her art and empower others to use their voices, as she strongly represents her brand of "Individuality, Divinity, and Purpose." She has earned numerous honors, including winning The August Wilson Monologue Competition and scholarship in 2016, being named Pennsylvania's Most Valuable Person by the Bill Neal Foundation in 2018, and being honored by the Pittsburgh Public Schools during Black History Month for her work in art and activism.



Visit [Nairobi's website](#) for to stay connected!

Special thanks:

Thank you Laela Lumsden and Aziaha Robinson for choreographing, dancing beautifully, and making rehearsals so much fun, L.A.quan the Myth for producing the closing number, Oso the Great, and Livefromthecity for performing with me, J The Anomaly for everything you've done, the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, staff, and mentors for the amazing opportunity, and for helping to make everything possible, Anqwenique for being an amazing mentor, my family and friends for always supporting, and most importantly, God.

Najj Andrea is a singer-songwriter from the East Side of Pittsburgh. They say music is the language of the soul, and Andrea writes music for people who wish they could put their feelings into words. Andrea always felt like an outcast in her younger years and never knew where to fit in, but music became her outlet and a way to express herself. Najj Andrea brings a fresh perspective to the music scene. Her sound is a powerful mix of heart, soul, and R&B with raw personal lyrics. The stories behind the music are the only competition for her elusive melodies.



Visit [Najj Andrea's website](#) to stay connected!

Special thanks:

Thank you to Kelly Strayhorn Theater for this opportunity, to my band for always sticking with me and making it work when it's difficult, Madame Trio for being patient with me and being apart of the show, my friends and family for always supporting me and making anything possible. I want to thank the audience and my supporters for coming out and taking a chance on me time and time again. I want to thank my mentor and all KST staff for being so supportive and helpful through this process. I also want to thank Gabby Johnson for helping me create my vision for the background projections. I also want to thank all the women who put their thought and heart into the audio clips to help bring the show together.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

A'leighsha Gibson is a singer songwriter from the south hills of Pittsburgh who goes by the name of "**A'leighsha J**". Music has always been a passion of hers. She started writing music at the age of 6 years old and now performs her music live for Atlantic Record's A&R's and has recorded music with Eric Coptic a Producer from Brooklyn. Gibson has hit the stage in Manhattan, Brooklyn, New Jersey, Miami and music festivals in Pittsburgh! She's released 2 music videos and her music style is a cross between R&B and Soul music.

The Childlike Empress is a Black and Indigenous, queer and genderfluid multifaceted artist and sex worker creating dynamic work focusing on mental health, sexuality, eroticism, fluidity and healing from trauma. They grew up in NYC, but currently reside in Pittsburgh where they have been working on their music, visual art and many other creative projects.

Dejah Monea was born in the small city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on March 30, 1999. She realized she has a voice at a late church service just at seven years old. A renowned preacher by the name of Michael Stampley prophesied a bright singing career over her life and ever since then she has been singing in all types of artistic outlets. Throughout her adolescence, she participated in plays, artistic development programs, performing arts institutions, etc that allowed her to express herself and remain disciplined in her craft. As her journey of finding her identity continues so does her style of music. She is a nonconformist and is unapologetic when it comes to her expression. Dejah simply hopes to make others feel. She is continuing in her journey and would love to share it with as many as possible.

Diarra Imani, a globally-renowned artist, educator, coach, and mentor, has work spanning across the world- from leading sessions at the UK Embassy in Accra, Ghana to fulfilling the role of Emmy-nominated poet here in the States. Whether it is poetry or discussing the possibilities of a better tomorrow Diarra Imani has done the work. Her source of inspiration has largely sprung from her foundation – the hometown of Pittsburgh, music, art, and entrepreneurship. Join the journey and find reverie in her resonance and upcoming album, *On Zen*.

DJ Femi is an extremely talented multifarious DJ based in the city of Pittsburgh. Her DJ career started 15 years ago when she attended a local performing arts school, CAPA. Femi is one of the most popular DJs in the City of Pittsburgh. As she represents for all of the women in the music industry. She continues to stand for women in the entertainment industry as well as women worldwide. She is a beacon of light in the night life and a prime example that women can be great DJ's too.

Geña y Peña play Latin American songs of love and life, music that will take you to Latin America and the Caribbean. This sublime duet is comprised of Puerto Rico-born Geña on vocals and percussion, and Colombian-American Carlos Peña on guitar. Since 2007, they have been playing boleros, montunos, bombas, plenas and soul. Their sound captures the sweet and clear, the romantic and sultry, the beautiful and lively songs of yesterday.

ICY PISCES fka Deejay Aesthetics a.k.a Tresa Murphy Green is a young, dynamic, multidisciplinary artist and cultural curator. Creative, visionary and thinker Tresa Murphy Green poet, deejay, self taught artisan and organizer makes an intentional step to center the voices, perspectives and lives of black women and femmes in all forms of their work.

Juiced Up Joey is a singer and songwriter specializing in Hip-Hop and R&B. Follow them on Instagram@_juicedupjoey.

Jhordan Price also known as **King JMP** is a 18 year old local artist. She is currently a first year student at Penn State Main. Jhordan writes as an outlet making her work authentic to her personal experience. Sharing the art she created is important to her because she hopes that it can impact people who can relate to some of the messages. Her goal is to stay positive much like Price herself. She is currently working on the release of her very first EP titled Blue Light Diaries projected to release late summer 2022.

Savannah Shantell, born in the Steel City, is 24 years old and has been singing since the age of 6. She started in church and has done everything from performing at First Night Pittsburgh for New Years Eve, to Performing on the Benedum stage for the musical *Dreamgirls* to writing her very first single called "Shattered" Which is on all platforms. Her inspirations are the likes of Jazmine Sullivan, Whitney Houston, and Bruno Mars just to name a few. Savanna's career is definitely one to follow. To find out more follow her on @SavannahShantell on all social media platforms!

THANK YOU!

We thank the generous individual donors, corporate sponsors, foundations and agencies that provide vital support for our programs and allow us to thrive in our community. This list reflects donations and commitments made between September 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021.

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