



ARTIST  
SERIES

# Georgia on My Mind

Celebrating the Music of Ray Charles

Sunday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Macky Auditorium

In this exciting 90-minute feel-good extravaganza, the cast performs dazzling soulful performances of hit songs including *Hit the Road Jack*, *What'd I Say*, *I Got a Woman*, *I Can't Stop Loving You*, *Baby It's Cold Outside*, *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, *Georgia on My Mind*, and many, many more classic Ray Charles hits.

Featuring an all-star cast of award winning performers:

**Nnenna Freelon**

*Multiple Grammy nominee and Downbeat Vocalist of the Year*

**Clint Holmes**

*Las Vegas-based vocal star who has been selling out concert halls around the world*

**Take 6**

*10-time Grammy-winning vocal sensations. Their exciting performances defy categorization, and have led to collaborations with Quincy Jones, Stevie Wonder, Whitney Houston and Ray Charles himself*

**Tom Scott**

*Legendary saxophonist who is widely known for his performances, recordings, television and film work*

We honor The Genius from Georgia—Ray Charles!

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**Producers:**

Carl Griffin  
Ed Keane Associates

**Original production**

**developed by:**

Larry Rosen and Peter Primont

**PLEASE NOTE**

- Masks are required in public indoor spaces on the CU Boulder campus, regardless of vaccination status.
- Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the house manager.
- Photography and video recordings of any type are strictly prohibited during the performance.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere. CU Boulder is a smoke-free campus.
- This performance includes an intermission.

## Personnel

**NNENNA FREELON**, multiple Grammy award nominee, has earned a well-deserved reputation as a compelling and captivating live performer. As a writer, composer, producer and educator, the songstress has performed at prestigious venues and events from The Kennedy Center to the White House and even the Grammys. In 2019, she received the Youth Empowerment Through the Arts award and Artist of the Year award from the National Association of Women In The Arts. She was named a “Woman of Substance” by Bennett College for Women, and much more.

Freelon is also a wife, mother and sister who has experienced life’s amazing gifts, and also its heartbreak. The loss of her soul mate and husband, renowned architect Phil Freelon, in 2019 to ALS, followed by the loss of her sister Debbie in 2020 to cancer, have led to her new works: a new recording entitled *Time Traveler* and her podcast *Great Grief with Nnenna Freelon*.

Freelon is a winner of both the Billie Holiday award from the prestigious Academie du Jazz and the Eubie Blake award from the Cultural Crossroads Center in New York City. She was nominated twice as “Lady of Soul” by the Soul Train Awards. Freelon has dedicated herself to educating young people, both musicians and non-musicians, and students of all ages as the former National Spokesperson for Partners in Education, as well as through her own master classes and workshops *Sound Sculpture* and *Babysong*. Freelon lives in Durham, North Carolina, happy to be close to her children and grandchildren.

**CLINT HOLMES:** Like a painter with a blank canvas, he makes every performance an original. His powerful voice and magnetic stage presence embrace the upbeat side of life. When Holmes is on stage, anything can happen—and usually does.

Holmes, best known for his silky vocal stylings, has also honed his many other talents, which include dancing and a warm comedic touch. He comes by his tremendous talent naturally. His father is an African American jazz musician and his mother is a classically trained opera singer from Great Britain. Holmes admits it was the best of two musical worlds. “My mom taught me how to sing correctly, and my dad taught me how to enjoy it.” Casual

elegance describes his presence on stage. He has a magical way of filling a room with a warm, comfortable sound. Holmes’ musical selections range from contemporary to classic, with jazz and opera thrown into the mix. In addition, he has an energy and passion for life and performing that are infectious. He exudes pure joy when he sings.

Having spent more than 20 years performing, Holmes has served as Joan Rivers’ sidekick and announcer on *The Late Show*, as the musical feature and event correspondent for *Entertainment Tonight*, and as the host of his own Emmy award-winning talk/variety show. Holmes freely admits, though, that he loves nothing more than performing before a live audience. He released a DVD of his live performance at the Clint Holmes Theater at Harrah’s, which debuted nationwide via In Demand on July 7, 2001. In 2006, the PBS special of his Las Vegas act was aired nationwide. PBS filmed three acts in Las Vegas for airing recently and along with Barry Manilow and Andrea Bocelli, Holmes found himself in great company.

Since moving to Las Vegas, Holmes has quickly become a favorite in the Las Vegas community, as well as a major star in the entertainment arena. He was selected as the “Best Kept Secret” by Las Vegas Life Magazine, and “Best Singer” (two years in a row), “Best All-Around Las Vegas Performer” and “Favorite Male Las Vegas” by the Las Vegas Review-Journal. Additionally, he has been the featured performer and host for the Best of Las Vegas Gala for the Las Vegas Review-Journal and host of the Las Vegas Life Epicurean Awards. He was inducted into the Buffalo Musical Hall of Fame and into the Casino Legends Hall of Fame.

Perhaps what has endeared Holmes most to people of Las Vegas is his never-ending spirit of graciousness. In a short time, he has become involved with several worthwhile causes in the community such as Candlelighters, ROB Reachout, Shadetree, St. Jude’s and various cultural events. Following a brief battle with colon cancer, he is currently serving as a spokesman for the American Cancer Society, encouraging people over age 50 to have annual colonoscopies. He has also taken a special interest in mentoring young people interested in becoming entertainers by working closely with the Las Vegas Academy of Performing Arts. In December 2005, he launched the Clint Holmes Foundation for the Performing Arts, which

benefits children in art and music programs in the Clark County School District.

**TAKE 6:** 10 Grammy awards. 10 Dove awards. Gospel Music Hall of Famers. And more! Take 6 has been heralded by Quincy Jones as the “baddest vocal cats on the planet,” is the quintessential a cappella group and is a model for vocal genius. Six virtuosic voices—Claude McKnight, Mark Kibble, Joel Kibble, Dave Thomas, Alvin Chea and Khristian Dentley—are united in crystal clear harmony against a backdrop of syncopated rhythms, innovative arrangements, and funky grooves that bubble into an intoxicating brew of gospel, jazz, R&B and pop. With praise from such luminaries as Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Brian Wilson, Ella Fitzgerald and Whitney Houston, the multi-platinum selling sextet has toured across the globe, collaborated across genres, and is recognized as the pre-eminent a cappella group in the world.

With the popularity of televised vocal competitions such as the explosive a cappella show *The Sing Off* and the mania over singing driven comedy-dramas like *Glee* and *Smash*, Take 6 is the original torchbearer. Major public and corporate events remind everyone of this as Take 6 has triumphed among a gathering of stars including Celine Dion, Lionel Richie, Justin Timberlake, Stevie Nicks, and Ne-Yo at Walmart’s 50th Anniversary celebration; a sold-out audience and standing ovation at the Songwriters Hall of Fame Awards, where Take 6 captivated the audience performing with and honoring legendary singer-songwriter Ben E. King on his classic “Stand By Me.” As a group that knows no musical bounds, they then brought the house down with their tribute to folk icon Woody Guthrie with “This Land Is Your Land.”

Take 6 has come a long way from their days at Huntsville, Alabama’s Oakwood College where McKnight formed the group as The Gentleman’s Estate Quartet in 1980. The group eventually became known as Alliance but when they signed to Reprise Records in 1987 they found that there was another group with the same name, so they became Take 6. Their self-titled debut album won over jazz and pop critics and they’ve never slowed down.

What has made the music and the group last this long? The answers are direct and simple: faith, friendship, respect and love of music. From their

exceptional Christmas show to their innovative Symphony show, these qualities are at the heart of the Take 6 phenomenon.

**TOM SCOTT** is a renowned composer, arranger, producer, music director, saxophonist and educator. His 33 solo recordings have earned him 13 Grammy nominations and three Grammy awards. In 2013 he produced a recording for young ukulele master Brittini Paiva, which won a Hawaiian Grammy for Ukulele Album of the Year. In 2017, he received his first Emmy award nomination for Musical Direction of the *Tony Bennett 90th Birthday TV Special* on NBC.

Tom’s career as a guest artist spans more than 500 recordings—by such diverse artists as Barbra Streisand, Quincy Jones, Thelonius Monk, the Blues Brothers, Frank Sinatra, Aretha Franklin and Aerosmith. His numerous contributions as a player and arranger include Joni Mitchell’s *Court and Spark* and *Miles of Aisles*; Steely Dan’s *Aja* and *Gaucho*; hit singles like Carole King’s *Jazzman*, Paul McCartney’s *Listen to What the Man Said*, Rod Stewart’s *Do You Think I’m Sexy*, Blondie’s *Rapture*, Toto’s *Rosanna*, Whitney Houston’s *Saving All My Love for You*; and on countless movie soundtracks such as *Taxi Driver*, *The Jerk*, *Three Days of the Condor*, *Heaven Can Wait*, *Sea of Love*, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*, *Toy Story 2*, *Monsters Inc.* and the latest release of *A Star Is Born*.

Other achievements include composing film scores, among them *Conquest of the Planet of the Apes*, *Uptown Saturday Night*, *Stir Crazy*, *Hanky Panky*, *The Sure Thing*, *Soul Man* and *Shakes the Clown*. His television composing and conducting credits include the themes for *Family Ties* and *Starsky & Hutch*; background scores for *Baretta*, *Cannon*, *Barnaby Jones*, *Streets Of San Francisco*, and numerous TV movies and specials. He has served as musical director for the Academy Awards, the Emmy Awards (nine times), the People’s Choice Awards, *Comic Relief*, the *Carol Burnett Show*, the *Pat Sajak Show*, Joni Mitchell, George Harrison, Olivia Newton-John, and the GRP All-Star Big Band, among others—and recently completed scoring the upcoming HBO documentary *The Bronx, U.S.A.* He teaches master classes in woodwinds, arranging and film composing, and is currently on the faculty of the New York University Summer Jazz program.

Take 6  
Mark Kibble

Take 6  
Joel Kibble

Take 6  
Claude McKnight

Take 6  
Dave Thomas

Take 6  
Alvin Chea

Take 6  
Christian Dentley

Featured performer  
Nnenna Freelon

Featured performer  
Clint Holmes

Musical conductor  
David Loeb

Guitar  
Bryon Ewald

Drums  
Jakuu Griffin

Bass  
Jon Cornell

Featured performer / Saxophone  
Tom Scott

Tour manager  
David Glenn

Sound  
Tony Huerta

Teleprompter  
Beki Peter

Co-producer  
Ed Keane



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