

2018 BAM Next Wave Festival

BAM presents *The Ecstatic Music of Alice Coltrane*, Oct 10

"This music feels almost brand new, to our emotional landscape...and our political landscape. I feel an incredible amount of...just gratitude, for being able to be so close to this music for so long." – VICE

"... the beautiful melodies and stirring gospel rhythms retain their ability to raise the listener to a state of bliss." - *The Quietus*

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

The Ecstatic Music of Alice Coltrane

Alice Coltrane Turiyasangitananda: The Ashram Experience

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave)

Oct 10 at 8pm

Tickets start at \$30

September 13, 2018/Brooklyn, NY—The sublime musical and spiritual legacy of Alice Coltrane Turiyasangitananda lives on in this special one-night engagement. A fearless, generous, and thrillingly experimental musician, Alice Coltrane was a jazz innovator who experienced a life-changing transformation by reinterpreting ancient Vedic texts synthesized through classical, gospel, and jazz influences.

A prodigy in her youth who came of age in a post-war boomtown Detroit, Turiyasangitananda grew up embedded in vibrant gospel, rhythm and blues, and jazz communities. She was an accomplished and in-demand pianist before meeting husband and collaborator John Coltrane, to whom she was married for four years before his death in 1967. Afterward, a lengthy, nearly-paralyzing state of bereavement led her to Swami Satchidanada, an Indian guru introduced to her by another transplanted New York musician from Detroit, Vishnu Wood. (Both she and Coltrane had already adopted certain elements of Eastern philosophy into their music, as well as their daily lives.) She became a devout practitioner of Vedanta, and eventually changed her name to Turiyasangitananda. This new chapter forcefully re-awakened her musically, marking a prolific period of albums containing original devotional material that overlapped sacred chanting and mantras with classical, gospel, funk, and jazz influences. Beginning in 1970, these works anticipated the western "world music" movement by more than a decade. Responding to a divine revelation she received in 1975, Turiyasangitananda opened an ashram in California in 1983 where she devoted herself to teaching, singing, playing, and composing.

Led by Surya Botofasina—who grew up on the ashram—and the Sai Anantam Ashram Singers, *The Ecstatic Music of Alice Coltrane* features Turiyasangitananda's recently discovered ashram recordings of devotional songs, or *bhajans*, recorded between 1982 and 1995. Released by Luaka Bop last year under the name *The Ecstatic Music of Alice Coltrane Turiyasangitananda*, the music combines her signature melding of Indian chants and mantras, clapping, organ, and

BAM COMMUNICATIONS
718.636.4129
PRESS@BAM.ORG
BAM.ORG

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC
PETER JAY SHARP BUILDING
30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11217—1486

gospel with her own inventive jazz harmonics, resulting in a meditative, unified sound.

Born in Detroit in 1937, **Alice Coltrane Turiyasangitananda** was an American jazz pianist, organist, harpist, singer, composer, swamini, and the wife of John Coltrane. Turiyasangitananda in Hindu means “Transcendental Lord’s highest song of Bliss.” She played organ during services at Mount Olive Baptist church by the age of nine. In the early 60s she began playing jazz professionally in Detroit with her own trio and as a duo with vibist Terry Pollard. Turiyasangitananda collaborated and performed with Kenny Clarke, Kenny Burrell, Ornette Coleman, Pharaoh Sanders, Charlie Haden, Roy Haynes, Jack DeJohnette, and Carlos Santana. In 1965 she replaced McCoy Tyner as pianist with the John Coltrane Quartet and continued to play and record with the band until Coltrane’s death in 1967. Her interest in gospel, classical, and jazz led to the creation of her own innovative style. She became the founder and director of the Vedantic Center in 1975, and later established a spiritual community in the Santa Monica Mountains. Turiyasangitananda would orate discourses and play organ to lead the members in devotional song for Sunday services. Known to many as “Swamini,” she left her physical form on January 12, 2007.

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@BAM.org or 718.724.8025.

Credits

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

Major support for music at BAM provided by Viacom

Leadership support for music programs at BAM provided by the Baisley Powell Elebash Fund

Support for female choreographers and composers in the Next Wave Festival provided by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation

Support for the Signature Artists Series provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation

Major support for Discounted Ticket Initiatives provided by the Jerome L. Greene Foundation.

Delta Air Lines is the Official Airline of BAM.

The Brooklyn Hospital Center is the Official Healthcare Provider of BAM.

BAM 2018 Next Wave Festival supporters: The Achelis and Bodman Foundation; Rose M. Badgeley Residuary Charitable Trust; Briggittenyc; Citi Foundation; Con Edison; The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation; Epstein Teicher Philanthropies; Forest City New York; Gotham Organization, Inc.; The Francena T. Harrison Foundation Trust; The Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation; The Kovner Foundation; MetLife Foundation; The Ambrose Monell Foundation; Henry and Lucy Moses Fund, Inc.; Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation, Inc.; Stavros Niarchos Foundation; Onassis Cultural Center NY; Donald A. Pels Charitable Trust; Pfizer Inc.; The Reed Foundation; The Jerome Robbins Foundation, Inc.; Rolex SA; The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc.; Santander; The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund; The Scherman Foundation, Inc.; The SHS Foundation; The Shubert Foundation, Inc.; Starry Night Fund; The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust; Time Warner Inc.; The Robert W. Wilson Charitable Trust; and Viacom.

Your tax dollars make BAM programs possible through funding from the City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. The BAM Next Wave Festival is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. The BAM facilities are owned by the City of New York and benefit from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with support from Mayor Bill de Blasio; Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl; the New York City Council including Council Speaker Corey Johnson, Finance Committee Chair Daniel Dromm, Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, Council Member Laurie A. Cumbo, and the Brooklyn Delegation of the Council; and Brooklyn Borough President Eric L.

Adams. BAM would like to thank the Brooklyn Delegations of the New York State Assembly, Joseph R. Lentol, Delegation Leader; and New York Senate, Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers varied light fare and bar service prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater) D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.

###