

**Brooklyn Academy of Music**

Katy Clark, President

David Binder, Artistic Director

**Borough of Brooklyn**

Eric L. Adams, President

**Medgar Evers College**

**City University of New York**

Dr. Rudolph R. Crew, President

Present

The 34th Annual Brooklyn Tribute to

# Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House

January 20, 2020 at 10:30am

Master of ceremonies

**Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams**

Keynote speaker

**Nikole Hannah-Jones**

Performers

**Son Little**

**Brooklyn Interdenominational Choir**

*The tribute will be followed by a screening  
of Amazing Grace in BAM Rose Cinemas.*

*Season Sponsor:*

**Bloomberg  
Philanthropies**

*Major support provided by National Grid*

*Leadership support for BAM Community programs provided by The Thompson Family Foundation*

*Leadership support for BAM Access Programs provided by the Jerome L. Greene Foundation*

*Leadership support for programming in the Howard Gilman Opera House provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation*



Photo courtesy Nikole Hannah-Jones

**NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES** is an award-winning investigative reporter who covers civil rights and racial injustice for *The New York Times Magazine* and creator of the acclaimed 1619 Project. She started writing in high school when she joined her school's newspaper and began writing about students like herself, who were bused across town as part of a voluntary school desegregation program. Her heroes are the race beat reporters, such as Ida B. Wells, Ethel Payne, Simeon Booker, and Claude Sitton, whose fearless coverage helped move the nation closer to its promise. Prior to joining *The New York Times*, Hannah-Jones worked as an investigative reporter at ProPublica in New York City, where she spent three years chronicling the way official policy created and maintains segregation in housing and schools. She started her journalism career covering the majority-Black Durham Public Schools for *The News & Observer* in Raleigh, NC. Hannah-Jones also has written extensively about school resegregation across the country and chronicled the decades-long failure of the federal government to enforce the landmark 1968 Fair Housing Act. Her reporting for both print and radio has earned the National Magazine Award, a Peabody, and a Polk Award.

In 2016, Nikole Hannah-Jones co-founded the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting, a training and mentorship organization dedicated to increasing the ranks of investigative reporters of color. In 2019 Hannah-Jones spearheaded the creation of the landmark 1619 Project for *The New York Times*. The acclaimed multimedia project commemorates the 400th year of slavery in what would become the United States by examining slavery's modern legacy and reframing the way we understand this history and the contributions of Black Americans to the nation.



Photo courtesy the artist

**SON LITTLE**, the son of a preacher, is the easy-going musical alchemist of our time. Much like his heroes Stevie Wonder and Jimi Hendrix, his songs are deconstructions of American R&B, deft weavings of different eras—blues, soul, gospel, rock 'n' roll—through his own unique vision, which is beautifully exemplified on his second full-length album, *New Magic*. In addition to his own headlining runs, he has toured with Leon Bridges, Keliis, Mumford & Sons, and Shakey Graves. He also produced Mavis Staples' Grammy Award-winning version of the song "See That My Grave Is Kept Clean."



**THE BROOKLYN  
INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHOIR (BIC)**

is an ensemble committed to bringing people together through artistic expression. Members are encouraged to appreciate and celebrate the diverse cultures which make our world great. Founder Frank A. Haye, conductor, choral director, flutist, composer, and producer, says, "BIC is a group of performing ambassadors that will spread the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ through song in the tristate area, as well as throughout the US and abroad." BIC records and ministers in different venues, including churches, temples, festivals, concert halls, convention centers, clubs, street fairs, and private functions. All members of BIC receive world-class musical training and opportunities for fellowship with artists from diverse ethnic, religious, and social backgrounds. Its motto is simple: "One Great City, One Great Choir to the Glory of God." Contemporary and traditional

songs are included in BIC's musical repertoire. Community outreach has included vocal performance, music theory, ear training, master classes, and private music lessons. BIC has sung for worship services; interfaith/peace gatherings; concerts; community events; yoga, ecology, and green festivals; philanthropic groups; fraternal associations; and artistic organizations such as Celebrate Brooklyn!, Mark Morris Dance Group, and the Brooklyn Philharmonic. In addition, BIC performed on televised shows for CBS, NBC, TBN, and HBO. As members of the May 2016 cast of *Hope and a Future* at the BRIC Arts Media House, BIC appeared in a play about creating self-sufficient communities in Haiti. BIC was a featured artist in We Care for Humanity's Global Officials of Dignity Awards Gala at the United Nations in August 2016, and in September 2016's Central Park Vigil for Peace and Ecology.

### **ERIC L. ADAMS, BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT**

For the past three decades, Eric L. Adams has served the residents of the city of his birth as a police officer, state senator, and coalition builder. In November of 2013, he was elected to represent all of Brooklyn as borough president. Born in Brownsville and educated in the City's public school system, Adams is committed to ensuring Brooklyn's bright future by helping each and every Brooklynite reach his or her full potential. Throughout his career, Adams has been an effective advocate for Brooklyn, bringing people and communities together to create progressive change, and working with both the private and public sectors to invigorate the borough's economy by encouraging job growth and investment in every neighborhood. Whether his beat was on the street or in the halls of government, Adams has always looked out for Brooklyn's working families and sought to protect our most vulnerable residents. He believes that government works best when everyone has a chance to be heard, and he has resolved to use his office to provide an opportunity for diverse groups to work together for the common good. Since the beginning of his first term as the highest-ranking elected official in America's fourth-largest city, Adams has worked to make the popularity of Brooklyn's brand translate into prosperity for the more than 2.6 million Brooklynites that call the borough home. He is a big believer in the power of connections, of bringing together people in need of services with resources that have long existed but have been underutilized. Adams has opened Brooklyn Borough Hall in ways that it never has been before, allowing thousands of people to connect for the first time with government and civic life. His agenda cannot be defined by a short list of issues: he is committed to addressing the wide range of concerns facing Brooklynites. In his career as a police officer with NYC Transit and the NYPD, Adams made the kind of life-and-death decisions that reflect his insight, expertise, and poise under fire, resulting not just in his promotion to captain, but earning him the reputation for going above and beyond the call of duty. In 1995, he co-founded 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, an initiative that not only improved NYPD/community relations,

but raised funds for worthy causes throughout the city. From 2006 until his election to borough president in 2013, Adams represented the 20th Senate District—which includes Borough Park, Flatbush, Crown Heights, Park Slope, Prospect Heights, Sunset Park, and Windsor Terrace, working tirelessly to address a broad range of issues affecting constituents, from civil rights and public safety to transparency in government and quality of life. He organized support against the NYPD's controversial "stop and frisk" policy, and led efforts on behalf of gun control. As a legislator, Adams' record in the New York State Senate was one that underscores his strong commitment to the rights of those from every walk of life, including protecting the right to privacy, supporting marriage equality, defending a woman's right to choose, as well as fighting for students' rights, workers' rights, and animal rights. His work involved efforts to prevent racial profiling, gender discrimination, domestic violence, and elder abuse. He also proposed legislation to reform campaign financing, address inequities in sentencing depending on the crime, restrict outsourcing, and improve the availability of quality health care and affordable housing. Throughout his legislative career, Adams championed community and economic development in his district and borough-wide. Adams has also served on the board of the Eastern District Counseling Service, an organization assisting former substance abusers to live productive lives without dependency on drugs or alcohol. Adams maintains residences in Bedford-Stuyvesant and Prospect Heights, where he has resided for over 20 years. He enjoys riding the streets of Brooklyn on his bicycle, meditation, and exploring new cultures and places.

**DR. RUDOLPH F. CREW** is President of Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, NY. A lifelong educator and author, Dr. Crew's career has spanned from the classroom to the chancellorship of the nation's largest school district, New York City Public Schools. In 2012, Dr. Crew was selected to serve as Oregon's first Chief Education Officer. Dr. Crew is a renowned leader and reformer who has made it a mission to improve student achievement, especially for poor and minority students. The Chancellor's District, the Parent Academy, and the School Improvement Zone are among

Dr. Crew's innovations that are considered national models for reform. These successful strategies have engaged parents, business and political leaders, and the community, ensuring students achieve higher levels of success and are prepared for the global challenges ahead. Dr. Crew has served on numerous boards, including Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Communities in Schools, Al Shanker Institute, and the Public Education Network. He is the recipient of many awards, including the NAACP Educational Leadership Award, the Arthur Ashe Leadership Award, and the AASA National Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Crew's acclaimed book, *Only Connect: The Way to Save Our Schools*, continues to guide a vital public discussion.

**MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE** was founded as a result of collaborative efforts by community leaders, elected officials, the chancellor, and the board of trustees of the City University of New York. The college, named for the late civil rights leader Medgar Wiley Evers (1925—1963), was established in 1970 with a mandate to meet the educational and social needs of the central Brooklyn community. The college is committed to the fulfillment of this mandate, and to the belief that education has the power to positively transform the lives of individuals and is the right of all individuals in the pursuit of self-actualization. Consequently, the college's mission is to develop and maintain high-quality, professional, career-oriented undergraduate degree programs in the context of liberal education. The College's four research and advocacy centers specifically support this mission: the Center for Black Literature; the Caribbean Research Center; the DuBois Bunche Center for Public Policy; and the Center for Law and Social Justice. In addition, the School for Professional and Community Development (SPCD) provides a range of adult and youth programs and services. Medgar Evers College is a senior college of the City University of New York, the nation's leading urban university comprising 11 senior colleges, six community col-

leges, a graduate school, a law school, a medical school, and an affiliated school of medicine, with degree-credit students and adult and continuing education students enrolled from throughout the five boroughs of the city of New York. Information is available on the CUNY website ([cuny.edu](http://cuny.edu)) and the Medgar Evers College website ([mec.cuny.edu](http://mec.cuny.edu)).

**BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC (BAM)** is recognized internationally for its innovative programming of dance, music, theater, music-theater, and opera. In addition to presenting leading national and international artists, BAM identifies and supports the work of groundbreaking contemporary artists in the performing arts with its Next Wave Festival, founded in 1983, one of the world's most important cultural festivals. America's oldest performing arts center in continuous operation, BAM has presented performances since 1861 and has three stages—the Howard Gilman Opera House, the Harvey Theater, and the Fishman Space—in addition to the four-screen BAM Rose Cinemas and BAMcafé. BAM also serves New York City's diverse population through a wide variety of educational and community programs and unique partnerships. BAM collaborates every year with the RestorationART for its annual DanceAfrica festival, offering the opportunity for students to perform with the visiting company. BAM Education also creates space for young people to develop their vision, voice, and power, through after-school programs for students from under-resourced schools. These programs provided experiences for young artists in theater (Arts & Justice), dance and choreography (Dancing into The Future), and college and career (Brooklyn Internship for Arts and Culture). *Teknopolis* features digital artists in a multi-floor takeover of the Fisher, where interactive installations appeal to audiences young and old. BAM annually presents FilmAfrica, the best of the African Film Festival, during DanceAfrica. BAM is led by President Katy Clark and Artistic Director David Binder.

### MUSIC

**BAMcafé Live**, Lepercq Space (30 Lafayette Ave, 2nd floor)

Curated by **Black Rock Coalition**

The Black Rock Coalition (BRC), now approaching its 35th year, is a non-profit, member-supported, grass-roots, organization founded to facilitate the maximum development, exposure and acceptance of Black alternative music and its creators. Founded in 1985 by guitarist Vernon Reid, journalist Greg Tate, and producer Konda Mason in reaction to the constrictions that the commercial music industry places on Black “otherness,” the BRC is a collective of artists, writers, producers, activists, and music fans assembled to maximize exposure and provide communal support for Black artists who defy convention and change the cultural landscape as a result.

Jan 17 at 9pm

**BAMcafé Live: Blak Emoji with Starchild & The New Romantic**

The electro-funk group Blak Emoji is fronted by singer-songwriter Kelsey Warren and joined by musicians Bryan Percivall on bass, Max Tholenaar-Maples on drums, and Sylvana Joyce on keys. The New York City-based outfit is hypnotic and penetrating, navigating electronica and funkadelic soul. It will be joined by Starchild & The New Romantic, a Brooklyn-based artist who has collaborated with the likes of Solange and Dev Hynes.

Jan 18 at 9pm

**BAMcafé Live: The 1865 with Major Taylor**

The 1865 is a blues-punk supergroup whose music is inspired by 1865 America, post Emancipation. The group is composed of musicians Chuck Treece (McRad) on drums, Sacha Jenkins (The White Mandingos), Carolyn “Honeychild” Coleman (Apollo Heights) on lead vocals/baritone guitar, Afro-Brazilian bassist Flora Lucini (Maafa), and drummer Jason “Biz” Lucas (Dragonz of Zynth). The group will be joined by Major Taylor.

### ART

Devitre Lounge (30 Lafayette Ave, ground floor)

**Picture the Dream**

For the 12th consecutive year, BAM partners with NYCHA to offer free art workshops to children living in Brooklyn public housing residences. Students will create original artwork inspired by Dr. King’s dream of freedom and equality.



FILM

Jan 20 at 1pm, FREE, BAM Rose Cinemas  
Seating is first come, first served

***Amazing Grace*, 2018**

Directed by Alan Elliott & Sydney Pollack

Shot over two days in 1972 in Los Angeles at the New Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Watts, but never before released, *Amazing Grace* captures Aretha Franklin, “the Queen of Soul,” at the height of her powers as she brings down the house with rousing renditions of “How I Got Over,” “Never Grow Old,” Marvin Gaye’s “Wholy Holy,” the miraculous title song, and more. A rapturous, awe-inspiring experience, this lost masterpiece offers “the most lovely gaze a professional camera’s ever laid upon Aretha Franklin and some of the mightiest singing she’s ever laid on you” (*The New York Times*).