BAM hosts the 30th Annual Brooklyn Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Jan 18

Free community event features keynote address by best-selling author, renowned public intellectual and cultural critic Michael Eric Dyson

Music performances by The Brooklyn Interdenominational Choir and Kimberly Nichole

Master of Ceremonies: Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams

Presented by BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music), Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, and Medgar Evers College of The City University of New York

Target is the presenting sponsor of the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave.)
Jan 18 at 10:30am
Free (tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-seated basis starting at 8am)

Additional free events

Book signing:
Michael Eric Dyson signs copies of his books after the tribute. Select titles available at the Greenlight Bookstore kiosk.
Jan 18 at 1pm
BAMcafé

Visual art: “Picture the Dream” Exhibition
NYCHA Atlantic Terminal Community Center students
Jan 15—18
BAMcafé

Featured film:
Jan 18 at 1pm
BAM Rose Cinemas
Free (tickets will be distributed on a first-come basis)

Brooklyn, NY December 17, 2015—BAM hosts the annual Brooklyn Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—on Monday, January 18 at 10:30am in the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (Peter Jay Sharp Building, 30 Lafayette Avenue). The celebration, now in its 30th year, brings together artists and civic leaders to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. King. This year’s keynote
address will be delivered by best-selling author, renowned public intellectual, and cultural critic **Michael Eric Dyson**, whose pioneering scholarship has had a profound effect on American ideas. His books include bestsellers *Making Malcolm: The Myth and Meaning of Malcolm X*, *Is Bill Cosby Right? Or Has the Black Middle Class Lost Its Mind?*, and *April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King Jr.’s Death and How It Changed America*. He has appeared on numerous major media outlets—*The Today Show*, *Nightline*, *O’Reilly Factor*, *The Tavis Smiley Show*, and *Real Time with Bill Maher*. In addition, he hosts an hour-long news and talk program on *NPR, The Michael Eric Dyson Show*, where he delivers thoughtful analyses of today’s topical stories.

BAM president Katy Clark said, “Now in its 30th year, BAM’s annual tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. has been New York’s largest event honoring Dr. King and his legacy. I’m proud to participate in this community tradition for the first time, and look forward to many celebrations to come.”

The event also features dynamic songstress **Kimberly Nichole**, *The Brooklyn Interdenominational Choir*, as well as remarks by BAM President **Katy Clark** and master of ceremonies Brooklyn Borough President **Eric L. Adams**.

Related weekend programming includes a book signing; a free film screening to be announced on BAM.org; and a community art exhibition, “Picture the Dream,” featuring works by students from the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Atlantic Terminal Community Center.

For the 12th year, Target is the presenting sponsor for the annual celebration. At Target, community giving is and always has been a cornerstone of the company. Since 1946, Target has given 5 percent of its income—which today equals more than $4 million per week—to communities. This giving includes the time, talent and expertise of Target leaders and team members. Target team members donate hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours to countless community projects across the country throughout the year. In addition to the Brooklyn tribute, Target is sponsoring other celebrations of Dr. King’s legacy across the country.

The event is free and sponsored by Target and Medgar Evers College. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-seated basis starting at 8am in the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House lobby. For further information, please call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100 or visit BAM.org.

**MEDIA ADVISORY: To arrange access to the 30th Annual Brooklyn Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., please contact Baha Ebrahimzadeh at bebrahimzadeh@bam.org or 718.636.4129 x1.**

About the speakers

**Dr. Michael Eric Dyson** is an American Book Award recipient and two-time NAACP Image Award winner, and one of the nation’s most influential and renowned public intellectuals. He has been named one of the 150 most powerful African Americans by *Ebony* magazine. The *Philadelphia Weekly* contends that Dr. Dyson “is reshaping what it means to be a public intellectual by becoming the most visible black academic of his time.”

Dr. Dyson’s pioneering scholarship has had a profound effect on American ideas. His first book, 1993’s *Reflecting Black: African American Cultural Criticism*, helped establish the field of black American cultural studies. His next book, 1994’s *Making Malcolm: The Myth and Meaning of Malcolm X*, was named one of the most important African American books of the 20th century. Dr. Dyson’s first book on Martin Luther King Jr., 2000’s *I May Not Get There with You: The True Martin Luther King, Jr.*, made a significant contribution to King scholarship by recovering the radical legacy of the slain civil rights leader. Dr. Dyson’s 2005 *New York Times* bestseller, *Is Bill Cosby Right? Or Has the Black Middle Class Lost Its Mind?*, helped to jumpstart a national conversation on the black poor that has been called the most important debate in black America since the historic debate between Booker T.
Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois. His book, *The New York Times* best-selling April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King Jr.’s Death and How It Changed America, has been hailed by *The Washington Post* as “an excellent sociological primer on institutionalized racism in America.” His most recent book, *Can You Hear Me Now? The Inspiration, Wisdom, and Insight of Michael Eric Dyson*, offers a sampling of his sharp wit, profound thought, and edifying eloquence on the enduring problems of humanity, from love to justice, and the latest topics of the day, including race and the presidency. It is both revealing and relevant, and at once thoughtful provoking and uplifting. Not only has he taught at some of the nation’s most prestigious universities—including Brown, Chapel Hill, Columbia and the University of Pennsylvania—but his influence has carried far beyond the academy into prisons and bookstores, political conventions and union halls, and church sanctuaries and lecture stages across the world.

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 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, he 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 unprecedented, 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. 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 places and cultures.

**About the artists**

**Kimberly Nichole**

Seattle-born Kimberly Nichole first appeared on the national music scene during season 8 of NBC’s *The Voice*, recognized by the judges for her show-stopping performances, stylish presence and vocal power. She has since written and released her first rock and soul album, *The Yellow Brick Journey*, which has had songs featured on MTV, VH1, BET, LOGO, Lifetime and Showtime. She also appeared as the featured rock performer in the film *You’re Not You*, directed by George C. Wolfe and starring Hilary Swank. Nichole has brought her savvy showmanship to many New York stages, including the Apollo Theater, Lincoln Center, and Bowery Ballroom. She has performed with many different artists, including Slash, Jason Derulo, Janelle Monae, and Christina Aguilera. Nichole continues to perform with her band and is currently working on her sophomore album entitled *The Lonely Bones*.

**The Brooklyn Interdenominational Choir (BIC)**

The Brooklyn Interdenominational Choir is an ensemble committed to bringing people together through artistic expression. The choir encourages members to appreciate, learn about, and celebrate the
diverse cultures which make our world great. It is founded by Frank A. Haye who is a conductor, choral director, flutist, composer, and producer. BIC records and ministers in different venues, including churches, temples, outdoor music festivals, concert halls, and private functions. All members of BIC receive world-class musical training and opportunities to 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.” Haye states, “We believe the power of music transcends our cultural, political, financial, and religious differences to expose that which we truly share: faith, hope, and love.”

Related Events

Book signing in BAMcafé
Jan 18 at 1pm
Michael Eric Dyson signs copies of his books after the tribute. Select titles available at the Greenlight Bookstore kiosk.

Films at BAM Rose Cinemas
Jan 18 at 1pm, FREE
Check for updates on BAM.org.

Art exhibition in BAMcafé
Jan 15—18
BAM presents “Picture the Dream,” a community art exhibition featuring works by students from the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Atlantic Terminal Community Center.

For the eighth year in a row, BAM partners with NYCHA to offer free art workshops to children living in Brooklyn public housing residences. This year, students from the Atlantic Terminal Community Center created original artwork inspired by Dr. King’s dream of freedom and equality.

Credits

Target is the presenting sponsor of the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute.

Support for the Signature Artist Series provided by The Howard Gilman Foundation.

Delta is the Official Airline of BAM. Pepsi is the official beverage of BAM. Santander is the BAM Marquee sponsor. Yamaha is the official piano for BAM. New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge is the official hotel for BAM.

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. 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 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Finance Committee Chair Julissa Ferreras, Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, the Brooklyn Delegation of the Council, and Council Member Laurie Cumbo; 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, Delegation Leader.

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 a
dinner menu prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a bar menu available starting at 6pm.

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
Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

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

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