



*Phyllis Battle*

*Vocal Jazz Stylist Extraordinaire*

**“An Evening of Jazz with Phyllis Battle”**

**Fundraising Event for Mary Alyce Sweeney Foundation**

a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that supports disadvantaged youth

**Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm: Tickets \$20 each**

**2816 Virginia Ave, Louisville, Kentucky 40211**

Join us to support a great cause while having a great time! Enjoy an evening of jazz at a historic Louisville mansion. Back by popular demand for the second year, jazz vocal stylist and recording artist Phyllis Battle has been lauded with the official distinction as a “Jazz Living Legend” by the City of Los Angeles. She is excited to travel from Southern California to return to her childhood hometown here in Louisville to perform and help raise funds for the Mary Alyce Sweeney Foundation. This local nonprofit raises thousands of dollars each year to ensure that low-income high school students have dresses, tuxedos and the necessary fashion accessories to take part in the American tradition of attending junior and senior proms.



Attendees will enjoy an array of delectable hors d'oeuvres, sweet treats and beverages, while being entertained by an industry veteran in an intimate jazz garden setting. She received a Grammy nomination for her first CD, *Night Flight* which was produced by jazz greats Billy Higgins and Cedar Walton. One of her favorites on the CD, “You’re a Classic,” is a song that she co-wrote with Nadine McKenna (writer of one of the most recorded holiday songs in history, “This Christmas”). When she returned from a three month tour in Thailand some years ago, she came back with a new CD, “Battle in Bangkok” a live recording project produced by Louisville native, Raymond Houston.

Phyllis has deep family roots in Kentucky where her mother and most of her immediate family was born. Born in Chicago, Phyllis lost her mother at a very young age and was sent to live with her grandparents in Louisville before relocating to New York. As a teen, she entered the Showtime at the Apollo competition and although she didn’t win, she received thunderous applause from the audience and was inspired to continue. Phyllis went on to gain respect in the entertainment industry after moving to Los Angeles (LA) where she worked as a back-up singer with industry icons like Donna Summers and the GAP Band. She was a member of the multi-Grammy award-winning 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension for 16 years. It was during this time she began to focus on her solo career and began to turn heads and garner respect among jazz aficionados. As the opening act for the legendary Joe Williams at an annual jazz festival in Los Angeles, the L.A. Times reported, “...Phyllis Battles’ voice



quality, range and phrasing closely approximates Nancy Wilson's ... she impressed the audience with 'Funny Valentine' and 'Work Your Sweet Love on Me' (her arrangement of 'Whip Appeal,' by Baby Face").

Phyllis is among L.A.'s most popular jazz vocal instructors, and has created opportunities for her students to perform at numerous public venues. She has developed a number of projects that play to sold out audiences, including a 2017 "Jazz Communion" project being presented quarterly at Village Church in Brentwood, CA. A talented playwright, her "Satin Dolls" jazz theatre production features a jazz band and her riveting one-woman performance that brings four legends to life, complete with costume changes to personify Dinah Washington, Sarah Vaughan, Nina Simone and Carmen McRae. She also currently finds time to volunteer in her role as an Arts Commissioner for the City of Inglewood, CA (3<sup>rd</sup> District).

In recent years, Phyllis has added screen actress to her credits as the star in "Girls Don't Do That," a short film that premiered at the Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles in February of 2015. In 2016 she composed, performed and produced a soundtrack of songs and sounds for "The Long Walk: Slavery to Freedom," a book by Judith C. Owens-Lalude, founder and director of J. Camille Cultural Academy in Louisville, KY.

Join us for a summer night to have a great time for a great cause on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$20 per person. For event details and contact information, visit [www.phyllisbattle.net](http://www.phyllisbattle.net)

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