



OCTOBER 19

FRIDAY

8:00PM

RED EARTH: A MALIAN JOURNEY  
**DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER**

HERBST THEATRE

“Exuberant, ebullient, exhilarating”

—NPR

A phenomenally talented vocalist, actress, and humanitarian, Dee Dee Bridgewater has been lauded at every turn in her four-decade career. Her work as Glinda the Good Witch in the Broadway smash *The Wiz* landed her a Tony Award in 1975. In 1998 she received two Grammy Awards for her tribute to the immortal Ella Fitzgerald, *Dear Ella*. And in 2007 she was honored as a Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French Ministry of Culture. (Bridgewater has lived in France since 1974.)

Her new album, *Red Earth: A Malian Journey*, opens a new chapter in Bridgewater's career by going back to her roots. “I decided to let the musical universe be my guide,” Bridgewater said upon the August 2007 release of her new album. “Africa was calling, but I was not sure which part of Africa. Not until I heard a particular music, from a particular land, did the call become distinctively clear.”

That land was Mali, the West African country whose musical culture bears a significant influence on American music, especially that of the blues. Bridgewater originally visited the country in her role as a United Nations ambassador, but it was the music that drew her back. “Every time I head music from Mali, it struck a chord in my body, like, ‘I know this music!’” she said. “And toward the end of 2003 I said to my husband, ‘I need to go to Mali.’” With the help of master Malian musician Cheick-Tidiane Seck she assembled a group of Malian musicians and merged them with a jazz-based rhythm section.

As the UK's *Guardian* says of *Red Earth*: “This is not simply world music, but world music interpreted by one of jazz's leading vocalists who succeeds in creating a spiritual unity between two diverse styles of music without sacrificing the integrity of either.”

DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER

**Dee Dee Bridgewater**, vocal  
**Baba Sissoko**, tamani and ngoni  
**Fatoumata Kouyaté**, vocals  
**Kabiné Kouyaté**, vocals  
**Lansiné Kouyaté**, balafon  
**Mamani Kéita**, vocals  
**Moussa Sissokho**, djembe and congas  
**Cherif Soumano**, kora  
**Adama Diarra**, djembe  
**Edsel Gomez**, piano  
**Ira Coleman**, bass  
**Minino Garay**, percussion

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**Encore Performance.**  
Artists marking a Silver Anniversary return to the Festival.



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NEW WORK SHOWCASE

**MARCUS SHELBY JAZZ ORCHESTRA;**  
**JON JANG SEVEN W/ MIN XIAO-FEN**

GREAT AMERICAN MUSIC HALL



Pre-Concert Talk featuring Shelby and Jang, 7PM. Free to ticket holders.

Bassist Marcus Shelby and pianist Jon Jang are two of the Bay Area's most acclaimed composer/instrumentalists. Both create impassioned, politically and socially conscientious work rooted in their respective cultural traditions. This unique double bill finds them paying tribute to powerful women role models with new compositions.

Shelby continues his musical exploration of the African American experience with tonight's work, “Harriet Tubman: Bound for the Promised Land,” an oratorio inspired by Kate Clifford Larson's 2003 biography of the storied abolitionist leader.

“Reading Larson's book, all these things popped open, and I saw that Tubman had a unique relationship to music,” Shelby said to the *San Francisco Chronicle*. “She would sing hymns and work songs that were coded to alert slaves about where to meet and when she was leaving... Using these devices, she was acting very much like a jazz musician in how she communicated.”

It is fitting that the world premiere of Jang's new work, “Unbound Chinatown: A Tribute to Alice Fong Yu” take place in San Francisco. A groundbreaking educator, Yu was the first Chinese-American teacher in the San Francisco Unified School District. The new work integrates the music of 1930s China (including a guest appearance by pipa master Min Xiao-Fen) and the United States.

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MARCUS SHELBY JAZZ ORCHESTRA

**Faye Carol, Kenny Washington,**  
**Jeannine Anderson, Joseph Mace,**  
vocalists  
**Dave Scott**, trumpet  
**Mike Olmos**, trumpet  
**Darren Johnston**, trumpet  
**Joel Ryan**, trumpet  
**Danny Grewen**, trombone  
**Marc Bolin**, trombone  
**Scott Larson**, trombone  
**Tom Griesser**, baritone sax  
**Evan Francis**, tenor sax and flute  
**Marcus Stephens**, alto sax  
**Gabe Eaton**, alto sax  
**Rob Barics**, tenor sax and clarinet

**Adam Shulman**, piano  
**Jeff Marrs**, drums  
**Marcus Shelby**, bass and conductor

JON JANG SEVEN

**Jon Jang**, piano  
**Min Xiao-Fen**, pipa, vocals  
**Jim Norton**, soprano saxophone  
**Francis Wong**, tenor saxophone and flute  
**John L. Worley Jr.**, trumpet and flugelhorn  
**Wayne Wallace**, trombone  
**David Below**, electric bass  
**Jason Lewis**, multiple percussion