



October 26

Sunday

7PM

Make it Funky, Maceo!

Maceo Parker

Herbst Theatre

"His signature style helped define James Brown's brand of funk." —NPR

Always a formidable improviser, saxophonist Maceo Parker was baptized by funk's two supreme prophets: James Brown and George Clinton. After a quarter century with the soul visionaries, he started spreading the gospel of groove in the late 1980s with his own blazing band, made up mostly of alumni from Brown's disciplined R&B academy and Clinton's free-flowing funk seminars. Whatever venue he works, Parker turns every performance into an uproarious party.

The key to understanding this dedicated entertainer is his belief in funk's power to transform and heal. Born and raised in Kinston, North Carolina, he came up surrounded by music. His parents played gospel in their church and his uncle headed a local R&B band, the Blue Notes. Parker started playing saxophone at eight, and soon formed the Junior Blue Notes with his brothers Melvin on trombone and Kellis on drums. Enamored with the original soul brother, Ray Charles, he gained inspiration from Hank Crawford and David Newman, as well as Cannonball Adderley, Paul Desmond, and Stanley Turrentine.

By the time he graduated from college with a degree in music, Parker had perfected his hard-driving sound, a gritty, insistent, rhythmic incantation. James Brown originally hired him as a baritone saxophonist because he wanted Kellis on drums. But before long Parker had taken over the tenor chair as a featured soloist. When Brown merged political consciousness with deep funk on hits like "Say It Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud," Parker's horn was the clarion call to action.

MACEO PARKER

Maceo Parker alto saxophone, flute, vocals
 Dennis Rollins trombone
 Ron Tooley trumpet
 Will Boulware keyboards
 Bruno Speight guitar
 Rodney "Skeet" Curtis bass
 Jamal Thomas drums
 Corey Parker vocals
 Neta Hall vocals

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October 29

Wednesday

7:30PM

New Grooves: Avant Global

Peter Apfelbaum and the New York Hieroglyphics featuring Abdoulaye Diabate

Pre-Concert Talk featuring Peter Apfelbaum, 6:30PM. Free to ticket holders.

YBCA Forum

"An invigorating brew of jazz, funk and world music"
 —Billboard

Assuming his traditional role as a griot within a non-traditional context, Abdoulaye Diabate sings a narrative which interweaves aspects of the different band members' lives. Singing in the traditional Malian language of Wolof, he reflects on the musicians' individual characteristics as they take turns improvising over an ever-unfolding tapestry which draws upon each player's musical background. As the piece evolves, he tells of how their lives came to intersect with one another and about their particular role as part of the musical family that is Hieroglyphics—which, although protean in nature, has endured in one form or another for the last 30 years. —Peter Apfelbaum

Originally from Berkeley, California, multi-instrumentalist/composer Apfelbaum has been an influential figure in new jazz for two decades. He is best known as the leader of the Hieroglyphics Ensemble, which received a Grammy nomination in 1991 for the album *Signs Of Life* and helped launch the careers of Joshua Redman, Benny Green, Craig Handy and Steven Bernstein. The current version of the ensemble, the New York Hieroglyphics, released their debut album, *It Is Written*.

This performance is funded in part by the Doris Duke Foundation/Chamber Music America New Works: Creation and Presentation Program.

The New Groove Lounge, an informal nightclub at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, offers a bar, limited seating, and the best new music.

PETER APFELBAUM
 & THE N.Y. HIEROGLYPHICS
 Peter Apfelbaum tenor saxophone,
 piano, percussion
 Abdoulaye Diabate vocals
 Peck Allmond trumpet, reeds
 Josh Roseman trombone

Jessica Jones tenor saxophone, flute
 Tony Jones tenor saxophone
 Charles Burnham violin
 David Phelps guitar
 Patrice Blanchard bass
 Dafnis Prieto drums

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