

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Black History in Song and Film

'From Maxville to Vanport' encore shows

The Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble and vocalist Marilyn Keller present encore performances of "From Maxville to Vanport," original songs and short films inspired by Oregon's blue-collar black history on Thursday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Oregon State University and on Sunday, March 3 at 8 p.m. at Portland's Mission Theater.

Drawing from jazz, R&B, and blues, From Maxville to Vanport celebrates the history of two Oregon towns that reveal distinctive viewpoints of the state's under-represented black history. The music, brilliantly composed by Ezra



A diverse group of Portland writers and musicians are the creators behind "From Maxville to Vanport" a new CD of songs and original music telling the stories of two Oregon towns rooted in early African American history." Pictured (from left) are Gwen Trice, Douglas Detrick, S. Renee Mitchell, Marilyn Keller and Ezra Weiss.

Weiss with lyrics by poet S. Renee Mitchell, honors their resilience, humor, and contributions to Oregon while also looking honestly at the prejudice and hardships they faced.

The performances will also feature a 10-minute documentary film "The Making of From Maxville to Vanport" by Sika Stanton. The documentary will play at 7 p.m. to be followed by a conversation with project collaborators ahead of Sunday's musical performance.

From Maxville to Vanport premiered last year in eastern Oregon and at the Vanport Mosaic Festival in Portland. The Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble released an album of the recorded music in November.

For tickets to the encore performances or more information, visit pjce.org.

"We may have all come on different ships,
but we're in the same boat now."

— Martin Luther King Jr.



For more information, contact

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