



WHAT IT IS! FEATURING MAVIS STAPLES, BOOKER T., AND JJ GREY
Tuesday, March 30, 2010, at 7:30pm | Colwell Playhouse

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PROGRAM

What It Is! featuring Mavis Staples, Booker T., and JJ Grey

Mavis Staples, lead vocals
Yvonne Staples, vocals
Donny Gerrard, vocals
Stephen Hodges, drums and percussion
Rick Holmstrom, guitar and music director
Jeff Turmes, bass and guitar
Eyvonne Williams, vocals

Booker T., organ, vocals, and guitar
Vernon Black, guitar
Jeremy Curtis, bass
Troy Gonyea, guitar
Darian Gray, drums and vocals

JJ Grey, guitar

*Selections will be announced from the stage.
There will be one 20-minute intermission.*

Mavis Staples and Booker T. appear by arrangement with:
The Rosebud Agency
PO Box 170429
San Francisco, CA 94117
Phone: 415/386-3456
Fax: 415/386-0599
www.rosebudus.com

JJ Grey appears by arrangement with:
Monterey International
200 West Superior, Suite 202
Chicago, IL 60654
Phone: 312/640-7500
Fax: 312/640-7515
www.montereyinternational.com

MAVIS STAPLES

There are few living musicians who can lay claim to being the voice of America's conscience and even fewer who continue to make vital music. Mavis Staples proves night in and night out that she's still able to light a fire, agitate for change, and re-energize the American songbook.

As the lead voice of her family's groundbreaking gospel group The Staple Singers ("I'll Take You There," "Respect Yourself") and on her own, Mavis Staples has blazed a rhythm and blues trail while never relinquishing her gospel roots.

Displaying this versatility, her most recent release, *Mavis Staples Live: Hope at the Hideout*, the first solo live record of her 50-plus-year career, was nominated for a 2010 Grammy for Best Contemporary Blues Album, and she sang a song from that record ("Waiting for My Child" with Patty Griffin) on the 2010 Grammy-winning Best Traditional Gospel Album, *O Happy Day*.

Mavis, along with her sister Yvonne, is a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee and the recipient of a 2005 Grammy for Lifetime Achievement.

Mavis Staples has released two records on ANTI-records, 2007's *We'll Never Turn Back*, produced by Ry Cooder, and 2008's *Mavis Staples Live: Hope at the Hideout*. Her forthcoming album, to be produced by Jeff Tweedy of Wilco, will be available in fall 2010.

BOOKER T.

Hammond B3 alchemist Booker T. Jones is one of America's most prolific, distinguished, and instantly recognizable musical forces. His 2009 release *Potato Hole*, his first solo record in almost 20 years, won a 2010 Grammy for Best Pop Instrumental Album—Booker T.'s first Grammy for a solo project. On the record, Booker T. is backed by Southern rock visionaries Drive-By Truckers and the volcanic lead guitar of rock and roll legend Neil Young, and the record displays Booker T. at the critical peak of a renewed creative phase in his storied career.

As the leader of Booker T. & the MG's, the house band for Stax Records, Booker T. backed such stars as Wilson Pickett, Otis Redding, and Sam & Dave both in the studio and on the road, while he and the MG's also scored a string of hits that frequently crossed over to the pop charts. After his Stax career ended, Booker T. produced Bill Withers' signature *Ain't No Sunshine* album and Willie Nelson's 1978 multiplatinum blockbuster *Stardust*.

Booker T. was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1992, received a 2007 Grammy for Lifetime Achievement, and was inducted into the Musicians Hall of Fame in 2008.

JJ GREY

Like Florida's state flower, the Orange Blossom, musician JJ Grey's songs are fascinating, beautiful, and complex. Born and raised just outside of Jacksonville, Florida, Grey comes from a long tradition of Southern musical storytellers, filling his songs with details that are at once vivid and personal, political and universal. His multitextured music overflows with dynamic rhythms and thought-provoking lyrics. Whether it is a narrative passed down to him from his grandmother or the tribulations of a childhood friend, Grey's feel for detail rings through in true storytelling fashion. Like his songs, Grey's rich, soulful vocals are forceful and commanding, seemingly wise and experienced beyond his years. From raw funk to deep soul, blues, and rock, JJ delivers commanding live and recorded performances.

Debuting in 2001 with *Blackwater* and following up in 2004 with *Lochloosa*, Grey steadily built an intensely loyal following. In 2007 with *Country Ghetto*, Grey reached an even larger audience, doubling both his album sales and his concert attendance. Most recently, with his 2009 *Orange Blossoms* release, JJ Grey has taken another giant step forward in national recognition. With his down-to-earth musical persona and moving live show, JJ Grey is showing that his songs speak to people all over the world and that his Southern roots can spread.