

Wharton Center / Club 750

# MARTHA REDBONE

## ROOTS PROJECT

FEB 15 / Jackson Lounge

Martha Redbone – vocals, percussion

Aaron Whitby – piano, backing vocals

Charlie Burnham – violin, backing vocals

Fred Cash – bass, backing vocals

Run time is approximately 90 minutes, with no intermission.



View the digital program at  
[whartoncenter.com/program](http://whartoncenter.com/program)

## Martha Redbone

Redbone is one of the most vital voices in American Roots music. A multi award-winning musician, the charismatic songstress is celebrated for her tasty gumbo of roots music embodying the folk and mountain blues sounds of her childhood in the Appalachian hills of Kentucky, mixed with the eclectic grit of her teenage years in pre-gentrified Brooklyn. With her gospel singing father's voice and the spirit of her Cherokee/Choctaw mother's culture, Redbone broadens the boundaries of American Roots music with songs and storytelling that share her life experience as an Indigenous Black woman and mother in the new millennium. Redbone gives voice to issues of social justice, bridging traditions from past to present, connecting cultures, and celebrating the human spirit.

Her latest CD "The Garden of Love (Songs of William Blake)," produced by Nitty Gritty Dirt Band founder/Grammy Winner John McEuen is an unexpected twist: "a brilliant collision of cultures" (*New Yorker*). Martha's magnificent voice and Blake's immortal words is a masterful cornucopia of roots music (folk, country, piedmont blues, gospel, bluegrass, soul, and traditional Native). Redbone and Aaron Whitby are the 2020 Drama Desk Award recipients for Outstanding Music in a Play, and the 2020 Audelco Award recipient for Outstanding Composer of Original Music and Score for the off-

Broadway revival of Ntozake Shange's *for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuff* at the Public Theater. Redbone is a 2021 United States Artist Fellow. For more info, please visit [martharedbone.com](http://martharedbone.com).

## Aaron Whitby

London-born and raised Aaron Whitby is a producer, composer/songwriter, and pianist, mentored by Walter "Junie" Morrison of Parliament Funkadelic and Ohio Players, and is best known for the multiple award-winning albums he has written and produced with longtime collaborator Martha Redbone. Whitby also tours with wife Redbone, whose band he leads. He engineered Natalie Cole's Grammy winning single "Living for Love" and has recorded and/or performed with George Clinton, Randy Brecker, Lisa Fischer, John McEuen, Raul Midon, Nona Hendryx, Vernon Reid, Omar Faruk Tekbilek, Mino Cinelu, Snehasish Mozumder, Keith Secola, and many more. Whitby's own album project, "Cousin from Another Planet," a jazz/funk exploration of his more esoteric musical vocabulary released in 2019 to critical acclaim, features Charlie Burnham, Keith Loftis, Fred Cash, Jerome Harris, Gary Fritz, and Rodney Holmes.

## Charlie Burnham

Brooklyn born and raised Charles Burnham is a singular, versatile, and virtuosic American violinist and composer, whose highly imaginative improvisational style crosses bluegrass, delta punk, free jazz, blues, classical, and chamber jazz. Worldly and other-worldly sounds can be heard from Burnham's soulful voice. He has graced the recordings of many: Cassandra Wilson, James Blood Ulmer, Steven Bernstein, Susie Ibarra, Peter Apfelbaum, Henry Threadgill, String Trio of New York, Ted Daniel, Medeski, Martin & Wood, Living Colour, Queen Esther, John Zorn, Steve Swell, Rufus Wainwright, Krishna Das, Kenny Wollesen, Norah Jones, Billie Joe Armstrong, Jason Kao Hwang, The Woes, Hem, Elysian Fields, and many more. Burnham also performs on harmonica and mandolin and is a highly regarded singer.

## Fred Cash, Jr.

Chicago native, Fred Cash, Jr. has recorded and toured with Martha Redbone since 2000. Cash attended the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. Cash hails from a musical family: his father is Fred Cash, Sr. of the legendary vocal group The Impressions and Fred Jr. is one of the most in-demand bass players around. He has recorded for film and TV and worked with such artists in addition to Martha Redbone as Alicia Keys, Nona

Hendryx, George Clinton, Henry Butler, Jean-Paul  
Bourelly, India Arie, Jerry Butler, Toshi Reagon, Michelle  
Dorrance, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Barbara Streisand,  
Marika Hughes, and many more.