

Club 750 Music: Brandon Woody's UPENDO

Feb 5 / Jackson Lounge

Brandon Woody, Musician
Troy Long, Piano
Michael Saunders, Bass
Quincy Phillips, Drums

The performance will run approximately 80 minutes, with no intermission.

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BRANDON WOODY is a *New York Times* featured artist that started his musical journey at the age of seven. Since then, Woody has gone on to become an international artist performing with his band, UPENDO, curating projects for major museums, film scoring, collaborating with international brands, and performing at major venues around the globe. Woody uses music as a tool for healing, genuine connection, and celebrating community.

He has performed at venues and festivals such as Jazz at Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Moma PS1, MLK Library, August Wilson Center, Martha's Vineyard Jazz Festival, Newport Jazz Festival, Monterey Jazz Festival, and Rubber City Jazz & Blues Festival, among countless others.

Brandon has played as a sideman with Paul Russell, Solange, Standing on The Corner, Klein, Lafayette Gilchrist, Jonathan Barber, and Luther Allison among others. He also had the privilege to perform alongside artists such as Marc Cary, Stefon Harris, Steve Wilson, Casey Benjamin, Steve Wilson, and Marcus Gilmore, who have all greatly influenced his artistry and musical taste.

Brandon started his band UPENDO in 2017 while he was in college at Brubeck Institute and Manhattan School of Music studying with Ambrose Akinmusire and Cecile Bridgewater. Brandon is accompanied by Troy Long

(piano), Michael Saunders (bass), and Quincy Phillips (drums). Since then, Woody has gone on to perform Nationally with regular concerts across the east coast. UPENDO's concert experiences are comprised of original music.

Woody's career as a composer and recording artist granted him the opportunity to score films such as *Unwavering: The Power of Black innovation*, *The Unveiling of God*, *Keep What You Sow*, *Aliferous*, *Paint it Black Baltimore* and *Three Blind Mice*. Woody also produced and arranged horns for Emma Vie, Sudan Archives, Tye Tribet, Miranda Curtis, Slauson Malone, Kevin Sinatra, and Klein and several others.

Woody's work garnered the attention of international brands which led to his collaborations with Calvin Klein (One Future), Saucony, Vogue Italy, Nike, Reebok X Eames, Union Los Angeles, High Snobiety X Newport Jazz Festival, Plain Jane, A Ma Maniere. In 2022, Woody had the opportunity of casting musicians and acting as a band leader in the 2024 Apple TV series *Lady in the Lake*. Brandon also performed on *Good Morning America* and *Vevo Live* with Paul Russell.

In 2021, Woody was named a Bach/Conn endorsed Artist and was named the best musician to watch by the Baltimore Magazine in 2022. Brandon's other accolades include the 2021 Best Musician of the Year Award by the

Baltimore Crown Awards, 2020 Emerging Voice Award by the Festival of New Trumpet, and articles by the *Baltimore Banner*, *Baltimore Sun*, *True Laurels*, *BmoreArt*, *Makers of the USA*, *New York Times*, *Paper Magazine*, and *Schone Magazine* among others.

In his spare time, Brandon shares his knowledge and love for music by teaching private group lessons and masterclasses at institutions such as the Peabody Preparatory, University of Maryland, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Poly Technic Institute, Accent Pontiac, and public schools such as Cecil Elementary, A Philip Randolph High School, Temple X Schools, and Highlandtown Elementary #215.