



**ETIENNE CHARLES:
CARNIVAL: THE SOUND OF A PEOPLE**

Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 7:30pm
Foellinger Great Hall

PROGRAM

ETIENNE CHARLES:

CARNIVAL: THE SOUND OF A PEOPLE

Etienne Charles, trumpet and percussion

Godwin Louis, alto sax

Axel Tosca Laugart, piano

Alex Wintz, guitar

Ben Williams, bass

Harvel Nakundi, drums

Tonight's performance will not include an intermission.

PROGRAM

Etienne Charles
(b. 1983)

Dame Lorraine
Moko Jumbie
Black Echo III–Bamboo
Black Echo IV–Iron
One for Señor
Jab Molassie

Lord Kitchener
(1850-1916)

My Landlady

Etienne Charles

Santimanite

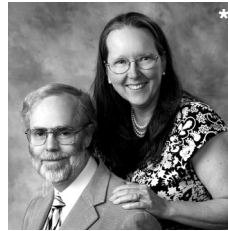
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PROFILE

ETIENNE CHARLES is a performer, composer and storyteller, who is continuously searching for untold stories and sounds with which to tell them. His lush trumpet sound, varied compositional textures and pulsating percussive grooves enable him to invoke trance, soothing and exciting listeners while referencing touchy and sometimes controversial subjects in his music. He is hailed by *The New York Times* as “an auteur” (Ben Ratliff) and by *Jazz Times* as “A daring improviser who delivers with heart wrenching lyricism” (Bill Milkowski). According to *Downbeat Magazine* “Charles delivers his ebullient improvisations with the elegance of a world-class ballet dancer” (John Murph). He has received critical acclaim for his exciting performances, thrilling compositions, and knack for connecting with audiences worldwide. In June 2012, Charles was written into the US Congressional Record for his musical contributions to Trinidad & Tobago and the World. Perhaps more than any other musician of his generation or Eastern Caribbean origin, Charles brings a careful study of myriad rhythms from the French, Spanish, English, and Dutch speaking Caribbean to the table. Crucially, as a soloist, he fully understands the New Orleans trumpet tradition, which is readily discernible in his trademark instrumental swagger, and what famed Crescent City pianist Jelly Roll Morton so

succinctly captured in the now immortal phrase, “The Spanish Tinge.” He has performed and/or recorded with Monty Alexander, Roberta Flack, Frank Foster, Ralph MacDonald, Johnny Mandel, Wynton Marsalis, Marcus Roberts, Maria Schneider, Count Basie Orchestra, Eric Reed, Lord Blakie, David Rudder, and many others. He holds a master's degree from the Juilliard School and a bachelor's degree from Florida State University. He is the assistant professor of Jazz Trumpet at Michigan State University.

The figures, beats, and people that power Carnival inspired Charles to leap into an epic, profoundly rewarding project, *Carnival: The Sound of a People*. Volume One explores the past and present of carnival on his island homeland. Charles crafts original works reflecting the qualities of several key characters—the voluptuous Dame Lorraine, the noble Moko Jumbie—and the people who invoke them every year.

He also unpacks the history of musical ensembles associated with the season. Tracing the evolution from bamboo percussion groups to steel band, Charles points out the defiant response to the banning of skin drums by British authorities in the 1880s (the “Ordinance” that kicks off the “Black Echo” suite).