

Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth

presents

Somi

Somi Kakoma, vocals

Toru Dodo, piano

Otis Brown III, drums

Wednesday, October 16, 8 pm

Rollins Chapel • Dartmouth College • 2024

Funded in part by the Lewis Pace Poag 1972 Endowed Fund and the Andrew J. Greenebaum 1984 Fund.

We thank Mrs. Selma Bornstein for her generous donation of the Petrof concert grand piano, given in loving memory of her husband Dr. Murray Bornstein and used for today's concert.

Program

Approximate duration: 75 minutes

Titles to be announced from the stage.

About the Artists

Vocalist, composer, actor and playwright **Somi Kakoma** is the daughter of immigrants from Uganda and Rwanda. Known in the jazz world simply as “Somi,” her fifth studio album, *Zenzile: The Reimagination of Miriam Makeba*, is a companion project to the critically acclaimed original musical *Dreaming Zenzile* that Somi also wrote and starred in off-Broadway as a tribute to the great South African singer and activist. Prior to *Zenzile* and at the height of the 2020 lockdown, Somi released an unplanned live album called *Holy Room* featuring the Frankfurt Radio Big Band that ultimately earned her a 2021 Grammy® nomination for Best Jazz Vocal Album and made her the first African woman ever nominated in any of the Grammy® jazz categories. Somi is a recipient of the 2023 Doris Duke Artist Award, two NAACP Image Awards for Best Vocal Jazz Album and the inaugural Jazz Music Award for Best Vocal Performance. She is also a Soros Equality Fellow, a United States Artist Fellow, a TED Senior Fellow, a Sundance Theatre Fellow and the founder of Salon Africana—a boutique cultural agency and record label. Last season, she debuted on Broadway in the title role of a Tony-nominated play called *Jaja’s African Hair Braiding* by Joceyln Bioh. Somi holds degrees in Cultural Anthropology and African Studies from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a Master’s degree in Performance Studies from Tisch School of the Arts at NYU, and is currently working on her PhD at Harvard University’s Department of Music. In her heart of hearts, she is an East African Midwestern girl who loves family, poetry and freedom.

Toru Dodo is a Grammy-nominated pianist, composer, arranger, producer and author. Born in Tokyo, he is a Berklee College of Music alumnus and has lived in NYC since 1998. Toru has released 5 albums as a leader while maintaining a busy schedule as one of New York’s most in-demand sidemen. He has worked with jazz luminaries such as Kenny Garrett, Benny Golson and Curtis Fuller. He currently performs frequently and travels worldwide with the artist and vocalist Somi.

Toru was also one of the regular pianists for the off-Broadway hit show *Sleep No More* from 2011 until 2020. He published a book entitled *Excellent Jazz Piano* that features his solo piano arrangements from Ritto Music in Japan in 2008.

The son of musicians and music educators, Grammy-nominated drummer **Otis Brown III** grew up in Newark, New Jersey, to the sounds of jazz, gospel, funk and rhythm and blues. He has built a stellar career as a first-call musician working with artists such as Robert Glasper, Herbie Hancock, Joe Lovano, Gretchen Parlato, Terence Blanchard, Gerald Clayton, Kurt Elling and Esperanza Spalding. He has also been a steady collaborator with Somi since 2011. Having played with a literal “*Who’s Who*” of the music world, he is also a bandleader in his own right. His critically acclaimed debut album *The Thought Of You* was released on the Blue Note/Revive music record label. The highly anticipated follow-up will be released in 2025.

Arts in the Curriculum & Community

During her time at Dartmouth, Somi will visit a school in the Upper Valley region and will engage with the Dartmouth community through a House dinner and a lunch discussion with students.

2024/25 Season

9/17-19

Dance Heginbotham

A site-specific mushroom dance

10/8

**Academy of St Martin
in the Fields**

Chamber Ensemble

Exquisite string music

10/16

Somi

Jazz & African rhythms

10/23

The Lone Bellow

Americana, rock & roots

1/10 & 11

Inua Ellams

A captivating call & response

1/15

Jennifer Koh

Bach and beyond on violin

1/17 & 18

Trebién Pollard

Embodying the Black
experience

2/1

Sonia De Los Santos

Celebrating Latina musicians

2/9

Selected Shorts

Eminent actors share
spellbinding stories

2/17

Some Stars of Native

American Comedy
Hot takes & witty insights

2/19

Sally Pinkas & Elise Kuder

Sonatas by Brahms, Bartók
& Bacewicz

4/8

Chanticleer

An orchestra of voices

4/16

**Christian McBride
& Ursa Major**

Pushing the boundaries
of jazz

4/22

Ruckus

Early music with roots energy

4/29

Tenores de Aterúe

Sardinian folk songs

5/20

Sally Pinkas

Works by Chopin,
Bartók &
Kaprálová

Jennifer Koh, violin
performing 1/15

Plus resident ensembles,
family events, films
& more!

Explore



Hopkins Center Board of Advisors

Jim Bildner '75 P'08
Anne Fleischli Blackburn '91 P'23
Ken Burns H'93
Rebecca Byrne P'20 P'22
Leslie T. Chao '78 P'20 P'24
Stanley Chou '93
John A. Cortese '02
Kim Lessow Crockett '92
Heather Deering Crosby '93
Rachel Dratch '88
Claire Foerster P'18 P'21

Tiffany B. Girouard P'27
Lizanne Fontaine '77 P'04 P'09
Pamela A. Codispoti Habner '88
Jennifer López '08
Kristin G. Replogle P'19 P'23 P'25
Hilary Spaulding Richards '92
Laurel Richie '81, Chair of the Board
Daniel E. Rush '92
Peter S. Voshall '92
Sharon Washington '81

Hopkins Center Directorate

Mary Lou Aleskie, Howard Gilman '44 Executive Director
Michael Bodel, Director of External Affairs
Lisa Hayes, Director of Facility Operations
Joshua Price Kol '93, Managing Director/Executive Producer
Jan Sillery, Director of Financial and Administrative Operations



*Please turn off your cell
phone inside the theater.*



*Assistive Listening Devices
available in the lobby.*



**DARTMOUTH
RECYCLES**

*If you do not wish to keep your playbill, please
discard it in the recycling bin provided in the lobby.
Thank you.*