

“On behalf of the Multicultural Center and the campus wide Committee on Human Relations, thank you! Your performance was excellent! The “Jewels of the Diaspora” concert is a true representation of diversity at work...a great example of individuals from different backgrounds working together as one.

Please join us again next season.”

-Shane Williamson, Director,
Multicultural Center,
Penn State, Bloomsburg



Box 26 • Cummington, MA 01026



LAURA WETZLER
JANIECE THOMPSON

in
Jewels of the

Diaspora

A Concert Celebration of
African-American & Jewish Song



“On fire!...a hot, upbeat mix of music from around America and around the World... a fun, ecstatic explosion of Black and Jewish creativity.”

-Three Arrows Concerts, NY

“Jewels of the Diaspora proves we can honor our ethnic identities, our many identities, and create something extraordinary together.”

–Educational Alliance, NYC

JANIECE THOMPSON began singing Gospel music at age 4 when she became star soloist with The Thompson Family Singers, touring extensively under the direction of her mother, a church music director. A highly respected New York concert and session singer, Janiece has recorded as featured soloist with The Lavender Light Gospel Choir, appeared on PBS and toured with Lavender Light, The Crossroad Singers and her own quartet, Pillars of Salt. She is experienced in every style of African-American vocal music, including Gospel, R&B, folk, Pop and Jazz.

ASCAP Award Winning singer-songwriter

LAURA WETZLER tours in over 150 concerts and lectures a year, singing critically acclaimed original American songs and Jewish Roots Music from all over the world. Laura’s music has been heard on TV & in independent film (PBS; UPN; cable). Her recordings, *Songwriter’s Notebook* and *A World of Jewish Folk Music* (www.songs.com) currently receive airplay on over 300 radio stations around the world. Like Janiece, Laura’s mother, a music director and folk DJ, was her earliest musical influence.

“Very exciting- one leaves feeling supported as a human being through the celebration of life.”

–Brooklyn Arts Exchange

“Great show!-exactly what our World Week celebration is all about.”
–Rutgers University



Photos by Nancy Palmieri

LAURA WETZLER and JANIECE THOMPSON, two powerfully gifted voices rooted lovingly in their respective musical traditions, share a thunderous celebration of the human spirit in this unique concert event. “Jewels of the Diaspora” is an exciting evening ringing with songs of struggle, survival, freedom and peace from diverse African-American and Jewish sources, sung in English, Hebrew, Ladino (Judeo-Spanish), Yiddish and Amharic (Ethiopian).

This concert program is a continuation of years of grassroots coalition work initiated by NYC singer, songwriter and ethnic folklorist Laura Wetzler in partnership with outstanding fellow artists Janiece Thompson, Rande Harris and many others. Begun before, and made more urgent by the infamous Crown Heights and LA riots, the “Jewels of the Diaspora” concert is a moving musical performance BRINGING TOGETHER AUDIENCES FROM EVERY BACKGROUND in community events and concert halls nationwide, exploring both difference and commonality in mutual respect and joy.

SELECTED CREDITS:

Rutgers University
Bloomsburg University
Roger Williams University
SUNY at Fredonia
Association of Performing Arts Presenters
National Conference
The Open Center, NYC
Educational Alliance, NYC
The Annenberg Foundation/
NYC Board of Education
The Astraea Foundation, NYC
Incourage Fund
National Conference of Multicultural Families
Brooklyn Arts Exchange, NYC
Prospect Park Alliance (as “Musicians Against Violence”)
World Fellowship Conference, Conway, N.H.
Unitarian Fellowship, Northampton, MA
Greenwich Village Festival
Three Arrows Arts Festival
Workman’s Circle, Bronx, NYC
Kolot Heinu
Sounds of Brazil, NYC
Outmusic Festival
B’nai Jeshuran, NYC
Jewish Retreat Center
Louisa May Alcott School, NYC
Global School, NYC
Whole Foods Project, NYC
Bailey House AIDS Residence, NYC

Concerts, Lectures, Q&A–Meet the Artists Post
Performance and Residencies on varied
Multicultural topics explored through music, such as:

- “Jewels of the Diaspora- A Celebration of African-American & Jewish Song”
- “Souls on Fire! The Role of Music in Civil Rights Movements in the U.S. and around the World”
- “A World of Jewish Folk Music (from Uganda, Ethiopia, Calcutta, The Mid-east, Europe and The U.S.)”
- “Gospel Music: The Heart of Black Musical Culture”
- “A World of Women in Song”

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