

VIVO PERFORMING ARTS

PRINTABLE/SCROLLABLE PROGRAM

SAT OCT 10 8PM
BERKLEE PERFORMANCE CENTER

LIZZ WRIGHT

Lizz Wright piano / vocals
Ben Zwerin bass / vocals
Charles Haynes drums
Chad Selph keys
Keith Ganz guitar
Leeda Lyrica Jones guitar / vocals

Selections will be announced from the stage.

There will be no intermission in this evening's program, which will run approximately 90 minutes.

2026/27 Season Sponsors
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Vivo Performing Arts is supported by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Through an inimitable voice that the *New York Times* touts as, “a smooth, dark alto possessed of qualities you might associate with barrel-aged bourbon or butter-soft leather,” renowned vocalist and songwriter **Lizz Wright** sings with a soaring reflection of the cultural fabric of America. She lies beneath the script of history, transcending social divides with an offer of love and deep sense of humanity. Her music accepts the beauty of reality and creates a collective experience of belonging for the listener. Wright’s songs embody a tradition that allows us to always feel at home.

Wright’s 2024 studio album release, *Shadow*, presents Lizz in a gentle and triumphant light. With five originals penned by Wright, *Shadow* is anchored by acoustic guitars and layered with string quartets, harp, Carnatic Indian classical strings, gospel vocals, and bare emotion. It celebrates the intimacy of romantic love, loss, community, and healing. The album was produced by Chris Bruce and executive produced by Wright on Blues & Greens Records (with licensing / distribution through Lightyear Entertainment / Virgin Music). Wright worked with renowned engineer Ryan Freeland (who recorded *Grace* and has also worked with music legend Bonnie Raitt), and the album features acclaimed guest artists Angelique Kidjo and Meshell Ndegeocello.

At age 22, Wright first made a name for herself nationally as a vocalist with a touring concert tribute to Billie Holiday. At 23, she signed with Verve Records for the release of *Salt*, which topped Billboard’s contemporary jazz charts. She went on to record for Universal Music Group and released the albums *Dreaming Wide Awake* (2005), *The Orchard* (2008), and *Fellowship* (2010). On Concord, Wright released *Freedom & Surrender* (2016)—featuring the single “Lean In,” which landed on President Obama’s Summer 2016 playlist—and *Grace* (2017). Wright’s (2022) release of *Holding Space* (a live recording of a concert in Berlin at the Columbia Theater) was her debut live album on Blues and Greens Records.

Wright’s latest release, a duo album entitled *Nearness* came out in late September and features longtime collaborator, pianist / organist Kenny Banks Sr. *Nearness* is a celebration of a beautiful, lifelong friendship and a musical kinship that has shaped Lizz’ path. Stripping everything down to just her voice and Kenny’s playing, their intention is to let these songs breathe in their rawest form as they move fluidly between the romance of the Great American Songbook and the resiliency of Black spirituals.

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

Lizz Wright made her Vivo Performing Arts (then Celebrity Series) debut in January 2019, on a double bill with Jose James' tribute to Bill Withers. She makes her debut as sole headliner tonight.