

The Winter Park Playhouse in Collaboration With Barbara Chandler Productions presents - *Blues and Southern Soul* - Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 7:00pm - with FREE admission at The Winter Park Library

For Immediate Release: August 26, 2025 Winter Park, Florida

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Photo : Tonya Phillips Staples / Robert Bradley

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Winter Park Playhouse

As part of their *Sounds of the World Series* of events, The Winter Park Playhouse has teamed up with Barbara Chandler Productions to present -*Blues and Southern Soul* - Thursday October 2 at 7:00 pm. This event will feature professional vocalist Tonya Phillips Staples with Robert Bradley accompanying on piano. The evening will be free of charge and held at the Winter Park Public Library in their Edyth Bush theatre (add address). Doors open for seating at 6:00 p.m. with the performance beginning promptly at 7:00 p.m.

A departure from the traditional monthly *Spotlight Cabaret Series* at The Playhouse, the *Sounds of the World Series* is part of the theatre's community outreach and celebrates different cultures, heritages and music styles. By teaming up with Barbara Chandler Productions, this series shines a spotlight on the diverse and unique talent in the Central Florida community.

Sounds of the World is sponsored in part by Orange County Government through the Arts and Cultural Affairs program, the Winter Park Community Redevelopment Agency, Division of Arts & Culture and United Arts of Central Florida. The Winter Park Library is donating their Edyth Bush Theatre to help make the performances accessible to all.

Tonya Phillips Staples daughter of the late Reverend John P. Phillips and Doris Phillips, is a native of Winter Park, Florida. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Stetson University and along with English, sings in Italian, French, Spanish, and German. Accolades include first place excellence awards for both AKA Academy and the Orlando Opera Guild competitions. Tonya is also a former Miss Black Orlando.

As a musical theatre performer and featured vocalist who is well versed in jazz, R&B, soul, gospel and many other genres, Tonya has toured nationally and internationally. Her credits include *The Color Purple*, *Once on the Island*, and the national tour of *Beehive: The 60's Musical* and the original cast of *8-Track: The Sounds of the '70s* where she also served as choreographer.

Tonya is currently the director and choreographer for *Joyful! A Celebration of the Season* at Disney's EPCOT. She is a featured vocalist for Universal Studios and Walt Disney World and Disney Springs among others. She is an actress, arranger, songwriter, vocal instructor, voice over artist, praise & worship leader and motivational speaker. In *Blues and Southern Soul*, Tonya pays tribute to these unique types of music and their origins.

"We are thrilled to have Tonya treat the audience to an evening full of music and dance that will touch the soul and teach the origins of blues and southern soul music masterfully!" confirms Barbara Chandler.

General Admission tickets are free of charge. Doors open at 6:00p.m. for a 7:00p.m. show. For more information call The Winter Park Playhouse box office at [407-645-0145](tel:407-645-0145) or go online at www.winterparkplayhouse.org and search under special events.

The Winter Park Playhouse is a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and a professional theatre proudly affiliated with Actors' Equity Association and The National Alliance for Musical Theatre.

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