

VANEESSE THOMAS in SOUL SISTER

Celebrating THE WOMEN OF SOUL



“With righteous interpretations of sophisticated soul classics, Vaneese Thomas reminds us: she’s the real deal!”
– Paul Shaffer

the artist

Part of a musical royal family, Vaneese Thomas spent her childhood on the vanguard of Black southern musical culture in Memphis, Tennessee. Her father is Rufus Thomas, whose career spanned half a century in R & B recording and radio, and her sister is the chart-topping “Memphis Queen” Carla Thomas. Vaneese lived and breathed the rhythms of Memphis. Steeped not only in the music but in its history, she is an authentic link to the early years of soul and rhythm-and-blues.

Vaneese has sung with major artists from Aretha Franklin, Michael Jackson and Sting to Luciano Pavarotti. She has performed at concerts and festivals around the globe and for television and film. She is one of the great voices of our time and a soul sister of the first rank.

the show

Soul Sister: Celebrating the Women of Soul is a raise-the-rafters evening of soul and rhythm-and-blues presented by an incomparable performer and an equally stellar band and backing vocalists. To experience such an authentic live rendering of this music is a rare and memorable treat. Even more rare is to hear the inside anecdotes and personal stories that bring to life the songs and singers celebrated here.

With her superlative vocal gifts, her warm and compelling stage presence, and her encyclopedic knowledge of the genre, Vaneese draws her audience into the experience of growing up within this musical inner sanctum. From playful to pensive, from soulful to soaring, her renditions of many lesser-known classics illustrate how R & B has crossed so many divides and touched several generations. Even while reminding listeners of the harsh realities of being Black in the turbulent South of the mid-60’s, Vaneese shares her belief in the redemptive power of these – and all – songs. One is left with the profound understanding of why this infectious and irrepressible music came to be known as “soul.”

program offerings

- 1. General Concert** – A casual, loosely structured set appropriate for music clubs and festivals.
- 2. Theater Show** – A more tightly-woven concert piece featuring:
 - Song introductions and anecdotes throughout that place the music in a personal or historical context;
 - Projections and costuming that create the visual atmosphere of Soul’s golden era;
 - Simple staging that adds energy and theatricality.
- 3. Educational Seminars/Artist Residency:** A program of lectures on a choice of topics revolving around rhythm-and-blues history and the Civil Rights era. Can be combined with an artist residency and workshops. For full details please request an educational programming packet.

Each program can be presented with smaller or larger band configurations, although the full complement of 12 musicians and singers offers the greatest impact.

please turn over

SOUL SISTER

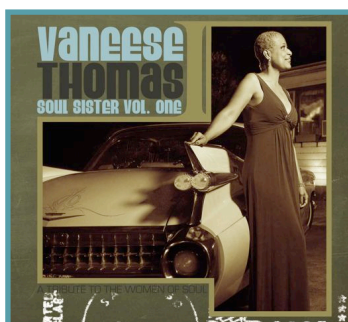
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previous performances

Bergen Community College (Paramus, NJ)
Town Crier Cafe (Pawling, NY)
Westport Fine Arts Festival (Westport, CT)
Pleasantville Music Festival (Pleasantville, NY)
Arts on the Lake (Kent Lakes, NY)
Drom (New York, NY)



“Belting out classics like Etta James’ ‘Tell Mama’ and burning through her sister Carla Thomas’ ‘A Woman’s Love,’ she transformed our sleepy Town Hall into an intimate, bluesy soul club. The highpoint was when [the evening’s host] cajoled Ms. Thomas to reminisce about her musical upbringing – at which she offered a wonderful mosaic of family dinners and hanging out with Stax Records/R & B royalty” – *The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT*



Soul Sister Vol. One the CD

With this first in a series Vaneese keeps the fire burning for the great songs and singers that paved the way for today’s leading artists. More than just a by-the-numbers walk-through the obvious R & B hits of the 60’s and 70’s, this is a tour through two decades of seminal soul and a tribute to the original soul sisters who helped shape it. Available on iTunes and Amazon and at select retail stores.

“It’s such a thrill to have Vaneese Thomas make this solo album. This musical collection ... visits her passion and her history.”

– Phil Ramone, Music Producer

“[Vaneese Thomas] is soulful, powerful and tasteful. 12 soul flavors all in one bowl, and bon appetit.”

– Eddie Floyd, Singer and Songwriter

“Step aside, warbling balladeers, overreaching vocal gymnasts and Auto-Tune divas, a real woman with a real, big, natural voice is coming through. Vaneese Thomas ... is too much of a Southern lady to push you out of the way physically. This salute to (mostly) Southern soul queens should do the aural trick.”

– Jim Beal Jr., *San Antonio Express-News*

www.vaneesethomas.com

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