

Samora Pinderhughes

We Welcome the Moments When Our Questions Have Not (Yet) Found Answers

Artist and performer bios

Samora Pinderhughes is a multidisciplinary artist who has been described by the *New York Times* as a “visionary” who “turn(s) the experience of living in community inside-out.” Pinderhughes, who aims to bring what he terms “striking vulnerability” to his practice, is also the executive director of The Healing Project, a community-arts organization that creates narrative change in partnership with individuals impacted by structural violence.

Chief Xian aTunde Adjuah (formerly Christian Scott) is the progenitor of Stretch Music, a genre-blind, ethnomusicological approach to improvised music. A multiple-time Grammy-nominated sonic architect, multi-instrumentalist, composer, and producer, he designs and builds his own musical instruments, merging New Orleans’ Black cultural traditions with genres from around the globe.

Mahogany L. Browne is a writer, playwright, organizer, and educator. The 2022 Kennedy Center Next 50 Fellow, the inaugural distinguished writer-in-residence at Wesleyan University, and the inaugural poet-in-residence at Lincoln Center, Browne is also a Paterson Poetry Prize and Princeton Holmes Prize winner. She is an NAACP Image Award and New York Emmy nominee, and has been long-listed for the National Book Award. She is based in Brooklyn, NY.

Joshua Crumbly is a multifaceted bassist and composer whose sound straddles post-bop, fusion, and ambient post-rock. Following work alongside Terence Blanchard, Stefon Harris, and Leon Bridges, he distinguished himself as a leader with 2020’s RISE, which showcased his take on modern creative jazz.

Jack DeBoe is a Grammy-nominated, Brooklyn-based musician, producer, songwriter, and engineer who has worked with artists such as Meshell Ndegeocello, YEBBA, Tyler the Creator, and Jon Batiste. He is the composer and music producer for the Emmy-winning *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* and teaches production and mixing at the New School.

Carla Duren is a Broadway, film, and television “triple threat.” She has supported such artists as Toshi Reagon, Pink, Deborah Cox, Kelis, Talib Kweli, Amel Larrieux, and Bette Midler. She coaches artists and executives to step into their full potential. Her most recent single, “Golden,” was released under the name saint cecilia.

Nick Hakim is a singer, songwriter, and producer based in New York City. He debuted with the 2014 EPs *Where Will We Go Part 1 & 2* and gained acclaim for his debut album, *Green Twins*, in 2017. He continued to evolve that sound on the later releases *Will This Make Me Good* and *Cometa*. He has toured internationally and has collaborated with a range of contemporary artists across genres.

Joél Leon, author of the 2025 Gotham Book Prize nominee *Everything and Nothing at Once: A Black Man’s Reimagined Soundtrack For the Future*, is a Bronx-born girl dad, poet, performer, and cultural critic who writes and tells stories for Black people. The winner of the 2025 BCA Bronx Recognizes Its Own (BRIO) award in poetry, he is the author of *Things I Will Tell My Daughter* and *God Wears Durags, Too*. He is a creative director at the *New York Times*’ T Brand Studios.

Karma “Chogyi” Marco is a Woodstock, New York-based multi-instrumentalist, songwriter, and producer whose work spans R&B, funk, soul, jazz, rock, and beyond. He has performed with Toshi Reagon, Omar Hakim, Infinity Song, and multiple P-Funk side projects, including 420 Funk Mob, and served as touring guitarist for Bad Brains.

Josette Newsam, a New York native, has appeared as a soloist and background singer on television shows like *The Today Show* and *Live with Kelly and Michael*, and has done voice-overs for NBC Universal. She has toured with Bernice Johnson-Reagon and Toshi Reagon’s musical works, as well as projects with Robert Wilson. Newsam is currently a member of Toshi Reagon’s band, BIGLovely.

Toshi Reagon is a singer, composer, musician, curator, and producer known for her work in sonic Americana. She co-composed music for two Peabody Award-winning films and co-created the opera *Octavia E. Butler’s Parable of the Sower* with Bernice Johnson Reagon. She has earned such honors as the APAP Award for Merit in the Performing Arts and the 2021 Herb Alpert Award in Music. She was the 2019 Andrew W. Mellon Creative Futures artist-in-residence. She has worked with Meshell Ndegeocello, Urban Bush Women, and her own band, BIGLovely, among others. Her latest projects include *EcoTones*, the musical *You’re Having Too Much Fun so We’re Gonna Have to Kill You*, and *Toshi Reagon’s Songs of the Living*.

Daniel J. Watts is a New York City-based multidisciplinary artist whose work spans stage, film, and the literary and visual arts. He has performed in 10 Broadway shows, including *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*, in which his portrayal of Ike Turner earned him a Tony Award nomination. A spoken-word artist, a New York University adjunct faculty member, and an NYTW Usual Suspect, he earned a Capitol Emmy nomination for his spoken-word experience *Daniel J. Watts’ The Jam*. He is currently developing a one-man show based on his research of the late soccer star Pelé.