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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Next Stage presents 'Race & Song: A Musical
2 Conversation' March 14

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill, presents "Race & Song:
6 A Musical Conversation," by veteran musicians and storytellers
7 Pamela Means and Alastair Moock, Saturday, March 14, at 7:30
8 p.m.

9 Race & Song is an exploration of history and current
10 events "through the lens of race, using music as both catalyst and
11 connective tissue,"described organizers in a news release.

12 Drawing on their long-standing friendship, Means and Moock
13 invite audiences into thoughtful, generous conversations about
14 race, class, gender, and history “grounded in lived experience
15 and brought vividly to life through song, storytelling, and
16 images.”

17 In musical dialogue, Means and Moock share personal
18 narratives alongside historical and family photos, weaving
19 together songs such as “Wade in the Water,” “Freight Train,” “It’s a
20 Mighty Long Way,” “This Little Light of Mine,” and Moock’s
21 original “Be a Pain.” These songs — and the stories behind them
22 — offer historical context while amplifying the artists’ individual
23 perspectives, said organizers, “reminding audiences that music
24 has always been a powerful vehicle for truth-telling and
25 connection.”

26 Over the past several years, Means and Moock have
27 brought “Race & Song” to audiences across the country,
28 performing in theaters, houses of worship, libraries, senior
29 centers, and schools — from elementary classrooms to colleges
30 and universities. A hallmark of the program is the duo’s ability to
31 meet audiences where they are, creating space for reflection,
32 curiosity, and shared humanity.

33 Means says she has been compared to Tracy Chapman
34 and Ani DiFranco, described as a cross between Suzanne Vega
35 and Jimi Hendrix, and hailed as an heir to the legacy of Nina
36 Simone. *Curve* magazine calls her “one of the fiercest guitar
37 players and politically rooted musicians in the industry today.”

38 Moock is an award-winning singer-songwriter, Grammy-
39 nominated, family musician, social justice and songwriting
40 educator, and co-founder of the Opening Doors Project. *The*
41 *Boston Globe* calls him “one of the town’s best and most
42 adventurous songwriters,” and *The Washington Post* says, “every
43 song is a gem.”

44 Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25
45 at the door, and \$10 for livestream access at nextstagearts.org.

46 This performance is part of the Voices Rising series by the
47 Opening Doors Project. Race & Song is funded in part by the
48 New England Foundation for the Arts through the New England
49 States Touring program, made possible with support from the
50 National Endowment for the Arts and the six New England state
51 arts agencies.

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