

**STORYTELLERS EVENING:
Life on the Road with the Man in Black & Other Tales from
The First Family of Country Music**

***A VIP event in support of Sunny Mitchell Theatre Projects'
Music in Education Program for 5th grade underserved in Sacramento County
AND Public Concerts in the cities of Sacramento and Folsom***

Folsom, CA

January 2018

**BREAKING NEWS: IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
JOHNNY CASH'S LIVE AT FOLSOM PRISON ALBUM, THIS IS THE NOT-TO-
BE-MISSED EVENT OF A LIFETIME HELD RIGHT IN
FOLSOM'S HISTORIC DISTRICT.**

**KAREN'S BAKERY CAFÉ, SUTTER STREET STEAKHOUSE, FOLSOM
HISTORY MUSEUM, HECKLE ALEHOUSE & EATERY, DUE RAGAZZE
VINEYARDS AND DOROTHEA'S SHOPPE IN FOLSOM'S HISTORIC
DISTRICT CELEBRATE THE HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY WITH JOHNNY
CASH AND CARTER FAMILY MEMORABILIA NOT SEEN OUTSIDE THE
FAMILY, LIVE MUSIC, DELIGHTFUL FOOD AND DRINK, AND MEMORABLE
STORIES FROM THOSE THAT KNEW THE MAN IN BLACK.**

YOUR TICKET INCLUDES ADMISSION TO VIEW THE PRIVATE VICKI LANGDON COLLECTION OF CASH AND CARTER MEMORABILIA, AT THE EXCLUSIVE SUTTER STREET STEAKHOUSE WHILE LISTENING TO LIVE MUSIC FROM ARTISTS IN THE POETS & PIONEERS CONCERTS, MINGLING WITH OUR SPECIAL GUESTS AND ENJOYING WINE AND SMALL TASTES. MUSICAL ARTISTS WILL ESCORT THE GUESTS WITH SONG AND LANTERN LIGHT TO KAREN'S BAKERY CAFE TO INDULGE IN DINNER AS ONLY KAREN HOLMES CAN PREPARE. MORE LIVE MUSIC AWAITS, AS WELL AS STORIES FROM THE CARTER FAMILY AND CLOSE FRIENDS ABOUT LIFE ON THE ROAD WITH JOHNNY CASH AND THE FIRST FAMILY OF COUNTRY MUSIC.

For those that cannot wait until Storytellers Evening, the Folsom History Museum will display a large portion of the collection January 5-January 12 (closed on Monday), during their regular business hours. Instruments, clothing, jewelry, photographs and more, this private collection will be assembled and showcased for the first time ever.

STORYTELLERS EVENING is a benefit for the Music in Education program created by Sunny Mitchell Theatre Projects.

THE ROSTER OF ARTISTS IS COMPLETE FOR SUNNY MITCHELL THEATRE PROJECTS' BRAND NEW GROUNDBREAKING CONCERT SERIES: POETS & PIONEERS – THE BIRTH OF AMERICAN COUNTRY MUSIC FROM THE CREATOR WHO BROUGHT YOU AMERICAN LEGEND, LAST YEAR'S SUCCESSFUL BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE CITY OF FOLSOM'S JOHNNY CASH ART TRAIL, hold onto your hats for the newest groundbreaking concert that brings a unique trio of folks from Nashville and Virginia to Sacramento county for an unprecedented residency just in time to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Cash's Live at Folsom Prison album. Poets & Pioneers takes you on a rollicking country roots journey in celebration of our truly American music with artists from across the United States. Showcasing the Carter Family with a special appearance by third generation member Lorrie Carter Bennett, P&P highlights other legendary musicians who forged careers in the new music form, including Johnny Cash, The Carter Family, Jimmie Rodgers, Leslie Riddle, DeFord Bailey, Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, Charley Pride, and Kitty Wells. Discover why legends Johnny Cash, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and Brad Paisley have continued to celebrate these icons of country. Roots music: rediscovered for a new generation.

FUNDED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN ARTS COMMISSION, FREE CONCERTS OF POETS & PIONEERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE 5TH GRADE UNDERSERVED IN SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AT THE GUILD THEATRE. LAKESIDE CHURCH IN FOLSOM WILL HOST ADDITIONAL 5TH GRADE UNDERSERVED IN FOLSOM CORDOVA UNIFIED. The Music in Education program will shed light on the diverse roots of American country music and examine country music through the lens of social history. Diverse populations today can relate to and reflect on the sounds that built country music, from the plantation songs and the Dixieland melodies, to the religious music of the poor Southern white population or the Black congregations. A true melting pot of sounds merged to create country music, and the artists of Poets & Pioneers will share those sounds and stories with concertgoers.

This once-in-a-lifetime event is a benefit for Sunny Mitchell Theatre Project's Music in Education program, produced by Theatre Ventures International, a 501(c)(3), sponsored by FEDSHRA and The Folsom History Museum and funded in part by the Cultural Equity Grant of the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission with the support of the City and County of Sacramento.

Link to tickets for Storytellers Evening in the Folsom Historic District on January 13, 2018: <https://StorytellersEvening.eventbrite.com>

Link to tickets for public Folsom Concert at Lakeside Church on January 12, 2018: <https://poetsandpioneers2018.eventbrite.com>

Link to tickets for public Sacramento Concert at the Crest Theatre on January 14, 2018: <https://www.ticketfly.com/purchase/event/1578579>

FEATURED BIOS:

LORRIE CARTER BENNETT (VOCALIST)

Born into the first family of country music, the Carter Family, Lorrie's mother was Anita Carter, whom many regard as the best female singer in the history of music. Her father was Don Davis, well-known steel guitarist, producer and recording industry executive. Her grandmother was Maybelle Carter, responsible for what the world knows as country music, alongside Maybelle's brother-in-law, A.P., and his wife, Sara. Her aunts were

Carter Family members Helen Carter Jones and June Carter Cash, both accomplished singers, songwriters and musicians. Her uncle was none other than Johnny Cash. Lorrie's personal and radio show appearances are numerous, including the "Grand Ole Opry," the "Ernest Tubb Midnite Jamboree" and countless nationally broadcast interviews. Lorrie is a regular at the annual Carter Family Memorial Festival, an event held in Hiltons, Virginia to commemorate the Carters' leading role in launching the country music industry. Besides that event, Lorrie has been featured during a week's worth of International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) shows and as a judge and performer for "American Country Star." In addition, Lorrie regularly serves as a consultant for various projects about the Carter Family.

RONNIE WILLIAMS (MUSICIAN)

Ronnie Williams and the Carter Family Sound have been performing in and around the Central Virginia region for the past 25 years. Though some of the group's members have changed over time, Ronnie has been playing and singing Carter Family music since 1975. Ronnie became close friends of country music legend Mother Maybelle Carter around 1969. Soon after, the friendship extended to the rest of the famous family: Mother Maybelle's daughters, Helen, June and Anita; and Janette Carter (daughter of A.P. and Sara Carter) and her children, Rita and Dale. Ronnie plays the autoharp, guitar and accordion, honoring the "Carter Scratch" style of playing guitar and autoharp. It was Mother Maybelle who created the Carter Scratch style out of the necessity to play lead and rhythm parts at the same time. During Ronnie's career, he has shared the stage at one time or another with all of the Carters as well as "adopted Carter" and June's husband, Johnny Cash. Each year Ronnie travels to Bristol, Tenn. and Hiltons, Va. to play at the Carter Family Festival held at the Carter Family Fold. He performs three to four times annually at The Fold, taking time to do TV interviews and question-and-answer sessions with local college students, discussing Mother Maybelle and her famous picking style. Ronnie is joined each year at the Carter Family Festival by Lorrie Carter Bennett, daughter of Anita. Besides The Fold, among the many venues Ronnie and Lorrie have played are Nashville's Station Inn, The Johnny Cash Museum and the historic Ashland Theater in Ashland, Va. Radio shows include Nashville's "Midnite Jamboree" broadcast on WSM, as well as "Studio One" originating from Johnson City, Tenn.'s WETS studio. The two have appeared several times on Bristol's "Pickin' Porch" show and in 2016 performed at "Concert at the Caves" in Pennsylvania.

VICKI LANGDON (FREELANCE JOURNALIST AND CARTER FAMILY CHRONICLER)

A member of the Advisory Board for the Carter Family Memorial Music Center in Hiltons, Va., Vicki is often involved in projects relating to the music of the Carter Family and Johnny Cash. Vicki's photos were featured in the 2005 and 2015 Johnny Cash calendars published by Brown Trout, in the "Johnny Cash Reads the New Testament" CD box set published by Thomas Nelson and in the comprehensive Anita Carter CD box set issued by Bear Family Records in Germany. In 2012, Universal Music featured Vicki's photos in a limited "Icon" collector's edition Johnny Cash CD/book set. Vicki photographed Helen and Anita Carter for each of their last CD covers -- "The Helen Carter Collection" and "Yesterday" (Anita). Vicki was a consultant for the Carter Family exhibit added to Nashville's Johnny Cash Museum in 2016 and is a photographic contributor to Florentine Films' upcoming multi-part "Country Music" series for PBS. A Texas native, Vicki Langdon was graduated in 1982 from East Texas State University (now Texas A&M -- Commerce), earning a bachelor's degree (with Academic Distinction) in journalism. Having served as a radio station news director, newspaper staff writer, and school district public information director, Vicki now spends her time as a freelance writer and photographer, splitting her time between North Texas and Middle Tennessee. Vicki's writing and photography awards include ones from the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Texas Classroom Teachers Association, Texas State Teachers Association, Texas Press Women, North and East Texas Press Association and the Press Club of Galveston County (Texas).

DARIA JOHNSON (DRUMMER/VOCALIST)

Daria 'Shani' Johnson is a San Francisco based drummer, singer and multi-instrumentalist. Her style is solid, smooth, dependable and sensual. Her dynamic spirit has earned her the title as one of the most sought-after drummers in the Bay Area.

Shani's appetite to create flourished at a young age. In Los Angeles, she began playing music while attending elementary school. Excelling in the art form, music became her primary subject. She continued her education at Hamilton High Academy of Music. Awarded a scholarship she went on to Berklee College of Music, where she studied with Victor Mendoza, Larry Finn, Rick Considine, Anne Peckham, Luanne Warner Katz and Joe Hunt. Her exceptional skills with percussion and drums brought her to San Francisco where she co-founded the band London Street.

On London Street's debut release "Life through Lyric and Melody" Shani contributed her undeniable abilities to sing, write, arrange and produce, in addition to her drumming. London Street has toured the West Coast and Europe sharing the stage with India Arie, Angie Stone, Erykah Badu, John Legend, Brandi Carlile and Ozomatli. She has moved on from London Street to pursue new musical projects including the Daria Johnson Trio.

As an in-demand drummer, Daria 'Shani' Johnson has played with many talented musicians. Her roster includes live performances and studio sessions with Eoin Harrington, Theresa Perez, Esperanza Spalding, Sean Leahy, Four Year Bender, Crystal Monee Hall, Edna Love, Trevor Garrod (Tea Leaf Green), Dan Lebowitz (ALO), Kofy Brown, Vortex Tribe, Vudustu, Papa Mali and Eric McFadden.

Shani brings fire to the stage. Her legacy reveals that her talent not only resides when she is on her throne behind the set, but also on the mic, and in the studio. Daria 'Shani' Johnson is a force to be reckoned with.

CLEMON CHARLES (SINGER/SONGWRITER)

Born on the island of Barbados, Clemon grew up in a world where music is rooted in all aspects of the culture. He discovered his passion around age 9 and has been playing guitar every since. At age 21 he embarked upon the journey to America to pursue his musical passions and has centered his career around the world of events and production. From technical direction to backstage management to outstanding live performances, Clemon never turns down an opportunity to engage a crowd and loves sharing his music. With a variety of diverse experience and culture, his music is a melodic infusion of the West Indies, Seattle's Alternative Rock and New Orleans Jazz. His voice carries along a sultry style with a raspy touch that make his sound unique like a folk singer, with a wide array of covers and originals. Clemon has performed for the likes of Goldie Hawn, Dr. Oz and Montel Williams.

ANDY SANTANA (HARMONICA)

Andy Santana is a Delta Groove Music recording artist. On October 16, 2015, his new CD "Watch Your Step" released worldwide and early after its release garnered rave reviews. With 35 years experience fronting bands in Northern California, Andy has been a featured artist in venues as varied as the Monterey Blues Festival & Monterey Jazz Festival, the San Francisco Blues Festival, the Fillmore, the Santa Cruz Blues Festival, the Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans, Battle of the Harps Victoria Theater San Francisco, San Jose Jazz Fest, the Shoreline Amphitheater, venues from Seattle to Belgium and many, many more.

The " West Coast Playboys" includes Andy Santana on vocals, harmonica and guitar with Greg Roberts (guitar), Mike Phillips (Bass), and Hans Bosse (drums). These musicians form a world class blues band playing rhythm and roots music reminiscent of New Orleans, Chicago, and West Coast influences.

KIERA ANDERSON (VOCALIST)

Kiera Anderson is an actor, choreographer, director, teaching artist and arts education advocate. A proud alumna of St. Francis High School ('99), Kiera graduated from New York University in 2002 with a BFA in Theatre. After 10 years as a professional actor, working off-Broadway, in New York, and regional theatres across the country, Kiera moved to Los Angeles to be with her husband, actor Bradford Anderson. She turned her attention to yoga, and is an ERYT-500 yoga teacher with a focus in yoga therapy. Kiera has always been passionate about access to arts education, and has taught workshops and classes for young people since 2002. As national project manager and assistant to the Sr. VP of the DEA Educational Foundation, Kiera is honored to help thousands of students receive access to dance education through the DEA Youth Dance Program. Kiera teaches drama at St. Francis High School, and is currently pursuing a M.Ed. Drama in Education degree through University of Dublin, Trinity College.

SUNNY STATON MITCHELL (DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER)

Sunny Mitchell is a choreographer, vocalist, instructor, and entertainment developer. Her career has included many principal and solo roles during her tenure with the Sacramento Ballet and California Musical Theatre. Sunny (SFHS '94) holds a BFA, specialization in choreography, from UC Irvine and an MA in Education from CSUS. Other titles include Adjunct Dance Professor (Folsom Lake College and CSUS), Assistant Choreographer for Sacramento Music Circus, Choreographer for CMT Junior Company and other Academy instruction, and a number of titles in education with the Sacramento Ballet. Other affiliations include Theatre Ventures International, under the guidance of Dennis Nahat, Stephens College in Missouri, Musical Theatre Intensive Sacramento, SMAC, Sacramento Shakespeare Festival, Leighton Dance Project, and various fundraisers and fashion shows. Sunny is a proud member of Actor's Equity and the founding director of Sunny Mitchell Theatre Projects (SMTP), a platform for developing theatrical works that are alive, creative, and imaginative. Her most recent endeavor, directing and performing in a large music concert, entitled American Legend, brought together over 20 artists from across the state of California in a benefit for Folsom's own Johnny Cash Art Trail, and garnered her the City of Folsom's 2016 Arts Achievement Award. Her vocal group, a Carter Sisters tribute band The Wildwood Roses, most recently had the honor of performing at the city of Folsom's Grand Opening of the second phase of the Johnny Cash Art Trail.

KEVIN MARCY (LEAD ARTIST)

Born into a musical family, Mr. Marcy attended PCPA in Southern California before he started playing music with his brothers. After forming the Marcy Brothers band, Kevin and his brothers secured two major label record deals, yielding a top 40 song and three #1 videos, among other honors. Touring with the Marcy Brothers, he opened for Johnny and June Carter Cash, Waylon Jennings, George Strait, Merle Haggard, Charlie Rich, Alabama, and Alan Jackson, to name a few! Kevin is also a songwriter, writing for three major publishing companies in Nashville. Recently, "364 Days to Go" was cut by Brad Paisley for Paisley's Christmas album. After touring as Brad Paisley's sound technician, Kevin took a short break from performing and songwriting to spend time with family. SMTP's American Legend marked his return to the stage. He is also releasing an acoustic album of original songs soon.

THE WILDWOOD ROSES (CARTER SISTERS TRIBUTE BAND)

Under the direction of Sunny Mitchell and including members Danielle Hansen, Jodi Galloway and Jeanne Marie Jacobson, their combined professional credits include hundreds of productions with California Musical Theatre, The Sacramento Ballet, Simi Valley Performing Arts Center and appearances with Shirley Jones,

Patrick Cassidy, Natalie Cole, and Dick Clark. They have collaborated with Cash tribute bands across California including The Walking Phoenixes, The Johnny Cash Tribute Show - Featuring James Garner, The Cash Prophets, and have most recently been featured in *American Legend: A Tribute to Johnny Cash's Life in Song*.

ZACK SAPUNOR (BASSIST)

A veteran of American's roots music scene, Zack has performed with Wayne Hancock's band, San Antonio's Jim Cullum Jazz Band, leads his own ensemble "Hot City" and has performed in Million Dollar Quartet for Norwegian Cruise Lines. Mr. Sapunor is a six time SAMMIE award nominee and a playwright with half a dozen production credits to his name.

TODD MORGAN (VOCALIST/MUSICIAN)

As a performer, artist, and musician, Todd Morgan wears many hats. He is an accomplished singer, pianist, drummer, songwriter, bandleader, and producer. He also has the ability to be a true showman at any appropriate opportunity. The music that he creates with his band, Todd Morgan & the Emblems, has been described in many different ways. With a healthy mix of modern pop/rock, soul, blues, funk disco, hot jazz, country and todd's first love, early rock 'n' roll, there is truly something in his music to please and excite audiences. Todd is currently in LA recording his first major album.

GIORGI KHOKHOBASHVILI (VIOLIN)

Giorgi has been a part of Sacramento music scene since moving from the country of Georgia in 2005. He has played with local symphonies, theater companies and a wide variety of bands. His interests span everything from Gypsy Jazz to Celtic music and Bluegrass to Rock. He enjoys playing and teaching the violin.

POETS & PIONEERS roster of artists include:

Lorrie Carter Bennett
Lindsay Alhady
Kiera Anderson
Karissa Carleton
Clemon Charles
Cory Coppin
Kale Coppin
Jadi Galloway
Jen Heideman
Jeanne Marie Jacobson
Dalton Johnson
Daria Johnson
Giorgi Khokhobashvili
Stephen Knoble
Kevin Marcy
Evan Martorana
Sunny Mitchell
Todd Morgan
Kalia Rucker
Zack Sapunor
Andy Santana
Owen Whetstone
AND
Ronnie Williams

This performance is suitable for all ages.

