

CLAY ROSS

Clay Ross has established himself as an in-demand sideman and innovative bandleader on the international music scene, winning multiple grants through the U.S. Department of State and touring around the world as a cultural ambassador. Now signed to the Motema Music label, he currently tours internationally, leading his New York City-based band Matuto. "Ross is a very deft guitarist with a rich vocabulary of folk, blues, and jazz at his disposal." (*Wall Street Journal*)

CHARLTON SINGLETON

Charlton Singleton is the artistic director and conductor of the Charleston Jazz Orchestra, a twenty-piece jazz ensemble that includes some of the finest professional musicians in the Southeast, and the Big Band of Charleston, South Carolina. Having toured across Europe and throughout the United States, he has shared the stage with some of the most talented entertainers in the world.

CALVIN BAXTER

Calvin Baxter is playing today for his uncle Quentin E. Baxter, a Grammy-nominated musician and producer currently on tour with Freddy Cole and René Marie. *The Post and Courier of Charleston* writes that Calvin is known "as a gifted producer, engineer, and multi-instrumentalist, who is quickly garnering a reputation among musical cognoscenti as a go-to guy for R&B and Funk. His primary instrument is drums, but he is an accomplished keyboard player, singer and guitar player."

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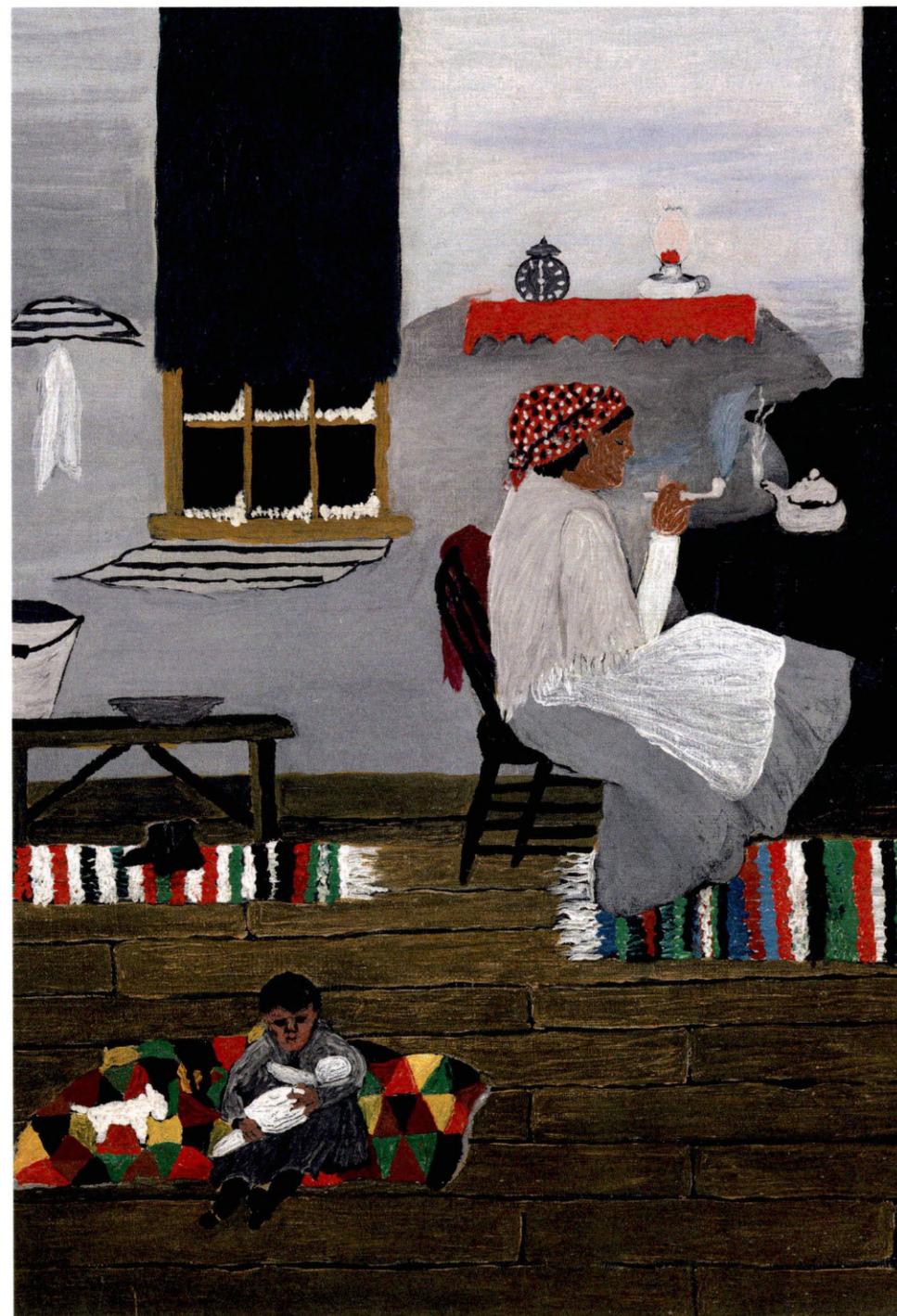
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Cover Horace Pippin, *Interior* (detail), 1944, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Meyer P. Potamkin, in Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the National Gallery of Art

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76TH SEASON OF CONCERTS

MAY 13, 2018 / NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART



Program

Ranky Tanky

Kevin Hamilton, bass

Quiana Parler, vocals

Clay Ross, guitar and vocals

Charlton Singleton, trumpet and vocals

Calvin Baxter, drums

Celebrating *Outliers and American Vanguard Art*

MAY 13, 2018 / 3:30

WEST BUILDING, WEST GARDEN COURT

Program will be announced from the stage.

The Band

The word “Gullah” has its origins in West Africa and means “a people blessed by God.” “Ranky Tanky” translates loosely as “Work It,” or “Get Funky!” In this spirit, this Charleston, South Carolina-based quintet performs timeless music of Gullah culture born in the southeastern Sea Island region of the United States. From playful game songs to ecstatic shouts, from heartbreaking spirituals to delicate lullabies, the musical roots of Charleston are “rank” and fertile ground from which these contemporary artists are grateful to have grown.

South Carolina natives Quentin Baxter, Kevin Hamilton, Charlton Singleton, and Clay Ross first came together in 1998, fresh out of university, to form a seminal Charleston jazz quartet. Now, united by years apart and a deeper understanding of home, these accomplished artists have come together again, joined by Quiana Parler, one of the Lowcountry’s most celebrated vocalists, to revive a “Heartland of American Music” born in their own backyards.

The Musicians

KEVIN HAMILTON

Kevin Hamilton is a celebrated artist in Charleston’s vibrant jazz scene and has performed internationally with renowned artists such as Houston Person, Gregory Hines, and René Marie, as well as with the Charleston Jazz Orchestra. Hamilton joined the U.S. Department of State’s OneBeat program in 2012 and holds a degree in music theory and composition from the College of Charleston.

QUIANA PARLER

One of the most sought-after voices in the South Carolina Lowcountry, Quiana Parler has graced many of our nation’s most prestigious stages. Following her top placement on the television show *American Idol*, she was discovered by Clay Aiken, with whom she toured nationally for seven years. Parler has performed with Kelly Clarkson, Ruben Studdard, and Miranda Lambert, worked with producers David Foster, Adam Anders, Phil Ramone, and Walter Afanasieff, and appeared on the television programs *The View*, *Good Morning America*, and *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, among others. Currently based in Charleston, Parler performs locally and across the country with her ten-piece party band, Quiana Parler & Shiny Disco Ball Band.