

Martha Redbone

"A true original; the kind of artist who sets trends, as opposed to following them."
— Billboard

"Combines folk, Appalachian, soul and Native tradition in a group of settings of poetry by William Blake — a startling idea that brims with potency and freshness"
— NPR

"Poised to be Americana's next superstar."
— Village Voice



"Martha Redbone's voice held both the taut determination of mountain music and the bite of American Indian singing." — The New York Times



FORMATS

STANDARD PERFORMANCE:

Acoustic quintet featuring Martha Redbone (vocals, hand percussion), Aaron Whitby (keyboard), plus guitar, fiddle, and bass.

- > An Evening w/
- > Festival headliner

OPTIONS:

- > Trio, Quartet, Sextet, and Septet acoustic configurations also available.
- > Outreach workshops and lectures available.

THEATER:

- > **"Bone Hill"** (8-piece ensemble w/ five voices renders Martha's new musical/autobiography about post-slavery Appalachia)

AVAILS

Open/General

Native & African-American vocalist/songwriter/composer/educator, Martha Redbone, is known for her unique gumbo of folk, blues, and gospel from her childhood in Harlan County, Kentucky infused with the eclectic grit of pre-gentrified Brooklyn. Inheriting the powerful vocal range of her gospel-singing African American father and the resilient spirit of her mother's Cherokee/Shawnee/Choctaw culture, Redbone broadens the boundaries of American Roots music. With songs and storytelling that share her life experience as a Native and Black woman and mother in the new millennium, Redbone gives voice to issues of social justice, bridging traditions from past to present, connecting cultures, and celebrating the human spirit.

Her album The Garden of Love: Songs of William Blake, produced by Nitty Gritty Dirt Band founder/Grammy Winner John McEuen is an unexpected twist — "a brilliant collision of cultures" (The New Yorker) — Redbone's magnificent voice, Blake's immortal words, and a masterful cornucopia of roots music (blues, gospel, bluegrass, soul and traditional Southeastern Woodlands). Featured on All Things Considered the album released on her own imprint Blackfeet Productions rose to the Top Ten on Amazon Folk Charts for many weeks and has become the bedrock of her live shows bringing audiences to their feet with her fiery old time mountain gospel singing and foot-stomping energy.

Redbone and her long term collaborator, pianist Aaron Whitby are called "the little engine that could [by their] band of NYC's finest blues and jazz musicians" (Larry Blumenthal/Wall Street Journal). From grassroots beginnings at powwows across Indian Country and in the underground clubs of NYC Redbone has built a passionate fan base with her mesmerizing presence and explosive live shows. Her debut Home of the Brave — "Stunning album, the kind of woman who sets trends" (Billboard) — garnered extremely positive critical attention while her sophomore album Skintalk — described as the soulful sound of "Earth, Wind and Fire on the Rez" (J Poet, Native Peoples Magazine) — took her music to Europe and the Far East. Albums Skintalk and Garden are recognized in the Library Collection and "Up Where We Belong: Native Musicians in Popular Culture" exhibits in the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in DC.

Redbone is Composer for the Public Theater's 2019 production of "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow is Enuff", a revival/reimagining of the 1976 classic choreopoem by the late Ntozake Shange. Rave reviews with notable mentions for Redbone's original compositions and score "supreme music... brilliant" (NY Daily News). The Redbone and Whitby's newest work is **BONE HILL**, an interdisciplinary musical theater work inspired by the lives of Redbone's family in the hills of coal-mining Appalachia. Bone Hill is a recipient of the NEFA National Theater Project Creation and Touring Grant and National Performance Network Creation Fund.

SUPPORT/ARTIST LINKS

RECORD LABEL/PUBLICITY:

Blackfeet Productions
646.320.7039

SOCIAL NETWORKS:

- (6.6K+ likes)
- (1.10K+ views)
- (1.5K+ followers)

... also Instagram, SoundCloud

WEBSITE:

www.martharedbone.com

BOOKINGS

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