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**Jazz at Lincoln Center Radio
Remembering Odetta, Nina, and Miriam
With Sweet Honey In the Rock
Season 19
Program 22; Airdate 2/23/12**

**1) VOX:
Barnwell**

My name is Ysaye Marie Barnwell and I was first introduced to the music of Odetta, Nina and Miriam in the early '60s, maybe Odetta a little before that. I went to a school where there were very few black folk on the campus and in fact only seven [laughs] and what I quickly realized was that listening to Odetta, listening to Nina, made a huge difference in my being able to define who I was .

//When Odetta died, and when the opportunity to come to Jazz at Lincoln Center came up, it sort of came out and we sort of said, yeah, that's really a good idea.

Robinson: Good idea!

Barnwell: [laughs]

Robinson: Because I think they were toying with us doing a children's show or something here, a family show.

Maillard: A family concert here, yes.

Robinson: And we said to the other one, we were like hmm.

Maillard: Very interesting.

Robinson: That's the one.

Maillard: We set to working on it.

2) PIERCE:

THEIR REPERTOIRE RANGED FROM SLAVE SONGS AND TRADITIONAL AFRICAN MELODIES TO THE MOST SOPHISTICATED JAZZ. ON THE ROSE HALL STAGE, WE HONOR THREE WOMEN WHOSE WORK HAS BECOME PART OF THE DNA OF JAZZ MUSIC. I'M WENDELL PIERCE, WITH A TRIBUTE -- CREATED BY THE RENOWNED ENSEMBLE *SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK*: JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER CELEBRATES MIRIAM MAKEBA -- NINA SIMONE -- AND ODETTA.

ALT:

THEIR REPERTOIRE RANGED FROM SLAVE SONGS AND TRADITIONAL AFRICAN MELODIES TO THE MOST SOPHISTICATED JAZZ. WITH A TRIBUTE CREATED BY THE RENOWNED ENSEMBLE *SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK*, WE HONOR THREE WOMEN WHOSE WORK HAS BECOME PART OF THE DNA OF JAZZ : MIRIAM MAKEBA – WHO MADE THE SONGS, AND STRUGGLE, OF SOUTH AFRICA KNOWN TO THE WORLD; NINA SIMONE – WHOSE PERSONAL, EMOTIONAL STYLE EMODED STRENGTH IN SONG; AND ODETTA – THE AMERICAN FOLK SINGER WHOSE GOSPEL SOUL WOULD BECOME A BEACON FOR FREEDOM. I'M WENDELL PIERCE. THIS IS JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER.

3) MUSIC:

4) MUSIC: SABOU MOYA (Makeba) (4:30)

5) VOX:

Over applause 'well well well...welcome...' Let's start off by saying, we are Sweet Honey in the Rock (aplse) and, we have a very special treat in this amazing remembrance of three women who have had an enormous impact not only on us as artists, as singers, as women, as African Americans, as activists. We wanted to give these ladies a special little extra something in addition to our voices we wanted to bring the band in.. and we also want this to be not just a remembrance of the voice of the of the civil rights movement, the queen of the civil rights movement, the high priestess of soul in Mama Africa. We really want this to be a celebration. So when I say How'y'all doin what you gonna say?

Ysaye – this next song is an old song. We don't know really whether it was a children's game song from slavery or became a coded song during from slavery... we know that recently it has taken on some other connotations . It was sung both by Odetta and by Nina Simone.. Shirley I'm not sure how you are going to spell this or interpret this because there were many spellings. It could be "c' like the letter, dash "l- i-n-e" or .. "s-e-e l-i-n-e" or it could be "s-e-a l-i- o-n", and on and on and on take your pick.

6) MUSIC: SEA LINE WOMAN (3:00)

7) MUSIC: LOVE ME OR LEAVE ME (4:00)

8) MUSIC: TROUBLE IN MIND (4:00)

9) MUSIC: FEELIN GOOD (3:20)

10) MUSIC: MIDNIGHT SPECIAL (3:25)

11) MUSIC: PATA PATA (4:00)

12) PIERCE:

PATA PATA, MIRIAM MAKEBA'S WORLDWIDE, WORLD-MUSIC HIT FROM 1967. *SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK* -- AND ENSEMBLE -- IN TRIBUTE TO MIRIAM MAKEBA, NINA SIMONE AND ODETTA. *SWEET HONEY* IS -- YSAYE MARIA BARNWELL, LOUISE ROBINSON, CAROL MAILLARD, NATANJU BOLADE CASEL, AISHA KAHLIL, AND THEIR SIGNER – A PERMANENT PART OF THE GROUP - SHIRLEY CHILDRESS SAXTON. MUSIC ACCOMPANYMENT AND ARRANGEMENTS BY PIANIST STACEY WADE WITH DUVAL BELL AT THE DRUMS AND PARKER MCALLISTER ON THE BASS.

IF YOU WANT TO SHARE THIS CONCERT WITH YOUR FRIENDS – YOU CAN DO THAT AT J A L C DOT ORG SLASH JAZZCAST. AND YOU CAN HEAR A CONVERSATION WITH THE WOMEN OF SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK ON OUR JAZZSTORIES PODCAST. FIND AT JALC DOT ORG AND ON ITUNES.

WE ARE BACK WITH THE SECOND HALF IN ABOUT ONE MINUTE. I'M WENDELL PIERCE – JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER.

13) Music: :59

14) Actualities:

Maillard: We started working on this about not quite a year ago, maybe about eight or nine months ago during the summer, 2010, we started talking about the music. So it was important for us I think really to get a song list that we had some kind really strong connection to, either from the form, the message, or that it meant something to us personally and then we weeded out –

Barnwell: There were songs that maybe two or more of them had done in the repertoire and that was fascinating to look at, you know that they had actually shared some repertoire, different styles.

Robinson: And we were trying to look at what they shared in terms of their philosophy and who they were and the points that brought them together; what were the points that they shared in common,

15) PIERCE:

THIS IS JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER -- I'M WENDELL PIERCE. AND WE CONTINUE FROM THE STAGE OF THE ROSE THEATER WITH *SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK* -- THE A CAPELLA ENSEMBLE -- KNOWN INTERNATIONALLY FOR THEIR POWERFUL SYNTHESIS OF BLACK GOSPEL MUSIC WITH PROGRESSIVE POLITICS.

FOUNDER BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON HAD BEEN ONE OF THE NINETEEN SIXTIES 'FREEDOM SINGERS', AND SWEET HONEY APPEARED FREQUENTLY OPPOSING APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND BUILT A STRONG FEMINIST FOLLOWING. MORE THAN 20 WOMEN HAVE BEEN PART OF THE GROUP SINCE ITS INCEPTION. IN THIS PERFORMANCE WE ARE HEARING YSAYE MARIA BARNWELL, NITANJU BOLADE CASEL, AISHA KAHLIL, AND TWO ORIGINAL MEMBERS LOUISE ROBINSON AND CAROL LYNN MAILLARD. ALMOST SINCE ITS FORMATION THE GROUP HAS INCLUDED AN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER -- AND THAT REMARKABLE SIGN-DANCER IS SHIRLEY CHILDRESS SAXTON.

WHAT'S UNUSUAL ABOUT THIS PERFORMANCE IS THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF PIANO TRIO, A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR THE GROUP.

16) Actuality Maillard:

Sweet Honey in the Rock is primarily an a cappella group; five voices and we do have a sign language interpreter for our deaf and hard of hearing audiences. So we were trying to figure out what would we do to make it special. Do we want a band? Do we want a band for the whole thing or just a little bit? We decided let's go for it, so we have a trio who is playing -- they are playing -- we have piano, bass and drums and the drummer is also a percussionist and we are doing most of the songs in the set with our trio.

17) PIERCE:

SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK KNOWS HOW TO NURTURE THE MESSAGE IN THE MUSIC -- LIKE THE SINGERS WE ARE CELEBRATING IN THIS JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER CONCERT -- MIRIAM MAKIBA, NINA SIMONE AND ODETTA.

18) YSAYE:

We're gonna do a medley of songs... Odetta had favorite songs that she would put into a medley and most of them had to do with freedom. So we're gonna call this the Freedom Suite. And um.. She would not want you to sit back and listen. We learned that from her. So we want you to join in.

Now most of you will know these songs, but if you don't, learn them please. Because I have a feeling we're gonna need them -- shortly.

19) MUSIC: FREEDOM SUITE (3:20)

- **On My Way To The Freedom Land (1:20)**

“Last Fall another one of our leaves fell – a wonderful singer – Abby Lincoln and we thought we would be remiss to not include her in the circle of light”

20) DOWN HERE BELOW (Lincoln) (3:20)

21) SECRET WORLD (1:00)

22) A TURTLE’S DREAM (1:30)

23) I’M IN LOVE (2:30)

24) TELL ME MORE – Nina Simone (4:15)

25) MUSIC: Rhythm into RUNNIN’ ON

26) MUSIC: GREAT GOD ALMIGHTY GONNA CUT YOU DOWN (2:00)

27) MUSIC: SOLDIER IN THE ARMY OF THE LORD... (2:15)

28) MUSIC: JARA BE (My Love has Come)

29) MUSIC: AFRICA IS WHERE MY HEART LIES

30) PIERCE:

TWO SONGS FROM MIRIAM MAKEBA CLOSING OUR CONCERT IN HONOR OF MS MAKEBA, NINA SIMONE AND ODETTA – WITH THE VOICES OF *SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK...* YSAYE MARIA BARNWELL, NITANJU BOLADE CASEL, AISHA KAHLIL, LOUISE ROBINSON AND CAROL LYNN MAILLARD -- AND AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER SHIRLEY CHILDRESS SAXTON.

THE MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ACCOMPANIMENT BY PIANIST STACEY WADE, DUVAL BELL AT THE DRUMS AND PARKER MCALLISTER PLAYING BASS. OUR THANKS TO ANTONIO CIACCA AND RAMON HERVEYII AND OF COURSE THE PRODUCTION CREW AT ROSE HALL. YOU CAN HEAR THIS SHOW AGAIN, ANYTIME AT J-A-L-C (DOT) ORG AND FIND OUR JAZZSTORIES PODCAST WITH SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK THERE AND ON ITUNES.

THIS EDITION OF JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER RADIO WAS WRITTEN BY STEVE RATHE AND PRODUCED AT MURRAY STREET WITH ALEXA LIM AND DAVID GOREN.

OUR RECORDINGS MADE BY ROB MACOMBER AT SIRIUS XM STUDIOS. THE MIX BY JIM ROBESON WAS PRODUCED BY NITANJU BOLADE CASEL AND MASTERED BY MIKE MONSEUR AT BIAS RECORDING IN SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA.

Jazz at Lincoln Center Radio
Sweet Honey In the Rock -- Nina, Miriam & Odetta

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JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER BROADCASTS AND RECORDINGS ARE SUPERVISED
BY CAT HENRY. THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER IS WYNTON
MARSALIS.
I'M WENDELL PIERCE. COME BACK NEXT WEEK.