

AMERICAN DIVAS

FRIDAY
MAR 28
7:30 PM

SCOTT SPECK
CONDUCTOR

SHAYNA STEELE
VOCALS



Act One

Specter/Barry/Greenwood/Arr. Steele & Cook/Orch. Tyzik	River Deep Mountain High
Masser/Goffin/Arr. Neal & Cook/Orch. Tyzik	Saving All My Love For You
Ray Charles/Arr. Cook/Orch. Tyzi	Believe To My Soul
Shayna Steele & David Cook/Orch. Tyzik	First Time I Saw You
Miller/Murden/Arr. Cook/Orch. Tyzik	For Once In My Life
Shayna Steele & David Cook/Orch. Tyzik	Gone Under
Big Mama Thornton/Arr. Steele & Cook/Orch. Tyzik	Life Goes On

Act Two

Franklin & White/arr. Tyzik	Think
Shannon/Arr. Tyzik	I Never Loved A Man (The Way I Love You)
Broadnax/Wonder/Paul/Arr. Tyzik	Until You Come Back To Me
Nicks/Arr. Steele & Cook/Orch. Tyzik	Gold Dust Woman
Steele/Cook/Marshall/Orch. Tyzik	Bloodline
Little Milton/Arr. Steele & Cook/Orch. Tyzik	That's What Love Will Make You Do
Shayna Steele & David Cook/Orch. Tyzik	Wear Me Down

Loop and Infrared Systems in place for the hearing impaired. Please inquire with an usher for use of this system.

Please silence and dim screens of all cell phones and other electronic devices.
The use of recording devices during the performance is strictly prohibited.

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SEASON
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Shayna Steele

This dynamic vocalist puts new meaning to diversity and grassroots talent. Her natural ability to traverse musical genres—be it in the studio, stage or screen—has kept her on the “A” list of in-demand singers in the industry. Shayna’s effortless execution of both soul and jazz has grabbed the attention of audiences globally—including such settings as the Monterey Jazz Festival, North Sea Jazz Festival with Snarky Puppy, and countless symphony orchestras throughout North America.

Shayna’s creative abilities explode in multiple genres and her original signature sound on her fourth studio album, *Gold Dust*, released in 2023 on Ropeadope Records. Her mature songwriting abilities are dynamically evident in its unique fusion of soul, jazz and blues. Produced by David Cook (Billboard No. 1 Jazz album, *Spectrum* by Shoshana Bean) *Gold Dust* embodies a sound that has taken Shayna 20 years to perfect. The album features a fresh new cover of Cole Porter’s “You’d Be So Nice to Come Home To” featuring Grammy nominated saxophonist Donny McCaslin. The album also highlights new original material, including the inspiring anthem “The Bloodline” celebrating her ancestors; and the sultry yet intimate “Behind Closed Doors” with jazz crooner Sachal Vasandani. However, it is her explosive new arrangement of Stevie Nick’s “Gold Dust Woman” that will especially leave every listener in awe.

“At this point in my life, I have more clarity about my identity and sound as an artist than ever before. *Gold Dust* is a reflection of my growth and demonstrates my full potential as a vocalist, a writer, and an arranger.”
- Shayna Steele

A MESSAGE FROM CONCERT SPONSOR SMITH HAUGHEY RICE & ROEGGE

Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge is a long-time supporter of the Muskegon community, its institutions, its people, and its future. Our professionals have been active members of the Muskegon community for over 40 years. It’s more than where we practice law. It’s where we—as individuals and families—live and invest our time, talents and experience. We strive to make our community a better place for everyone.

Smith Haughey is proud to support the West Michigan Symphony and is grateful for its commitment to connecting and enriching our community. We thank you for joining us and hope you enjoy tonight’s performance..

Emerging from the pandemic’s gridlock on the music industry, Shayna’s inspiration for *Gold Dust* was fueled by her creative relationship with the extra time with her family. It drove Shayna to plan a new album following her 2019 *Watch Me Fly* (Must Have/Membran) and return to music school after nearly 30 years to finish her music degree. She created many of the album tracks within the classroom at the prestigious Berklee College of Music, where she maintains a 3.95 GPA.

Shayna debuted *American Diva* in 2023 with the Rochester Philharmonic. This new solo symphony show is a collaboration with Grammy-winning conductor and composer Jeff Tyzik, featuring his stellar arrangements of her music and favorite covers. Shayna has performed with over 100 North American symphony orchestras, including the Dallas Symphony and the Detroit Symphony, where she debuted her solo blues program *Nothin’ But the Blues* (featured on WMS’s 2021-2022 season).

Shayna has appeared with Grammy-winning trumpeter Chris Botti and provided vocals to Moby’s tracks “Raining Again,” “Disco Lies,” and “Extreme Ways.” Snarky Puppy’s Michael League handpicked Shayna’s original track “Gone Under” for inclusion in their hit album *Family Dinner – Volume 1* (Ropeadope Records), a viral sensation with over two million views and countless covers. No stranger to the small and silver screens, Shayna has sung on the soundtracks for *Hairspray*, *The Bourne Identity* and *Sex and the City 2*, as well as making a guest appearance on *The Sopranos!* Recently, Shayna appeared on television in the new Marvel Max Original Series *The Penguin*.

After spending her early years living mainly in Germany as the daughter of an Air Force master sergeant, Shayna spent her teen years in Biloxi, Mississippi, where she honed her musical theater and vocal talent. Her appearance on *Star Search* with Ed McMahon brought her to national acclaim.

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After leaving college, she went on to New York City where she performed in the musicals *RENT*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and the Tony Award winning *Hairspray!* She then moved out on her own, providing background vocals for Bette Midler, Rihanna and Kelly Clarkson, and appearing with trumpeter Chris Botti and countless other "A" list stars. After going solo, writing, and putting her band together, Shayna released her album, *RISE*, in 2015 (Ropeadope Records), reaching No. 2 on the U.S. iTunes jazz charts. Shayna has done the work, with her dynamic voice breathing life into what has become *Gold Dust*.

"My new work reflects my connection with my daughter, social justice, coming up from the ashes, and newfound freedom from isolation. The darkness did not swallow me whole, and I'm grateful to be back."

Gold Dust is available to purchase on all major streaming platforms.



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 Dockside Donuts, 1950 Lakeshore Dr.
 Marine Tap Room, 1983 Lakeshore Dr.
 Cherokee Restaurant, 1971 W. Sherman Blvd.
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Help raise funds for WMS learning and community initiatives with this two-hour private party cruise. Mix and mingle with WMS musicians and fans while enjoying the natural beauty of West Michigan. Includes cash bar, live musical entertainment and small bites, catered by The Hearthstone Bistro. \$75 per person.

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