



For Immediate Release

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JAZZ STAR SAMARA JOY RETURNS TO SYMPHONY HALL THIS SPRING

ATLANTA – Today, **Samara Joy** announced her return to **Atlanta Symphony Hall** this spring on her upcoming **Spring 2026 Tour**. The Grammy award-winning vocalist will be joined on stage by the **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO)** for two special performances on **March 25 & 26, 2026**. Tickets go on sale this **Friday, September 19 at 10AM at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com)**. For further information on this program, visit aso.org/live.

About Samara Joy

A native of the Bronx, Samara Joy became entranced by classic R&B as a child and cut her teeth as a singer in her church's gospel choir. And while her family history is deeply musical—her grandparents helmed the Philadelphia gospel group the Savettes, and her father, the musician and songwriter Antonio McLendon, has produced, composed and arranged his own astounding original work—she didn't delve into the jazz tradition until college at SUNY Purchase. During her studies there she won the 2019 Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, which introduced her to the larger jazz scene as a rising star to watch. She was heard, by audiences and critics alike, as a masterful interpreter of jazz standards and a rightful heiress of the sound, technique and charisma that defined her jazz heroines—including Vaughan, Betty Carter, Abbey Lincoln and Carmen McRae.

Joy released her self-titled debut on the Whirlwind label in 2021, followed a year later by *Linger Awhile*, her breakout Verve debut, of which Down Beat said, "With this beautiful recording, a silky-voiced star is born." The album earned her a Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Album in addition to a headline-making win for Best New Artist. A deluxe edition of the album was released, as well as the EP *A Joyful Holiday*, which took home Grammys for Best Jazz Vocal Album and Best Jazz Performance in 2025. Her new Verve album, *Portrait*, which Joy co-produced with the veteran trumpeter/bandleader and multi-Grammy winner Brian Lynch, showcases the intimate, soulful chemistry she's developed with her touring band, already earning her an NAACP Image Award this year for Best Jazz Album. *Portrait* also spotlights her burgeoning gifts as a lyricist, in ingenious arrangements that meld her thoughtful words with music by Charles Mingus, Sun Ra and her late mentor Barry Harris.

Samara Joy with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra is presented by Delta Atlanta Symphony Hall LIVE and will take place at Atlanta Symphony Hall on Wednesday, March 25 and Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 8:00PM. Tickets become available to the public this Friday, September 19 at 10:00 AM.

About Delta Atlanta Symphony Hall LIVE

Delta Atlanta Symphony Hall LIVE concerts feature world-renowned musicians and entertainers, several of which will be joined on-stage by the GRAMMY® award-winning, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Highlighting genres across the entertainment gamut, guests can enjoy concerts and events ranging from pop, rock, country, R&B, jazz, comedy, podcasts, book tours and everything in between. Symphony Hall continues to present a diverse array of artists throughout the year, bringing unique visual and aural experiences to the Atlanta community through the magic of live performances.

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