



Celebrating 21 years!



An Evening with

Ben Jones

and special guest Allison Semmes

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It was a sweltering day in August of 2003 when we were setting up for the debut of Summer Concerts on the Hudson. A renowned Zydeco band had arrived from Lafayette, Louisiana and was about to do the sound check. I was taking a break from the set up and, while driving, heard a report on the radio about a blackout in New York City and our area. As time went by, we learned that the power outage was severe and would be long lasting. No power, no sound, no lights, no show! It was an inauspicious debut indeed! Luckily there were no problems for our next scheduled show two weeks later with Grammy-winner Paquito D'Rivera. What a memorable night that was!

Who knew that we would continue for over 20 years, even during Covid? It's been a wonderful thing for the Township of Weehawken, Hudson County, and the region. I like to call it a gift to the residents since the concerts are free. And you all make it happen. I am proud and you should be too!

Thank you!

Bruce Sherman
Executive Director
Hudson Riverfront PAC, Inc.



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We apologize for any misspellings or omissions.



Production Credits

Bruce Sherman
Producer

Sound by Hellhound Audio
Fernando Andrade

Bryan Beninghove
Production Consultant

Frank Costello
Production Assistant

Jairo Polanco
Production Assistant

Graphic Design by Liadida Design
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Photography by Jay Savulich

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An Evening with

Ben Jones

and Special Guest

Allison Semmes

Ron Abel
Musical Direction, piano

Lauren Hendrix
bass

Ray Marchica
drums

Ben Jones is one of the most versatile and talented artists working in the theater and cabaret scene. Broadway World wrote that Ben had “one of the most unbelievable vocal instruments in the industry today.”

He is a fixture at New York’s 54 Below where he performs to sellout crowds. Last year he took on the role of Sid Sorokin in *The Pajama Game* in San Francisco, for which he received the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for “Best Performance in a Musical.” And in 2022, his solo shows—*I Think I’m in Love* and *I Think We Should See Other People*—were featured in *Broadway World’s* “Best of 2022.”

Not only can Ben sing the American Songbook, but he has worked as a musical artist in Classical music and sung with opera greats Isabel Leonard, Nathan Gunn, Frederica von Stade and many others. He has also appeared with great American orchestras such as the San Francisco Symphony, the Seattle Symphony, the Pittsburgh Symphony, and the San Diego Symphony, to name a few. The renowned conductor Michael Tilson Thomas said this of Ben, “We’re still trying to figure out what it is that Ben can’t do.”

He made his Carnegie Hall debut virtually in 2021, performing a song from the new musical *A Most Dangerous Man* on Carnegie Hall’s *Voices of Hope* series. Ben has also been featured on *A Prairie Home Companion*, with the *Bang on a Can All-Stars*, and has recorded for the Albany, Naxos, and Delos labels.

Allison Semmes recently portrayed the role of Josephine Baker in Barry Manilow and Bruce Sussman’s Broadway show, *Harmony*. After studying opera at the University of Illinois, Allison continued her studies at NYU receiving her Master of Music in Musical Theater. Since being named a “Broadway Rising Star” at New York City’s Town Hall, she has graced hundreds of theaters in America with shows *Bubbling Brown Sugar*, *DreamGirls*, *The Wiz*, *Book Of Mormon*, *The Color Purple*, and *Motown: the Musical*, in which she played the role of the legendary Diana Ross.

Allison has performed and collaborated with notable artists, including Erykah Badu and the Brooklyn Philharmonic and Jazz greats Kurt Elling and Dee Dee Bridgewater at Jazz at Lincoln Center. She has also written and performed with Stevie Wonder and can be heard in his song *Can’t Put it in the Hands of Fate*. Allison believes that there is great healing and unifying power in music.

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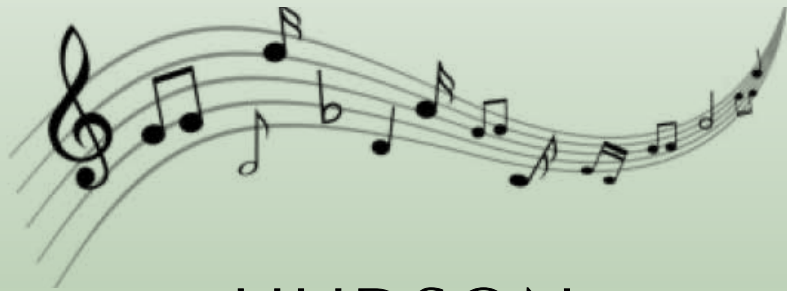
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From Bruce Sherman

“Beggar that I am, I am even poor in thanks.”

—Hamlet



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Jason P. Capizzi, Esq.

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