

Marcus Shelby Quintet featuring Kim Nalley and the Healdsburg Jazz Freedom Jazz Choir

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

When Friday, March 1

What: Healdsburg Jazz presents a concert honoring Bessie Smith, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and the Blues

Who: The Marcus Shelby Quintet featuring Kim Nalley and the HJF Freedom Jazz Choir

Where: Raven Performing Arts Theater, 115 North Street, Healdsburg

Cost: \$15 Available on line and at the door. www.healdsburgjazz.org

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On March 1, 2019 at 7pm, **Marcus Shelby Quintet** and the 80 piece **Freedom Jazz Choir** will be celebrating the pioneers of jazz who came to artistic maturity in the 1920s – singer Bessie Smith, cornetist Louis Armstrong, bandleader Duke Ellington and their shared roots in the blues. Featured vocalist will be **Kim Nalley**, known for her powerful, three–octave range and scatting.

Awarded “Most Influential African American in the Bay Area in 2005, she is already being called “legendary” and a “San Francisco institution.” With an international reputation as one of world’s best jazz & blues vocalists, she has graced concert halls from Moscow to Lincoln Center. A true Renaissance woman, Kim Nalley has also been a featured writer for JazzWest, a produced playwright, a former jazz club owner, an accomplished stage actress, and an avid Lindy Hop and blues dancer.

The Marcus Shelby Quintet – featuring Kim Nalley on vocals, **Bill Ortiz** on trumpet, **Gaea Schell** on piano and **Sly Randolph** on drums, with **Tomoko Funaki** playing bass while Shelby conducts the choir – will provide the score for this evening of blues musical history in performance, also featuring the 80–voice strong community ensemble the Freedom Jazz Choir, under the direction of Shelby and **Tiffany Austin**.

Freedom Jazz Choir is a community choir, open to everyone free of charge and regardless of age, background and musical ability, the 80–voice ensemble provides to members ranging in age from 5 to 85 the opportunity to collaborate with acclaimed, professional musicians in rehearsing and performing educational and interactive music programs that explore American history, celebrate diversity’s impact on the national identity and empowers artists and audiences to consider their role in society’s ongoing effort to achieve full equality.