

Vahn Black is a Detroit-born vocalist, songwriter, producer and memory worker. She has crafted a sound-world of her own that marries her love of history, jazz vocalists, Black folk traditions and Hip-Hop producers.

As a teenager, Black attended Detroit School of Arts High School where she studied classical and jazz music as a Vocal major. In 2014 Black placed runner-up in the Detroit Jazz Festival's Youth Jazz Vocal Competition. She later enrolled in Spelman College's music program, focusing on classical vocal performance and modern composition, becoming the first student of the program to perform a senior recital of original non-classical compositions.

In 2023 Black was selected to perform at NPR's Tiny Desk on the Road Tour stop in Atlanta and has also performed as an opening act for MAJOR., Anthony Hamilton, Chrisette Michele, Elle Varner, and Maze featuring Frankie Beverly.

Black's latest self-produced work, Petrichor: The Joy of Gladys Bentley, is the first of a three-part series that centers the story of Blues singer Gladys Bentley as told in the 1952 article I Am a Woman Again. Displaying Black's passion for archival research and amplifying the voices of Black music elders, this project utilizes Saidiya Hartman's concept of critical fabulation to bridge the gaps of Bentley's small archive to create a more complete, imaginative story of her life and career. The Gladys Bentley Project explores Bentley's life-long desire to belong and be loved, the elements of life that brought her joy and the fluid nature of her gender expression and sexuality. Part two of the project, Walk in the Rain, will be released in February 2025.



PRESS PHOTOS











ALBUMS



PETRICHOR: THE JOY OF GLADYS BENTLEY 2023



TEMPORARY COLORS 2020





BAGS 2023



I'VE BEEN 'BUKED 2024

VIDEOS















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