

# OXFORD AMERICAN

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CONTACT: Ayana Kinnel akinnel@uniteonevoice.org 769-226-3725

CONTACT: Kelsey Mangiapane press@oxfordamerican.org 501-374-0000

## *No Tears Project* Civil Rights Music Residency Programs in Jackson, MS—September 27-29

*The residency honors Civil Rights Movement heroes with a series of free programs for multi-generational audiences, culminating in a concert by No Tears Project that features the world premiere of new music inspired by the Evers Family, composed by Rodney*

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI | SEPTEMBER 27-29

**NO TEARS PROJECT**

*Be Heard in 2024!* A SERIES OF **FREE MUSIC &**  
CIVIL RIGHTS OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Logos: No Tears Project, OXFORD AMERICAN, National Park Foundation, JAZZ ROAD, SOUTH ARTS, One Voice, NAACP, Central Mississippi Blues Society, West Jackson

August 22, 2024—CONWAY, AR—The Oxford American and the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument are excited to announce the full details of the **No Tears Project Jackson** events, a series of free to the public civil rights and arts education programs featuring the **No Tears Project ensemble** taking place in **Jackson, Mississippi, on September 27 to 29, 2024**. The events are an evolution of the No Tears Project residency programs that Oxford American has produced since 2017 with pianist **Christopher Parker** and vocalist **Kelley Hurt**. As a touring group that conducts outreach programs, No Tears Project engages communities in healing by learning about civil rights history through music. A full listing of program locations and times is at the bottom of this document, and can also be found at [notearsproject.com](https://notearsproject.com).

The No Tears Project residency will include programs located at various sites in the city, including Myrlie’s Garden at the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument. Programs will interpret Mississippi’s past and present in the broader American civil rights story. To carry forward the work of the Evers family and all the others who have worked for equality, the programs will be presented in partnership with the **Mississippi State Conference of the NAACP** and **One Voice**, who will provide resources for voter registration at the events.

## **NO TEARS PROJECT JACKSON EVENTS:**

### **MUSIC MASTERCLASS**

Friday, September 27, 2024

Campus of Jackson State University

A music workshop with No Tears Project ensemble members in-classroom at Jackson State University's Department of Music. This event is limited to invited students from JSU, Tougaloo College, and other educational institutions.

### **SOCK HOP DANCE PARTY AND FREEDOM LIBRARY STORYTIME**

*In partnership with Mississippi Book Festival and Penguin Random House*

Saturday, September 28, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Myrlie's Garden | Intersection of Missouri Street & Margaret W Alexander Dr.

*Free to the public*

[RSVP via Eventbrite Here](#)

Drop in with your kids to this family-friendly program to dance, for story time, and to pick up new free children's books that celebrate Black heroes. Enjoy a reading from Nadia Salomon's just-published book *A Voice of Hope: The Myrlie Evers-Williams Story*, and a fun educational activity for children ages 4-12. No Tears Project ensemble will play a short set of live music as choreographer/researcher Ashley Tate and dancers from JSU's African Drum and Dance Ensemble get your family moving and grooving. One Voice representatives will be on-site to provide voter registration resources.

### **FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT**

*Presented in partnership with Central Mississippi Blues Society*

Saturday, September 28, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church | 2118 W Ridgeway St., Jackson, MS 39213

*Free to the public*

Seating is limited and reservations are required via Eventbrite: [Register Here](#)

A 90-minute concert from the No Tears Project ensemble led by Kelley Hurt (voice) and Christopher Parker (piano), including the world premiere of new work by bassist and composer Rodney Jordan inspired by the Evers Family. Jordan is a Jackson State University alumnus. Ensemble members also include Jackson native Darrian Douglas, Bobby LaVell, Marc Franklin, Chad Fowler, and dancer Ashley Tate. One Voice representatives will be on-site to provide voter registration resources.

### **WE HAVE OVERCOME: A CONVERSATION ON PROGRESS AND THE PATH FORWARD**

*Presented in partnership with One Voice and the Mississippi State Conference of the NAACP*

Sunday, September 29 @ 3:00 p.m.

A pre-recorded video will stream online | Free to the public via Facebook

Pre-recorded at the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument, join us for a discussion with civil rights advocates including **Nsombi Lambright**, executive director of One Voice and **Allytra Perryman**, deputy director of the Mississippi State Conference of the NAACP. The panel will be moderated by **Dr. Ebony Lumumba**, Associate Professor of English and Chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages at Jackson State University. The conversation will track the progress of equality and voter access in Mississippi from the past to the present. View the panel at one of the following Facebook pages: [@oxfordamerican](#), [@MedgarandMyrlieEversHomeNPS](#), or [@CentralHighNPS](#).

The *No Tears Project* Jackson residency is made possible by a consortium of funders led by the **National Park Foundation's [ParkVentures](#)** program, the **Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument**, and **Jazz Road**, a national initiative of **South Arts**, which is funded by the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation** with additional support from **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**. Our Supporting Partner is **Visit Jackson**. We are proud to also partner with the **Mississippi State Conference of the NAACP**, **One Voice**, **Mississippi Book Festival**, **Penguin Random House**, **Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church**, **Central Mississippi Blues Society**, **Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site**, and **Jackson State University's Department of Music**.

**PRESENTED BY**



*Medgar & Myrlie Evers Home  
National Monument*

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**ABOUT**

The **Oxford American** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization and national magazine dedicated to exploring the complexity and vitality of the American South through excellent writing, music, and visual art. Billed as “A Magazine of the South,” it has won four National Magazine Awards and other high honors since it began publication in 1992. The *Oxford American* is published in partnership with the University of Central Arkansas.

The **Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument** in Jackson, Mississippi, preserves the home of Medgar and Myrlie Evers and interprets their contributions to the modern American civil rights movement and their legacies in the ongoing struggle for freedom and justice.

The **No Tears Project** uses music and conversation to educate and engage communities with stories about civil rights. As an arts outreach program, the No Tears Project strives to create recognition as a precursor to reconciliation. Since 2017, No Tears Project has conducted residencies with like-minded partners in Little Rock and Fayetteville, Arkansas; New Orleans; Tulsa; St. Louis, and Memphis.

The **National Park Foundation's [ParkVentures](#)** program awards grants to equity-focused outdoor leaders and organizations for projects and activities that promote access, eliminate barriers, and offer positive, memorable experiences to engage individuals and communities that have historically been excluded from national parks and outdoor recreation. The program's ultimate goal is to help people create and strengthen life-long relationships with national parks.