

OPENING DOORS

→ RACE, CONVERSATION, AND SONG ←

“The Power of The Protest Song” by Pamela Means

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

THE POWER OF THE PROTEST SONG explores the origin stories and lineage of protest songs, how their meanings evolve over time, and how they have inspired—and continue to inspire—movements for social change. In her program, Pamela combines original songs with protest music from the past 150 years, including “Go Down Moses,” “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me ‘Round,” “No More Auction Block,” “Strange Fruit,” and “Talkin’ ‘Bout A Revolution.” The show demonstrates how music can address pressing issues of our day while also acting as a powerful form of therapeutic self-expression for changemakers.

KEY PROGRAM GOALS

- Make connections between historical movements for change and modern-day movements for change
- Demonstrate the power of music to touch hearts, change minds, and affect positive change
- Encourage students to explore and discover their creative capabilities as a tool of self-expression

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Pamela Means is an Easthampton-based, award-winning singer-songwriter and jazz musician who has toured throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Australia. A Biracial, Queer, Artist-Activist known for penning protest anthems, Means is hailed as “one of the fiercest guitar players and politically-rooted musicians in the industry today” (Curve Magazine). She has worn a hole in two of her guitars with her “insanely brilliant” (Press Herald, Portland ME) and “stark, defiant songs” (The New York Times). She has brought a version of “The Power of the Protest Song” for grownups to communities all across Massachusetts, receiving over 50 grants from the Mass Cultural Council to support her work.

“Protest songs are love songs. We fight for what we care about.” - Pamela Means

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