



**Media Alert:**

**Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians continues residency on  
Park Avenue Armory's Artists Studio Series with second program, April 22**

**Evening features versatile drummer and percussionist Thurman Barker,  
musical couple Adegoke Steve Colson and Iqua Colson, and special guests  
Chico Freeman and Douglas R. Ewart**

**WHAT:** Park Avenue Armory presents the second program in the 2023 Artists Studio series on **Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 7:00pm**. Continuing the year-long residency of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, New York Chapter (AACM), this double bill features AACM members Thurman Barker and Adegoke Steve Colson and Iqua Colson in an evening of music that blends genres and pushes boundaries.

Versatile drummer and percussionist **Thurman Barker** has performed with musical giants across genres, including Marvin Gaye, Bette Midler, Cecil Taylor, and more. On this program, he is joined by his ensemble the Thurman Barker Quintet for a set called *Time Factor*, of the same name as his 2001 album on the Uptee Productions label. They perform excerpts from three of his orchestral scores—*South Side Suite*, *Pandemic Fever*, and *Mr. Speed-str.*

**Adegoke Steve Colson** and **Iqua Colson**'s vast body of work focuses on many facets of the human experience, illuminating social issues while taking listeners inside the aesthetics of art. Joined by longtime associates and fellow AACM members **Chico Freeman** and **Douglas R. Ewart**, the Colsons perform with their Unity Troupe experimenting with a range of innovative forms for voice and instrument.

Prior to the performance, audiences may explore an exhibition of historic artifacts and photographic surveys pertaining to the AACM while enjoying complimentary wine and water in the Armory's North Hall.

The AACM's in-depth residency continues through the rest of the 2023 season and includes performances of newly composed works, workshops and open rehearsals, exhibitions of historic artifacts and photographic surveys, and engagements with students from the Armory's arts education programs.

**WHERE:** Veterans Room, Park Avenue Armory  
643 Park Avenue between East 66<sup>th</sup> and 67<sup>th</sup> Streets  
New York, NY 10065

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 7:00pm

**TICKETS:** \$65 (plus fees)

Tickets are available for purchase online at [armoryonpark.org](http://armoryonpark.org), through the Box Office in person at 643 Park Avenue, or by phone at (212) 933-5812, from 10am to 6pm, Monday through Friday.

**WHO:**

**Thurman Barker** has a wealth of knowledge that has been built through countless incredible collaborations. A versatile drummer and percussionist, he has performed with singers Billy Eckstine, Marvin Gaye, Bette Midler, and Vicki Carrin addition to classical groups like the Chicago Chamber Players and New York City Opera; however, his most notable musical experiences have been with the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians. A charter member of the group, Barker first appeared in AACM productions with Joseph Jarman’s pioneering ensembles. He then went on to record and perform with many members, including Dr. Muhal Richard Abrams, Amina Claudine Myers, Anthony Braxton, Leroy Jenkins, Roscoe Mitchell, and Henry Threadgill. After moving to New York in the late 1970s, Barker worked and recorded with jazz giants Sam Rivers and Cecil Taylor. He created Uptee Records in the early 1980s and released six recordings as a leader. Since 2016 Barker has written three pieces for chamber orchestra: *South Side Suite*, *Pandemic Fever*, and *Mr. Speed-Str*, which will have its world premiere in Fall 2022. Thurman Barker is a recipient of a 2022 NYSCA Award for Composition and is a Professor Emeritus of Bard College in Music and Jazz Studies.

The projects of **Adegoke Steve Colson** and **Iqua Colson** span the past 47+ years since they met as piano majors at Northwestern University School of Music. Referred to as a “musical power couple” in the New York Times (2017), the Colsons’ work continues to reflect their activism and inspired artistic excellence. They began performing together, while living in Chicago and became members of The AACM in the early 70s. Their critically acclaimed international performances and recordings embrace tradition yet reveal a contemporary touch and personal interpretation uniquely their own. Their projects have featured modern innovators, Reggie Workman, David Murray, Henry Threadgill, Malachi Favors, Anthony Davis, Andrew Cyrille, Tyshawn Sorey, among many other musicians; and collaborations including master artists of other disciplines such as poet/activist Amiri Baraka, dancer Carmen de Lavallade, and artist Willie Cole. They co-own recording label “Silver Sphinx,” and their first release in 1980 later became part of Gilles Peterson’s 2009 compilation *Freedom, Rhythm & Sound*, which credited them as the early roots of the “indie” movement alongside such independent innovators as Maurice White, John Coltrane, Sun Ra, and Mary Lou Williams.

Iqua won recognition by *Billboard* Magazine as a lyricist with the media placing her in the company of vocalists Abbey Lincoln, Sarah Vaughan, and Jeanne Lee. Iqua consults regularly and has received awards for projects that use the arts as catalyst for educational and/or social change. She successfully worked with her team and acclaimed actress Cicely Tyson to design and build the Cicely L. Tyson School of Performing and Fine Arts. Ade is a decorated composer having received several commissions from entities including American Composer’s Forum, Meet the Composer, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, National Endowment for the Arts, and Absolute Jazz for National Lost Jazz Shrines project—which supported arranging, orchestrating and conducting the music of stride master Willie “The Lion” Smith.

Adegoke's *Suite Harlem*, commissioned through South Arts Jazz Road supported by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, premiered in New York City in June 2022. Some of his over 200 works for small ensemble have also been recorded by other pivotal artists such as bassist Richard Davis, and trumpeter/composer Hannibal. He stays involved in Arts Education working as artist in residence in Jazz for NJ Performing Arts Center and as a Professor in Bloomfield College Creative Arts Division. Adegoke was inducted into the East Orange, New Jersey Hall of Fame (2018), joining distinguished individuals from his hometown including well-known figures Althea Gibson, Dionne Warwick, John Amos, Whitney Houston, and Naughty by Nature.

**SPONSORS:** Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Armory's 2023 Season Sponsor.

Support for Park Avenue Armory's artistic season has been generously provided by the Charina Endowment Fund, the Donald A. Pels Charitable Trust, The Shubert Foundation, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, the Marc Haas Foundation, the Prospect Hill Foundation, the Reed Foundation, Wescustogo Foundation, the Leon Levy Foundation, the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, Gregory Annenberg Weingarten, GRoW @ Annenberg, The Emma and Georgina Bloomberg Foundation, the Richenthal Foundation, and the Isak and Rose Weinman Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the Armory's Artistic Council.

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