

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

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**BLANTON MUSEUM'S SEPTEMBER *SoundSpace* WILL CELEBRATE
THE INNOVATIVE, MULTICULTURAL MUSIC OF ALICE COLTRANE**



SoundSpace: A Portrait of Alice Coltrane
Sunday, September 24 | 2:00 – 4:00pm

AUSTIN, Texas – August 23 – The acclaimed music series at The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin will celebrate the influences and work of a versatile musical visionary with its September 24th program, ***SoundSpace: A Portrait of Alice Coltrane***.

Alice Coltrane Turiyasangitanda was an American jazz pianist, organist, harpist, singer, composer, swamini, and the wife of jazz musician and composer John Coltrane. A virtuoso on multiple instruments, Alice was drawn to various styles of music, including gospel, classical and jazz. She got her start playing in professional jazz groups in Detroit, then began to develop her own innovative style as a solo recording artist, creating complex arrangements and compositions. After meeting a guru and traveling to India in the 1970s, she became the Founder and Director of The Vedantic Center in 1975, and later established a spiritual community in the Santa Monica Mountains of Southern California. She passed away on January 12, 2007.

Alice's singular musical style is a synthesis of influences that include Detroit gospel, Stravinsky, bebop, traditional Hindi hymns, and classical Indian music. The September *SoundSpace* will explore these diverse influences and also present new work directly inspired by her legacy. From

2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 24, museumgoers will be able to experience a variety of performances throughout the museum, including:

- Maestros **Gourisankar Karmakar (tabla)** and **Indradeep Ghosh (violin)**, internationally regarded interpreters of classical Indian music. A leading tabla maestro of the present generation, Gourisankar has toured internationally and accompanied many eminent artists for the last 24 years; he is also the founder of Austin’s School of Indian Percussion and Music, where he teaches regularly.

- The **Andre Hayward Quintet**, performing late 60’s bebop from the repertoire of Alice Coltrane and her peers. Andre is a member of the Lincoln Center Jazz Ensemble and winner of Washington, D.C.’s International Thelonious Monk Trombone Competition. In addition to performing with notable artists like Joe Williams, Slide Hampton, the Mingus Dynasty Big Band and the Duke Ellington Orchestra, he recently performed with The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and The San Francisco Jazz Collective. A respected educator, Andre also has conducted numerous clinics and workshops worldwide.

- New York City-based drummer **Ravish Momin**, who combines Hindu chants and syncopated jazz-influenced beats using North Indian time-cycles and synths. Though his ideas are fundamentally seated in the Indian musical traditions, Ravish draws upon a diverse and eclectic range of musical influences, keeping with the philosophy of continually adding sounds and ideas to his musical palette.

- Trumpeter **Adrian Ruiz**, who will perform solo ballads by Alice Coltrane. In addition to performing regularly throughout Texas, Dr. Ruiz has performed internationally at the Montreux, North Sea, and Taichung Jazz Festivals. He has shared the stage with a number of renowned artists, including Jon Hendricks, Johnny Mathis, Buddy Miles, Eddie Palmieri, Bernadette Peters, The Temptations, and Mary Wilson and The Supremes.

- The **Lab Orchestra**, a “flexible, collaborative, and modern 21st-Century-minded chamber orchestra dedicated to sharing new and old music” with Austin audiences. Lab Orchestra will present two new works in response to Alice Coltrane’s music, Akshaya Tucker’s recently premiered *Shaam* for sitar and sinfonietta in *raga bihag*, and a reimagined Stravinsky work by composer-conductor Jacob Schnitzer.

- The **St. James Missionary Baptist Church Mass Choir**, a 75-member group that will perform traditional gospel works.

- Tara Bhattacharya Reed**, a sound artist and award-winning curator.

"We're excited to present a program that highlights the work of such an innovative and versatile artist like Alice Coltrane," says Adam Bennett, the museum's Manager of Public Programs. "Her music and spiritual practice intersect perfectly with our current exhibition, *Epic Tales from Ancient India: Paintings from The San Diego Museum of Art*. This *SoundSpace* will let our guests dive even deeper into their exploration of this culture and its music, and will call attention to some of Alice's frequently overlooked works."

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About SoundSpace

Heralded by the *Austin American-Statesman* as “The most successful new music event in the City,” *SoundSpace* is a dynamic concert series that brings together musicians and other creatives from all corners of Austin’s artistic community and beyond. Now in its seventh year, the series focuses on making connections between visual and sound art, and demonstrates the Blanton’s commitment to nurturing collaborations that provide innovative experiences with art, inspire creativity, and support the educational mission of The University of Texas at Austin. *SoundSpace* is generously underwritten by Michael Chesser.

About the Blanton Museum of Art

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art is one of the foremost university art museums in the country and holds the largest public collection in Central Texas. Recognized for its modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings, the Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

The museum is located at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Congress Avenue and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10–5, Saturday from 11–5, and Sunday from 1–5. Thursdays are free admission days and every third Thursday the museum is open until 9 pm. Admission Prices: Adults \$9, Kids 12 and under FREE, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth/College Students (13–21) \$5. Admission is free to members and all current UT ID-holders. For more information call (512) 471-7324 or visit www.blantonmuseum.org.