

Baltimore, MD
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Black Assets (Ashley Yates)

Biography

Ashley Lakayla Yates, known by the stage name Black Assets, is a dynamic queer masculine-of-center vocalist and songwriter whose art reflects the lived experience of Black people in America. Born in Itta Bena, Mississippi, raised and based in Baltimore, Maryland, Black Assets blends gospel roots and blues grit with the pulse of rock and modern neo-soul but with “bounce”. An interdisciplinary, international recording artist, she has performed in over 20 countries, including Algiers, Taghit, and Bechar. She is also the creator of The Living Room Social (TLRS) and The Baltimore Soul Stage- a performance platform and artist incubation station that has curated 75+ shows, employing and showcasing over 10 Baltimore-based artists and drawing audiences of 200+ per event. Her music channels love, sensuality, resistance, and healing, making her one of the most compelling and community-rooted artists of her generation. Black evokes a feeling in every performance both as a goal but also as an undeniable fact she encourages one to sit and meditate in the stillness of the feeling that comes forth in you when you hear her performance.

Medium- Multi Interdisciplinary

Vocalist

Curator

Self-Taught Producer

Writer

Poetry

Ukulele Instrumentalists

Educator

Seamstress

Visual Artist

Graphic Designer

EXPERIENCE

A Soul Stage – Founder, Curator, Organizer *March 2023 – PRESENT*

- Founder and visionary behind this platform dedicated to amplifying Baltimore's soul artists.
- Organizer of live showcases connecting local talent to global opportunities.
- Curator of immersive soul music experiences in collaboration with Black-owned businesses.
- Manager of event logistics, artist bookings, and partnerships to sustain and grow the platform.

The Living Room Social – Creator, Curator, Organizer, Performer

February 2011 – PRESENT

- Creator and CEO of this platform.
- Employer of team of 10 artists.
- Curation of monthly events ranging from 125-200+ guest.
- Balancing team payouts

The Baltimore Soul Cypher – Creator, Curator, Organizer: Performer

FEBRUARY 2015 – February 2017

- Curation of multi-disciplined artistic safe spaces.
- Mixed, visual, producer, instrumentalists, vocalist, fire welding combined in cypher styled performance.
- Quarterly

Sofar Alumnus – Sofar Artist

June 2018 – Present

- Performed over 50+ so far shows throughout the east coast.

EDUCATION

Morgan State University – 1st chair Soprano

May 2009– May 2013, Baltimore, MD

Toured Europe singing classically in 2011.

1st soprano chair with Kathleen Battle.

AWARDS/ PARTNERSHIPS

- Cultural Diplomacy Alumni
- Partnered with The Baltimore Sun
- African American Festival
- Honey Groove DC
- Adidas Sound Lab
- Adidas
- Opened for Big Frieda
- Opened for Tiffany Gouche
- Curated over 75+ shows
- Baltimore Crown 2x Awards Winner

Coppin State University – MS

May 2015- May 2017, Baltimore, MD