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Brava! For Women in the Arts Presents

**Meklit :: Ethio-Blue**

**EP Release Show & Celebration**

Performances by Meklit, LoCura Trio

**Saturday, March 9th 2024**

7:30PM Doors

\$25-45, Sliding Scale

All Ages, Wheelchair Accessible

**Brava Theater Center**

2781 24th Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

*“There is a raw beauty about Ethiopian vocalist and songwriter Meklit. Her voracious musical appetite is always evident, and she manages to honor her heritage while remaining fiercely original.”*

- **JAZZ TIMES.**”

When we last heard from visionary Ethiopian-American vocalist, composer, and cultural activist [Meklit](#), she was presenting songs inspired by a world in transit with her acclaimed, hard-grooving 2017 album *When the People Move, the Music Moves Too*. Her new EP **Ethio Blue**, slated for release March 8th, 2024, is a prescient six-song collection more attuned to inner landscapes. Teaming up again with prolific, award-winning songwriter/producer **Dan Wilson**, she crafted and recorded a luminous set of songs anticipating the need for succor and inner light in the face of impending darkness.

Powered by an array of funk, Afro- Caribbean, and Ethio Jazz-inspired grooves, the music was designed to “heal ourselves and nourish our hearts,” Meklit says.

“I realized I need to make a record reminding us of the power we have and the spirit of resiliency that can refresh us.”

The potency of Meklit’s medicine flows from the prowess of her longtime band, which includes Ethiopian pianist/keyboardist Kibrom Birhane, saxophone maestro Howard Wiley, drummer Colin Douglas, percussionist Marco Peris Coppola, and bassists Sam Bevan and Miles Jay. Guest artists include legendary Macedonian clarinetist Ismail Lumanovski, Los Angeles singer/songwriter Sara Mulford on synth and keyboard, and Dan Wilson on OP-1 synth.

For Meklit, “Ethio Blue” embodies the incalculably rich legacy bequeathed by the ancestors, and the defiance and ingenuity required to pass on that legacy. “The source of our strength is what our people went through to get here,” she says. With Ethio Blue, Meklit continues to open her arms to the world with a sound gleaned from Addis Ababa, Los Angeles, New Orleans, San Francisco and beyond. But the frontier she embraces with her new music is the vast and mysterious interiors of the human heart.

Warming the stage is Afro-Latin Bay Area ensemble, **LoCura Trio**, who weaves together Rumba Flamenca with traditional sounds into an irresistible soundscape they call “Califas Canto”.

**INFO / TICKETS:**

<https://www.brava.org/>

<https://www.meklitmusic.com/>

**Press Quotes:**

"Get into Meklit." - **VIBE MAGAZINE**

"...if you have any doubts that the musical styles of East Africa and the Bay Area can be melded with equal parts grit and grace, she'll knock them right out of you with vocals, horns and percussion — such exhilarating, heartbeat-propelling percussion — by the time the first chorus comes around." - **NPR**

### **About Meklit:**

Meklit is an Ethio-American vocalist, songwriter and composer known for her electric stage presence and innovative, deeply personal Ethio-Jazz songs.

Her performances have taken her around the world, from Addis Ababa - where she is a full blown star - to San Francisco, NYC, Chicago, Nairobi, Cairo, Montreal, London, Zurich, Rome, Helsinki and many more. Meklit's latest album "When the People Move, the Music Moves Too" was named amongst the best records of the year by Bandcamp and The Sunday Times UK, climbing to the top of the iTunes, NACC, and European World Charts.

Meklit is a National Geographic Explorer, a TED Senior Fellow, and a former Artist-in-Residence at Harvard University. She has collaborated with folks like Kronos Quartet, Andrew Bird, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, and musical legend Pee Wee Ellis. She has also been commissioned to create new work by Lincoln Center, MAP Fund, the Center for Cultural Innovation, Meany Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Washington, Montgomery College and more.

Meklit is the co-founder, host and co-producer of Movement, a new podcast and live show telling stories of music and migration, which debuted in a nationally syndicated broadcast on PRX's The World. She is the co-founder of the Nile Project, a featured voice in the UN Women theme song and the winner of the 2021 globalFEST Artist Award. Meklit's music has been featured in the New York Times, BBC, CNN, NPR, Washington Post, Vibe Magazine, San Francisco Chronicle, Boston Globe and many more. She holds a BA in Political Science from Yale University.

### **About LoCura Trio:**

LoCura Trio mixes Latin styles like Rumba Flamenca and Cumbia, with Afro-Cuban rhythms and Ska together in a brand they've dubbed 'Califas Canto'. Born in Oakland in 2005, LoCura has kept true to its roots with the Cajón drum as the heart of the music and Rumba Flamenca as its pulse.

### **About Presenter: BRAVA! FOR WOMEN IN THE ARTS**

Brava! for Women in the Arts celebrates over 30 years as a professional arts organization, and 20 years of owning and operating Brava Theater Center.

Brava's recent producing history includes award-winning new work by Rhodessa Jones & Cultural Odyssey, Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe & Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience, Marga Gomez, and Vanessa Sanchez, as well as world premieres by Cherríe Moraga, Marisela Orta, and Lisa Marie Rollins; the Bay Area premieres of Solitude by Evelina Fernandez & Latino Theatre Company, the Off-Broadway hit *Mighty Real: A Fabulous Sylvester Musical*, the monthly podcast series *Indómitas*, as well as the annual events *Baile en la Calle: The Mural Dances* and the San Francisco *Son Jarocho Festival*. Brava's current artistic programming includes traditional and contemporary music festivals, a variety of film festivals, contemporary and experimental theatrical productions, international comedy shows, lectures, and professional dance productions—making Brava one of the most eclectic and multifaceted arts venues in the Bay Area.

Brava Theater Center provides affordable space for artistic development and presentation. Comprised of a main stage with world-class lighting and sound, a second stage that doubles as a rehearsal studio, a street level cabaret space for arts and community, and a contemporary lobby/gallery showcasing visual art, Brava has become synonymous with thought-provoking shows that spotlight artists from around the Bay Area and beyond.