



# *Ma Rainey*

*The Great American Composer*

[Madame Pat Tandy](#), vocals  
[Nabate Isles](#), trumpet  
[Charlie Apicella](#), guitar, tenor banjo  
[Avery Sharpe](#), bass

2023 see's Ma Rainey's receipt of her **Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award**.

This two-hour program frames **Gertrude Pritchett**—a.k.a. Ma Rainey—as a trail-blazing American composer, band leader, entrepreneur, and social trend setter.

We shine a light on the woman as a powerful jazz musician, mentor, and collaborator to several musicians who in turn became innovators in their own careers; **Louis Armstrong**, pianist **Thomas Dorsey**, guitarist **Tampa Red**, and saxophonist **Coleman Hawkins**.

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**Set one**, 35 minutes:  
panel discussion/listening session

We listen to two of Rainey's classic recordings and discuss the musical, historical, and cultural impact of her work. Includes Q&A and audience participation.

Please hear our recent Ma Rainey podcasts for reference:

[The Sauce: Ma Rainey's Legacy](#)

[Queens of The Blues: Prove It On Me \(12/01/2022\)](#)

**Set two**, 75 minutes:  
Acoustic blues concert