

Hue People

vocal ensemble

SHORT BIO



The members of Hue People, Ceco Selinas, Anita Rose Banks and Steven E. Boyd, represent the vividness and beauty of a distinctive cultural tradition, represented through music... with a mission to enlighten, uplift, and entertain, using elements from the rich musical legacy of African Americans.

FULL BIO



Hue People is a force to be reckoned with!

Anita Rose Banks, Ceco Selinas, and Steven E. Boyd create vocal harmonies and arrangements that soothe the soul, elevate the mind, and inspire. Hue Peoples' musical styles range from a capella folk and spiritual traditions to old-school soul, jazz, reggae and neo-soul--all in the interest of perpetuating the rich heritage of African and African American music.

Hue People's music consists of signature arrangements of well-loved popular songs, as well as Hue People original compositions. The music is designed to be felt as well as heard, and the group has a rich legacy of receiving enthusiastically warm responses from diverse audiences.

Hue People began its musical journey in late 2003, beginning with Kwanzaa celebrations, followed by performances at churches, conferences, festivals, award ceremonies, family reunions, and cultural celebrations. Engagements at broadly diverse venues ensued.

In its early days, Hue People was engaged as the opening act for Frankie Beverly & MAZE at the 17th Annual Urban League of Cleveland's "Celebration in Black & White." They appeared in a front-page picture in the Cleveland Plain Dealer in January of 2005, following a spirited performance at Cuyahoga Community College in celebration of Martin Luther King Day. Hue People has appeared at Karamu House, the oldest black theater in the United States, Cleveland State University, The Cleveland Playhouse, the Cleveland Convention Center, and Severance Hall.

Media appearances have been a prominent part of Hue People's Cleveland story, including a feature on ABC'S WEWS "Kaleidoscope," numerous appearances on "Fox 8 in the Morning," and features on NBC-WKYC's "Noontime," PBS-WVIZ's acclaimed Arts Show "Applause," and several local radio and cable TV shows. The "Applause" appearance featured singing and an interview by Dee Perry, which gave viewers an idea of the Hue People mission as well as its sound. With this engagement, Hue People had the honor of being the first act to

perform at the new Ideastream WVIZ Studio in Playhouse Square.

Cleveland institutions recognize the appeal of Hue People and have featured the act in prominent citywide events. The effect was electric with crowds at Public Square during appearances at The Cleveland Orchestra's annual Star Spangled Spectacular. Also, Hue People was selected twice to sing the National Anthem at Cleveland Cavaliers' basketball games.

A staple in the summertime music scene in Cleveland, for years Hue People--then a quartet including veteran performer Afi-Nur Nkrumah--could be heard enlivening street corners in downtown Cleveland and neighborhood arts districts, joyfully crooning out messages of positivity with full amplification, as part of the Street Beats and City Hop programs sponsored by Sparx in the City and Downtown Cleveland Alliance. Performances such as these inspired the following observation:

Their instruments are... unique voices blended to create a unique and powerful sound. It's difficult to describe how wonderful music sounds when it comes from talented and dedicated artists that commit mind, body and soul to their art. HUE PEOPLE are cultural messengers that embody a blend of melodious African rhythms that resonate distinctly in every note.
Barry Riley -American Legacy Magazine Showcase

Hue People has performed opening music for talks by international personalities Bill Cosby, Harry Belafonte,

Lerone Bennett, and Louis Stokes, and has taken its entertaining, educational, and inspiring message to venues in Cleveland, Columbus, Chicago, Kansas City, and Los Angeles.

U.S. Representative Louis Stokes once paid Hue People a compliment on its rendition of the Black National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

“In my long years of public service, I have heard the Negro National Anthem sung and botched many times. The rendition that I have just witnessed by Hue People is the best I have ever heard.”

In keeping with the theme of educating and stimulating the mind, Hue People has opened for keynote addresses by scholars including Dr. Asa Hilliard, Dr. N'aim Akbar, Dr. Lerone Bennett, Jr, Dr. Julianne Malveaux, Haki Madhubhuti, and Asa Hilliard.

This performance group is committed to honoring the memory of those who risked their lives for freedom on the Underground Railroad. They have participated in artistic showcases at Station Hope and at the Cozad Bates House events sponsored by Restore Cleveland Hope and University Circle, Inc. Case Western Reserve University called upon Hue People to provide the music for the dedication of the Historic Underground Railroad Site marker at Allen Memorial Medical Library in 2017.

The members of Hue People place a high value on engendering cultural awareness among the residents of Cleveland. Their musical and dramatic talents have been utilized in dance theater productions of the many African and African American dance companies in the city. They added their touch to productions by: Dance Afrika Dance (“Baba King” with Akil and Saidah Marshall); Djapo Cultural Arts Institute (Juneteenth programs with Talise Campbell; and Mojuba Dance Collective (“How I Got Over” with Errin Berry).

As can be expected, Black History Month has always been an active time for Hue People to “give back,” with concerts, musical dramas, and workshops for organizations like Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Karamu House, University Hospitals, Rotary Club of Cleveland, City of Warrensville Heights, Cleveland Public Library, Hathaway Brown School for Girls, Richmond Heights School District, and Shaker Heights School District.

From the outset, Hue People has been about making an audience feel good. Its repertoire of popular old school music mixed with current styles, always incorporating Hue People original arrangements, keeps everyone smiling.

The Hue People legacy includes sharing the bill with internationally known artists Chuck Brown, Air Supply, Midnight Star, Con-funk-shun, and Zapp! and performing at Cleveland longtime restaurant and jazz venue Nighttown.

In recent years, Hue People Vocal Ensemble has continued to expand its performance style with more instrumental accompaniment alongside along its signature a capella renderings. Performing on the bill with Les Filles de Illighadad, Avery Sunshine, and Carlos Jones & the P.L.U.S. Band, at venues such as the Music Box Supper Club and Akron's Lock 3, have been some of the highlights

Hue People Vocal Ensemble will keep the creative juices flowing with popular music and culture-based innovative renditions for the Twenty-First Century, as a proven source of family friendly “edutainment.”

Thanks to all who supported Hue People with its EP in years past. Look for a full-length Hue People CD to be released in the coming months! Stay connected via the website (www.huepeplemusic.com) and through the Facebook page, “Hue People Vocal Ensemble.”

Stay tuned...

steven e. boyd



steven e. boyd has been singing and playing music publicly since the age of 11, in churches, school choirs and local doo-wop groups, beginning in his hometown of Kansas City, KS. Then in college, on a music scholarship at Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, TX, he took leadership as Student Director of The SWCC International A Capella Choir, where he also was a featured soloist, recording with the group and touring extensively. After college, in the United States Air Force, he became a featured artist in theatrical shows and concerts.

In post-Air Force years, Steve found himself performing as lead singer in a series of musical groups, including JUICE, The Five Hearts, Timeless, and The Ultra Seduction Band. After moving to Cleveland, OH, he connected with The Guerilla Dread Posse, founded by Professor Mwatabu Okantah of Kent State University, and was singer / percussionist with The Jazz Franchise at the renowned Karamu House Theater.

Today, Steve contributes his captivating vocal artistry to Hue People Vocal Ensemble. His unique sound supports the creative harmonies with signature tenor and baritone timbres.

Assuredly, Steve's love of music and natural affinity for performing have led him to multiple opportunities for self-expression. However, a keen business acumen, partnered with artistic abilities, has further defined his role in Hue People, where he provides the administrative leadership needed for a close-knit performing unit.

Prior to forming Hue People, Steve found ample opportunities to synchronize his interest in performing with business pursuits. In Abilene, TX, he co-founded the Abilene Black Ensemble, where he was a writer and actor. With his Ultra Seduction Band in Phoenix, AZ, he was Business Manager as well as lead singer. And, notably, he held concurrent positions as Actor-In-Residence and Public Relations/Marketing Director at the Phoenix Black Theatre Company, where he starred in a highly successful run of the Broadway musical "Ain't Misbehavin."

Steve's passion for business has also led him to undertakings outside of the performance world. He was co-founder and officer of the Abilene Black Chamber of Commerce. He has held positions as marketing representative for several companies: IBM Product Center of Phoenix, AZ.; MCI Airsignal Group of Beachwood, OH; WJMO-AM in Cleveland, OH, and Ohio Business Machines of Cleveland, OH.

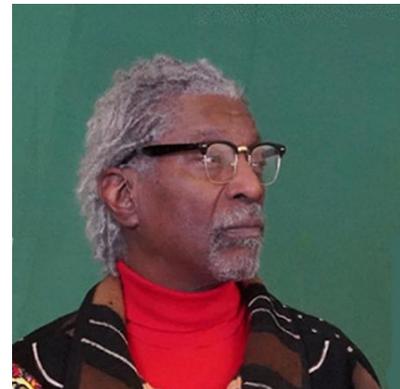
To fulfill his ever-present desire to serve, Steve has had associations with cultural, civic, educational, and business organizations in Texas, Arizona, and Ohio, where he held titles such as Coordinator, Business Manager, Board Member, and Chairman. For instance, he was a founding board member of Cleveland Matah Express, and Chairman of the Board of African Soul Dance International, founded by "Sista Jewel" Jackson. He also has served as President of the Cleveland affiliate of the 40-year-old National Black Child Development Institute, and for thirteen years, taught and chaperoned in the Mali Yetu Youth Summer Program chaired by Dr. Sanza Clark at Cleveland State University. Always concerned for the education and development of youth, he served as a member of the Board of Advisors for T.O.U.C.H. (Talent Outreach for Underprivileged Career Hunters) founded by Jerome C. Garner.

Steve has been an integral associate of SuccessSource, Inc., and FraserNet, Inc., both founded by networking guru, international speaker, and author George Fraser. He was Senior Technology Advisor and a

member of the International Advisory Board for SuccessGuide 2000. He was also part of the planning committee for the early PowerNetworking Conferences, from 2002-2005.

Steve owns A Basic Plateau Production Company, which specializes in music, technology, film, voice-overs and expositions. Past entrepreneurial successes include Steven E. Boyd & Associates, Inc., Higher Ground Productions, LLC, and COCO Advertising & Tech Solutions Group.

Steven is the founder of Hue People Vocal Ensemble, and serves as administrator, marketer, and vocalist extraordinaire! In collaboration with his Hue People partners, he creates memorable versions of well-known songs and helps bring traditional music to life for new audiences. Steve's creativity and progressive musical ideas are quintessential as the spark that helps Hue People "keep it funky!"



Ceco Selinas



Ceco Selinas began singing, dancing and acting during her childhood in Cleveland. She subsequently performed as a vocalist and dancer with the well-known Mexican singer Emmanuel, going on to become a member of The World Platters, performing on cruise ships around the Gulf of Mexico, Central America, and South America.

Returning to the States, her talents and training allowed her to provide services as dance instructor, theater artist, choreographer, vocalist, percussionist, workshop leader, and storyteller.

For several years, Ceco worked with the unique female song, dance, and drumming ensemble, Ibu Ayan, led by Linda Thomas-Jones. Over time, for her vocal, dance, and drumming skills and abilities, she has been called on to contribute to stage productions of cultural dance and theater ensembles such as Dance Afrika Dance, Omowale Afrique, Djapo Cultural Arts Institute, Africa House International, Dr. Ade Borishade's theater collective, and Errin Berry's Mojuba Dance Collective.

She regularly works with students from elementary to high school age, in schools, libraries, and cultural and community centers, as a song and cultural dance instructor. At the renowned Karamu House Theater, she led the senior citizen line dance group, Most Experienced Adults (MEA), in instruction and performance for several years.

As a charter member of Hue People Vocal Ensemble, Ceco provides her vocal artistry spanning soprano and alto ranges, and she uses her talents to create choreography, costuming, and musical arrangements. To help

define the signature Hue People style, Ceco can always be counted on for creative and unusual takes on familiar songs, tinged with influences from reggae and traditional African rhythms and melodies.

In addition to her work with Hue People Vocal Ensemble, Ceco maintains an ongoing connection with One World Tribe, an eclectic musical collaboration of world-class musicians, where she integrates background vocals, percussive accents, and her unique dance moves. She can also be seen strutting down the runway as an experienced model in DeeDee Tufts' Designer Palace fashion shows.

Ceco has performed with many reggae artists, including Ras Matunji and Earth Force Band, Istan Black and the Sweets, Umojah Nation, Milton Blake and JR Blessington, and the internationally renowned Luciano. She remains in demand as a studio vocalist, for her keen ability to seamlessly blend in vocal harmonies and improvisation.

Ceco says her mission is to be an instrument of God's love, using her talents to "edutain." She continues to honor that mission with a mix of live performances, workshop leadership, choreographing, creating, studio singing, and more...



Anita Rose Banks



With a rich and varied background in singing, instrumental music, and drama, Anita has shared her performance gifts in a variety of settings: theaters, festivals, churches, concert halls, restaurants, hotels, parties, and conferences, restaurants, schools, libraries, and cultural celebrations.

Singing in school and church choirs provided the basis for early vocal training, but this songbird didn't learn to fly until she received instruction in theater and roles in musical theater productions while a student at University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor, MI.

Her most memorable roles were as a flamboyant Glorietta in *Tambourines to Glory*, by Langston Hughes, and as the Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*, which earned her rave reviews in the local papers. This awakened a sense of awe in the ability of performance to delight audiences, and sparked her commitment to further develop as a singer and stage performer, through enrolling in voice classes and entering talent shows.

Upon graduation, Anita pursued theater opportunities back home in Cleveland, OH, and in Chicago, IL--where she particularly enjoyed being a part of the musical, *Deadwood Dick, Legend of the West*, playing Madame Bon-Bon in this satire which featured little-known legends of the early American West. Getting her groove on as a professional vocalist, she worked for several years with Charles Cameron and the Sunshine Festival, a performance group which

specialized in a variety of Jamaican music, including Reggae, Calypso, and Ska, performing at the long-standing Chicago reggae venue, The Wild Hare & Singing Armadillo Frog Sanctuary, and at hotels in and around Chicago.

Development as a singer continued with coaches and workshops, and Anita Rose was drawn to jazz as a personal style. Performances followed as a solo jazz vocalist, at venues such as Cleveland's Club Isabella's, the Ritz-Carlton, and Mardi Gras, as well as private events.

Always enamored of the vocal harmonies of groups like Lambert, Hendricks and Ross, Manhattan Transfer, and the Mills Brothers, and steeped in a history of choir singing, this artist always felt that singing solo wasn't enough. She found an opportunity to work with an unusual funk/pop/folkloric musical ensemble, Ibu Ayan, an all-female group where she not only sang, but learned to play African drums.

With partners from that group, she also co-wrote and performed in the musical drama, "What's Hair Got to Do With It?" a play consisting of African American friends sharing poems, stories, and songs about their hair. This play, performed at Cuyahoga Community College in 2002, was the first production to feature original music of Anita Rose Banks.

Anita's writing covers a variety of musical styles, and she is a prolific lyricist who particularly comes alive with collaboration. Opportunities abound with Hue People, and its repertoire now features pieces with original lyrics as well as poetry that has been set to music. Anita has also written dramatic scripts for Hue People's school-based shows. Her love of jazz music and style is felt in many of Hue People's arrangements.

As an enthusiastic charter member of Hue People, Anita values singing that delivers every word with clarity to give the audience a full experience of the message in the music. She places high value on the Hue People mission of spreading positivity and upliftment. In

performance, she gets straight to the heart of the matter with purposeful vocal delivery using the full breadth of her contralto to soprano range.

Outside of Hue People, Anita has a long history of administrative leadership. In side the group, she provides administrative support to Hue People’s enterprise in the form of copywriting, editing, record-keeping, and financials. Whatever it takes to succeed!

