

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feed the Soul: Third Season of Uniting Communities Through Free Meals and Concerts for the Underserved



Creative OPERATIONS' Feed the Soul, a community performance initiative dedicated to nurturing the mind, body, and soul, returns for its third season on **Thursday, October 24th, at 5:30 PM** at the **United Methodist Church in Red Bank**. In partnership with the **Backpack Crew in Red Bank, Meal at Noon in Long Branch, Count Basie Center's Turner Academy of the Arts**, and with additional outreach support from **JBJ Soul Kitchen**, Feed the Soul provides free meals and live performances to underserved Monmouth County residents facing food insecurity.

Creative OPERATIONS, a **501(c)(3) nonprofit**, is committed to bridging the gap between classical music and communities with limited access to the arts. By challenging stereotypes and redefining perceptions of classical art forms, Feed the Soul seeks to break down barriers by offering complimentary meals and concerts featuring local professional artists, musicians, and performers.

“Count Basie Center’s Turner Academy of the Arts and Calpulli Community are proud to be part of this year’s Feed the Soul event,” says **Samantha Giustiniani, Vice President of Education & Outreach at Count Basie Center for the Arts**. **“It’s an honor to join the artists, performers, and other nonprofit organizations to give back to our community.”**

The **October 24th** event will showcase a vibrant lineup, including **student performers from the Calpulli Mexican Dance Company through the Count Basie Center’s Turner Academy of the Arts, the Jazz Duo of Marel Hidalgo and Joe Peterson, pianist David Maiullo, and singers Jonathan R. Green, Eliam Ramos, and Corinne Schaefer.** Meals will be generously provided by **No Limits Cafe, Mar Belo Portuguese Restaurant, and Pazzo MMX Italian Restaurant,** creating a diverse and delicious dining experience that brings a sense of celebration and community to our underserved guests. As **David G. Brown II, Executive Director of Meal at Noon,** explains, **“Feed the Soul is more than just a meal—it’s a symbol of hope and compassion.”**

This celebration of community is made possible by the generous support of the **Apgar Foundation,** with additional sponsorship support from **Fox & Roach Realtors** and **3BR Distillery.** The collaboration with local businesses and organizations highlights the event's dedication to using the arts as a means of connection and transformation.

Creative OPERATIONS values its continued partnership with **Meal at Noon** and the **Backpack Crew,** who played a crucial role in last spring’s event success. As **Suzanne Dice, Founder and Director of The Backpack Crew,** shares, **“The Backpack Crew organization is thrilled to be a part of this event and to witness the growth of a wonderful program. There is nothing more powerful than a community coming together and sharing their gifts to lift others.”** Their involvement, along with **JBK Soul Kitchen’s** outreach support, helps expand the initiative’s reach, connecting with other nonprofits working to combat food insecurity in the region.

Looking ahead, the goal is to establish Feed the Soul as an **annual community tradition,** with ongoing support from sponsors and local businesses ensuring its sustainability and growth.

Corinne Schaefer, Founder and Artistic Director of Creative OPERATIONS, sees this event as a key opportunity to unite nonprofits and businesses in community service. **“Feed the Soul is designed to be a powerful platform for cultural and social unity,”** says Schaefer. **“By connecting the arts with local businesses and community leaders, we aim to create an inclusive space where everyone can experience the transformative impact of music and community support.”**

As Feed the Soul continues to grow, it raises awareness, fosters unity, and strengthens our communities, proving that we are indeed stronger together.

For more information about Feed the Soul and its partners, please visit <https://www.creative-operations.org/feed-the-soul-fall-2024>.