

# Cheryl Albright

Playwright • Performer • Singer • Producer



CHERYL ALBRIGHT PRODUCTIONS

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[WWW.THECHERYLALBRIGHT.COM](http://WWW.THECHERYLALBRIGHT.COM)

TEL: 530.727.8748



**she** Shines magazine **2015 Woman of Achievement Award Winner**



## BIOGRAPHY

Cheryl Albright is a soul-stirring singer, storyteller, playwright, performer and producer on a mission to celebrate and remember the lives and accomplishments of African American female vocalists and their historical journeys.

Her two one-woman productions OH FREEDOM OVER ME and ELLA 100! (now ELLA!) have done just that. Known for the versatility in her vocal performance and intimate, conversational style in her storytelling, Cheryl masterfully reaches a broad and diverse audience in a way that is both entertaining and educational.

OH FREEDOM OVER ME debuted in 2015 in partnership with University of Rhode Island Urban Culture Arts Program to an audience of 275 attendees. The show earned Cheryl the *2015 Woman of Achievement Award* and featured article in *She Shines Magazine* by the YWCA.

ELLA 100! debuted on Super Bowl Sunday 2017 to a standing room only crowd of over 300 theatregoers. It was honored as one of the *Top 5 Jazz Events To See* by Go Local Providence.

With over thirty-five years of professional singing experience, Cheryl has traveled throughout the country singing at various special events featuring and honoring civil rights icons such as Ruby Nell Sales, U.S. Representative John Lewis, Dorothy Cotton, and The New York Times Magazine reporter Nikole Hannah-Jones.

The Bristol Community College Reading Program asked Cheryl to produce and perform a celebration show, HALLELUJAH FOR HENRIETTA, based on their reading of the book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* written by Rebecca Skloot. She also received a grant from the Rhode Island State Council of the Arts to perform two shows at the Department of Corrections Women's Facilities.

Born and raised in the foothills of North Carolina, Cheryl comes from a family of singers, musicians, and community activists. Her mother, grandmother, and the Southern Baptist Church were instrumental in exposing her to all genres of music including country-western, bluegrass, and classical.



## Music Genres / Languages

Classical, Jazz, Blues, Gospel, Pop, Rhythm and Blues

English, Latin, Italian, German, French

## Playwriting

|                      |                                 |                |      |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|------|
| “Ella!”              | Cheryl Albright Productions LLC | Providence, RI | 2018 |
| “Ella 100!”          | Cheryl Albright Productions LLC | Providence, RI | 2017 |
| “Oh Freedom Over Me” | Cheryl Albright Productions LLC | Providence, RI | 2015 |

## Musical Plays

|                      |  |                    |      |
|----------------------|--|--------------------|------|
| “Oh Freedom Over Me” | Mathewson St. UMC Black Box Theater          | Providence, RI     | 2018 |
| “Ella!”              | Mathewson St. UMC Black Box Theater          | Providence, RI     | 2018 |
| “Ella!”              | Pump House Music Works                       | Wakefield, RI      | 2017 |
| “Ella 100!”          | The Towers                                   | Narragansett, RI   | 2017 |
| “Ella 100!”          | URI Urban Cultural Arts, Paff Auditorium     | Providence, RI     | 2017 |
| “Oh Freedom Over Me” | Mathewson St. UMC Black Box Theater          | Providence, RI     | 2016 |
| “Oh Freedom Over Me” | URI Africana Studies, Paff Auditorium        | Kingston, RI       | 2016 |
| “Oh Freedom Over Me” | Department of Corrections Women’s Facilities | Cranston, RI       | 2016 |
| “Oh Freedom Over Me” | Project Outreach                             | East Greenwich, RI | 2015 |
| “Oh Freedom Over Me” | URI Urban Cultural Arts, Paff Auditorium     | Kingston, RI       | 2015 |

## Select Special Event Performances

|                        |   |                |      |
|------------------------|---|----------------|------|
| Featured Artist        | MLK Anniversary, The Institute for Non-Violence     | Providence, RI | 2018 |
| Featured Artist        | 40 <sup>th</sup> Annual Good Friday Walk for Hunger | Providence, RI | 2018 |
| “National Anthem”      | Opening Session of RI House of Representatives      | Providence, RI | 2018 |
| Featured Artist        | Attleboro Rotary Club Christmas Program             | Attleboro, MA  | 2017 |
| Featured Artist        | RI State Dept of Administration Gallery Night       | Providence, RI | 2017 |
| Featured Artist / M.C. | George Wiley Quizbowl Fundraiser                    | Pawtucket, RI  | 2017 |



## Select Musical Performances *continued*

|                             |  |                |      |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------|------|
| Featured Artist             | 39 <sup>th</sup> Annual Good Friday Walk for Hunger                | Providence, RI | 2017 |
| Concert of Music            | “Voices from the Heart” Book Signing                               | Swansea, MA    | 2016 |
| Featured Artist             | 7 <sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Legislative Black History Celebration | Providence, RI | 2016 |
| “Precious Lord”             | University of Rhode Island Unity Luncheon                          | Kingston, RI   | 2016 |
| “Strange Fruit”             | W.A.R. Race Matters  | Providence, RI | 2016 |
| Featured Artist             | 13 <sup>th</sup> Annual State Black Art Exhibit Artist Reception   | Providence, RI | 2015 |
| Featured Artist             | “Lyrical Warriors” Gallery Opening                                 | Providence, RI | 2015 |
| “National Black Anthem”     | Rhode Island Black and Latino Legislative Caucus                   | Providence, RI | 2015 |
| Featured Artist             | Rhode Island State Council of Churches                             | Providence, RI | 2015 |
| Featured Artist             | “A Soulful Gospel Revue,” St. Michael the Archangel                | Providence, RI | 2015 |
| Featured Artist             | 12 <sup>th</sup> Annual State Black Art Exhibit Artist Reception   | Providence, RI | 2014 |
| Featured Artist             | Mathewson Street Friendship Breakfast                              | Providence, RI | 2014 |
| Featured Artist             | One Voice Fighting Poverty with Faith (State House)                | Providence, RI | 2014 |
| Featured Artist             | The Greatest Singer of Her Race: Black Patti Honors                | Providence, RI | 2013 |
| Featured Artist             | Freedom Fund Awards Dinner feat. Hon. John Lewis                   | Providence, RI | 2013 |
| Featured Artist             | RI Music Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Concert                 | Providence, RI | 2013 |
| Featured Artist             | 35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Good Friday Walk                           | Providence, RI | 2013 |
| Featured Artist             | Malaria Benefit, Barrington United Methodist                       | Barrington, RI | 2013 |
| Featured Artist             | Freedom Fund Awards Dinner feat. Viola Davis                       | Providence, RI | 2012 |
| “Hallelujah for Henrietta”  | Bristol Community College Reading Program                          | Fall River, MA | 2012 |
| Featured Artist             | 911 Anniversary Event, Brown University                            | Providence, RI | 2011 |
| “His Eye Is On The Sparrow” | “Before Rosa Parks There Was Claudette Colvin”                     | Providence, RI | 2010 |
| Featured Artist             | Reflections Exhibit: Bessie Smith                                  | Providence, RI | 2007 |
| Featured Artist             | 911 Anniversary Event, RI State House                              | Providence, RI | 2007 |
| Featured Artist             | Unveiling of Civil Rights Stamp                                    | Providence, RI | 2007 |
| “God Bless America”         | Inauguration of RI Governor Donald L. Carcieri                     | Providence, RI | 2007 |
| Featured Artist             | Ministers Alliance MLK Scholarship Breakfast                       | Providence, RI | 2007 |
| Featured Artist             | So. Providence Ministries Annual Benefit Concert                   | Providence, RI | 2006 |



## Select Musical Performances *continued*

|                        |   |                  |      |
|------------------------|---|------------------|------|
| Featured Artist        | American Heart Assoc. Natl Women’s Heart Day      | Providence, RI   | 2004 |
| Featured Artist        | RI Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Poverty        | Providence, RI   | 2004 |
| “Hero”                 | Unsung Hero Recognition Breakfast                 | Providence, RI   | 2004 |
| Featured Artist        | “Proclaim Jubilee,” Diocese of Providence         | Providence, RI   | 2004 |
| Featured Artist        | Gospel Fest Scholarship Program                   | Providence, RI   | 2003 |
| Featured Artist        | Annual Kwanzaa Program, Black Catholics Ministry  | Providence, RI   | 2002 |
| Featured Artist        | World Aids Week, Rhode Island State House         | Providence, RI   | 2002 |
| “Star Spangled Banner” | United We Stand, Muslim American Dawah Center     | Providence, RI   | 2002 |
| Featured Artist        | Rhode Island State Council of Churches            | Providence, RI   | 2001 |
| Featured Artist        | Muslim American Dawah Association                 | Providence, RI   | 2001 |
| Featured Artist        | “Proclaim Jubilee”                                | Providence, RI   | 2001 |
| Featured Artist / M.C. | Gospel Jubilee Concert, United States Census 2000 | Providence, RI   | 2000 |
| Featured Artist        | “Proclaim Jubilee,” St. Patrick Cathedral         | Washington, D.C. | 2000 |
| “Precious Lord”        | National United Auto Workers MLK Dinner           | Bridgeport, CT   | 2000 |
| Featured Artist        | The Fourth of July Jubilee                        | Providence, RI   | 1999 |

## Production Companies

|                                 |               |                |      |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|------|
| Cheryl Albright Productions LLC | Founder/Owner | Providence, RI | 2013 |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|------|

## Awards / Accomplishments

|                            |                                     |                   |      |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------|
| Woman of Achievement Award | YWCA / She Shines Magazine          | Providence, RI    | 2015 |
| Special Recognition        | U.S. Representative David Cicilline | Providence, RI    | 2015 |
| Special Recognition        | U.S. Representative Jim Langevin    | Providence, RI    | 2015 |
| Special Recognition        | U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse     | Providence, RI    | 2015 |
| Special Recognition        | Mayor Scott Avedisian               | Warwick, RI       | 2015 |
| Special Recognition        | Mayor James A. Diossa               | Central Falls, RI | 2015 |
| Fete Visions Award         | African Affairs Commission          | Providence, RI    | 1999 |



## “Oh Freedom Over Me”

Conceived, written, performed, and produced by Cheryl Albright

### SYNOPSIS

Cheryl Albright shares her life story and her musical journey to overcome fear and prejudice. She highlights the lives and accomplishments of five African-American female vocalists and their historical journeys to freedom during turbulent times. Following in their footsteps, Cheryl pursued her own goals as an artist. The legendary artists she represents in the performance include Sissieretta Jones, Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday, Mahalia Jackson, and Nina Simone.

### PERFORMANCE HISTORY

- Mathewson St. UMC Black Box Theater, Providence, RI • Mar 2018
- Dept of Corrections - Women’s, Cranston, RI • December 2016
- Mathewson St. UMC Black Box Theater, Providence, RI • Mar 2016
- University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI • February 2016
- Project Outreach, East Greenwich, RI • April 2015
- University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI • Premiere • February 2015

### RUN TIME

60 minutes with 15-minute post-show talk-back

### PROMO REEL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJ6KoUhuXCA>

### WHAT CRITICS ARE SAYING

- “Musical with a message of empowerment”
- “Another rapt audience”
- “Stunning musical play has audiences cheering”
- “One of Rhode Island’s hidden treasures”
- “Powerful singer... her musical range is incredible”

“diverse audience, lengthy standing ovation, tears of joy”

~ Don Fowler, Warwick Beacon Theatre Review





## “Ella”

Conceived, written, performed, and produced by Cheryl Albright

### SYNOPSIS

2015 Woman of Achievement Award-winning playwright and singer Cheryl Albright pays tribute to Ella Jane Fitzgerald in *Ella!*, honoring the First Lady of Song. With the musical styling of an original artist and the warm storytelling of a confidante, Albright interweaves stories and songs from Ella’s life to showcase the Queen of Jazz’s journey from humble beginnings to worldwide success as the top female jazz singer in more than 50 years.

### PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Mathewson St. UMC Black Box Theater, Providence, RI • Feb 2018

Pump House Music Works, Wakefield, RI • July 2017

The Towers, Narragansett, RI • March 2017

University of Rhode Island • Premiere • February 2017

### RUN TIME

60 minutes

### PROMO REEL

<http://bit.ly/caasinger>

### WHAT AUDIENCES ARE SAYING

“Magnificent sold out performance at The Towers... Cheryl’s voice is delicious!” ~ Kate Vivian, Towers Coordinator

“Engaging, entertaining, and educational musical tribute”

“An amazing voice” ~ RI Senator Juan Pichardo

“This show gave me goosebumps”

“My little granddaughters, ages 6 and 8 were dancing”



## “Cheryl wowed a standing room only house at URI”

~ Steven Pennell, Coordinator Urban Arts and Culture Program



## Press

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### **Print and Online** (click each to read)

- Providence Journal, In Providence, King's message of 'unconditional love' resounds, April 2018
- Providence Journal, 5 R.I. things to do this weekend, March 2018
- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Good Friday Service, March 2018
- RI General Assembly Press Release, Veterans and Military Families Outreach Day, March 2018
- Narragansett Times, Great weekend of music coming up at the Towers in Narragansett, March 2017
- Providence Journal, R.I. singer Cheryl Albright honors Ella Fitzgerald, February 2017
- Providence Journal, Music of the first African American opera diva Sissieretta Jones, October 2016
- Pawtucket Times, Officials honor Black History Month, February 2016
- Providence Journal, 7th Annual Joint Legislative Black History Month Celebration, February 2016
- NBC 10 WJAR, 7th Annual Joint Legislative Black History Month Celebration, February 2016
- Providence American, 7th Annual Joint Legislative Black History Month Celebration, February 2016
- GoLocalProv.com, YWCA to Hold 11th Annual Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon..., September 2015
- Womenofachievementri.org, Women of Achievement Awards: 2015 Award Winners, 2015
- She Shines Magazine, 2015 Award Winners: Cheryl Albright, Fall 2015
- Providence Journal, Musical with a message of empowerment, April 2015
- Providence Journal, Music is a weapon against racism in RI woman's autobiographical play, April 2015
- Warwick Beacon, Cheryl Albright's stunning musical play has audiences cheering, February 2015
- RI General Assembly Press Release, Legislative Black History Month celebration to be held..., February 2015
- NBC 10 News, Black History Month celebration at the State House, February 2015
- Providence Journal, Interfaith Vigil: One Voice Fighting Poverty with Faith, January 2014
- The Brown Daily Herald, Local event honors the 'Black Patti', April 2013
- The Patch Newspaper, Malaria benefit at The Barrington United Methodist Church, March 2013
- Providence Journal, The 35th Annual Good Friday Walk, March 2013
- Rhode Island Catholic, State House prayer service offers support for elected officials, January 2010
- Providence American, Before Rosa Parks there was Claudette Colvin, 2010





## Press *continued*

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### Print and Online *continued*

Providence Journal, Diversity Spotlight, 2010

Providence Journal, Reflections Exhibit with Silhouette of Bessie Smith, September 2007

VoteSmart, Governor Leads Remembrance of 9/11 Terrorist Attacks, September 2007

Providence Journal, 9/11 Anniversary Event, September 2007

Providence Journal, 23rd Annual MLK Scholarship Breakfast, January 2007

Providence Journal, Unveiling of Civil Rights Stamp, 2007

Providence Journal, Inauguration of Governor Donald L. Carcieri, January 2007

NBC 10 WJAR, Inauguration of Governor Donald L. Carcieri, January 2007

Providence Journal, Ministers Alliance MLK Breakfast, 2007

Providence Journal, Annual Benefit Concert, March 2006

Providence Journal, CD Release Celebration, October 2003

Providence Journal, 9/11 Anniversary Performance, September 2002

Providence Journal, A Gathering One Year Later, September 2002

Providence Journal, Trinity Encore First Annual Black History Celebration, February 2002

NBC 10 WJAR, First Night, 2002

Warwick Beacon, RI State House rally of prayer, December 2001

Providence Journal, Muslims taking a pro-neighborhood stroll, August 2001

Providence Journal, Proclaim Jubilee a musical play, January 2001

Providence Journal, Legislative event at RI Statehouse Rotunda, September 2000

Providence Journal, Proclaim Jubilee 2000 Campaign, 2000

NBC 10 WJAR, Proclaim Jubilee 2000 Campaign, 2000

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### Radio

Dreamvision 7 Radio Network, Interview, June 2017

NPR, Singing “Amazing Grace” at Sgt. Cornell Young Laying of the Wreath Ceremony



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# Cheryl Albright

Press continued

HOW SWEET THE SOUND

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2/25/15

THEATRE REVIEW

### Cheryl Albright's stunning musical play has audiences cheering

Don Fowler

Cheryl Albright is with religious and non-profit

Albright presented her M the sponsorship of the U ovation, tears of joy, and back, tell their own stories

Cheryl told her audience th American female singers wo years. She not only shar music to the blues to comes Sissieretta ns such as hats

Tuesday, January 16, 2007 A9

PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL MURPHY

### ... singer Cheryl Albright honors Ella Fitzgerald

PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL MURPHY

## RHODE ISLAND

PERFORMANCE

### Musical with a message of empowerment

ngs pierce racial barriers in Cheryl Albright's autobiographical play

Cheryl Albright, of East Greenwich, performs in her musical 'Oh Freedom' at East Greenwich United Methodist Church. Albright's original play follows her musical journey from her childhood in East Greenwich to her current life in Rhode Island.

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### LOCAL INTEREST

#### Bazaars, sales

loween Bazaar and Indoor Yard e Burnsville Historical & ervation Society, Bridge- School, 16 Laurel Hill Ave., oag. 568-8449. Halloween s and decorations, penny l, homemade pies and , yard sale items. Sat 9 p.m.

at Bazaar, Ho'y Rosary ty of St. Elizabeth's i, 577 Wood St., Bristol, ade ornaments, table ions and wreaths; ifrits, hats and mit- arves and blankets; white elephant and

Singer Cheryl Albright will reenact the music of Sissieretta Jones, the first African-American opera diva, following a walking tour of historic black churches on College Hill on Saturday.



## Quotes

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“This was only the third time that Albright... had performed the musical, but she had another rapt audience.”

~ *Mark Reynolds, Providence Journal*

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“This show gave me goose bumps as she gave a narrative of Ella's life! She sang her songs and if you closed your eyes you had Ella singing to you once again. I grew up listening to this music and it took me right back to my grandma's house! Absolutely phenomenol [sic]!”

~ *Audience member*

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“I have been in an array of audiences where Cheryl has been invited to take center stage. Governors, United States Senators, Mayors and the citizenry at large applaud how her voice, heart and song transform a public ceremony to be a unifying assembly.”

~ *Rev. James C. Miller, Emmanuel Baptist Church*

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“While the performance is an important history lesson, it is also one of the most powerful musical productions I have ever heard. Cheryl Albright is one heck of a singer, up there with the women she is portraying and honoring.”

~ *Don Fowler, Warwick Beacon*

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“WOW! My husband, some friends and I were privileged to be in the Standing Room only audience yesterday for Cheryl's stupendous show... Cheryl really ‘stopped traffic’ again and again with her exquisite voice, showmanship and the love she shares with the audience. Ella would have been proud and delighted...I know we were!”

~ *Audience member*



## Contact

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**Media** [media@thecherylalbright.com](mailto:media@thecherylalbright.com)

**Facebook** @CherylAnnAlbrightVocalist

**YouTube** <http://bit.ly/caasinger>

## Lasting Impressions

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*July 29, 2016*

*Dear Ms. Albright:*

*You proved to be a most sensitive and extraordinary interpreter [sic] of the Spirituals, Blues, Gospel and Jazz music.*

*... feedback from the audience... both Faculty and Students...*

*Ms. Albright takes on the personnas [sic] ... of our most treasured and significant African American female artists... Her voice And [sic] her presence captures the likeness of each one. It was amazing to watch the transformation; the seamless flow from one character to the next.*

*The attention to detail and critical research is apparent and so well-done that while she is performing, the audience is transported into the heart and soul of the culture and the times in which the characters lived.*

*May... doors open to you all over this nation and the world.*

*Most Sincerely,*

*Vanessa Wynder Quainoo, Ph.D.*

*Director, University of Rhode Island Africana Studies*