

Liz Gré (fka Sankophoenix), is a vocalist, new music composer, and aspiring ethnographer who finds comfort between the sides of records. She aims to unearth and tell stories with her music. Whether simple or complex, universal or rare, she serves as the vessel. Her work is inspired by personal life experiences as well as contemporary theater, improvisation, the acoustic sounds and rhythms of soul instrumentation, and the unexpected melodies often found in classical music. She is a storyteller and uses music and performance to explore life's essential and most difficult questions.

Maurisa Mansaray was born and raised in Waterloo, IA. During her time in Waterloo, Maurisa was classically trained in the cello at the University of Northern Iowa Suzuki School of Music. She performed with numerous symphony orchestra and was one of few selected by the Suzuki School to meet Yo-Yo Ma. Upon graduating with honors from high school, Maurisa received her degree in Biology from the University of Iowa. Maurisa is a Microbiologist for ConAgra Brands in Omaha, NE but in her spare time, she is the leading cellist for the Kaneshville Orchestra and has appeared in various showcases with local artists. In 2018, she developed Queen of Mansa Music, expanding her love of playing cello to working with artists, community events and private engagements.

Alexandria Smith (b. 1981, Bronx, NY) earned her BFA in Illustration from Syracuse University, an MA in Art Education from New York University, and an MFA in Painting and Drawing from Parsons The New School for Design. She has exhibited her work in solo and group exhibitions at venues such as deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum Lincoln, MA (2019); Boston University, Boston, MA (2018); MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA (2018); The Union for Contemporary Art, Omaha, NE (2017); Yale School of Art, New Haven, CT (2016); International Print Center, New York, NY (2016) and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, NY (2015). Smith is the recipient of numerous awards including a Pollock-Krasner Grant and the Virginia A. Myers Fellowship at the University of Iowa. She has been an artist-in-residence at MacDowell, Bemis, Yaddo, LMCC Process Space Residency and Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. From 2016–18, Smith was co-organizer of the collective, Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter (BWA for BLM).

Lachell Workman (b. 1989, Bridgeport, CT) is an interdisciplinary artist based in New York. She received a BFA in Photography from the University of Connecticut in 2011, and an MFA from SUNY Purchase College in 2015. Her interdisciplinary practice investigates the cultural iconography of the R.I.P. T-shirt and ritualistic practices of mourning within inner-city landscapes as sites for theorizing the visualization of the black ineffable body. Workman's recent exhibitions include the 10th Berlin Biennale, Dineo Seshee Bopape, "Untitled (of the occult instability) [Feelings]" at the KW Institute for Contemporary Art (2018) and In Practice: Another Echo at Sculpture Center (2018). She has exhibited work at The Knockdown Center (2018), We Buy Gold (2017), The Union for Contemporary Art, Omaha, NE (2017) and has participated in residencies at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, the Lighthouse Works, The Shandaken Project at Storm King Art Center, Ox-Bow School of Art, and the Vermont Studio Center.