Rev. Gary Davis Tribute

On Saturday, February 20, at 7 p.m., at the Bronx Music Heritage Center, 1303 Louis Nine Boulevard, celebrate Black History Month with a tribute to Reverend Gary Davis, the blues/gospel singer, street preacher and virtuosic guitar player from North Carolina who once called the Bronx his home. Davis inspired Dave Van Ronk, Rory Block, David Bromberg, Jorma Kaukonen, Stefan Grossman, Bob Weir, and many other leaders of the folk movement during the 1960’s, as many of them often traveled to the Bronx to learn his music.

Harlem Street Singer (2013) is the first-ever film to tell the little-known story of Reverend Gary Davis.

Tracing his journey from the tobacco warehouses of the rural south to the streets of Harlem, the film is a revealing portrait of an artist who impacted the musical landscape of folk music and endeared himself to musicians such as Pete Seeger, Bob Weir, Jerry Garcia, David Bromberg, Bob Dylan and countless others. The film will be followed by a Q&A with director and producer, Trevor Lawrence and Woody Mann.

After the film there will be a musical tribute to Rev. Davis with blues vocalist and songwriter Monica Hope, the daughter of renowned jazz legends Elmo and Bertha Hope, who grew up around the block from the Bronx Music Heritage Center Lab. She will be joined by “King” Solomon Hicks, a 26-year-old jazz and blues guitarist who has been playing since the age of 6, and has been called a “guitar prodigy.”

Snacks will be for sale by Tannesha’s Reldigious Treats.

The event is free and open to the public.

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