

## Sports & Entertainment

# Virtuoso drummer, composer, and bandleader Cindy Blackman Santana bridges jazz, rock, funk and beyond

Out July 31 via Mack Avenue Records

Las Vegas, NV, June 30, 2026 — Acclaimed drummer, composer, bandleader, and vocalist **Cindy Blackman Santana** shares her new single, **"The Message Is Love,"** the latest release from her forthcoming album **Coherence**, arriving July 31 via **Mack Avenue Records**. Featuring Carlos Santana's powerful guitar work and a special spoken introduction from Snoop Dogg, the track creates a musical dialogue between coasts—Blackman Santana's powerful New York jazz and East Coast funk energy meets G-Funk sound and the musical legacy of Long Beach, California.

Built around an irresistible pocket, infectious rhythms, and vibrant improvisation, "The Message Is Love" reveals another side of **Coherence**. While the album explores jazz, fusion, rock, and spiritual improvisation, this track leans into funk without losing sight of the album's central idea: that music has the power to bring people together. "‘The Message Is Love’ is about evoking that feeling. The greatest thing you can feel is the energy, appreciation, and the act of just love for love’s sake," says Blackman Santana. "Not for any agenda, just because it's beautiful, and that's what the creator is: complete love. Love for love's sake, no other reason. That's where the title came from and where the energy of the song



Multi-talented Cindy Blackman Santana is set to release “Coherence” on July 31 via Mack Avenue Records. (Photo by Denise Truscello)

comes from” Throughout the album, Blackman Santana assembles an extraordinary community of musicians, including Carlos Santana, John McLaughlin, Matt Garrison, Ray Angry, Dave Eggar, and her acclaimed touring band, to create music built on conversation, trust, and fearless collaboration rather than convention. As Blackman Santana explains, "Coherence is about everything in creation coming together. We come from the creator. In these times, we need unity. We need to understand that we are not different... the core of every single

human being is light." Snoop Dogg's appearance marks a reunion with Blackman Santana following their collaboration with Chris Stapleton on ESPN's Monday Night Football anthem, a reimagining of Phil Collins' "In the Air Tonight." Debuting in 2023, the performance introduced millions of viewers to the unlikely but compelling combination of Snoop Dogg’s unmistakable voice and Blackman Santana’s commanding drumming. The theme will continue when the new football season kicks off this fall. Recorded at The Hideout Recording Studio in Las Vegas

alongside her longtime touring band—Emilio Modeste (saxophone), Aurelien Budynek (guitar), Zaccai Curtis (keyboards), and Felix Pastorius (bass)—Coherence expands upon the musical vision Blackman Santana introduced on 2020’s Give the Drummer Some. The album blends spontaneous improvisation with deep compositional intention, creating a collection that is as adventurous as it is emotionally resonant. In support of Coherence, Blackman Santana will perform at BRIC Celebrate Brooklyn! in Prospect Park on July 24 before continuing her summer as

drummer with Santana on the Santana & The Doobie Brothers Oneness Tour. Following that are additional performances at Detroit Jazz Festival on September 7, Keystone Korner in Baltimore on October 24 and 25, and multiple upcoming dates with Santana's Las Vegas residency. About Cindy Blackman Santana: Cindy Blackman Santana is a virtuoso drummer, composer, and bandleader whose fearless artistry bridges jazz, rock, funk, and beyond. Renowned for the power, nuance, and emotional depth of her playing, she has performed and recorded with artists

including Santana, Lenny Kravitz, Pharoah Sanders, Cassandra Wilson, Joe Henderson, Vernon Reid, John McLaughlin, and the Isley Brothers. Since joining Santana full-time in 2016, her drumming has been featured on multiple albums including Africa Speaks and Blessings and Miracles. Her acclaimed solo work—including Give the Drummer Some and her latest album Coherence—showcases her expansive vision as both a drummer and vocalist, blending spiritual jazz, rock, and improvisational music into a sound entirely her own.

## Launch your cyber career as a Dept. of War apprenticeship applicant; Earn while you learn... from sports-military 3

and desire to learn. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, at least 18 years of age, able to obtain and maintain a Secret security clearance, and deeply committed to a cyber career.

To accommodate different agency missions and standards, the program offers two distinct developmental pathways. The core Technical Specialist Pathway focuses on rapid, hands-on

technical skill acquisition for general DoW civilian cyber roles and explicitly does not require a college degree. Alternatively, the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Agency Pathway is tai-

lored for specialized placements within the DMDC and requires candidates to hold an accredited degree to meet that specific agency's qualification standards. For more information on the program and eligibility require-

ments, applicants can visit the DoW Cyber Apprenticeship Webpage or contact the program office at [osd.mc-alex.dod-cio.mbx.cyber-rap@mail.mil](mailto:osd.mc-alex.dod-cio.mbx.cyber-rap@mail.mil).

Complimentary military tickets are available for FedEx St. Jude Championship, Aug.12-16. For more information, visit [FedExChampionship.com/military](https://FedExChampionship.com/military). See more military news on [sports-military 2](#) and [military 3](#)

## SAF seeks Supreme Court review in NY City stun gun ban case... from sports page 4

ments that can project a spectrum of force and is not limited to firearms exclusively. "This case has been ongoing for almost five years and it's past time for a final resolution," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "To continue spending taxpayer dol-

lars to fight such an absurd law is preposterous. Courts around the country have struck down electronic arms bans, but New York has again insisted that the rules don't apply to them. They'd rather fight tooth and nail over a senseless ban than to admit that electronic arms are certainly not

'unusually dangerous.' Residents of the city should have the option to choose the type of self-defense method they'd prefer, but lawmakers are hellbent on treating citizens like criminals simply for owning a stun gun." For more information, visit [SAF.org](https://www.saf.org).

## Lifetime and Microhouse Films to debut original Taye Diggs-produced series from sports-Ent. 6

strategy, and we're excited to take this first step alongside Taye and Microhouse Films. Together, we're creating stories designed for the way audiences are engaging with content today while staying true to the compelling storytelling that defines Lifetime."

Tides of Temptation was developed alongside Lifetime's upcoming original movie, Terry McMillan Presents: Paradise with You, which also stars Taye Diggs. While the two projects share a common story world, Tides of Temptation stands on its own as a complete story. Paradise with You premieres this fall on Lifetime. To celebrate the platform launch, Microhouse Films will host a launch event on July 7, bringing together talent, creators, industry partners, and media to introduce the platform and its creative vision.

**About Tides of Temptation** Set within the same emotionally charged world introduced in Terry McMillan Presents: Para-

dise with You, Tides of Temptation deepens the drama. Set on the lush island of Nevis, paradise hides a dangerous undercurrent—and beautiful young Constance (Mea Wilkerson) is trapped inside of it. Her life is controlled by her controlling brother Malik and her abusive boyfriend Wes. When ambitious young athlete local Jamal (Swag-Boy Q) enters her life and confronts the dangerous world around her, everything fractures. And as Jamal and Constance fall hard for each other, they soon come to realize their dangerous new love could cost them everything. Troy Brookins (who also appears in Paradise with You as Travis) and David John Craig also star. Tides of Temptation is executive produced by Taye Diggs, Shelby Stone and Autumn Federici and produced in association with Motion Entertainment, a WPP Media company with Chet Fenster also serving as executive producer. Troy Brookins co-produces. Gary and Edmund Entin directed from a script by Nanea Miyata with a story by Ejay Ja-

mison. ABOUT MICROHOUSE FILMS Microhouse Films is a creator-driven entertainment studio developing premium vertical storytelling experiences for mobile-first audiences. Through partnerships with creators, talent, and leading entertainment brands, Microhouse Films produces original content designed for the next generation of viewers. Microhouse Films will have no subscription fee and require no fee to upload or host content. Through an ad-free model, filmmakers can choose which episodes to offer for free and which to place behind a credit-based system, retaining control over pricing, release strategy, and revenue. Microhouse Films is founded by Taye Diggs, Autumn Federici, Shelby Stone, Troy Brookins and James Black. Follow Lifetime on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and Tik Tok

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