



**For Immediate Release**  
March 23, 2018

Contact: Olivia Sather  
(562) 985-8371  
[Olivia.Sather@carpenterarts.org](mailto:Olivia.Sather@carpenterarts.org)

**Legendary Singer Mavis Staples at Carpenter Performing Arts Center, April 28**  
*Singing through decades of change in American history, Staples raises her voice above it all.*

**LONG BEACH, California** — Grammy® Award-winner and Kennedy Center Honoree Mavis Staples takes the stage at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center, located on the campus of Cal State Long Beach, on Saturday, April 28, 2018. Staples weaves together the sounds of soul, gospel, pop, R&B, folk, and blues in a performance of the inspiring and uplifting music that covers her 60-year legacy.

Mavis Staples began performing in the 1940s with her family band the Staple Singers playing in Chicago-area churches before touring with the gospel circuit. At age 14 in 1953, Mavis Staples recorded in the studio for the first time and in 1956 the Staple Singers scored a hit with “Uncloudy Day,” gathering a wide following they moved from gospel to spiritual music and later to pop stardom with hits, “I’ll Take You There” and “Respect Yourself.” In the mid-1960s, they joined Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. where their voices became the anthems for the Civil Rights Movement with songs like “Freedom Highway” and “When Will We Be Paid.” Staples has sang through pivotal moments in American history, and in the wake of the divisive and racially-charged rhetoric still appearing on the streets of our country in 2017, Staples has more to say.

Now in her seventh decade, Mavis Staples released her latest album *If All I Was Was Black* (ANTI-) in November 2017, her third collaboration with Wilco’s Jeff Tweedy. *If All I Was Was Black* ties together yesterday and today, with songs like “We Go High” echoing Michelle Obama and “Build a Bridge” offering to reach across the divided discourse. The timely and powerful album is a testament to Staples voice which is stronger than ever. The album received praise from *Billboard*, “Once again, Staples is the voice of activism. *If All I Was Was Black* is a reminder of her timeless talent,” and *American Songwriter*, “Mavis Staples remains a force of nature.”

Mavis Staples has performed alongside Bob Dylan, Van Morrison, Billy Preston, Zac Brown, Willie Nelson and Ray Charles, among many others, and through her countless collaborations she has brought her own

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timeless talent to every performance. She has had music written for her by Nick Cave, Neko Case, and Prince who produced one of her albums. She received a National Heritage Fellowship from the NEA, won a Grammy® Award for her album *You Are Not Alone*, was the 2016 Kennedy Center Honoree, and inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame.

Through it all Mavis Staples is a constant, singular voice masterfully crossing musical genres as she has evolved as an artist sharing her sound and ideas with the world. Staples is living, breathing, history, and *If All I Was Was Black* continues Staples mission to change the world with her songs. Her voice is a reminder of the past and an anthem of hope for the future.

Single tickets for Mavis Staples at the Richard and Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center begin at \$50. VIP tickets that include a pre-show reception are \$125 and include a donation for *Art for Life*, the Carpenter Center's arts education program. For tickets and more information, visit [CarpenterArts.org](https://www.carpenterarts.org) or call the Carpenter Center Ticket Office at (562) 985-7000. This series is made possible in part by Season Media Partner KPCC 89.3-FM.

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CALENDAR LISTING

Photos are available at <http://www.carpenterarts.org/press.html>

What: **Mavis Staples**

When: **Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 8 pm**

Where: **Richard and Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center**  
6200 Atherton St.  
Long Beach, CA 90815

Tickets: **\$50 - \$75**  
*Parking is available for \$8*

Ticket Office: **(562) 985-7000, [www.CarpenterArts.org](http://www.CarpenterArts.org)**  
Box Office Hours are Monday-Friday 10am – 5pm and 1 hour before season performances.

**Additional Information and tickets available at the Carpenter Center's website: [www.CarpenterArts.org](http://www.CarpenterArts.org)**