



## News Release

1501 Euclid Avenue  
Suite 200  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

216-771-4444  
[playhousesquare.org](http://playhousesquare.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Media Contact:** Liesl Davenport

**Phone:** 216-640-8677

**Email:** [liesl.davenport@playhousesquare.org](mailto:liesl.davenport@playhousesquare.org)

### **GRAMMY-Nominated Classical-Meets-Hip-Hop Duo Black Violin Releases New Single “[Beautiful Day](#)” Featuring Lalah Hathaway**

**New Album *Full Circle* Out This Friday**

**Fall US Tour Dates Announced**



Photo Credit: Meredith Traux ([Download High Res](#))

CLEVELAND, OH -- Today, GRAMMY-nominated classical-meets-hip-hop duo **Black Violin** released “[Beautiful Day](#)” featuring R&B legend **Lalah Hathaway**, the final single from their album [Full Circle](#) (out this Friday). Produced by **Phil Beaudreau** (Dr. Dre, Justin Bieber, The Game), the album marks a bold new chapter for the genre-defying duo. Today the duo also announced an extensive fall US tour, including a stop in

Cleveland at Playhouse Square on November 15, 2025. Tickets are on sale now at [playhousesquare.org](https://playhousesquare.org) and by phone at 216-241-6000.

### [Listen to “Beautiful Day” featuring Lalah Hathaway](#)

“‘Beautiful Day’ is a reminder that no matter the chaos that surrounds us, there is always beauty in the present moment,” says Black Violin’s Will Baptiste. “It’s about choosing to see the light, embracing the small joys, and grounding ourselves in the life that’s happening right now.”

Black Violin members **Wil Baptiste** and **Kev Marcus** met on the first day of orchestra class in 1996 at Dillard High School of the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale. (Baptiste originally wanted to play saxophone in the band, but the orchestra teacher got him assigned to his class after winning a golf bet with the band instructor.) Classically trained by day, they faithfully put on their headphones and listened to the hottest rap records each night. They went to different colleges—Marcus attended Florida International University and Baptiste went to Florida State—but then reconvened, moved into an apartment together, and started trying to produce other musicians.

They developed an act covering hip-hop songs on their violins, which became popular in local clubs. Two years after sending in a tape to Showtime at the Apollo, they were invited to appear on the show—which they won, and kept winning. They were approached by the manager of Alicia Keys, who asked them to perform with the singer at the Billboard Awards. Other offers followed—they toured with Mike Shinoda of Linkin Park, opened for the Wu-Tang Clan, and worked with the likes of Alessia Cara, 2 Chainz, and Lil Wayne. All the while, Black Violin continued touring non-stop (playing as many as 200 shows a year) and released two independent, self-financed albums before putting out the acclaimed *Stereotypes* in 2016, followed by 2019’s *Take the Stairs*, which was nominated for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album at the 2020 GRAMMYS.

Black Violin has always been about taking things further, exceeding expectations, challenging conventions. The duo has steadily built a devoted following and a diverse touring base—culminating in such triumphs as two sold-out shows at the Kennedy Center with the National Symphony Orchestra commemorating the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s death, and appearances on the [Today Show](#), [CBS Mornings](#), and [PBS Newshour](#)—while occupying a musical lane that’s entirely its own.

Black Violin’s work extends far beyond the stage, reaching deep into communities nationwide with numerous free performances for students and hands-on engagement with youth symphonies and community centers. Through collaborations with local and national education programs such as Turnaround Arts, Baptiste and Marcus connect with more than 100,000 students throughout the year, including low-income and Title 1 schools, and adopted Bethune Elementary, in Florida’s Broward County (near where they grew up) to initiate an ongoing mentorship program. In 2019, the duo launched the [Black Violin Foundation](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering youth by working with them in their communities to provide access to quality music programs that encourage creativity and innovation.

*Full Circle* finds Black Violin 20 years into their career, arriving back where they began—only now with the clarity that comes from experience. This new chapter is both a reckoning and a renewal, as they confront their past selves while evolving beyond them. The songs feel like natural extensions of their early work—refined, redefined, and charged with the paradox of returning and progressing all at once.

#### **Tracklisting:**

1. The Illest
2. Live My Life
3. [Drama](#)
4. King

5. The Walk
6. To The Top
7. [Smoke](#)
8. [Beautiful Day \(ft. Lalah Hathaway\)](#)
9. Joy
10. Black Box

#### **Black Violin - Full Circle Tour - 2025**

- 05.02 — Paducah, KY — The Carson Center
- 05.03 — Fort Smith, AR — TempleLive
- 05.04 — Dallas, TX — Majestic Theatre
- 05.06 — Lawrence, KS — Leid Center of Kansas
- 05.08 — Toledo, OH — Toledo Cultural Arts Center
- 05.09 — Bay Harbor, MI — Great Lakes Center for the Arts
- 05.10 — Flint, MI — Capitol Theatre
- 07.25 — Newport Beach, CA — Back Bay Amphitheatre
- 07.26 — Del Mar, CA — The Sound
- 09.25 — North Bethesda, MD — Music Center at Strathmore
- 09.27 — York, PA — VENUE TBA
- 09.28 — Lynchburg, VA — Historic Academy Theatre at Academy Center of the Arts
- 09.30 — Charlottesville, VA — The Paramount Theater
- 10.01 — Patchogue, NY — Patchogue Theatre
- 10.02 — Keene, NH — The Colonial Theatre
- 10.03 — Red Bank, NJ — Count Basie Center
- 10.04 — Worcester, MA — The Hanover Theatre
- 10.05 — Albany, NY — The Palace Theatre
- 10.08 — Eau Claire, WI — Pablo Center at the Confluence
- 10.09 — Milwaukee, WI — Uihlein Hall
- 10.10 — Dayton, OH — Schuster Center
- 10.11 — Rockford, IL — Coronado Theatre
- 10.30 — Austin, TX — The Long Center
- 11.02 — Houston, TX — 713 Music Hall
- 11.03 — San Antonio, TX — HEB Performance Hall
- 11.07 — Hampton, VA — Jazz Legacy Festival
- 11.08 — Durham, NC — DPAC
- 11.09 — Bethlehem, PA — Musikfest Cafe
- 11.11 — Pittsburgh, PA — Carnegie Music Hall of Oakland
- 11.12 — Champaign, IL — Virginia Theatre
- 11.13 — Pontiac, MI — The Flagstar Strand Theatre
- 11.14 — Columbus, OH — Palace Theatre
- 11.15 — Cleveland, OH — KeyBank State Theatre
- 11.16 — Cincinnati, OH — Taft Theatre
- 04.16 — Mesa, AZ — Ikeda Theater



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For more information please contact:  
Brett Loeb ([brett@missingpiecegroup.com](mailto:brett@missingpiecegroup.com))  
at Missing Piece Group

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