



June 14, 2022

ABC NEWS' 'SOUL OF A NATION' PRESENTS 'SOUND OF FREEDOM – A JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION' IN HONOR OF JUNETEENTH AND BLACK MUSIC MONTH



Sponsored by GEICO, the Special Features Live Performances and Interviews with Iconic Musicians Including Ciara, Jimmie Allen, Patti LaBelle, Jon Batiste, Marvin Sapp and More

Primetime Special Airs Friday, June 17, at 8 p.m. EST on ABC, Next Day on Hulu

In recognition of both Juneteenth and Black Music Month, ABC News' groundbreaking "Soul of a Nation" series will air "**Sound of Freedom – A Juneteenth Celebration**," a one-hour primetime special on Friday, June 17.

Sponsored by GEICO and hosted by country music star **Jimmie Allen**, "**Sound of Freedom – A Juneteenth Celebration**" brings together a mix of live performances and conversations with some of music's biggest stars to highlight the contributions of Black Americans through jazz, gospel, hip-hop and more. ABC News anchor **Linsey Davis** sits down with GRAMMY®-winning artist **Lizzo** to discuss her career and the inspiration behind her chart-topping music. ABC News anchor **Janai Norman** explores the importance of ownership in music through conversations with GRAMMY winners **Ciara**, **Jimmy Jam** and **Terry Lewis**. The special also features reporting from ABC News correspondent **Rachel Scott**, who introduces viewers to the all-Black production teams behind major artists and groups, shedding light on the many important off-stage roles in the industry. The special includes performances by GRAMMY-winning legends **Patti LaBelle**, **Marvin Sapp** and an unforgettable finale from **Jon Batiste**.

"**Sound of Freedom – A Juneteenth Celebration**" is co-executive produced by Catherine McKenzie and Quiana Burns. ABC News' "Soul of a Nation" was created by Marie Nelson, senior

vice president, Integrated Content Strategy, ABC News. This is the third year in a row that ABC News is producing a special to honor the history of Juneteenth.

“From gospel and country to jazz, rock and today’s pop hits, every genre of American music is influenced by the Black Diaspora and our stories of survival, joy, pain and resilience. We’re looking forward to taking viewers on this musical journey in one of our most significant specials yet,” says co-executive producer Catherine McKenzie.

“During the Middle Passage, throughout the Underground Railroad, the Civil Rights Movement and today’s racial reckoning, music has always been an instrument for storytelling, mobilization and justice,” says co-executive producer Quiana Burns. “This special put together by an amazing team is a must-watch for all viewers.”

Follow “Soul of a Nation” (**#SoulOfANation**) on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

For more information, follow ABC News PR on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

*COPYRIGHT ©2022 American Broadcasting Companies, Inc. All photography is copyrighted material and is for editorial use only. Images are not to be archived, altered, duplicated, resold, retransmitted or used for any other purposes without written permission of ABC. Images are distributed to the press in order to publicize current programming. Any other usage must be licensed. Photos posted for Web use must be at the low resolution of 72dpi,

RELEASE: <https://bit.ly/3MVXHJD>

TWEET: https://ctt.ac/_e3e2

TRAILER: <https://bit.ly/3zDXhoy>

ABC News Media Relations

Denise Horn

denise.horn@abc.com

-- ABC --