



Tia Imani Hanna *Vocalist, Violinist, Composer*

Tia Imani Hanna is a musician who takes listeners from one deep, swelling moment to the next, rarely pausing between chords without inhaling a fresh breath of passion into the river of her work. Ms. Hanna says her mission is “to create music that makes the listener remember they are spiritual beings, that spirit moves within us through sound, through vision, through dance...with joy and love.”

Born in Detroit, she was nurtured by a family of musicians, including her aunt, **Naima Shamborguer**, the popular Detroit jazz vocalist, and world-renowned jazz pianist, the late **Sir Roland Hanna**, who inspired her to pursue this indigenous American art form.

Ms. Hanna began performing in Detroit area festivals, benefits and concerts. After college she also hosted a popular weekly radio show called “*A*” *Train*. The artist moved to New York city in 1998. Since being in New York City, Ms. Hanna has performed in various clubs as a violinist with a number of different groups. Hanna was the featured violinist for the Fourth American Jazz String Summit. This event was presented at the New School Jazz department, where Hanna premiered her composition “Brazil the First Time.” Hanna was Celtic fiddler for the off-Broadway musical, *Finn McCool*, and the musical force behind the independent film, *Inside Belle of the Ball*, an original dance and music project composed by Ms. Hanna and performed at the Brooklyn Arts Exchange with video-choreographer, Andrea E. Woods. She has most recently returned from an east coast tour of New York, Miami, and Washington D.C. in *Love Letters* with the Souloworks Dance Company. Ms. Hanna is presently working with guitarist **Alisdair MacRae-Birch** in a duo called **HannaJazz Strings** in the New York area.

About her current direction, the musician says, “I am learning to sing through my instrument...to let my soul flow through it.” Critics have said that Ms. Hanna is has an incredible ability to weave atmospheres with storytelling melodies and harmonies oozing rich textures of soul and raw emotion.

The Lansing State Journal says “She’s hoarding a talent overload...wordless notes emerge from her mouth in a jaunty, jazzy way.”