

# Rhiannon Giddens

## Speaking Engagements



**Folk Alliance International Keynote Address 2020**

**Americana Music Association UK Keynote Address 2019**

**“Songs That Bring History to Life” Ted Talk 2016**

**2017 MacArthur Grant Recipient**

Award winning musician, singer-songwriter, historian, playwright, and podcaster.

Rhiannon Giddens is a GRAMMY winning founding member of the Carolina Chocolate Drops, GRAMMY nominated Songs of Our Native Daughters, and a class of 2017 MacArthur Fellowship Genius Grant recipient. Recently Rhiannon has composed the music for the Nashville Ballet's *Lucy Negro Redux* and has been commissioned by the Spoleto Festival to create a new opera based on the autobiography of Omar Ibn Said, a Muslim-African man who was enslaved in 1807.

Rhiannon's most recent solo album *there is no Other* is a collaboration with Francesco Turrisi on Nonesuch Records, blending Arabic, European, and African American musical influences. *Songs of Our Native Daughters* is a collaboration on Smithsonian Records featuring Amythyst Kiah, Leyla McCalla, and Allison Russell, that addresses issues of slavery, misogyny, and racism.

“Rhiannon's album *Freedom Highway*, included songs she wrote based on slave narratives. That album from 2017 also included a song called “Better Get It Right The First Time,” which sadly couldn't be more timely, (written) in response to police shootings of young black men who weren't committing crimes.”  
—NPR interview with Terry Gross

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For booking, contact Chris Colbourn • [chris@concertedefforts.com](mailto:chris@concertedefforts.com) • 617.969.0810