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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL BLUES ACT 'DAVINA AND THE VAGABONDS' TO PLAY IN MONROE AT MCCC DEC. 6

Current Album Debuted at No. 13 on Billboard Chart

MONROE, Mich. – National blues act Davina and the Vagabonds – whose current feature album, “Sunshine” debuted last month at No. 13 on the Billboard Blues Chart – will play at Monroe County Community College’s La-Z-Boy Center on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Davina and the Vagabonds have created a stir on the national blues scene with their high-energy live shows, sharp-dressed professionalism, and lead vocalist Davina Sowers’ commanding stage presence.

With influences ranging from Fats Domino and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band to Aretha Franklin and Tom Waits, the band is converting audiences one show at a time, from Vancouver to Miami and across Europe.

“Sunshine” recently received four out of five stars from *Downbeat* magazine, which labeled Sowers a “one-of-a-kind performer whose singing, just this side of campy affectation, has a sassiness baring some comparison to that of heart-thumping blues queens Ma Rainey and Ida Cox. With the Vagabonds (two brass players, a drummer, a string bassist-tubaist) blurring territorial lines between jazz

(more)

and blues, she's on the top of her game drawing authentic feeling out the words to eight songs she wrote and time-tested Fats Walker and Eddie Miller tunes."

The band's 2011's recording, "Black Cloud," was named one of the 10 best releases of the year by the Minneapolis Star & Tribune.

According to the band's website, Davina and the Vagabonds' stage shows are "filled with New Orleans charm, Memphis soul swagger, dark theatrical moments and tender gospel passages. Davina's voice and stage presence defy category in a different way, and she has been compared to Etta James, Amy Winehouse, Janis Joplin, Billie Holiday and Betty Boop, but comparisons don't suffice: Sowers is a true original."

Mick Rainsford summed up Sowers in this way for Blues in Britain magazine:

"Think of a meld of Bessie Smith, Etta James, Alberta Adams and Amy Winehouse, and you come close to understanding what Davina Sowers is all about."

John Hynes of Elmore Magazine called Sowers a "modern day, female version of Louis Armstrong."

The La-Z-Boy Center is located on MCCC's Main Campus at 1555 S. Raisinville Rd.

Tickets are \$15. VIP seating is \$25. They can be purchased on the Web at www.monroecc.edu/theater, in person at the Cashier's Office in the Warrick Student Services/Administration Building or via phone by calling the MCCC Ticket Hotline at (734) 384-4272.

Group rates, rooms and catering are available in conjunction with the concert. For more information, contact Tom Ryder at (734) 384-4201 or tryder@monroecc.edu.

The 2013-14 MCCC Season of Events sponsors are DTE Energy, Michigan Gas Utilities, Monroe Bank & Trust, La-Z-Boy Incorporated, the DTE Energy Foundation and Siena Heights University.

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