

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## BIG MAMA THORNTON TO APPEAR IN GARDEN OF MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The legendary blues and gospel singer BIG MAMA THORNTON will make one of her rare appearances in The Museum of Modern Art's JAZZ IN THE GARDEN series on Thursday, July 22, at 7:30 p. m.

Miss Thornton is best known for her recording of "Hound Dog" prior to Elvis Presley's success with the song, and for her own song "Ball and Chain," later recorded with her permission by Janis Joplin.

She was raised in Montgomery, Alabama and left there to go on the road with Sammy Green's "Hot Harlem Review." She later became known as the Queen of the Blues in Houston, Texas. In 1956, she moved to the West Coast where she still lives, and her concert at the Museum marks the only concert scheduled on the East Coast so far this season.

Big Mama has always been true to herself and what she knows. She has been true to the blues, always singing from her heart. She never sings a song the same way twice because she says "I sings what I feels when I feels it." She never sings pop. She says rock and roll is nothing but the blues speeded up. Her new album, "Saved," will be released on the Warner Brothers label in the next two weeks.

Under the direction of Ed Bland, JAZZ IN THE GARDEN runs for six more Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p. m. Admission is \$1.00 plus the regular Museum entrance fee (\$1.75, members free). Tickets go on sale the Saturday preceding each concert, and are available until concert time. The Garden Restaurant is open for refreshments, and cushions are available for listening comfort. In case of rain, the concert is cancelled.

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Additional information and photographs available from Garry George, Press Coordinator, JAZZ IN THE GARDEN, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 10019. Telephone (212) 956-7298.