

Michael Eure Show – Episode 20: Lynnette Barber and Black Music Month

INTRODUCTION: Hello, this is Michael Eure, and I'd like to invite you to the Michael Eure Show, featuring student hosts and very special guests talking about a variety of interesting topics. You can find us on the Eagle Stream YouTube channel.

MICHAEL EURE: Good afternoon. Welcome to Michael Eure Show, and today, we have our very special guest, Lynnette Barber, who's gonna transform into Mahalia Jackson and many other folks as we move along. And we also have representatives from the Elizabeth City State University Marching Band, Clarence Goss Jr. and also Professor Ste, Stephan Naylor. He's getting me straight on his name.

So, right now, we're gonna all go back and, well, we're not all going back. Stephan and I are going backstage. Clarence and Lynnette are gonna stay up front, and I want y'all to talk about your history of being in marching bands when you were in high school and how that transformed in college. And we've been talking, so I know this. That's why I'm telling the audience. But Lynnette is a great singer, but she didn't know she could sing until she was in her late 20s. And Clarence is a great graphic designer, and he didn't know that that was his talent. He thought he was going to Elizabeth City on a marching band scholarship. Seems like he kept that scholarship and became a graphic designer and videographer.

So, right now, Michael, me and, and, and Naylor are going back, and I'm gonna let Lynnette and Clarence talk.

CLARENCE GOSS: Hello, everybody. Hello, Lynnette. Again, good to see you.

LYNNETTE BARBER: Good to see you.

GOSS: So, Michael has put us on the spot, so I'll let you go first. Ladies first.

BARBER: OK. Well, we, we, we've just discovered that both of us come from small eastern towns, and I guess we both thought our path was one way and found out, or both thought we had one talent found out we had other talents, more than one talent. Coming up, when I grew up, I never knew I could sing, never knew any of that. And I was almost 29, almost 30, before I found out that I could hit any note. But I was in the marching band and played saxophone and enjoyed doing, doing that type of thing. Your turn.

GOSS: And the thing with me, I grew up in a very musical family. I say musical – my grandmother was the church musician, my father sang all his, my grandmother had 12 children, so all of them were in, were basically the choir in the church. And, and so, she played for them in different churches. So, all those grandkids, and we, we always talk about this, the first generation, my father's generation, grew up, and most of them can sing. My father can sing. They all sing. The second generation, which is my generation, we were more musical. I think we took more of my grandmother, so we all played, most of us played instruments or whatever. So, I was in the marching band in high school, went from fifth grade to high school and joined, came to Elizabeth City on a marching band scholarship, band scholarship thinking I'm gonna follow in the family business, which was music as a music industry studies major. Elizabeth City, at the time, had a music industry studies major, and I said, "That's what I wanna be. I wanna be the next Quincy Jones." Or P-Diddy at the time. And so, I came here on that scholarship and realized that, like you said, I had another passion. I always had a sketchbook under my arm. Went to music class and never had my music prepared and, but had sketches of stuff. So, my professor saw it one time, and this is the great thing about being at a small university, he made me see a passion in me that I didn't know, and he pushed me towards the arts. And I'd say the rest is history. Twenty years later now, been doing graphic design. So, I think it's about discovering that inner talent that, a lot of times, we don't see that others see in us. But yeah, again, like you said, both come from small towns. Sometimes, often, we don't get the opportunity to see that till it gets pushed out of us.

BARBER: That's right. And, and I, I've always done acting since a child, loved acting. But as far as singing, no. No, because I thought, like, when I was going to church, they would sing so much higher than I would sing. I just had chorus, so I never was in the chorus in school. I was in the children's choir, but I never was anyone that they looked at. They could see me, if you know, anybody can get up with their children but ...

GOSS: Been there, yeah.

BARBER: But then, later in life, I just kind of fell upon it. We still continue to do the, the theater, but kind of fell upon the singing. It was almost like a mistake that someone heard me. And I remember this girl asked me, "Well, you could probably sing because of your speaking voice." And I said, "One has nothing to do with the other." And I just thought she was crazy for saying that. But I'm, I'm blessed to have learned of this gift and that I get to do two things in life that I really like to do. I get to teach special-needs students, and I get to, my other therapy is I get to sing.

GOSS: And you get to share that talent with, with others. I think that's one of the great thing that I've been able to tap into, to share my gift with others. Because I grew up in the church choir, because it was almost mandatory, and I think sometimes I hated being in church, children's choir. "I don't wanna sing. I don't wanna sing." But, you know, I

wanted to be on the usher board, believe it or not, when I was able to. My father pushed me into it, and eventually, I wound up playing trumpet. I played trumpet in the band, and my brother played saxophone, my sister played clarinet. So, yeah. So, we, my brother and I, wound up playing in the church choir.

So, it's that transition, and so, I could say it was just music and, but still tapping into that inner, the other talent that you didn't think that was there and be able to show it. Because I think, back in the 90s, that, you know, I knew I could draw but not as good as the other guy, because I had friends who were drawing portraits and that wasn't my thing, but I was good with lettering. And now, I found it up in graffiti, so I made a little side hustle in school drawing letters on people's pants. Back in the day when people had denim jackets, I would draw little cartoon characters on the pants and jackets and decorated cars, lettering our nicknames on our cars with my friends. And I knew it was there but never knew there was a feel for it. There wasn't actually, because of the small town, never knew that you can make money doing this for a living, and I think that was the biggest thing that was a hindrance for me and getting into art. And I told my professors, "You know, you can't make a living. I don't know a rich artist, you know. You can't make a living at this." And it's like, so he directed me to the Art Department, it was like, "Yes, you can make a living at this, you know." OK, and, but it still, music was that part of me that I tied that music and art always together. You know, a lot of my early drawings – I still have a few of them – I look back, and they were either of songs that I knew, rap songs, or artists – I was drawing NWA or I was drawing Big Daddy Kane or this thing. You know, music and art always went together and is still part of me.

I'm in Elizabeth City now, and the first thing I did when I got back to campus, I reached out to the band and said, "Hey, can I help you all with photography and videography?" And yeah, but it's in, it's in your blood. The same with you.

BARBER: Right.

GOSS: It's in you, so it's something you just gotta share with the world, and you gotta get it out.

BARBER: Yeah, yeah.

GOSS: I, I'm looking forward to you singing. I think we found out we have mutual friends or family members. You have, actually have a brother.

BARBER: Right.

GOSS: Yeah, Marcus, who ...

BARBER: He went to Elizabeth City State. That's right.

GOSS: He went to Elizabeth City State. And here's another part of me, again, trying to figure out my path in life. I was, when I went from music, because I'm still thinking about that future, I was a physical education major. So, that's actually how I met Marcus. I was an art and physical education major, so Marcus and I was in the department together. And we was always in school together, a great guy. And so, it's kind of full circle, that whole small-town connection.

BARBER: With this ...

GOSS: Go ahead.

BARBER: With this being June, Black Music Month and it's, you know, I've thought about all the different types of music, and, and even when it comes to the marching band, I know people are gonna miss not seeing the marching band, you know, as they ...

GOSS: We're working on it.

BARBER: [Indecipherable] and comings and all of that because marching band gets people going. You know, some people go to the game just see the marching band.

GOSS: Oh, yeah.

BARBER: So ...

GOSS: One thing is the game doesn't start till halftime, so that's cool. And I think we, just being Black, this has always been one of my favorite months. I know, back in the day, I don't know what's happened, but Madonna used to have this Black History Month, no, excuse me, Black Music Month thing, campaign ...

BARBER: Black ...

GOSS: ... during June. I think, like we said, both our roots started in the church, you know, and, you know, beginning, starting in the church choirs, and Black music is, and you look at a lot of musicians, how they got started, started in the church.

BARBER: Right.

GOSS: So, you know, Black music is just, if it's me, I say it's the soundtrack of America. I mean, you look at a lot of things that happened in the United States, and, you know, there's some way or another, there's some type of African American musician or song,

it, it's a thread through it all, you know. I think we mentioned it in one of our earliest conversations, these things going on.

BARBER: Right, right.

GOSS: There's some type of, I think we're probably more familiar with, different generations, but when you look at the protests and everything going on, there was a, there was a song that came out at that time that people rallied around.

BARBER: Music, music has been soothing to us, well, to our history. Black music has, has always helped us get through everything, beginning of time, before slavery, and, but as slavery, you know, we would sing in order to deal with what was going on. After slavery, we talked about yesterday, the subliminal songs that, that the workers would sing while on the boat. And, and then, even today, you know, civil rights, we've always used music. And not even just for [indecipherable], but even for sickness, for celebration. Music gets us going.

GOSS: Yes, it's essential. I mean, like, it's essential to the soul. It is just, it's. it's what keeps us, it keeps us going.

BARBER: Right.

GOSS: Like I said, a lot of my artwork, even in the early stages, was based off music that I heard, you know, what I was listening to at the time. Whatever is playing through my radio, I'm sketching toward that. Being in the band, you know, a lot of my reason, the reason my professor pushed me out of there, I'm sitting in in band class or my classes, and I'm sketching, you know. So, it, it keeps us as a, as a people, I'm saying beyond races, you know, and just human beings, it's just what connects us all together.

EURE: All right, I'm back y'all. Me and pro, Professor Naylor. But Lynnette and Clarence, y'all are having such a great conversation. You, I wanna ask, do you wanna do one selection now, Lynette? Or do you wanna wait? Are you ready now?

BARBER: Oh, OK. [Indecipherable]

EURE: Are you ready? OK, because if you're ready, we're ready.

BARBER: Well, I thought what I'll do is just do a little something, just do little pieces of different types of songs since it's Black History Month and we're talking about all different types of music, and, and I'm, and I love all types of music, and I'm blessed that I get opportunities to sing different genres of music. And so, when we think about jazz, one of my favorite jazz artists was Dakota Staton, and one of the songs that I love to hear her sing, and I meant to have that album to show you, is "Candy."

[Singing]

So, that's "Candy." That's jazz. You know, jazz makes you bop a little bit. But then if you R&B, you know, there are some of us that love R&B. You know, we gotta hear how R&B and one of my favorites for RB is, is always gonna be, people are probably already know, they probably already putting in the chat, that's probably who? Chaka Khan. And, you know, "That Sweet Thing," that's one of my favorites.

[Singing]

So, I, I love all kinds of music. I love blues because blues does a little something for you, too. But I think one of my favorites for blues is Big Mae Bayles, but then today would be Shemekia Copeland. Uh-oh, the song just went right out of my head.

[Singing]

But I like that Etta James, too, because that "I'd Rather Go Blind," wooo, does something for me. "At Last," all of that. But, and then there's always gospel. We, you know, gospel is what has helped keep us glued and brings us back, you know. So, at the end of the show, I'm gonna do Mahalia Jackson in costume. So, we'll get to do a little bit of gospel.

EURE: Thank you. We appreciate it, and we look forward to that performance as well. And we're getting ready to check out the Elizabeth City State University Vikings and their marching band and then see what Professor Naylor has worked up with them. Thank you, Lynnette, and thank you, Clarence.

I think we're supposed to be looking at a clip right now, but it's not showing. But it's coming.

[Video of Elizabeth City State University marching band playing on a football field]

EURE: Thank you very much. So, that was some of the arrangement, I guess, that you helped do, Stephan. Tell us about that process. How do you go about arranging the music for the band?

NAYLOR: Well, it's a, we get, I get together with Miss Boykins. She's the head director, and shout-out to Juliet Boykins. And I get together with her and my drum major coordinator and my dance coordinator, flag coordinator. And we kind of get together, and they kind of give me ideas of what songs that they may wanna do, things like that. I take it back, and I'll listen to it and, really, technically is, it's a little bit of transcribing, which means directly putting down exactly what I hear from the record on paper, along

with a little bit of arranging. Because a lot of times I have to switch stuff around, like certain things will sound good on my keyboard synthesizers but may not sound good on the instruments or things like that. So, I will sit down, and I have a music notation software called Finale. I go sit in my computer, and I just listen. Put the headphones on. Listen to the record. I write, I write what I hear, and I go back and I arrange it so it will fit the band that I have, because not everything, you can't really play everything for every band. So, you kinda gotta know who you have, know who your band is and what they're able to do, know their capability, strengths and weaknesses, and then you try to write to that.

EURE: All right. And we're gonna do some up-tempo in a little bit, but tell us about the drum majors and the flag girls and all of the dancing and movement within the band. How did you, do they have to conform to your music, or do you make your music, as you just said, fit them because of their skills?

NAYLOR: Right. Me, really I usually just listen to, listen to the cap, the coordinator ideas, because, normally, the coordinator and the captain are the ones, especially for auxiliary like flags and color guard and dancers, they're the ones who are with them all the time. So, they know exactly what songs would be good for them to dance to, what songs may be popular for them to dance to and what they're able to do. So, I kind of take their word a little bit serious, I kind of take their words seriously because they are, they're rehearsing and practicing with them all the time. So, they kinda just give me, they give me, I, I'll go and ask them, like, "So, listen, what, what songs we doing for this week? What you wanna do this week? What we got going one? What are three or four options? And let me listen to them." Now, when I go back and listen to the songs, what I'm listening for is, one, music. Is there enough music in the actual recording that I can pull out and put to the band? Two, is it a relatable song? Is it popular? Because the first thing we have to remember as a marching band, we are entertainers, so I try to make sure that I'm writing music that the crowd can relate to. There's no better feeling in the world than for the arranger to write a piece of music and play it on the field, and then you turn around and look at the stands and the whole crowd is singing along with it. You know? There's no greater feeling in the world because that lets me know, one, I did a great job in relating the song to the people. Two, it lets me know that what I've written down, people actually can understand and comprehend what's coming out of the instruments. Because you will, you want, when you do things, you want people to understand exactly what you're doing. Other, if not, then it's just almost kind of pointless because it's just going over people's heads. You know?

So, I listen to them. They let me know, they give me options of songs they wanna do, and I go listen to them and, you know, is it relatable? Is it fun? Is it energetic? Does it fit the, is it a theme, does it fit the theme of what we're doing? Does it fit the placement? Is it a good placement in the show as far as, like, crowd because, you know, music, like, like Lynnette said, music controls emotions. And even in the marching band, where I'm

kind of planning my shows, I'm planning my shows to where I wanna take the people. I wanna take them up here or bring them back down in this section. Or is it an even flow, or is it up and down and things like that? So, you're kind of, you're kind of thinking about a lot of that stuff. I usually think about, the two, the two main things I think about is my band, what kind of band I have that can play the music, and two, my audience, that this music my audience can relate to. Are they gonna automatically pick up too? Because, if you're an entertainer, you don't want nobody just sitting there. You know?

EURE: Well, we're getting ready to see what you really do with your homecoming because there's nothing like a home, HBCU homecoming.

NAYLOR: Yeah.

EURE: And thanks to the Raleigh-Durham, Raleigh-Wake-Durham alumni chapter of Elizabeth City State for inviting Wake Tech students to your [indecipherable] homecoming, which I went, and it was spectacular.

NAYLOR: Thank you. Thank you.

EURE: We got to see your band perform, and it was just wonderful. And a lot of students from Wake Tech are very interested in Elizabeth City State. And I'm really thinking that we're gonna do a lot more shows with Elizabeth City for different things because of your aviation program and your engineering program, as well as your music and, and visual arts programs. But a lot of people, Elizabeth City is one of North Carolina's best-kept secrets, but we're gonna make sure that we let that secret out. OK?

NAYLOR: Oh yeah. Talk about right now.

EURE: Paul Norman and some of your alumni have commented, and I know that y'all are looking. And I just wanna make sure you know we thank you for that. And we plan on coming back, and we're gonna do some virtual things, and, and, and Professor Neil and I talked about doing something with aviation. And one of our, our previous guests, Tom Browne, is an international jazz trumpeter, but he's also a, an airline pilot. So, we're gonna try to do some things that connect the music and the aviation program in the future.

But right now, in the background, Sarah, she's doing all of our audio-visual, can you bring us up to the homecoming of Elizabeth City State so we can check out how they really do it in Vikingland? Thank you.

[Video of Elizabeth City State University marching band playing on a football field]

EURE: Thank you.

NAYLOR: Yes, sir.

GOSS: Viking pride.

EURE: Y'all online, you gotta go check out those Vikings. They're gonna give you a good time, for sure.

NAYLOR: Every single time.

EURE: As Lynnette said, the music moves, moves you. And we're getting ready to, right now let me get some comments, maybe from, Lynnette and Clarence, y'all are, what do y'all think about that performance that just went by?

GOSS: Oh, I loved it.

BARBER: I've always enjoyed going to HBCUs and, and watching the bands. You know, I went [indecipherable] at ECSU, but also a graduate of North Carolina Central and Saint Augustine's College. So, I'm into HBCUs.

EURE: Wonderful. And you just got a great compliment from FAMU. One of my co-workers, they said they give them credit where it's due.

GOSS: Wow.

NAYLOR: Wow. From FAMU, that is a big compliment. Thanks.

EURE: "Viking Pride!"

NAYLOR: That's right, Jaylen.

EURE: So, you put that together?

NAYLOR: Yes, sir.

EURE: For homecoming, did you think about alumni, all of that, when you did it? I mean, because you have the alumni marching in the band. I didn't put that clip in, but that, part of the homecoming, part of the band.

GOSS: During the first, beginning of it, yeah.

NAYLOR: Yeah. Alumni are always in mind whenever I, especially homecoming shows because, like I said, relatability, you know, making sure that I can relate to my audience. That show was a little bit more, I would say that was for your, like, young alumni. But we do have, like, some past shows where we did some Lenny Williams, "Because I Love You," and you remember when we did that, Goss?

GOSS: I do. That was shooooo.

NAYLOR: That was my favorite.

EURE: Well, I'm gonna tell you when, when, when the pandemic is over, we gonna try to make sure we invite Elizabeth City State University marching band to perform at Wake Tech. You know, we have several campuses, and we might wanna put you on tour.

[Indecipherable]

NAYLOR: We, we can handle it. You know, it, it'd be great exposure. You know, I'm always down for traveling and getting out and taking the band and exposing people to a lot of different things, especially because of my experiences and background, being born in Chicago and then moving to D.C. for college at Howard University and staying in D.C. up until '17. Then I came here. So, all of those experiences that I've received, just being in, like, different places, my mother being from Louisiana, so I have a lot of experience down there.

I wanna try to give that, I always try to give that back to my students because the experiences have always been, like, the greatest teacher in my life. I've been able to go and do things. Like I tell people, people laugh at me every time, but I tell them, "Listen, when I, when I go to Louisiana in the summertime, I was outside picking peas because she has a pea patch. I was out picking peas, thumbs turning green and everything. And then, and then I had to shell them by hand. You know? There was only one pea sheller. There was only one pea sheller, and that was down the road."

EURE: OK.

NAYLOR: So, I was shelling peas and picking peas and stuff like that. So, those types of experiences gave me a great appreciation for a lot of different things. My grandfather was a band director, musician, so, in the household, I was playing instruments and stuff in the household. So, all those experiences and stuff that I received, that I, that I was afforded, you know, I definitely try my best to give that back to the students. So, any chance we get, anytime we get a chance to travel somewhere, go somewhere, if we have the funds, if we can work out something, we always, I'm always down to go. I'm ready to go.

EURE: And as I stated, we're gonna try to have some virtual workshops with, with all of you that are our guests today, as well as our previous guests for Black Music Month. And the theme for the month of July for the Michael Eure Show is life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. So, we will probably bring Elizabeth City State back in a different context. So, don't think this is the last time you will be on the show. Y'all be back.

NAYLOR: Can't wait. I'm ready.

GOSS: I'm ready.

EURE: I really, really do think that we're moving forward in a lot of ways, and also Elizabeth City is a North Carolina Promise school, and your tuition is only \$500 a semester, and people need to know that as well. It's a great opportunity, and one of our people that I know chatted a message. They plan on going in the fall, and they work at Wake Tech, and they are going online for your business program. So, you have some online, and you also have some on campus programs. And I just want this secret to get out bad, so that's my job right now, today. So, don't let that be forgotten. And I didn't put the website up for Elizabeth City State University. It's ecsu.edu. I'm sorry I, I neglected to do that. So, if you wanna check out the band, you can do that. Would you all like to give out your phone numbers, emails, if anybody is interested in being part of the band?

NAYLOR: Sure, you, you can contact me at [smnaylor](mailto:smnaylor@ecsu.edu), S-M-N-A-Y-L-O-R at ecsu.edu. My telephone number is 252-335-3659. I can be contacted there, but my email is probably the, the best place to catch me. You can contact Mrs. Boykins. She's the head director of bands, [jmboykins](mailto:jmboykins@ecsu.edu), J-M-B-O-Y-K-I-N-S at ecsu.edu. Her telephone number is 252-335-3658. And then, you can reach me out on all social media platforms, Facebook: [stephantrucknaylor](https://www.facebook.com/stephantrucknaylor), Instagram: [stephantruck](https://www.instagram.com/stephantruck), no, Instagram, [truckdiesel18](https://www.instagram.com/truckdiesel18), Twitter, [stephantruck](https://twitter.com/stephantruck). You know, so any of those transforms, you can reach me on any of those, and I definitely respond.

GOSS: And, and the same thing with the band. The band is on all the social media platforms. We're on Facebook. It's [SoundofClass](https://www.facebook.com/SoundofClass). So, if you go to Facebook, it's [SoundofClass](https://www.facebook.com/SoundofClass). Instagram, we're [@SoundofClass](https://www.instagram.com/SoundofClass). YouTube, [SoundofClass](https://www.youtube.com/SoundofClass), so, and if you go to any of those, Twitter, we're [SoundofClass](https://twitter.com/SoundofClass). So, if you go to any one of those, you can see the band, see more footage of you've seen, seen now. You can actually contact us. We've had several students who reached out to us, were in high school, middle school, and said, "Hey, I wanna be in the band." Do DM and Instagram. We put them in contact with Professor Naylor or Miss Boykins. So, if you're out there and you see our footage on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, hit us up and we'll be in contact.

EURE: And a footnote, you don't have to be a music major to be in the band.

NAYLOR: You do not.

GOSS: You do not. I'm a living witness. I thought you have to be and went in there, and they said, "No, you don't have to be." I switched to art and kept my scholarship, as long as I did what I was supposed to do to keep my scholarship, was performing, practicing, was able to be in the band.

NAYLOR: And that's, and that's one thing I want a lot of people to really understand. You do not have to be a music major to be in the band. You don't even have to be a music major to get a band scholarship. You know, you just have to participate. If you think, a lot of, a lot of marching bands, I can guarantee you, 85 to 90% of the band is probably non-music majors. So, we invite, if you play, if you play an instrument, if you beat a drum, if you put a mouthpiece to your lips and you can get some notes out, you can play some scales, come. We, we take, we take in everything and everybody because the one of the things that we believe in is that, if I can get you into the school, I can build you, I can build you from there. You know what I'm saying? I can give you all the necessary tools and instruction you need to become a better player once you get here. I just gotta get you.

So, any, it's any, anybody that's a graduating senior, please do not hesitate to contact and come out. Scholarship opportunities are there. And there's no reason that, if you have an instrument in your hand, that's gonna pay for you to go to college. There's no reason not, you know.

GOSS: And the same thing, excuse me, the same thing can be said about voice. We have an awesome, a dynamic or choir.

NAYLOR: Excellent.

GOSS: Led by Walter Swan. Jazz band. So, if you can sing, no matter of age, whatever. If you're finding out, "Hey, I can hold a tune," then definitely come and check out our choir, any of our visual performing arts programs. Like Professor Naylor said, we, we don't believe, we'll take you where you are and build you to where you need to be.

EURE: Y'all, y'all just trying to make it too good, but I'll make you stop. We know we gotta end our show, and we gotta get to Lynnette Barber. But I also wanna say, for the month of July, I want you to do some homework, check out the Second Morrill Act and the "twin colleges" of North Carolina. And there's only two twins, right? And one of them is Elizabeth City State University. So, you need to find out who your twin school is, and there is no other school in the state of North Carolina other than Elizabeth City and that school that are twins. So, we're gonna talk about that in July.

And now, I'm gonna turn it over to Lynnette, if you wanna give out some information. And then we're gonna let you give us some Mahalia Jackson. And we'll see you all next month on the Michael Eure Show. OK.

NAYLOR: Awesome.

EURE: Thank you, all, for participating.

BARBER: Well, Michael, thank you for giving me the opportunity to do Mahalia today, but I also do Sojourner Truth in costume. I also do Harriet Tubman and then other folks, as I am hired to do. I will do the history and, and do the, and, and come as those people that you may need. Today, I'm gonna do a little bit of Mahalia Jackson. We were talking about, in light of everything that's going on, Black Lives Matter, Black Music Month, you have someone mentioned the song, I mean the movie "Selma," and how Martin Luther King asked for her to, to, called her and asked her to sing this song, and it was "Precious Lord." So, we're gonna do a little bit of that, with everything that's going on, because, you know, we do need someone to hold our hand. I gotta jump up through here.

[Singing]

Thank you. My information is Lynnette Barber, that's L-Y-N-N-E-T-T-E-B-A-R-B-E-R-6113@gmail.com, and my number is 919-673-6392. And I thank you. I do all types of performances. Would be glad to come somewhere near you.

EURE: Thank you, Lynnette.

BARBER: You're welcome.

EURE: And as I said, we're gonna have all you back again. I think we're gonna do a clip. OK, I know we're supposed to do a clip for you.

BARBER: OK. This is Sojourner Truth. OK.

EURE: Audio-visual can be a problem, I guess. There we go.

[Video of Lynnette Barber performing as Sojourner Truth on stage]

EURE: I gotta remember to unmute my mic. All right, I think everything's good. I think we're going to end, and once again, thank everybody for participating, and I will be asking you back. And you probably will get to visit various campuses of Wake Tech, and if not physically, virtually. We're gonna get back together in the fall and spring and, hopefully, years coming up.

And these are our students from, some of the students from Wake Tech that went to Elizabeth City State, went to homecoming. And we took a picture. On the far left is [indecipherable] McAllister, who is a professor at Wake Tech, and he's a graduate of Elizabeth City State University. So, he helped move that program along. And there I am on the right, and there were some other students there, and believe me, they loved it there. Y'all are the heart of hospitality, I'm telling you. How I loved me some food in that cafeteria. Thank you for the chicken. It was good.

And anybody, y'all can make your closing statements, and then we're out. We'll see you all next time.

BARBER: Well, somebody just put, I just read top part. I didn't get to read the second line. "Why did you ever think you couldn't sing?" Thank you very much for that. I just didn't have a clue. Did not sing coming up as a child until I was almost 30. My dad died the day, well, the day before my 27th birthday. He never heard me sing. He would have been a super-nice joke dad, but he would have been everywhere singing. But it just wasn't time. I'm glad it's happened now.

GOSS: Closing word, like I said, music is a huge, huge part of everybody, and it connects us all. And I think the common thread here is just the, when you have that passion or that love in you, to express it. And sometimes people will see things in you, see greater things in you than you actually see in yourself, and you just have to release that into the world. Don't be afraid to share it with everybody. So, thank you for having us on, and Viking Pride, and hopefully we continue this connection in the future.

BARBER: You got a lot of Vikings out here.

NAYLOR: Yes.

EURE: A shout-out from Dr. Carlos McCormick, who is also a ...

GOSS: Another classmate.

EURE: ... employee at Wake Tech, and he's a Viking as well.

GOSS: A classmate.

EURE: He enjoyed it. Oh, you know him? OK.

GOSS: Yes. We worked radio, another thing I worked in, WRVS 89.9. He was a huge personality there, so I worked at the radio station my senior year [indecipherable] music meant to me. So, yeah, Carlos, we came in together.

EURE: Well, you got a lot of Vikinga in Raleigh, so we're gonna make sure that this connection is not just a loose thing. It's gonna be a very tight thing, and we're gonna do it continuously. So, thank you all again for participating. Stephan?

NAYLOR: I just thank you for having me. Thank you for allowing me to come and speak about the band and things like that. You know, I like doing stuff like this, you know, so anytime you want, I'm ready, in front of the camera, I'm ready to go. And, and if I had to leave, if I had to leave anything with everybody, well, I would definitely say, my mentor said this to me one day, and was stuck with me forever, and it's gonna stick with me: Nothing is ever hard. It's just unfamiliar. Nothing is ever hard. It's just unfamiliar. So, if you just change your perspective on a lot of stuff, it'd become, it'd become easier for you. But nothing is ever hard, it's just unfamiliar. That's all.

EURE: And that closing picture that you just saw was of Tony Lassiter, Mike and the Raleigh-Wake-Durham [indecipherable] at the winter homecoming and all the people they brought from, not just Wake Tech, but area high schools in Raleigh and Durham. We had a great time. We're looking forward to coming back again, and maybe we'll make a football game if you're gonna have football games. We might not make it.

NAYLOR: It's looking rough.

EURE: But ...

BARBER: Stay safe out there.

NAYLOR: Yeah.

EURE: We're gonna do social distancing if we go, even for the tailgate.

NAYLOR: You're gonna see me up there in an astronaut suit directing the band. Uh-uh, I'm not catching that. No.

EURE: Well, we went a little over, but it's really worthwhile. So, and this is gonna be on YouTube, for the audience, if any of your friends have not seen it, they could check it out, starting this evening. And we might make a couple edits, but I was very pleased. I think it went very well. So, again, thank you, everybody, for participating.

BARBER: Thank you.

GOSS: Thank you.

NAYLOR: Thank you.

BARBER: Thank you, Michael.

EURE: You're welcome.

NAYLOR: Thanks, Mike.