

Black to the Future

Released April 30, 2021

All songs written by Pierce Freelon (BMI) with

Nnenna Freelon (tracks 1, 18)

Stella Freelon (track 7)

Kelly Kale (track 8)

Divinity Roxx (track 5)

All songs produced by Pierce Freelon (BMI) with additional production by

AyeKPlayDat (track 12)

Russell Favret (tracks 7, 11, 15, 17)

Solomon Fox (track 18)

Rem (tracks 5, 11, 17)

Divinity Roxx (track 5)

EL Scott (track 8)

Al Strong (tracks 4, 5, 16)

Shana Tucker (track 9)

Jonah Vincent (tracks 3, 18)

Duncan Webster, Leah Gibson (track 10)

Musicians and vocalists

Pierce Freelon on vocals, drums, piano, synths, percussion, bass and additional production elements with

Aion Asante on vocals (tracks 2, 9, 11)

Nova Asante on vocals (track 2)

AyeKPlayDat on keys, drums, additional production elements (track 12)

Stephen Coffman on drums (track 17)

Russell Favret on guitar (tracks 2, 3, 7, 11, 12, 15, 17)

Deen Freelon on vocals (track 14)

Justice Freelon on vocals (tracks 1, 5, 16)

Maya Freelon on vocals (track 14, 17)

Nnenna Freelon on vocals (tracks 1, 18)

Phil Freelon on vocals (track 17)

Stella Freelon on vocals (tracks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16)

Solomon Fox on bass, drum programming, synths (track 18)

Leah Gibson on cello, vocals (track 10)

Eric Hirsh on keys (track 17)

Ella Jenkins on vocals (track 6)

Peter Kimosh on bass (tracks 11, 17)

Queen Mother Frances Pierce *Pierce's grandmother* on vocals (track 8)

Rem on additional production elements (tracks 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 17)

Divinity Roxx on bass, vocals (track 5)

EL Scott on synths, bass, drums (track 8)

Lance Scott on bass (tracks 1, 3, 10, 12, 15)

Al Strong on trumpets (tracks 4, 5, 16)

Shana Tucker on cello (track 9)

Jonah Vincent on trumpets (tracks 3, 18)

Duncan Webster on guitar, additional production elements (track 10)

Yole Institute on vocals (track 13)

Recorded by Pierce Freelon and Rem at Blackspace
Mixed by Rem at Blackspace
Mastered by Donald "XL" Robertson at XLP Mastering

Album art by Efo Kayleb
Photograph by 8bit.photog

Special thanks:

To my ancestors. I am standing on the shoulders of giants. To my father Phil Freelon: thank you for instilling your deep love of music, community and fatherhood into me. I feel your presence and unconditional love coursing through the veins of this album. To my Grandmother, Queen Mother Frances Pierce, thank you for being unapologetically Black, nurturing and wildly creative. I will carry our legacy forward by passing your wisdom to the children. To my mom, Nnenna and my children Justice and Stella, y'all are amazing creative collaborators. I love you. What an honor to vibe with my family on this beautiful project. And to all the other collaborators who brought this project to life: I am grateful! And to all friends and fans who took time to listen: I deeply appreciate your presence. Ase.

Tracklist:

1. No One Exactly Like You feat. Nnenna Freelon
2. Wonderful Long Braids (Interlude)
3. Braid My Hair feat. Stella Freelon
4. First Day of School
5. Cootie Shot feat. Divinity Roxx
6. Miss Ella Jenkins (Interlude)
7. ZOMBI feat. Stella Freelon
8. Attitude of Gratitude feat. Kelly Kale
9. No Is A Love Word feat. Shana Tucker
10. Alpine
11. LeVar Burton
12. Solar Skate
13. Count Kiswahili
14. Who Messed It Up? (Interlude)
15. Heart
16. Vulnerable
17. Black To The Future
18. You Are Exactly Like No One

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