



The Cathedral
Church of **Saint John**
the Divine

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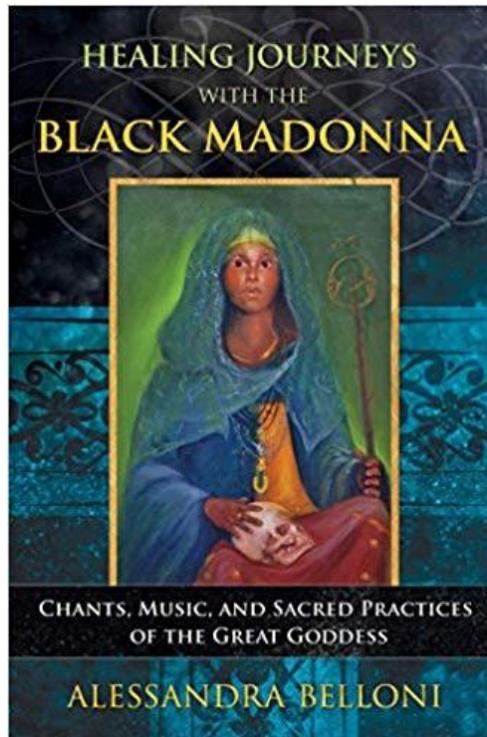
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**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE PRESENTS
ALESSANDRA BELLONI: HEALING JOURNEYS WITH THE BLACK MADONNA**



(March XX) Singer, percussionist, teacher, and Cathedral Artist in Residence **Alessandra Belloni** presents her new book, **Healing Journeys with the Black Madonna**, followed by a musical performance on **Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 7:30 pm at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street), Manhattan.**

Building on her years of study and performance, Belloni's book opens a portal into the mysterious Black Madonna and the figure's cultural significance in Southern Italy, France,

Spain, and Brazil. The book grew out of more than three decades of academic research and fieldwork, which included writing and performing the opera, *The Voyage of the Black Madonna*, at the Cathedral in 1991.

The concert will feature music from the CD accompanying the book, including healing chants, ritual drumming, and trance dance ceremonies that draw upon the legacy of the Black Madonna. It will include the enchanting journey of discovery of the seven Black Madonnas, following the ancient Neapolitan legend, known as the "Seven Sisters" in Southern Italy. This trip into traditional legends, miracles and history is sure to transport listeners to a time and place where an unbroken and ancient tradition continues today.

The book launch and performance is presented in conjunction with the Harlem Renaissance 100 community celebration and with [*The Value of Sanctuary: Building a House Without Walls*](#). This multidisciplinary exhibition, on view through June 30, 2019, explores the question of sanctuary through the work of modern and contemporary artists. Throughout the course of the exhibition, visitors will be invited to explore the meaning of sanctuary through many viewpoints, expanding upon the Cathedral's guiding mission and role as a sacred space, cultural center, and platform for the urgent issues of our times.

For tickets and more information on the performance, visit [this page](#).

About The Cathedral

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. It is chartered as a house of prayer for all people and a unifying center of intellectual light and leadership.

People from many faiths and communities worship together in services held more than 30 times a week; the soup kitchen serves roughly 25,000 meals annually; social service outreach has an increasingly varied roster of programs; the distinguished Cathedral School prepares young students to be future leaders; Advancing the Community of Tomorrow (ACT), the renowned preschool, afterschool and summer program, offers diverse educational and nurturing experiences; the outstanding Textile Conservation Lab preserves world treasures; concerts, exhibitions, performances and civic gatherings allow conversation, celebration, reflection and remembrance—such is the joyfully busy life of this beloved and venerated Cathedral.

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