



## Music Is History: An Evening with Questlove

Drummer, DJ, producer, culinary entrepreneur, *New York Times* bestselling author, and member of The Roots.

## Hanif Abdurraqib

*New York Times* bestselling poet, essayist, cultural critic, and 2021 MacArthur Fellow.

**Thursday, October 14, 2021, 8:00 PM Central**

[www.bit.ly/QuestloveFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/QuestloveFANWebinar)

**AND: A book giveaway! Details on Zoom registration page.**

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with

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This event is #freeandopentothepublic and will be recorded. Suitable for youth 12+ [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AHMIR “QUESTLOVE” THOMPSON**

**CONTACT:** Lonnie Stonitsch, Executive Director of FAN, [lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net](mailto:lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net)

**Thursday, October 14, 2021, 8:00-9:00 PM, Music Is History: An Evening with Questlove, a FAN webinar featuring Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson in conversation with Hanif Abdurraqib. (Please note the later-than-typical start time.)**

***BONUS BOOK GIVEAWAY!*** FAN is giving away copies of *Music Is History* to guests randomly selected from the Zoom attendance report. All details on the webinar registration page.

**REGISTER:** [www.bit.ly/QuestloveFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/QuestloveFANWebinar).

In *Music Is History*, bestselling author and Sundance award-winning director Questlove harnesses his encyclopedic knowledge of popular music and his deep curiosity about history to examine America over the past fifty years. He observes, “I think of the America we live in as a series of songs.”

*Music Is History* focuses on the years 1971 to the present, not only the country’s most complex and rewarding half-century when it comes to the ways that pop culture and culturally diverse history intersect and interact, but also the years that overlap with Questlove’s own life. *Music Is History* moves fluidly from the personal to the political, examining events closely and critically, to unpeel and uncover previously unseen dimensions, and encouraging readers to do the same. Whether he is exploring how Black identity reshaped itself during the blaxploitation era, analyzing the assembly-line nature of disco and its hostility to Black genius, or remembering his own youth as a pop fan and what it taught him about America, Questlove finds the hidden connections in the American tapestry.

Complete with playlists organized around personal, playful themes that touch on everything from the relationship of hip-hop to music’s past to the secret ingredient in all funk songs, *Music Is History* is filled with and informed by Questlove’s preferences, perspectives, and particularities. It feels like both a popular history of contemporary America and a conversation with one of music’s most influential and unique voices.

Questlove will be in conversation with **Hanif Abdurraqib**, a *New York Times* bestselling poet, essayist, and cultural critic. Mr. Abdurraqib was recently named a 2021 MacArthur Fellow by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. His latest book, *A Little Devil in America: Notes in Praise of Black Performance*, has been longlisted for the 2021 National Book Award for Nonfiction. He is also the host of the Sonos podcast “Object of Sound.”

**About Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson**

Drummer, DJ, producer, director, culinary entrepreneur, *New York Times* best-selling author, and member of The Roots – Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson, is the unmistakable heartbeat of Philadelphia’s most influential hip-hop group. He is the Musical Director for *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, where his beloved Roots crew serves as house band. Beyond that, this 5-time GRAMMY Award-winning musician’s indisputable reputation has landed him musical directing positions with everyone from D’Angelo to Jay-Z. Questlove has also released multiple books including the *New York Times* bestsellers *Mo’ Meta Blues* and *Creative Quest*, GRAMMY nominated audio book *Creative Quest*, *Soul Train: The Music, Dance and Style of a Generation*, James Beard Award nominated *somethingtofoodabout* and, most recently, *Mixtape Potluck*. His next book, *Music Is History*, will be released on October 19, 2021.

Questlove and Black Thought of The Roots have Executive Produced the acclaimed documentary series, *Hip-Hop: The Songs That Shook America* on AMC under their production company, Two One Five Entertainment,



which recently announced a first-look deal with Universal Television to develop scripted and non-scripted programming. Questlove will serve as executive producer for upcoming documentary, *The League*, centered on the tumultuous journey of Negro league baseball. He also made his directorial debut with the acclaimed feature documentary *Summer of Soul*, which explores the legendary 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival. The film premiered on the opening night of the 2021 Sundance Film Festival in January 2021, where it was awarded the Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award for Best U.S. Documentary. The film most recently broke the record for the highest-selling documentary to come out of Sundance when it was acquired by Searchlight/Hulu. Questlove is also set to direct the upcoming Sly Stone feature documentary.

Questlove has cemented himself as one of the most sought-after DJs in pop-culture with a resume that includes gigs for The Academy Awards, The White House, Cartier, and hotels and nightclubs around the world. After streaming nearly 300 virtual DJ sets in 2020, he has used this momentum to launch his own Twitch show called *GO DJ* which champions sets from renowned international peers.

Additionally, Questlove served as the Executive Music Producer and Composer on the A&E Miniseries *Roots*. He also scored Chris Rock's film, *Top Five*, and co-produced the GRAMMY Award-winning Original Broadway Cast Recording of *Hamilton*. Questlove also hosts his own acclaimed podcast *Questlove Supreme* on iHeart. Questlove co-starred in Disney Pixar's Golden Globe-winning animated feature *Soul*, which landed him an NAACP Image Award nomination for Outstanding Character Voice-Over Performance.

This event suitable for youth 12+. It will be recorded and available later on our website and YouTube channel.

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