



EMELDA LAWSON BEKKAL

After a long hiatus from performing, Emelda Lawson Bekkal (ELB) is reconnecting with the healing power of vibrational sound energy. Born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, ELB started piano lessons at the age of five and later studied voice, guitar, flute and percussion. Ballet, Flamenco, and Contemporary dance opened her to the world of rhythmic dynamism, emotional release, and kinesthetic performance. In 1998, ELB spent a year immersed in the culture, language and musical traditions of Morocco, which further expanded her rhythmic and spiritual understandings. Her current musical influences include Gnawa, Black Afro-centric/spirit tones, e.g. Sun Ra, Arabian Funk Fusion and other forms of spiritual music of the Islamic and African diaspora.