LIVING THE DREAM...
SINGING THE DREAM
Washington Performing Arts Gospel Choirs
Michele Fowlin & Theodore Thorpe III, Artistic Directors
Stanley J. Thurston, Artistic Director Emeritus
Choral Arts
Scott Tucker, Artistic Director
PREMIERING FRI, FEB 19, 8PM (ET)
STREAMING ON DEMAND THROUGH THU, FEB 25, 11:59PM (ET)

THY NAME BE PRAISED
Music and lyrics: James Glover
Combined Choir
Michele Fowlin, Conductor

AVE MARIA
Music: R. Nathaniel Dett
Choral Arts Symphonic Chorus
Scott Tucker, Conductor

GOD SAID IT, I BELIEVE IT
Music and lyrics: Willie DeVone
Men and Women of the Gospel Choir
Theodore Thorpe III, Conductor
Tiffany Watson, Soloist

FIGHT ON
Music and lyrics: Kevin Davidson and Marque Walker
Children of the Gospel Choir
Michele Fowlin, Conductor
Hope Harden, Soloist

GLORY (from Selma)
Music and lyrics:
John Stephens, Lonnie Lynn, and Che Smith
(arr. Eugene Rogers)
Men’s Chorus
Theodore Thorpe III, Conductor
Konshens The MC, Hip Hop Artist

A FRIEND UNFAILING
Music and lyrics: Danny McCrimmon
Combined Choir
Michele Fowlin, Conductor
Ralph Alan Herndon, Soloist

IF I CAN HELP SOMEBODY
Music and lyrics: Alma Bazel Androzzo
(arr. Stanley J. Thurston)
Combined Choir
Stanley J. Thurston, Conductor

More Info, Series Sales, and Donations: WashingtonPerformingArts.org
**THY NAME BE PRAISED**
We’ve come to give Him the glory and all of the honor
We’ve come to give Him the glory and all of the praise
Oh give thanks unto the Lord
Thy name be praised
Oh Lord, how excellent is thy name
Thy name in all the Earth
When I think of the goodness of Jesus
And all he’s done for me
Thy name be praised

**AVE MARIA**
Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui,
Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.

**GOD SAID IT, I BELIEVE IT**
The Lord is everything to me, yeah,
He said He would my comfort be.
God said He would be right there,
I know he is everywhere.
God said it. I believe it.
God said it. I believe it.
I’m going to take Him at His word.
I am standing on the promises of Jesus,
I know He’ll never let me down;
God said He would be right there,
I’m so glad He’s everywhere.
God said it. I believe it.
God said it. I believe it.
I’m going to take Him at His word.

**FIGHT ON**
In this walk you face many battles
But they’re not yours
They belong to the Lord
Put on the armor of God
Delight yourself in His Word
Don’t give up the fight
It’s too late to give up now
Don’t give up the fight
So be encouraged my brother
Hold on my sister
There’s a way of escape for you and for me
Be strong, stand on His word
God has promised to fight every one of your battles
Don’t give up the fight
It’s too late to give up now
Don’t give up the fight
The war was won by Jesus on a hill called Calvary
Where he gave His life for you and me
Dry your eyes, don’t you cry
Everything’s gonna be alright
Now weeping may endure for a night
But hold on, joy is coming in the morning time
Fight on!
GLORY (from Selma)
One day when the glory comes
It will be ours, it will be ours
Oh one day when the war is won
We will be sure, we will be sure
Oh glory
Hands to the Heavens, no man, no weapon
Formed against, yes glory is destined
Every-day women and men become legends
Sins that go against our skin become blessings
The movement is a rhythm to us
Freedom is like religion to us
Justice is juxtapositionin’ us
Justice for all just ain’t specific enough
One son died, his spirit is revisitin’ us
Truant livin’ livin’ in us, resistance is us
That’s why Rosa sat on the bus
That’s why we walk through Ferguson with our hands up
When it go down we woman and man up
They say, “Stay down,” and we stand up
Shots, we on the ground, the camera panned up
King pointed to the mountain top and we ran up
One day when the glory comes
It will be ours, it will be ours
Oh one day when the war is won
We will be sure, we will be sure
Oh glory
Now the war is not over, victory isn’t won
And we’ll fight on to the finish, then when it’s all done
We’ll cry glory, oh glory
Selma’s now for every man, woman and child
Even Jesus got his crown in front of a crowd
They marched with the torch, we gon’ run with it now
Never look back, we done gone hundreds of miles
From dark roads he rose, to become a hero
Facin’ the league of justice, his power was the people
Enemy is lethal, a king became regal
Saw the face of Jim Crow under a bald eagle
The biggest weapon is to stay peaceful
We sing, our music is the cuts that we bleed through
Somewhere in the dream we had an epiphany
Now we right the wrongs in history
No one can win the war individually
It takes the wisdom of the elders and young people’s energy
Welcome to the story we call victory
The comin’ of the Lord, my eyes have seen the glory
One day when the glory comes
It will be ours, it will be ours
Oh one day when the war is won
We will be sure, we will be sure
Oh glory
When the war is won, when it’s all said and done
We’ll cry glory
Oh glory

A FRIEND UNFAILING
Christ alone will guide us
When the storms betide us
He alone is every day the same
None but He can keep us
When the billows, they sweep us
For He’s a friend unfailing
I’m gonna bless His name
All the way to Heaven
Please let our best be given
Ever let His glory,
Let it be our aim
Yonder He will meet us
And it’s with a smile Jesus will greet us
For He’s a friend unfailing
I’m gonna bless His name
He’s a friend unfailing
Bless His name!
He alone to save us
Freely came
When the storms betide us
He will keep and guide us
He’s a friend unfailing
Bless His name!

IF I CAN HELP SOMEBODY
If I can help somebody as I pass along,
If I can cheer somebody with a word or song,
If I can show somebody he is trav’ling wrong,
Then my living shall not be in vain.
If I can do my duty as a good one ought,
If I can bring back beauty to a world upwrought,
If I can spread love’s message that the Master taught,
Then my living shall not be in vain.
Then my living shall not be in vain,
Then my living shall not be in vain;
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Living the Dream...Singing the Dream, co-produced by Washington Performing Arts (WPA) and Choral Arts (CA), is a musical homage to and celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s life and mission. Choral Arts founder Norman Scribner “wanted to pay tribute to Dr. King’s legacy through music, in other words, [to use music] as an instrument for peace” and conceived of an annual concert to achieve this goal. Similarly, the Washington Performing Arts Gospel Choirs spotlighted musical tributes to Dr. King during their annual performances, featuring a variety of guest artists. Recognizing this shared mission, we formed a co-presentation using the language of music to showcase our stories in song and to stir the consciousness of our audiences. Now in its 12th collaborative production, Living the Dream is led by our artistic team: Michele Fowlin, artistic director of Children of the Gospel Choir; Theodore Thorpe III, artistic director for Men and Women of the Gospel Choir; and Scott Tucker, artistic director of the Choral Arts Chorus. The program features a multi-generational choir delivering powerful music and thought-provoking messages.

For the first time in our history, WPA and CA have transformed Living the Dream into a virtual experience. Similar to the live concerts, this production features a collection of choral musical selections interspersed with spoken segments. The virtual format affords us the opportunity to celebrate several past Humanitarian Award winners while acknowledging the power and potential in each of us. We are also excited to welcome broadcast journalist Allison Seymour and accomplished vocalist and Children of the Gospel Choir alum Soloman Howard, who serve as the hosts for Living the Dream, guiding us through this rich experience.

Reflecting on music initially created by enslaved African Americans, music scholar Lawrence Levine suggested, “These songs manifest clearly the manner in which the sacred world of the slaves was able to combine the precedents of the past, the conditions of the present, and the promise of the future into one connected reality.” More than 150 years since the end of American slavery, African American sacred music has continued to carry this mantle. Each of the selections included in the virtual Living the Dream production was written and/or arranged by African American composers. They reflect a range of emotions and thoughts as each composer grapples to make sense of their current circumstances while hoping for better days ahead.

Selected by the team of artistic directors, these songs collectively tell a story of adversity, resilience, and joy. The production opens with the up-tempo, celebratory gospel song “Thy Name Be Praised,” penned by Washington, D.C.’s renowned James Glover. Much like a live choral concert, this selection “sets the scene,” encouraging audience members to actively engage with the music and prepare for a night of celebration as well as a night of reflection. The next two selections are contemplations of sacred hope. R. Nathaniel Dett’s setting of “Ave Maria” is a reverent prayer of praise and petition, while Willie DeVone’s “God Said It, I Believe It” is a bold declaration that there are brighter days to come. Although the lyrics of the latter song specifically reference holding the divine creator accountable to “His” promises, in the context of this production, we are also reminded of Dr. King’s frequent call out to America to “make real the promise of democracy.” We too, as a nation, must be accountable for what we have “said on paper.” Nevertheless, if we keep the faith and stay the course, our higher power will certainly intervene in our just cause.

The final three selections are designed to encourage even the most disheartened listener. Kevin Davidson and Marque Walker’s “Fight On” is an eloquent, emotional appeal to each of us to continue in the fight, because success is so near. “Glory,” from the film Selma, is an optimistic vision of the divine joy we will all share when we’ve achieved our goals of inclusion and equality. Lastly, “Friend Unfailing,” composed by Washington, D.C. gospel songwriter Danny McCrimmon, leaves the audience with the beautiful message that we are never alone. As we continue on our journey, we have at least one unfailing friend who will encourage and empower us every step of the way.

Over 50 years since his assassination, the life, writings, and speeches of Dr. King continue to inspire reflection, creativity, and acts of protest for individuals and communities across the world. The beauty of his work lies not only in what he accomplished in a short 39 years, but also in what he left us: a charge to create a more loving, just, and inclusive society. It is our hope that this concert will be a source of affirmation, a wake-up call, and/or a soothing balm for each participant as we work to live out this seemingly impossible dream. Moreover, we want participants to leave with the resonating message embodied in a favorite song of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “If I Can Help Somebody...then my living will not be in vain.”

– Kathy Brewington and Raynetta Wiggins-Jackson
Kathy Brewington is the Manager of Choir Operations at Washington Performing Arts, where she works closely with the artistic team for Washington Performing Arts’s Men, Women, and Children of the Gospel Choirs, providing chorus management, business administration, and event logistics for the combined choirs. Kathy’s professional career in arts management began in 1983 under the leadership of Douglas Wheeler. She has been recognized by the Coalition for African Americans in Performing Arts for her dedication and outstanding work for African American classical artists and performing arts in the community.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

MICHELE FOWLIN
Michele Fowlin (Artistic Director, Children of the Gospel Choir) has cultivated her love and passion for music from a young age. At the age of nine, Ms. Fowlin was accepted into the Juilliard School’s pre-college program for aspiring young musicians, as a piano student. She won a variety of piano competitions and awards and participated in many festivals both nationally and internationally. Her musical pursuits eventually led her to focusing on the voice and conducting.

She attended Howard University and earned her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Vocal Performance/Pedagogy with a piano minor. While at Howard, she studied with renowned opera singers Regina McConnell, Carmen Balthrop, and Charlotte Holloman. Under the tutelage of Dr. James Weldon Norris, she was introduced to conducting. Ms. Fowlin eventually became the Assistant to the Conductor for the University Choirs. Upon traveling with the choir nationally and internationally, Ms. Fowlin conducted many concerts and eventually became one of the lead soloists. These opportunities led her to performances in Russia, England, Spain, and the US Virgin Islands. She has performed for dignitaries including Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, former President Obama, former Vice President Biden and Gore, former Secretary of Defense William Cohen, Ambassador Sasae of Japan, and numerous others, and as part of former First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let Girls Learn” Campaign.

After Howard, Ms. Fowlin continued her vocal career while expanding her skills as a music teacher in the public school system. Her desire to motivate students musically has extended from the classroom into the community. Ms. Fowlin has worked with Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir as a music director, vocal coach and is the director of choral programs at Eleanor Roosevelt High School [MD], and has conducted various church choirs in the area. She continues to hold clinics for vocal health and wellness, voice and piano master classes and guest directorships for gospel music workshops. Ms. Fowlin has been recognized with various awards including the Mayor’s Arts Award, a Certificate of Recognition from the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and Who’s Who Among American Teachers.

THEODORE THORPE III
Theodore Thorpe III (Artistic Director, Men and Women of the Gospel Choir) serves in his third season as artistic director for the Washington Performing Arts Men and Women of the Gospel. His lifelong experience as a musician brings richness to his leadership, as he draws on celebrated talent as a conductor, musical director, vocalist, pianist, organist, composer, arranger, and choral master.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Theodore Thorpe III began his musical training studying piano at the age of four. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in music with a concentration in vocal performance and pedagogy from Oakwood University and a master of arts degree in music with emphasis in choral and orchestral conducting from Morgan State University. Mr. Thorpe’s musical talents have been recognized for exemplifying musical excellence throughout the years. He is the former music director for the Washington Youth Choir, a nonprofit music program which served high school students in the D.C. metropolitan area. He has composed and arranged songs that have been published and recorded by renowned distributor GIA, including a set of Three Choral Responses that includes “The Lord Bless You and Keep You,” “He is Lord,” and “Until We Meet Again.”

A multifaceted musician, Mr. Thorpe has served as artistic director and conductor at major historical performing
Mr. Thorpe is a graduate of Morgan State University, mentored by the renowned Dr. Nathan Carter, and a graduate of the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen while blazing a trail for upcoming musicians.

Mr. Thorpe conducted opera performances of Mozart’s The Magic Flute (September 2017) and Così fan tutte (April 2016), Beethoven’s Fidelio (June 2016), Aaron Copland’s The Tender Land (October 2015), Bellini’s La Sonnambula (January 2015), Mozart’s Abduction from the Seraglio (September 2013), and La Clemenza di Tito (2013) with The In Series. Mr. Thurston led a concert version of Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess with the Heritage Signature Chorale and Orchestra (2011), following Heritage Signature Chorale’s debut of the same work with Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (2010) and subsequent debut performance with the National Symphony Orchestra (2016) at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Mr. Thurston directed the 250-voice choir that performed Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony with the National Symphony Orchestra for the opening of The REACH.

Mr. Thurston is the founding artistic director of the Heritage Signature Chorale, director of music ministries at Foundry United Methodist Church, and artist-in-residence at Washington National Cathedral.

SCOTT TUCKER

“It is thrilling to conduct. I derive as much joy from it today as I did the first day I stepped onto a podium. Music on the page is essentially lifeless, like a butterfly pinned to parchment; performance is what breathes life into that beauty and allows it to take flight. While I love performing, it is what happens behind the scenes, leading up to a performance that brings me delight; intuiting a composer’s intent and turning it into sound requires technique and hard work from each performer. Yet by the time the music reaches the audience, it has transcended that effort, connecting and transforming all involved—composer, performer, and listener alike.

“I developed an interest in conducting at an early age; As an emerging trumpet player, I was afforded the opportunity to play for a number of fine directors who had three things in common: a command of the music, the ability to communicate clearly, and an inspiring passion. Despite my early interest, I would not be a conductor today were it not for the advantages my upbringing afforded me, and the encouragement I received from my teachers and mentors along the way. Among the many, I am grateful to Richard Given, who started me on my musical path; Sheila Heffernon who gave me my first conducting gig at age 15; Ben Zander, who showed me what it means to unlock the secrets deep inside a score; Lorna Cooke DeVaron, who taught me to hear critically; and Jameson Marvin, who showed me how to bring a chorus to its full potential.

“I have been lucky enough to conduct for a few decades now; I was a music teacher at Milton Academy, the Assistant Conductor at Harvard University, and a Professor of Music at Cornell University. I now hold the distinction of being Artistic Director of the Choral Arts Society of Washington, where I am honored to continue sharing the tremendous experience of choral music on the national stage.”

Conductor Scott Tucker became the Artistic Director of Choral Arts Society of Washington in 2012 and prepares the choruses for performances with acclaimed ensembles and performers across the globe.
ANTHONY “TONY” WALKER
Anthony “Tony” Walker (Music Director, Men, Women, and Children of the Gospel Choirs) began his piano training in his native St. Paul, Minnesota, at age five, making his public debut at age 10. He received his master’s degree in piano performance and pedagogy from Temple University. Mr. Walker’s musical background in classical, gospel, jazz, and rhythm and blues has established him as a solo artist, session musician, teacher, and producer in high demand. His smooth, sophisticated style is comparable to jazz icons Herbie Hancock, Joe Sample, Bobby Lyle, and George Duke. His talent as a pianist has allowed Walker to perform for audiences on five continents, sharing the stage with acts such as Stevie Wonder, Patti Austin, Raheem DeVaughn, Leela James, Kelly Price, Chaka Khan, Cynthia Erivo, The Yellow Jackets, jazz vocal group Take 6, gospel artists Richard Smallwood, Donnie McClurkin, Maurette Brown Clark, Kim Burrell, Edwin Hawkins, BeBe & CeCe Winans, Vickie Winans, and T.D. Jakes and the Potter’s House Mass Choir. He also spent five months on Broadway and 18 months touring with The Winans in the gospel musical, Don’t Get God Started. As a solo artist, Mr. Walker has headlined at the prestigious Blues Alley in Washington, D.C. and legendary jazz venue The Blue Note in New York City. He’s also been a featured performer with National Symphony Orchestra, making his debut at the Kennedy Center in February 2019. In his role as musical director for nine-time Grammy Award nominee Ledisi, Mr. Walker performed at The White House (at the request of First Lady Michelle Obama), as well as at President Barack Obama’s second inauguration, and has made multiple television appearances including NBC’s Today, the CBS Morning Show, Late Night with David Letterman, and The Queen Latifah Show. In 2000–2001, the Smithsonian Institution invited Mr. Walker to be part of its 18-month-long exhibit of historic pianos, commemorating the 300-year anniversary of instrument’s invention. As part of this showcase, he played pianos that had been the favored instruments of artists as diverse as Liberace, Liszt, Duke Ellington, Beethoven, and Mozart.

In addition to his role with the Washington Performing Arts Men, Women, and Children of the Gospel Choirs, Anthony is the music director at Hope Christian Church (Greater D.C. area). He is currently an adjunct professor of music at Eastern University in St. David’s, Pennsylvania. Anthony resides in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area with his wife, vocalist Bonita Walker and is the proud parent of two children, drummer Joshua and flautist Lauren.
WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS GOSPEL CHOIRS

Washington Performing Arts Men and Women of the Gospel Choir (MWOTG) has celebrated the heritage of gospel music and its related genres with vibrant, dynamic performances in venues across the nation’s capital for more than 25 years. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Theodore Thorpe III, the choir is dedicated to presenting this American art form at its highest artistic level, performing contemporary and classic works of African American heritage including gospel standards, hymns, anthems, and other choral repertoire. As a resident ensemble of Washington Performing Arts, the choir has shared the stage with a wide array of artists, including Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, the late Edwin Hawkins, the late Walter Hawkins, Ramsey Lewis, and Sweet Honey In The Rock. In 2018, the choir presented a special holiday concert—"With a Grateful Heart: A Gospel Thanksgiving" at Duke Ellington School of the Arts Theater, featuring Thomas Allen and local artists Patrick Lundy and Roderick Giles.

In addition to annual performances on Washington Performing Arts’s season, the choir performs regularly throughout the community. Past events have included annual Gospel Christmas concerts at the Washington National Cathedral; as well as featured performances at the historic Howard Theatre; Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, Mayor’s Arts Awards; The Hamilton; and on Sirius XM Radio.

Formed in 1993, Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir (COTG) is one of Washington Performing Arts’s resident ensembles. COTG has become a destination choir for local students who look to develop excellence in artistry and technique as a performance ensemble. Chosen through a competitive audition process, choir members from D.C., Maryland, and Virginia commit to participating in a year of choral training, intensive workshops, and a variety of performances on Washington Performing Arts’s main stage and through community events. The COTG program provides opportunities for youth in grades four through 12 and promotes an environment of self-confidence, teamwork, and respect.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Michele Fowl, the Children of the Gospel Choir have been featured at the White House (with Sara Bareilles at the Canadian State Dinner honoring Prime Minister Justin Trudeau); the Inaugural Prayer Services for President Barack Obama and the National Memorial Service for Nelson Mandela, both at The Washington National Cathedral; the Washington Performing Arts Gala with Broadway star Matthew Morrison; the historic Howard Theatre; the U.S. Department of State; and on NBC’s Today.

In June 2017, Washington Performing Arts Men, Women, and Children of the Gospel Choirs released a CD entitled Why Do We Sing?, marking the choirs’ 25th anniversaries in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

THE CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

Experience. Passion. Harmony. Space. This is choral music—a story that soars from a composer’s intention to a conductor’s interpretation, from a chorus’ passion to an audience’s moment of awe. Leaping from the page to the lungs to the air, it reverberates in the chambers of the heart. Transporting us out of ourselves. Ushering us into ourselves. Mind. Breath. Sound. Heart. Choral singing is an elemental human experience, a sound with the power to crack open new worlds.

Choral Arts imbues every single performance with the promise of this experience. Based in the nation’s capital, we weave our shared passion, world-class repertoire, and radiant voices into a sound that changes people. We sing for a city with little time and high expectations, which compels us to transform a night out into a lifelong memory. We defy preconceived notions—exploring styles, arrangements, spaces, and collaborations that reimagine traditions and create surprising new ones.

At Choral Arts, we sing the music we love as a balm to frenzied days, an antidote to solitude, a union in an often-fractured world. As our conductor raises his baton, a moment is born. As our melody rises, spirits rise with it. As our notes weave intricate harmonies, the bonds between people are strengthened. And as our last note fades, in the heartbeat before the ovation, you will suddenly hear the story singing within you—a small awakening to take back into the world.

Choral Arts
Awaken your world.
ABOUT THE HOSTS

SOLOMAN HOWARD
Winner of the Kennedy Center’s 2019 Marian Anderson Vocal Award, Soloman Howard is a graduate of Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program and garners high praise from the press for his vivid performances on the great opera and concert stages of the world. Soloman Howard’s voice is described as “sonorous” by The New York Times, “superhuman” by The Denver Post, and “a triumph” by The Guardian.

In the 2020-21 season, Soloman Howard is scheduled for debuts at the Opéra national de Paris in a new production of Aida directed by Lotte de Beer under that baton of Michele Mariotti and at the Glyndebourne Festival as Sarastro in Die Zauberflöte.

Repercussions of the global pandemic are the cancellations of contracts to perform Colline in La bohème at San Francisco Opera, Fafner in a new production of Der Ring des Nibelungen at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Don Basilio in Il barbiere di Siviglia at the Gran Teatre del Liceu, and concerts with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony, Memphis Symphony, San Diego Symphony, and Aspen Music Festival.

Performances of 2019-20 included debuts at the Lyric Opera of Chicago in the company’s new production by Francesca Zambello of Luisa Miller conducted by Enrique Mazzola, at English National Opera in the same title in a new production by Barbora Horáková Joly conducted by Alexander Joel, and he returned to the Metropolitan Opera as Sarastro in The Magic Flute.

Highlights of the recent past include Jacopo Fiesco in a new production of Simon Boccanegra at the Opéra national de Bordeaux conducted by Paul Daniel, Timur in Turandot at San Francisco Opera for his debut led by Music Director Nicola Luisotti, Grand Inquisitor in Don Carlo at Los Angeles Opera under the baton of James Conlon, Il Re in Aida for a debut at the Teatro Real, and Santa Fe Opera performances as Comendatore in Don Giovanni conducted by John Nelson and Colline in La bohème conducted by Jader Bignamini. He also achieved great success with the roles of Somnus and Cadmus during an international tour of Semele with Harry Bicket leading The English Concert.

For the Washington National Opera, Soloman Howard has bowed as Fafner in Der Ring des Nibelungen directed by Artistic Director Francesca Zambello and conducted by Philippe Auguin as well as in leading roles in The Magic Flute, Show Boat, Approaching Ali, Don Giovanni, and Nabucco. He was heralded for the roles of Frederick Douglass and Martin Luther King, Jr. in the world premiere of the revised edition of Appomattox composed by Philip Glass in a production by Tazwell Thompson and in the title role of The Lion, the Unicorn, and Me written by Jeanine Tesori and J.D. McClatchy.

On the concert stage, he has given performances of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony with Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic on a European tour and with Christian Arming and the Vienna Chamber Orchestra on tour in Asia. He has joined Harry Christophers and the Handel & Haydn Society for Mozart’s Requiem, Kent Tritle and the Oratorio Society of New York in performances of Mendelssohn’s Die erste Walpurgisnacht at Carnegie Hall, and with Christoph Eschenbach and the National Symphony Orchestra in a concert presentation of Strauss’ Der Rosenkavalier.

The Anti-Defamation League presented Soloman Howard with their “Making a Difference Award” in the summer of 2016 for raising awareness of voting rights though his performances of Appomattox at the Kennedy Center; and for bringing opera into the larger community. Soloman Howard is a proud graduate of the Manhattan School of Music and of Morgan State University.

ALLISON SEYMOUR
Allison Seymour is an Emmy Award–winning anchor who has been waking viewers up on the morning news in her hometown of Washington, D.C. since 1999. Allison started her career in television at the Washington, D.C. bureau of ABC News, behind the scenes, before earning her Master’s in Mass Communication at the University of South Carolina. She is a proud graduate of Hampton University, where she is enshrined in the Mass Media Hall of Fame. Allison’s on-air career began during the blizzard of 1993 in upstate New York. She would go on to work in Utica, Binghamton, and Albany, New York. During the summer of 1998, Allison took an anchor position in St. Louis, Missouri, where, on her first day on the job, she met her future husband, radio host Marc Clarke. Allison is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Jack and Jill of America. She and her husband Marc share three daughters and two shelter pups. Allison feels extremely grateful to the community for all of the support over the years and is excited to be a part of the WUSA9 family.
WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS
MEN AND WOMEN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR

THEODORE THORPE III, Artistic Director

Soprano
Janice Alexander
Austina Barren
Cara-Lynn Birts
Allean Brown
Denise Bryant
Andrea Calloway
Julia Caul
Phyllis Curenton
Felicia Edwards
Juanita Pat Finney
Rose Fisher
Andrea Futrell
Erin Gantt
Margo Hall*
Cierra Jennings
Arlene King-Berry
Saramae Krietlow
Alana Mallory
Sharyta Masah El
Mildred McCullough
Michele Morris
Gwen Muse-Evans
Shelia Parker
Lynda Prioleau
Cara Rhone
Iris Richard
Jacqueline Richardson
Kevia Richardson
Lisa Rowe
Tiffany Watson
India Williams
Shirley York
Karen Hall
Phyllis Harris*
Tumara Jordan
Risa Kornegay
Claudia Levy
Teisha McKie
Phyllis Miller
LaVerne Minter
Lois Mockabee
Sheryl Newman
Gail Patterson Shipp
Juanita Rollins
Jamie Ward Black
Jacqueline White
Vickie Wilkerson
Pia Winston
Leavia Wright

Alto
Stephone Allen
Bobette Banks
Mildred Benson
Tania Brunson
Laurenda Carter
Donna Cawley
Phyllis Chesley*
Sandra Collins
Cynthia Douglas
Deborah Easter
Tempora Fisher
Channita Fraser
Lorna Gilkey

Tenor
RJ Benn
Kevin Bouknight*
A. Don Cowan
Gloria Duarte
MeLinda Gooch

Bass
Akeem Adams
Jerome Austin
Orlando Chappell
Donovan Gulley
Chuck Kemp
David North
Daniel Scott
Albert B. Spencer Jr.*
Daniel Veiga
Aaron Watson
Darrell Whitfield*

* Section Leaders

WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS
CHILDREN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR

MICHELE FOWLIN, Artistic Director

Soprano
Arielle Asare
Khalida Betancourt
Sydney Broady
Katelyn Brown
Kylee Brown
Layla Bunch
Xtlalli Dawson
Madison Fields
Sharli Fleming
McKayla Guthrie
Hope Harden
Lena Hicks
Jordan Holt*
Madison Johnson
Samaria Johnson
Tamia Johnson
Aniya Jones*
Phillip Marshall
Elisa Quesada Sayler
Kalyni Srinavastava
Liis Viira

Alto
Alayna Brown
Aniyah Butterworth
Karen Coles
Ryleigh Francis
Nia Frazier*
Aniya Jean-Julien
Jasmine Lawson
Madison Littlejohn
Cai Malone*
Kai Marshall-Villanueva
Claude Noutak
Oni Ransom
Zaji Ransom
Ambria Reese
Consuela Watts
Raven Williams
Taylor Williams Odom

Tenor/Bass
Zaybian Brown
Terrell Crosland

Christian Inman*
D’Anthony Jamison
Cameron King
Dillan Madison
Gabriel Pearson
Walter Pierce Pearson IV*
Donovan Rivera-Ware
Jordan Thomas
Cris Whitney
Ayden Williams
Russell Williams IV

* Section Leaders
Soprano
Lynda Adamson
Julie Ciamporcer Avetta
Brooke Bartolome
Kaylee Boalt
Ashley B. Boam
Susan G. Boggs
Laura Bradford
Janice O. Childress
Marie Colturi
Alison Cooper
Abigail Corbett
Shannon Corey
Dana Crepeau
Gloria DeCoste
Kathryn Fernandez
Julie Gilmore
Amity Hall
Karen Hopper
Marie Hyder
Jennifer Leach
Heather MacDonald
Rebecca Mullen
Katherine S. Myer
Jenny Nordstrom
Alexandra Normile
Julia Preseau
Diane Shapiro Richer
Erika Rissi
Sally Robinson
Elizabeth Romig
Bethann Siegel
Lisa Sommers
Carolyn Sowinski
Katie Spitzel
Lisa Stechschulte Lowe
Joyce Stephansky
Margaret A. Strombeck
Amanda Thorne
Alison Valtin
Nadine Wethington
Bonnie Williams
Carolyn Wise
Julie Wommack

Alto
Petia Antova
Barbara Barry
Marty Brown
Patricia A Byram
Michelle Cho
Jan Clayberg
Karen Coda
Katherine Degreef
Karen Doyn
Cynthia Dunbar
Karen Florini
Barbara Gardner
Coleen Gatehouse
Ariel Gold
Kate Goodrich
Cindy Jensen
Anne B. Keiser
Joyce Korvick
Lucy Newton
My-Van Nguyen
Margaret Nice
Rebecca Nielsen
Sarah Penniston-Dorland
Ellen Platts
Laura S. Pruitt
Joan Reithaler
Diedre Robinson
Cindy Speas
Candida Steel
Kandie Stroud
Alex Swartsel*
Lizabeth Tankersley
Christa Teemer
Michelle Tiller
Emily Townsend
Nancy Withrell
Virginia Yates

Tenor
Jeff Ashford
Leroy R. Barnes
Jonathan Blocksom
Colin Brown
John Clewett
Jeff Dauler
Neil R. Ericsson
David Flaxman
Daniel Forbes
Matthew Goldberg
Jerry Haggin
Eric Holmes
Edward Hoover
Glen Howard
Tony Lee
Michael McKeon
Paul Nooney, Jr
Byron V. Peters
Robert Porter
David Robinson
Roberto Sada
Dileep Srihari
Robert Stansbery
Rob Vogel

Bass
Charles Cerf
Michael Cook
David Freeman
George Krumbhaar
Douglas M. Lapp
Todd Leeuwenburgh
Michael Lincoln**
Clarke Maylone
Douglas McAllister
Daniel Perkes
Nathan Perriello
Dennis Reece
William Theuer
Art Tiller
Jim Weinstein
Christopher Wilde
Ray Williams

*Chorus President
**Chorus Vice President
MEN'S CHORUS

featuring members of ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH CHOIR, WASHINGTON
PERFORMING ARTS MEN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR, and LOCAL DMV CHOIRS
THEODORE THORPE III, Artistic Director

Tenor I
James Aldridge
Kevin Bouknight
Robert Brown
David Buck
James Bradford
Marvin Carr
Felipe Cioni
Antonio Covington
Devon Davis
Craig Brown Dickens
Anthony Dillard
Nathan Drew
Christopher Fowlkes
Chris Hollinsed
Jonathan Johnson
Sam Johnson
Jay Lee
Christopher Matthews
Godfrey Maynor
George Mensa
Devin Mercer
Gabriel Morales
Charvin Nah
Sylvester Owens
Milton Pippens
David Powell
Calvin Ruffin
Louis Spencer
Sean Tillery*
Jeremy Winston
Brandon Wright

Tenor II
Andre Benjamin
RJ Benn
Darnel C. Brandon
Willie Carter
A. Don Cowan
Rhshaan Engrum
Roderick Giles
Gerard Grigsby
Glen Howard
Kennard Jackson
Lawrence Jordan III
Daryl Joyner
Reginald Lewis
Dr. Lloyd Mallory
Timothy McFadden
Alliant Ndeze
John Obie
Anwar Ottley
Darrell Patterson
Theodore Potts
Tevin Price
Rashad Roberts
Sean Roberts
Vernon Rogers
Andre Salva
Sherwin Simpson
Larry Vaughn*
Stadford Whitlow

Baritone
Cliff Isaac Achpkah
Jerome Austin
Melvin Bryant, Jr.
Chester Burke*
Orlanzo Chappell
Jaedyn Christopher
Shannon Cloman
Edryn J. Coleman
Stanley Cornelius
James Craigen
Trent Davis
Emmanuel Fortin
Matthew Jackson
Xavier Jones
Desmond Pierre Louis
Robert Mathews
Marco K. Merrick
David K. North
Felipe Paccagnella
Greg Roland
Phillip Ross
Daniel Scott
Ronnie Woodfork

Bass
Kevin Allen
Jay Butler
Aaron Chambers
Jean-Paul Corrales Chica
Brian Epps Sr.
Mark Francis
Donovan Gulley

Joshua Heath-Orr
Dominique Jackson
Garrett Jackson
Angelo Johnson*
George B. Jones
Chuck Kemp
Michael Reid
Deion Roulhac
Theodore Sapp
Korcoran Smith
Albert B. Spencer Jr.
Daniel Veiga
Aaron Watson
Darrell Whitfield
Darrin Williams
Jim Williams

* Chorus Master
Co-presented by Washington Performing Arts and Choral Arts.

SPECIAL THANKS

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“It gives us tremendous pride to sponsor Living the Dream...Singing the Dream in honor of Rudy Burwell, Sr. This was my father’s favorite WPA event each year.

“Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a civil rights icon. His efforts were supported, at the same time, by the quiet actions taken by people like my father who were also working to build the Dream.”

– Rudy Burwell, Jr. and Mona Mohib

“We are honored to pay tribute to Dr. King’s legacy through spiritual song, reflection, and humanitarian emphasis. Dr. King loved and was inspired by the arts. He was artistically masterful in his soul-stirring speeches, which had bridge-building, healing powers still felt today. Our family is grateful for his optimism, activism, and inspiration to “live the dream” that an inclusive, just society is still within our reach.”

– Trista L.P. Colbert and Theodore Colbert

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