



WASHINGTON  
PERFORMING ARTS

# 2022/23 SEASON THE WORLD IN OUR CITY



## OUR SONG, OUR STORY

**Damien Sneed, music director and piano**

**Jacqueline Echols, soprano**

**Justin Austin, baritone**

**Griot String Quartet**

Amyr Joyner, violin

Justus Ross, violin

Edward Hardy, viola

Thapelo Masita, cello

FRI, FEB 10, 7:30 p.m.

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
TERRACE THEATER



WASHINGTON  
PERFORMING ARTS

# 2022/23 SEASON

## THE WORLD IN OUR CITY

Join Us at The John F. Kennedy Center for the  
Performing Arts Terrace Theater!



### **COTTON**

**John E. Dowell, Damien Geter,  
Denyce Graves, Justin Austin,  
Laura Ward**

Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.

This first annual Washington Performing Arts Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Recital offers a powerful evening by premier talents in the performing and visual arts. Legendary mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves—a favorite artist of Justice Ginsburg’s— and baritone Justin Austin lead an intensely moving song cycle by rising-star composer Damien Geter. *COTTON* was imagined, curated, and commissioned by Philadelphia’s Lyric Fest recital series in commemoration of their 20th Anniversary. The work was inspired by photographer John E. Dowell’s similarly named exhibition, *COTTON: THE SOFT, DANGEROUS BEAUTY OF THE PAST*. Featuring the phenomenal poetry of Nikki Giovanni, Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Afaa Michael Weaver, Lauren Alleyne, Charlotte Blake Alston, Glenis Redmond, Alora Young, and Trapeta Mayson, *COTTON* is a feast for the senses, a spark for the imagination, and a highlight of the season.

*Special thanks: National Endowment for the Arts, Mr. Michael Sonnenreich, Betsy and Robert Feinberg, the Galena-Yorktown Foundation, and donors to the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Award and Recital Fund*

**\$40+**

### **TICKETS AND INFORMATION:**

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WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS AND  
THE COALITION FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE  
PERFORMING ARTS (CAAPA)

Present

## OUR SONG, OUR STORY

Damien Sneed, music director and piano

Jacqueline Echols, soprano

Justin Austin, baritone

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TERRACE THEATER

### Opening

**HALE SMITH**

(1925–2009)

*Evocation*

Damien Sneed, piano

### Spiritual Songs

**Traditional.**

**Arr. SHAWN OKPEBHOLO**

(b. 1981)

“Oh, Freedom”

Justin Austin, baritone

Damien Sneed, piano

**Traditional.**

**Arr. DAMIEN SNEED**

(b. 1979)

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Justin Austin, baritone

Damien Sneed, piano

**Traditional.**

**Arr. WYNTON MARSALIS**

(b. 1961)

“The Lord’s Prayer”

from *Abyssinian Mass*

### Opera

**GIACOMO PUCCINI**

(1858–1924)

“Ch’il bel sogno di Doretta”

from *La Rondine*

Jacqueline Echols, soprano

Damien Sneed, piano

Griot String Quartet

**DAMIEN SNEED**

[b. 1979]

“It Is Done” from *Treemonisha*

Justin Austin, baritone

Damien Sneed, piano

**GEORGE GERSHWIN**

[1898-1937]

Lyrics by Ira Gershwin (1896-1983),

DuBose Heyward (1885-1940),

Dorothy Heyward (1890-1961)

“Summertime” from *Porgy & Bess*

Jacqueline Echols, soprano

Damien Sneed, piano

Griot String Quartet

**TERENCE BLANCHARD**

[b. 1962]

“The Night Brings You”

from *Fire Shut Up In My Bones*

Justin Austin, baritone

Damien Sneed, piano

Griot String Quartet

**String Quartet****COLERIDGE-TAYLOR PERKINSON**

[1932-2004]

String Quartet, No. 1 “Calvary”

Allegro

Griot String Quartet

**Lieder & Art Songs****RICHARD STRAUSS**

[1864-1949]

“Morgen,” Op. 27, No. 4

Jacqueline Echols, soprano

Damien Sneed, piano

Griot String Quartet

**AARON COPLAND**

[1900-1990]

“The Little Horses”

from *Old American Songs, Set 2*

Justin Austin, baritone

Damien Sneed, piano

Griot String Quartet

**HARRY T. BURLEIGH**

[1866-1949]

“Till I Wake”

from *Five Songs of Laurence Hope*

Jacqueline Echols, soprano

Damien Sneed, piano

Griot String Quartet

**MARGARET BONDS**

[1913-1972]

Lyrics by Langston Hughes (1926-1964)

“Minstrel Man”

from *Three Dream Portraits*

Justin Austin, baritone

Damien Sneed, piano

Griot String Quartet

**DAMIEN SNEED**  
(b. 1979)

“I Hear the Stars Still Singing” from  
*The Earth Sings*  
Jacqueline Echols, soprano  
Damien Sneed, piano  
Griot String Quartet

**DAMIEN SNEED**  
(b. 1979)

Lyrics by Langston Hughes (1926-1964)

“I Dream a World”  
Justin Austin, baritone  
Damien Sneed, piano  
Griot String Quartet

**Traditional.**

**Arr. MARGARET BONDS**  
(1913-1972)

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”  
Jacqueline Echols, soprano  
Damien Sneed, piano  
Griot String Quartet

*This performance is made possible through the generous support of the following sponsors: the Galena-Yorktown Foundation; Kerrien Suarez.*

*Washington Performing Arts’s classical music performances this season are made possible in part through the generous support of Betsy and Robert Feinberg.*

*Special thanks to the following lead supporters of Washington Performing Arts’s mission-driven work: Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated; D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities; the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts; The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; and the Dallas Morse Coors Foundation for the Performing Arts.*

**MARS**



# PROGRAM NOTES

Created and directed by composer, conductor, and multi-genre musician Damien Sneed, *Our Song, Our Story* is an evening of music highlighting some of the world's most well-known operatic arias, art songs and spirituals. The concert brings together two of today's most exciting operatic voices in a diverse and powerful event featuring Jacqueline Echols and Justin Austin, accompanied by the Griot String Quartet and Damien Sneed on piano. Each singer brings their colorful artistry to the table with solo performances as well as duets and trios. This will be an evening of memorable and beautiful music as they pay homage to Marian Anderson and Jessye Norman, who have paved the way for them and other African American opera singers.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS



### MUSIC DIRECTOR

#### **Damien Sneed**

As a multi-genre recording artist and instrumentalist,

**Damien Sneed** is a pianist, vocalist, organist, composer,

conductor, arranger, producer, and arts educator whose work spans multiple genres. He has worked with jazz, classical, pop, and R&B legends, including the late Aretha Franklin and Jessye Norman. He is featured on Norman's final recording, *Bound For The Promised Land*, on Albany Records. He also worked with Wynton Marsalis, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Ashford & Simpson, J'Nai Bridges, Lawrence Brownlee, and many

others. In addition, Sneed has served as music director for several Grammy Award-winning gospel artists and BET's hit gospel competition, *Sunday Best – Season Four*. Sneed is a 2014 Sphinx Medal of Excellence recipient. He is a 2020 Dove Award winner and a 2021 NAACP Image Award winner for his work as a featured producer and writer on the Clark Sisters' newest project, *The Return*. Sneed is currently a faculty member of the Manhattan School of Music, Berklee College of Music and Artist-in-Residence at Michigan State University. Sneed is featured in the award-winning PBS documentary *Everyone Has a Place*, which stars Wynton Marsalis, capturing Sneed's journey as the musical conductor of

the historic tour performances of Marsalis' *Abyssinian Mass*. The film features the world-renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and Sneed's own Chorale Le Chateau. During the 2018–2019 season, Sneed served as Houston Grand Opera's cover conductor and HGO's composer-in-residence and music director. There he was commissioned to compose the new opera, *MARIAN'S SONG*, about the life of Marian Anderson. In 2020, Alvin Ailey Dance Theater commissioned Sneed to create an original score for *Testament*, a contemporary response to the 60th Anniversary of Revelations. In 2021, he was commissioned by Opera Theatre of Saint Louis to compose the new opera, *The Tongue & The Lash*, imagining a post-debate conversation between James Baldwin and William Buckley.

In 2022, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis commissioned Sneed to compose a reimagined adaptation of Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha*, which premieres on May 20, 2023. On June 17, 2022, Sneed conducted Nathaniel Dett's *Ordering of Moses* at Cathedral of Saint John the Divine with a 50-piece orchestra and his 75-member choral group, Chorale Le Chateau, to commemorate the Harlem Renaissance centennial. On September 8, 2022, Sneed premiered with the Los Angeles Philharmonic as a vocal soloist in Wynton Marsalis' *All Rise* Symphony No. 1 for the Hollywood Bowl's Centennial Celebration. On October 1, 2022, he conducted the Flint Symphony Orchestra with Patti Austin in a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald. During the 2022–2023 season, he tours

*Our Song, Our Story*—an evening of operatic arias, art songs and spirituals featuring soloists including Justin Austin, Raehann Bryce-Davis, Janinah Burnett, Jacqueline Echols, and Raven McMillon, and accompanied by the Griot String Quartet with Damien Sneed on piano. Sneed was recently signed to Apple Music & Platoon Records (London). His latest single, his original classical composition, *Sequestered Thoughts*, was commissioned by the Library of Congress with Sneed on solo piano, and was released in June 2022 exclusively on Apple Music's digital platforms.



**SOPRANO**  
**Jacqueline Echols**  
Lyric soprano  
Jacqueline Echols has been praised for her “dynamic range and vocal acrobatics”

(*Classical Voice*) in theaters across the United States. In the summer of 2022, Echols reprised her acclaimed portrayal of Clara in *Porgy and Bess* in her debut with Des Moines Metro Opera, in addition to her debut with The Cleveland Orchestra for their annual *Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration* concert and her return to Cincinnati Opera for a special performance alongside Morris Robinson in *Morris and Friends*. In the 2022–23 season, she returns to LA Opera as Julie in Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels' *Omar*, debuts the role of Juliette in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* with Opera San Antonio, and makes her long-awaited return to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts reprising the



role of Musetta in *La bohème* with Washington National Opera.

In the 2021-22 season Echols was featured at the Metropolitan Opera both as Clara in *Porgy and Bess* and as Noemie in the Met Opera's family adaptation of Massenet's *Cendrillon*. Additional performances at the Metropolitan Opera include Pousette in Massenet's *Manon* and Musetta in *La bohème*. She has been seen at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts under the auspices of Washington National Opera in the title role of Verdi's *La Traviata*, as well as the roles of Sister Helen in Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*, Micaëla in *Carmen*, the Unicorn in the world premiere of Jeanine Tesori's *The Lion, the Unicorn and Me*, Clorinda in *La Cenerentola*, and Woglinde and Forest Bird in Wagner's full *Ring* cycle conducted by Music Director Philippe Auguin.

Additional performances include Clara in *Porgy and Bess* with The Atlanta Opera as well as the title role in *La traviata* with Palm Beach Opera. A frequent performer of both standard and contemporary repertoire, Echols debuted the role of Helen in the world premiere performances of *The Summer King* at the Pittsburgh Opera in 2017 and reprised the role in her hometown of Detroit with Michigan Opera Theater in 2018. She has performed the role of Pip in Heggie's *Moby Dick* with the Los Angeles, Dallas, and Pittsburgh Operas.

On the concert stage, Echols has performed with the Ann Arbor Symphony for their 2017 season opening gala concert and returned to the symphony

for her first performances of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*. She made her debut with the Memphis Symphony in performances of Handel's *Messiah*. She made her debut with the Tanglewood Festival reprising the role of Woglinde in *Das Rheingold*, conducted by Andris Nelsons.



**BARITONE**  
**Justin Austin**

Praised in *Opera News* as “a gentle actor and elegant musician” and in *The Wall Street Journal* for his

“mellifluous baritone,” Justin Austin has been performing professionally since the age of four. Born in Stuttgart, Germany, to professional opera singer parents, Austin began his singing career as a boy soprano performing at venues such as Teatro Real, Bregenz Festspiele, Lincoln Center, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. While working with directors such as Götz Friedrich and Tazewell Thompson, he was able to realize early on his love for music and performance.

In the 2021-2022 season, Austin made his house debut at the Metropolitan Opera as Marcellus in the company premiere of Brett Dean's *Hamlet*, while also covering the leading role of Charles Blow in Terence Blanchard's *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*. He joined Lyric Opera of Chicago covering the role of Riolo in Daniel Catán's *Florencia en el Amazonas*, starred as George Armstrong in Lynn Nottage's and Ricky Ian Gordon's *Intimate Apparel* at Lincoln Center, and joined Des Moines Metro Opera as

Thomas McKeller in Damien Geter and Lila Palmer's *American Apollo*. In addition, he performed at Carnegie Hall in the title role in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Oratorio Society of New York, joined the New York Festival of Song for their debut concert at Little Island in New York City, joined the Cecilia Chorus at Carnegie Hall as the baritone soloist in Margaret Bonds' *Ballad of the Brown King*, and presents a solo recital at the Park Avenue Armory with pianist Howard Watkins.

As a multifaceted musician, Austin performs a wide range of repertoire, from jazz, R&B, and musical theatre to opera and oratorio. He has collaborated with multiple groups and artists such as Aretha Franklin, The Boys Choir of Harlem, Mary J. Blidge, Elton John, Lauryn Hill, The Roots, 30 Seconds to Mars, John Cale, Ricky Ian Gordon, Damien Sneed, Kanye West, and jazz legends Reggie Workman, Hugh Masekela, and Wynton Marsalis.

Austin strongly believes in utilizing his artistry to benefit music programs, new music projects, and community services around the world. In order to accomplish this, he works with organizations such as MEND (Meeting Emergency Needs with Dignity), QSAC (Quality Services for the Autism Community), Holt International, and St. Mary's Children's Hospital to construct and perform benefit concerts. The proceeds of these projects supply emergent living essentials to those in need. Inspired by the importance of new music and collaboration, he has performed and recorded operatic, song, and oratorio world premieres by Wynton Marsalis, Avner Finberg, M. Roger Holland,

Jack Perla, Peter Andreacchi, Damien Sneed, Odeline de la Martinez, and Ricky Ian Gordon.

Justin Austin is a proud graduate of the Choir Academy of Harlem, LaGuardia Arts, Heidelberg Lied Akademie, and the Manhattan School of Music, having earned Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees. Among his accolades are awards from organizations such as The Recording Academy, NAACP, the George London Foundation, Opera Ebony, the Gerda Lissner Foundation, the Manhattan School of Music, NANM, the Choir Academy of Harlem, and LaGuardia Arts. He is under the tutelage and mentorship of Catherine Malfitano.

## **GRIOT STRING QUARTET**

### **Amyr Joyner, violin**

Amyr Joyner is a professional violinist and music instructor based in the wider Baltimore-D.C. area with vast experience performing solo, chamber, and orchestral music. He has performed extensively throughout the United States and abroad, and at major music centers in the country including Carnegie Hall, Woodruff Arts Center, the Harris Theater, the Hippodrome Theater, Grant Park Stage, and the Music Center at Strathmore. Amyr is versed in classical, jazz, and popular music improvisation.

### **Justus Ross, violin**

Justus Ross completed his Bachelor of Music degree in Violin Performance at Texas Tech University under Professor Annie Chalex Boyle. During his studies at Texas Tech University, Justus became the first prize winner of the Texas Tech University String Concerto Competition in 2016;

a national finalist in the MTNA Chamber Music Competition in 2017; and received second prize in the ENKOR International Chamber Music Competition in 2017. In the season of 2018-2019 Justus was the assistant concert master of the Amarillo Symphony Orchestra. He also performed in the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, The Myrskva Trio, and other various small ensembles in the West Texas area.

Justus has participated in music festivals such as the Heifetz International Music Institute, Round Top Music Festival, Hot Springs Music Festival, and Lake City String Academy. He has performed in master classes and lessons with Ani Kavafian, Scott St. John, Frank Almond, Tom Rosenberg, Kenneth Goldsmith, and Sally O'Reilly. While in Los Angeles, California, Justus attended the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music. There he received his master of music degree in Violin Performance under Dr. Lina Bahn. During his master's degree, Justus was a finalist in the Thornton School of Music String Concerto Competition; a member of the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee; and a section violinist of the American Youth Symphony.

Currently, Justus is pursuing his graduate diploma in Violin Performance under Professor Ayano Ninomiya at New England Conservatory in Boston, Massachusetts. He is also the assistant concertmaster of the Du Bois orchestra. Originally from Houston, Texas; his previous teacher was Zachary Carrettin. Apart from

Justus' violin career, he is an avid runner and enjoys singing.

### **Edward Hardy, viola**

Edward W. Hardy is a critically acclaimed Black and Puerto Rican composer, music director, virtuoso violinist and violist and is one of the foremost exponents of solo violin repertoire for theatrical productions. At the age of 25, "Hardy [was] one of the youngest composers to ever be accepted into the Exploring the Metropolis Con Edison Composer Residency and one of the most prominent composer/ violinists in New York City" (*Broadway World*). "Edward W. Hardy, who composed the omnipresent music, plays the violin superbly" (*The New York Times*). Hardy is "Mesmerizing" (*Manhattan With A Twist*) and also performs in a style that is "serene, dreamy, and soulful with velvety panache" (*The Millbrook Independent*). As the composer, music director and violinist of the smash hit Off-Broadway show *The Woodsman*, Hardy's show was a recipient of the 2016 Obie Award, the 2014 Jim Henson Foundation Grant, and was broadcast on PBS stations four separate times, streamed on BroadwayHD, and major music producer Jim McElwaine produced Hardy's album *The Woodsman Original Off-Broadway Solo Recording* which continues to be sold and streamed in countries such as the United States, Mexico, United Kingdom, Russia, Turkey, France, Hong Kong, Argentina, Ireland, and Germany.

Currently, Edward's discography contains 8 singles, 1 album, and his list of original compositions include

works for solo violin, voice, harp, piano, string quartet, string trio, string duo, Latin ensemble, and soundtracks for film and stage. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts commissioned Edward's song cycle, *Born Free* ("Sorrow Home," "Lineage," "The Struggle Staggers Us," and "Southern Song") and premiered the work as part of their 2022 UNTRAPPED series. Also in 2022, Edward's Latin piece *Flying - Dancing in Spanish Harlem* was performed by jazz legend Andre Hayward and his band, along with Edward, at the Austin Chamber Music Festival.

Edward has received numerous awards, most recently winning 1st Prize in the 2022 University of Northern Colorado Concerto Competition and 2nd Prize in the 2022 Angie Southard Performance Competition. Edward also has an extensive performance history ranging from solo violin performances for the Congressional Black Caucus, opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture, Hublot, MAC Cosmetics, Haute Living, special performances for rap legends 50 Cent, Nas, Justin Bieber, Hailey Bieber, Usher, Russell Westbrook, Kehlani, and legendary hockey player Alexander Ovechkin, to sharing the stage with famous artists such as Itzhak Perlman, Maxim Vengerov, Kygo, André De Shields, Damien Sneed, Brandie Sutton, Justin Austin, Regina Carter, Norm Lewis, Joshua Bell, John Blake Jr., Mark O'Connor, Radmila Lolly, Raven McMillon, Janinah Burnett, Amanda Lynn Bottoms, Raehann Bryce-Davis, Graham Reynolds, the

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, Jeffrey Zeigler, Sandbox Percussion, and the Attacca Quartet. Performance venues include Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Avery Fisher Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, WQXR, The Greene Space, The Apollo Theater, Metropolitan Museum of Art, American Museum of Natural History, Charleston Museum, The Cutting Room, The Public Theater's Joe's Pub, Amanyara, and many others. Edward is a proud member of Local 802 Musicians Union, Dramatist Guild of America, ASCAP and is affiliated with the American Composers Orchestra, the Sphinx Organization, Exploring the Metropolis, the Gateways Music Festival, Carnegie Hall/Weill Music Institute. He is also the founder and artistic director of the Omnipresent Music Festival - BIPOC Musicians Festival, the digital marketing director and artistic advisor of Beethoven in the Rockies: Concert Series, and the senior director of operations and co-founder of the Northern Colorado Center for Arts Entrepreneurship. Edward is a doctoral candidate and graduate instructor in violin performance at the University of Northern Colorado under the mentorship of Dr. Jubal Fulks.

### **Thapelo Masita, cello**

Thapelo Masita uses his music to help further the arts in his home country of South Africa. He earned a bachelor of music in cello performance from the Eastman School of Music in 2017 and a master of music degree from the Juilliard School in 2019. Through a faculty position at the Opportunity Music Project and a fellowship in the Music Advancement Program—a Juilliard Sponsored

Community Engagement Initiative, Masita has been able to serve young people from underrepresented communities.

Masita is a founding member of the Uhuru String Quartet, which seeks through artistic collaborations and performance to connect and empower women who have experienced domestic violence and homelessness. The Quartet has commissioned and performed a new quartet by Japanese American composer Sato Matsui, and has collaborated on several occasions with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw.

Masita is the founder and executive director of the Bokamoso International Chamber Music Festival and Workshop in South Africa, which aims to share the joys of music with local communities while providing high level training to promising youths from around the country. Thapelo is pursuing a doctor of musical arts degree at CUNY Graduate Center where he works with Julia Lichten. He performs on a cello made by Oded Kishony, on generous loan to him by the Virtu Foundation.

### **Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA)**

The Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA) supports Black classical musicians and others in the performing arts by “Bringing Color to the Classics!” through The CAAPA Cause: Community Outreach, Arts Education, Audience Development, Performance Opportunities, and Arts Partnerships. Founded in 2003 by brother-sister classical musicians Victor Simonson

and Pamela Simonson to “give back to the community”, the 501c3 Maryland-based arts organization’s programming includes: Opera for Fun Youth Outreach Program, Sing for Seniors Recitals, The Performance Series, REACH: International Outreach Program, CityCONNECT, Scholarship Program, Meet the Composers Seminars, CAAPA Camp (Cultivating Artists, Musicians, and Performers), and the Master Class Series. For more details, visit [www.4caapa.org](http://www.4caapa.org)

# ABOUT WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS

One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, Washington Performing Arts has engaged for more than half a century with artists, audiences, students, and civic life. The city is truly our stage: for decades, in venues ranging from concert halls and clubs to public parks, we have presented a tremendous range of artists and art forms, from the most distinguished symphony orchestras to both renowned and emerging artists in classical music, gospel music, jazz, international genres, and more. Washington Performing Arts also has an ever-expanding artistic and educational presence on the internet, addressing the programming challenges of this time of pandemic while envisioning ongoing opportunities for online connection and community in a post-COVID world.

Washington Performing Arts deeply values its partnerships with local organizations and other arts

institutions. Through events online and in a myriad of performance venues and neighborhoods, Washington Performing Arts engages international visiting artists in community programs and introduces local artists to wider audiences. We place a premium on establishing artists as a continuing presence in the lives of both young people and adults through residencies and education programs.

For its achievements, Washington Performing Arts has been recognized with a National Medal of Arts and with three Mayor's Arts Awards from the D.C. Government. We have now embarked upon our second half-century, ever inspired by the motto of our founder, Patrick Hayes: "Everybody in, nobody out."

For more information, please visit [washingtonperformingarts.org](http://washingtonperformingarts.org).

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Manager of Advancement  
Operations & Analytics . . . . . Natalie Groom  
Advancement  
Assistant . . . . . Rebecca Krupa Wilcoski  
Special Events . . . . . Stratus Firm

## MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS, AND CREATIVE MEDIA

Director of Marketing, Communications,  
and Creative Media . . . . . Lauren Beyea  
Creative Media &  
Analytics Manager . . . . . Scott Thureen  
Marketing and Communications  
Manager . . . . . Cassandra Gibson  
Bucklesweet,  
Press & Media Relations . . . . . Amanda Sweet  
Inked Designs,  
Graphic Designer . . . . . Elayna Speight  
Communications Consultant . . . . . Ceylon Mitchell

## EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Director of Education &  
Community Engagement . . . Michelle Hoffmann  
Manager of Choir  
Operations . . . . . Katheryn R. Brewington  
Manager, Choir Curriculum  
& Artistic Planning . . . . . David Powell  
Education & Community  
Program Manager . . . . . Valerie Murray  
Education Partnerships  
Manager . . . . . Penelope Musto

## FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Interim Chief Financial Officer . . . . . Sarah Bright  
Controller . . . . . DeAnna Treadway

## PATRON SERVICES

Patron Services  
Manager . . . . . Chad Dexter Kinsman  
Patron Services Associate . . . . . Mbissane Diagne

## PROGRAMMING & PRODUCTION

Director of Programming . . . . . Samantha Pollack  
Programming  
Operations Manager . . . . . Kayla Loree

## SPECIAL PRODUCTIONS & INITIATIVES

Supervising Producer . . . . . Eric E. Richardson  
Manager of Creative Media &  
Mars Arts D.C. . . . . Alex Galiatsatos

## RESIDENT ARTISTS

Artist in Residence . . . . . Murray Horwitz  
Artistic Director,  
Children of the Gospel Choir . . . . . Michele Fowlin  
Artistic Director,  
Men & Women of the  
Gospel Choir . . . . . Theodore Thorpe III  
Music Director,  
Washington Performing Arts  
Gospel Choirs . . . . . Anthony "Tony" Walker  
Artistic Director Emeritus,  
Washington Performing Arts  
Gospel Choirs . . . . . Stanley J. Thurston