



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACTS:
For Washington Performing Arts
Amanda Sweet/Bucklesweet
347.564.3371
amanda@bucklesweet.com

For Choral Arts
Hope Wheeler/Collins + Co.
202.302.2906
Hope@collins-company.com

**CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON AND
WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS PRESENT
LIVING THE DREAM...SINGING THE DREAM**

The tribute concert to the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. returns to The Kennedy Center Concert Hall stage on Sunday, February 18.

Choral Arts presents Humanitarian Award to José Andrés during concert

WASHINGTON— The **Choral Arts Society of Washington** and the **Washington Performing Arts Men, Women, and Children of the Gospel Choirs** co-present the beloved 36th-annual choral tribute concert *Living the Dream...Singing the Dream* on **Sunday, February 18 at 7 p.m.** at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. The performance, under the direction of Artistic Director **Theodore Thorpe III**, pays tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. while celebrating the power of music, collaboration, and the human spirit. The concert features Children of the Gospel Artistic Director Michele Fowlin, pianist and vocalist **Ralph Alan Herndon**, soprano **Simone Paulwell**, hip-hop artist **Konshens the MC**, actor **David Anthony Johnson**, and News4 Anchor **Shawn Yancy** as host.

During the performance, Choral Arts will present its **2024 Humanitarian Award to José Andrés** for his many incredible contributions to society, specifically through the organization he started, World Center Kitchen (WCK), devoted to bringing meals to people in crisis all over the world.

A treasured D.C. tradition for more than 25 years, *Living the Dream...Singing the Dream* unites all who honor Dr. King's ideals with inspirational messages, music and movement. The **Choral Arts Symphonic Chorus** and **Washington Performing Arts Gospel Choirs** will perform favorites such as "Lift Every Voice and Sing," "My Father Watches Over Me," "Precious Lord," "Birmingham Letter," "Promised Land," and "If I Can Help Somebody."

Tickets start at \$25 and are available at www.washingtonperformingarts.org/event/living-the-dream-singing-the-dream.

"Dr. King's legacy has long served as the catalyst for this joyous collaboration with Choral Arts," said **Theodore Thorpe III**, Artistic Director of the Men and Women of the Gospel Choir. "His challenge to America being true to what he said on paper is the very reasoning behind our partnership, as we aim to inspire hope through song, in the midst of struggle."

"In the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., it is our honor to present this year's Humanitarian award to an individual who truly embodies the ideas that Dr. King stood for," said **Choral Arts Executive Director Tad Czyzewski**. "Both José Andrés and Dr. King stood for democratic principles, freedom and equity for all. This concert is a celebration of those ideals and one we look forward to each year."

Featured Performers:

- **Ralph Alan Herndon**, pianist and vocalist
- **Simone Paulwell**, soprano
- **Konshens the MC**, hip hop artist
- **David Anthony Johnson**, actor
- **Choral Arts Symphonic Chorus**
- **Washington Performing Arts Gospel Choirs**

WHEN: Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 7 p.m.

WHERE: Kennedy Center Concert Hall (2700 F St NW)

TICKETS:

Tickets start at \$25 and are available for purchase on the [Washington Performing Arts website](http://www.washingtonperformingarts.org)

ABOUT JOSÉ ANDRÉS

Born in Spain, where he learned the craft of cooking first from his parents and then in the kitchen of Ferran Adrià's groundbreaking avant-garde restaurant elBulli – José Andrés

immigrated to the United States in 1991, first to New York City and later to Washington, D.C., where he and his partners established a group of restaurants that has earned countless fans and won numerous awards over the years.

José holds close both his identity as a Spanish immigrant and an American citizen, placing upon himself the responsibility of both culinary ambassador and immigrant representing the two nations. He is a visionary and a humanitarian, establishing World Central Kitchen in 2010 as a means for feeding the many – using culinary training programs to empower communities and strengthen economies as well as food disaster relief in the wake of emergencies around the globe.

He has been widely recognized for both his culinary and his humanitarian work, including by the James Beard Foundation – which named him Best Chef: Mid-Atlantic in 2003, as well as Humanitarian of the Year in 2018; TIME Magazine, which included him on the list of 100 Most Influential People in 2012 and 2018; and President Obama, who awarded José the National Humanities Medal in 2015. José holds two Michelin stars for his avant-garde tasting counter minibar by José Andrés in Washington, D.C., as well as four Bib Gourmands.

ABOUT CHORAL ARTS

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. We sing for a city with little time and high expectations, which compels us to transform a night out into a lifelong memory. Founded in 1965 by Norman Scribner (1936-2015), Choral Arts has a rich history of bringing the power of the human voice to audiences large and small, advancing the story of choral music by partnering with a myriad of musicians, composers, and ensembles.

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, jazz, international genres, and more. We also have an ever-expanding artistic and educational presence on the internet, envisioning ongoing opportunities for online connection and community.

Washington Performing Arts deeply values its partnerships with local organizations and other arts institutions. Through events online and in myriad performance venues and neighborhoods,

we engage international visiting artists in community programs and introduce 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.

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

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