



**WASHINGTON
PERFORMING ARTS**

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**WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS AND YOUNG CONCERT ARTISTS
PRESENT BASS-BARITONE JOSEPH PARRISH AT KENNEDY CENTER**

Tuesday, February 6 at 7:30 p.m.

The concert features a world premiere work by Young Concert Artists

Composer-in-Residence Alistair Coleman



WASHINGTON, D.C.— Washington Performing Arts presents bass-baritone and Baltimore native **Joseph Parrish's** debut performance as a **Young Concert Artist (YCA)** on **Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.** in the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Terrace Theater**. Parrish will be accompanied on piano by multi-genre recording artist and instrumentalist **Damien Sneed**. The **Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir**, led by Artistic Director **Michelle Fowlin** and with accompanist **Anthony "Tony" Walker** on piano, perform with Parrish on a selection of spirituals. Tickets range from \$35 to \$60 and are available at www.washingtonperformingarts.org/event/joseph-parrish.

The February 6 concert features a program of German lieder, Russian romances, American songs, a world premiere by YCA Composer-in-Residence Alistair Coleman and spirituals accompanied by the Children of the Gospel Choir.

“This program is designed to create a communal space,” **Parrish said.** “I have programmed multiple genres of music; from German Romantic, to American Songbook, to Gospel. There is something here for everybody, through the vessel of music.”

Parrish is the winner of the 2022 YCA Susan Wadsworth International Auditions, a rigorous audition process that ensures only the most extraordinary musicians are chosen to join the YCA Artist Fellowship Program. The transformative three-year program takes artists to new levels of creative growth, offering them a holistic combination of digital tools, mentorship, project development, performance opportunities, and training in community engagement.

As a Juilliard Vocal Arts Masters student, Parrish enjoys a robust concert career, was an apprentice artist at the Santa Fe Opera, and has performed with Festival Napa Valley and New York’s City Lyric Opera, among others. Parrish was an inaugural cohort member of the Denyce Graves Foundation’s flagship Shared Voices program, an initiative designed to address diversity, equity, and inclusion through collaboration between Historically Black Colleges and Universities, top conservatories, and schools of music in the United States.

This performance is co-presented by Washington Performing Arts and Young Concert Artists, in cooperation with the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ABOUT JOSEPH PARRISH

Joseph Parrish has appeared in opera, concert, and recital. In 2023, he was a recipient of the Bayreuth Stipendiate, a semi-finalist for the Queen Elisabeth Voice Competition in Brussels, Belgium, and an encouragement award in the inaugural Duncan Williams Voice Competition. In 2022, he was a first prize winner of the 2022 Susan Wadsworth YCA International Auditions, first prize winner of the 2022 Gerda Lissner Foundation Art Song Competition, and a finalist in the 2022 George London Foundation Competition.

This coming season he also made his Carnegie Hall Debut under the baton of Kent Tritle as the bass soloist for Handel’s *Messiah*. He will perform with the Ann Arbor Symphony debut under the baton of Earl Lee singing John Adams’s *The Wound Dresser* and Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9*, as William Still in Paul Moravec’s oratorio *Sanctuary Road* with Princeton Pro Musica, in Brahms’s *Ein Deutches Requiem* with Baltimore Choral Arts, in Mahler’s *Rückert Lieder* with the Aiken Orchestra, and in solo recitals with Carnegie Hall Citywide, Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota, the Port Washington Library, and the West Philadelphia Committee for the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Upcoming operatic engagements, include the Salieri in a semi-staged production of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Mozart e Salieri* with New York Parlando Orchestra and Masetto in a production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* with the Cincinnati Opera. Recent operatic credits include the title role in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, Sodbuster in Vavrek/Mazzoli's *Proving Up*, Dr. Cajus in Nicolai's *Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor*, Augure in Rossi's *L'Orfeo* at Juilliard and Dulcamara in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*; Spinelloccio in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* with Festival Napa Valley, and Le Baron de Pictordu in Viardot's *Cendrillon* with New York City Lyric Opera.

Parrish has performed at various types of venues including Carnegie Hall, The Cincinnati Art Museum, The Kennedy Center, The Green-Wood Cemetery, Le Flagey in Brussels, Belgium, WQXR, and Madison Square Garden.

As a current artist diploma candidate in opera studies at the Juilliard School, Parrish is passionate about giving back to the various communities that have nurtured him. He has been both a Music Advancement Program chorus teaching fellow and Gluck Community Service fellow at the Juilliard School. Parrish is a member of the inaugural cohort of Shared Voices, an initiative designed to address diversity, equity, and inclusion through collaboration between Historically Black Colleges and Universities, top conservatories, and schools of music in the United States with the Denyce Graves Foundation. He holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music, and the Juilliard School.

ABOUT 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, which 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, Brandie Inez Sutton and many others. Sneed has served as music director for Grammy Award-winning gospel artists The Clark Sisters, Richard Smallwood, Donnie McClurkin, Hezekiah Walker, Marvin Sapp, Karen Clark Sheard, Dorinda Clark-Cole and Kim Burrell, among others. Sneed is a 2020 Dove Award winner and 2021 NAACP Image Award winner for his work as a featured producer and writer on the Clark Sisters' newest project, "The Return", released on March 13, 2020. Sneed is the founder and artistic director of Chorale Le Chateau, which has gained a global reputation for its vivid interpretations of vocal literature, from Renaissance period pieces to art songs to jazz, spirituals, gospel, and avant-garde contemporary music. He is featured on the recording of Wynton Marsalis's *Abyssinian Mass* as a conductor, with Marsalis, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, and Chorale Le Chateau.

Sneed also has performed at important national and international events, including the 2012 Olympics in London and activities related to the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Sneed performed in Washington, D.C., at “A Celebration of America” at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts’s Eisenhower Theater on the eve of President Obama’s inauguration and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in 2013. The event was hosted by Angela Bassett, Courtney Vance, and Wynton Marsalis and retired United States Supreme Court Chief Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. In addition, in 2008, he conducted the world premiere of Wynton Marsalis’s Abyssinian Mass with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and a 150-voice choir. He has also conducted the Mass in London and on a 16-city U.S. tour. An acclaimed artist with a global reach, Sneed has performed in Europe, Japan, the U.S. Virgin Islands, South America, Africa and over 42 states in the United States. He has performed with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Minneapolis Symphony, Darin Atwater and Soulful Symphony, Opera Ebony and Opera Noire. He has collaborated with award-winning opera singer Jessye Norman on several performances. Sneed arranged five spirituals, chosen by Norman in honor of President Abraham Lincoln, and accompanied her in the performance of them at the Grand Reopening of Ford’s Theater in Washington, DC on February 11, 2009. The event, which was a part of the national Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration, was attended by President and First Lady Obama. The event also featured George Lucas, James Earl Jones, Nancy Pelosi, Katie Couric, Joshua Bell, Audra McDonald, and Jeffrey Wright. In November 2010, he had his debut at Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York, NY, accompanying Norman for a gala performance. In 2012, Sneed accompanied Norman for her performances at the International AIDS Conference Gala held at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and at the 10th Annual Jessye Norman School of the Arts Fundraising Gala at Augusta State University in Georgia.

Sneed is currently a faculty member of the Manhattan School of Music, where he teaches graduate-level courses in conducting, African American Music History, a singer/songwriter ensemble, a gospel music ensemble, and private lessons in piano, voice, and composition. He recently joined the esteemed faculty of Michigan State University as artist-in-residence for the 2020-2021 school year. Sneed will work with Wharton Center and the MSU College of Music, helping to bring social impact programming to both institutions while advancing progress in diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. He was a member of the faculty at the Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts and Nyack College. His other professional affiliations have included The Juilliard School as a staff accompanist, Jazz at Lincoln Center as an artistic consultant, and the City University of New York (CUNY) as a professor of music. In 2015, Sneed established the Damien Sneed Performing Arts Institute, a division of the Damien Sneed Foundation.

ABOUT WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS CHILDREN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR

Formed in 1993, the **Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir (COTG)** is one of the Washington Performing Arts resident ensembles. 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 Fowlin, 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; with Matthew Whitaker in concert; 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*.

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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