



52nd Davies Concert Series Presents



COALITION FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

Sunday, February 25, 2024

4:00 PM

Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation

7400 Temple Hills Road

Temple Hills, MD 20748

Produced by
Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts

Conceived and Written by
Terri Allen

Featuring
Jihanna Davis, *mezzo soprano*
Wayne Jennings, *tenor*
Shawn Williams, *dancer*
Jae Anthonnee, *pianist*
Betty Entzminger, *narrator*

Introduction & Greetings by Terri Allen, CAAPA Executive Director

Nine Negroes
Betty Entzminger, Narrator

Middle Passage

Amazing Grace

Wayne Jennings

Enslavement

Balm in Gilead

Jihanna Davis

Oh Lord How Come Me Here

Wayne Jennings

Reconstruction

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Shawna Williams

Jim Crow

Strange Fruit

Wayne Jennings, Shawna Williams

Harlem Renaissance

Civil Rights

We Shall Overcome

Audience

Angels Watching Over Me

Jihanna Davis

The Black Revolution

Oh Freedom

Wayne Jennings

Black Lives Matter

Poem

Betty Entzminger

The Future

Glory from *Selma*

Shawna Williams

Meet the Artists

JAE ANTHONEE



Jae Anthonee, a native to the Baltimore area, he is known for his colorful baritone voice and virtuosic piano playing. Jae has performed in many places including the Vatican in Rome, Fairbanks Alaska, and many states along the east coast. He has performed in many opera & vocal masterclasses facilitated by Kirk Meechem, Kenneth Overton and Philip Boykin. His operatic debut was Balthazar in Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors in 2016 and acclaimed much success in his most recent role as Bob in William Grant Still's Highway 1. In 2016, Jae won the Sidney Liberman Award in the vocalist category. He was accepted in the HBCU Career Comprehensive Program hosted by Los Angeles Opera and worked under the direction of their 2022 resident artist, Russell Thomas. Known for his work in the musical theater world as a pianist and coach, he has played for shows such as Aida, Songs for a New World, Hairspray and many more. He expanded on his leadership when becoming a graduate coach and accompanist for the newly adapted musical theater program at Morgan State University where he works with both music and non-music majors to serve their performing needs. Jae's work as a musical director and pianist was highlighted by the D.C. theater arts review for his work with ArtsCentric for their 2022 production of RENT recognizing the passion and dedication in the music which critics said "Respect" to the music director. Jae holds a Bachelor of Arts in music education from Towson University and a Master of Arts in vocal performance from Morgan State University.

JIHANNA DAVIS



Jihanna Charlton-Davis is one of opera's rising interpreters of the mezzo-soprano repertoire. She has appeared with critical success as Amneris in Verdi's Aida, Mrs. Herring in Benjamin Britten's Albert Herring, Madame Flora in Menotti's The Medium, Mother in Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel, Annie in Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, Young Lovely in Blanchard's Fire Shut Up in My Bones, and Gladys in Amukele's Spirit Moves. Mrs. Charlton-Davis has performed roles with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Washington National Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Tulsa Opera, INSeries, and Shenandoah Opera. Mrs. Charlton-Davis currently sings with the Metropolitan Opera Chorus and The Washington National Opera Chorus. She is a frequent guest solo artist who has performed in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Washington Oratorio Society, the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Shenandoah Valley Music Festival, Mozart's Requiem with the Front Royal Oratorio Society, and the Springfield Chorale Handel's Messiah with Potomac Chamber Orchestra, Choruses of Fort Belvoir, and the West Potomac community choir, Handel's Solomon with the Shenandoah Chamber Orchestra, Mendelssohn's Elijah with Winchester Chamber Orchestra, K. Mechem's Songs of the Slave with the Maryland Choral Society and Janacek's Glagolitic Mass with The Choral Arts Society of Washington. Mrs. Charlton-Davis is a three-time Grammy award winner as an ensemble member with Shenandoah University's War Requiem, The Metropolitan Opera's Chorus for their productions of, Gershwin's Porgy and Bess and, Blanchard's Fire Shut Up in My Bones. She has performed under the direction of such notable conductors that include the Grammy Award winning Robert Shafer, Yannick Nezet-Seguin, Daniela Candillari, Wayne Marshall, Robert Larsen, Norman Scribner, Patrick Hansen, Donald Black, Ray Fowler, Ernest Johnson, Steven Gathman, Donald Palumbo, Michael Black George Amos, and James Laster. Mrs. Charlton-Davis currently teaches music privately through her studio Davis Dynasty of Music. She resides in Triangle, Virginia with her family.

BETTY ENTZMINGER



Betty Entzminger Playwright, Director, Psalmist, Model, Actress, Author and 3rd Generation Washingtonian. Betty's stage credits include Jesus Christ Super-star, The Colored Museum, and Don't Sing No Blues For Me. Her television and film credits include I Don't, Black Body, In The Line of Fire and The Wire. Her single EP, "A Window Was Open," is continually moving up the Gospel Charts. Featured in Essence Magazine and on the cover of New Homes Guide, this proud University of the District of Columbia graduate and Amazon Best Selling Co-Author of Embracing My Sexy Sixties has received numerous honors and recognition for her commitment to excellence in the performing arts, and God, who is the Center of her Joy. As the daughter of a Baptist Minister, her mother's words will always resonate, remind, and reassure her that "Prayer Changes Things." CAAPA Credits: Cotton Field to Concert Hall, Kennedy Center, Publick Play-house, 2017, 2018; Seoul to Soul 2016, 2017, Kennedy Center, Publick Playhouse.

WAYNE JENNINGS



Lyric tenor, native of Washington, DC, serves as the Coordinator for the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts — CAAPA "Opera for Fun Youth Outreach Program". He is a graduate of Duke Ellington School of the Performing Arts. Mr. Jennings has performed nationally and internationally in operas, concerts and recitals and made his international operatic debut in 2009 at the Amalfi Coast Music and Arts festival in Italy as Rinuccio in Puccini's Gianni Schicchi. His oratorio repertoire includes Rossini's Stabat Mater, Beethoven's An Die Freude, Haydn's Third Mass, Handel's Messiah, Bach's Magnificat, Saint-Saëns Christmas Oratorio, Schubert's Mass in G and Ralph Vaughan Williams' Serenade to Music. He was also the featured soloist in Adolphus Hailstork's I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes, R. Nathaniel Dett's The Ordering of Moses and Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, and is a frequent artist with Washington National Opera, Washington Concert Opera, International Opera Theater, Dallas Opera as well as a regional finalist and 1st place winner in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition, Leontyne Price Competition for Emerging Artists, Paul Robeson Competition and Omega Psi Phi Competition, Merit Award for the National Foundation for the Arts and furthered his vocal training at George Mason University and Oberlin Conservatory of Music in The Institute of Voice Performance and Pedagogy, artist in residence with Ebony Classical Music Society and New York City Opera's Jeunes.

SHAWNA WILLIAMS



Shawna Williams began dancing at the age of four with Mrs. Davis at LaRue Montessori Academy. She then received her formal training at The Russell School of Ballet and holds a BFA in Dance and Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University. She has had the pleasure of working with and training under prominent artists such as Karen Brown formerly of The Dance Theatre of Harlem, Suzanne Farrell, Nicholas Leichter, Ronald K. Brown, and Gus Solomons to name a few. Mrs. Williams has taught in various settings throughout the metropolitan area and has written, created, choreographed, and performed liturgical works for churches, ministries, programs, and venues. This marks her eighth year at the Washington School of Ballet. She has most recently started the process of becoming a certified Katherine Dunham Instructor. She enjoys teaching and motivating students through the vehicle of dance where the awakening of one's true being can be found and developed. Her goal is to create work that will educate, uplift, entertain and inspire audiences to have important conversations whilst falling in love with dance!



COALITION FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE PERFORMING ARTS (CAAPA)

*“Bringing **Color** to the Classics!”*

The **Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA)** supports Black classical musicians, youth, seniors, and others in the performing arts by *“Bringing **Color** to the Classics”* through the mission, **“The CAAPA Cause”**, a five (5) point initiative based the acronym C.A.A.P.A:

Community Outreach, **A**rts Education, **A**udience Development, **P**erformance Opportunities, and **A**rts Partnerships with programs including: **CAAPA CAMP** (*Cultivating Artists, Musicians, and Performers*) since 2018, **HBCU MasterClass Series**; **The Performance**; **CAAPA ARTS Academy** ; and the **60+ ARTS (Active Retired Talented Seniors) Program** and more.

CAAPA was founded by classically trained siblings; Music Director, Conductor, Composer **Victor Simonson** (*first Black Conductor for “Hamilton”*) and Washington National Opera soprano and music educator with Prince George’s County Public Schools **Pamela T. Simonson** in 2003 to *“give back to the community”*. However, the organization did not gain 501c3 status until 2013.



Davies Concert Series

7400 Temple Hills Rd., Camp Springs, MD 20748

Phone: 301-283-2747

e-mail: daviesconcertseries@gmail.com

Music Director: Dr. Mary Whitmore

Board of Trustees: Lora Bennett, Zoom Tech; Ruth Phillips, Treasurer

Maryemma Bohl, Assistant Treasurer & Concert House Manager

Jennifer Sullivan, Madeline Sullivan, and Terri Allen

Thank You to our 2023/2024 Donors:

Benefactor (\$200 and up)

David and Ruth Phillips

Sponsor (\$100 to \$199)

Michael and Elin-Marie Papantones

Patron (\$50 to \$99)

Associate (\$25 to \$49)

Maryemma Bohl

Liz Echols

Friend (\$5 to \$24)

Davies Concert Series thanks SCHWAB CHARITABLE for their \$4,000 Grant made on behalf of a donor-advised fund for Alice P. Loughry.

Davies Concert Series thanks Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation for the use of their Sanctuary and Zoom Visual and Audio System operated by Lora Bennett

The Davies Concert Series is made possible by your generous financial support.

Scan the QR code below to make a tax-deductible donation today.

Thank you for joining us for our 52nd Season!

