



51st Davies Concert Series Presents

West African and Early American

Music & Dance

Sunday, October 23, 2022
4:00 PM

Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation
7400 Temple Hills Road
Temple Hills, MD 20748

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The Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts Presents

Two Negro Spirituals

Wayne Jennings, tenor

“Steal Away” and “Oh, Freedom,” arranged by Harry T. Burleigh

The Southern Maryland Banjo Project Presents

Early American Banjo Music

Byron Thomas, banjo; Kory London, percussion

The Association of American African Dance Teachers Presents

Bridging the Gap Between Tradition and Contemporary

“Lamban”

*West African rhythm and dance traditionally used to accompany a Griot or oral historian
from the Old Mali Empire, circa 13th Century.*

Live Accompaniment Provided by Soul In Motion Drummers
Dancers: Cristine Davis, Erica Rae, Tyler Ross, Monique Walker

Music Interlude

Soul in Motion Drummers

“Green Garden”

*Contemporary African dance created to embody and celebrate African and African
Diasporan dance styles through a contemporary lens.*

Choreography by Monique Walker
Music: “Green Garden” by Laura Mvula
Dancers: Cristine Davis, Erica Rae, Tyler Ross

Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA)

CAAPA is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to supporting Black Classical Musicians, youth, and others in the performing arts by “Bringing Color to the Classics!” via The CAAPA Cause: Community Outreach, Arts Education, Audience Development, Performance Opportunities, and Arts Partnerships. The CAAPA Cultural Center is located at 1900 Tucker Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744. Visit www.CAAPA.org or call 301-839-1444 for information.



Wayne Jennings, tenor

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.

Southern Maryland Banjo Project (SMBP)

The brainchild of banjo player and enthusiast Stephen Barkley of Accokeek, MD, the Southern Maryland Banjo Project seeks to celebrate and illuminate the banjo’s West African Roots, its forgotten pioneers, and its significant history in the Southern Maryland area and the greater Chesapeake region. In addition to advocacy and educating the public regarding the banjo’s history, the Southern Maryland Banjo Project supports present-day professional and amateur banjoists, and composers/songwriters who write contemporary music for the instrument. Through educational workshops, concert events, and other programs, the Southern Maryland Banjo Project hopes to preserve the legacy of the banjo and cement it as the quintessential American instrument.



Byron Thomas, banjo; Korey London, percussion

Byron Thomas works for a public school system in Maryland. He became interested in the banjo after reading a story in an old Boy Scouts magazine about a formerly enslaved man who made a banjo from a cigar box, which inspired him to begin building his own instruments and researching the history of the banjo and black banjoists. Byron and his brother Korey have performed at various events throughout the state of Maryland, for groups including Washington Revels, Southern Maryland Traditional Music and Dance, and the Charles County Arts Alliance. Last year, they performed together for the Life Journeys Writers Guild’s *Poetry is Power* event at the Kennedy Center.

National Association of American African Dance Teachers (NAAADT)

NAAADT's mission is to heighten the quality of contemporary, neo-traditional, and Diasporan African dance teachings and performance through teacher training, performance opportunities, community engagement, and certification in the Umfundalai technique for aspiring African dance practitioners. NAAADT will honor African and African American dance and culture and take the audience on a journey beginning on the continent of Africa and ending with modern traditions for all to enjoy.



Monique Walker

Originally from Chester, Pennsylvania, dance artist Monique Walker has traveled the world as a performer, educator, and choreographer. She specializes in neo-traditional and contemporary African dance and culture; and has studied ballet, jazz, African, and modern from many dance masters and institutions including Katherine Dunham, Philadanco!, Chuck Davis, and Dr. Kariamu Welsh. Based in Waldorf, Maryland, Monique holds a Bachelor of Arts in Arts Administration, is a 2018-2019 NextLOOK Residency Artist, and is a Master Teacher of the Umfundalai contemporary African dance technique. She teaches at CityDance and the VIVA School of Dance, has taught as a guest lecturer at Drexel University and on the teaching faculty of North Carolina State University. Monique continues her mission of using dance, music, and theater as a vehicle for the preservation, promotion, and innovation of African

Diasporan dance through her work as the Executive Director for NAAADT and a choreographer with her project-based performance company, MoDance Works.



Christine Davis

Christine Davis is a dancer and dance educator currently based in the Baltimore area. She is originally from Pittsburgh, PA where she danced with Xpressions Contemporary Dance Company directed by Staycee Pearl, performing works by Robert Battle, Darrel Moultreie, Norma Jean Barnes, and Kyle Abraham. As an instructor, she is certified in the Cecchetti ballet method and holds a Umfundalai technique M'Singha Wuti license. Cristine has owned and directed two dance studios (most recently District Dance Arts in Washington, DC) and is currently finishing a Master of Arts in Teaching degree in K-12 Dance Education at the University of Maryland – Baltimore County.



Erica Rae

Erica Rae is a Philadelphia native, who received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Modern Dance from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA. She is the founder and artistic director of Raediant Movement, LLC, an organization fueled with passion and curiosity around the uniting element of movements rooted in the African aesthetic. Erica has worked as a dancer with dance companies including Mahogany Dance Theater, Tania Isaac Dance, VB Dance Ensemble, and Lesole's Dance Project. As a performer and choreographer, she's performed and presented work in St. George's, Grenada, and is a 2018 recipient of the John F. Kennedy Center's Local Dance Commissioning Project. Erica is a lifelong learner of dance and recently completed her M'Singha Wuti recreational instructor license in the Umfundalai African Dance Technique.

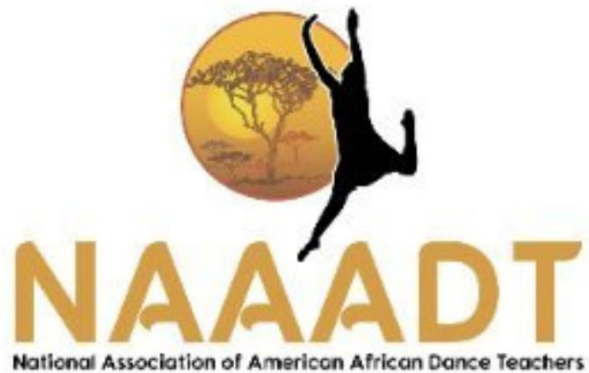


Tyler Ross

Tyler Ross is a movement artist, choreographer, and dance instructor from Prince George's County, MD, and holds a BFA in Dance Education from Temple University's Boyer College of Music and Dance. She continues her dance career as a performing artist and dance instructor teaching throughout the DMV area in multiple styles of dance with The Washington Ballet as a teaching artist, Star Dance Alliance, Dance Institute of Washington, and guest workshops. Tyler is a licensed M'Singha Wuti instructor in the Umfundalai African Dance Technique and an active company member of Laura Edwards Dance Company (LED), MOTUS Company by Diana Matos, Ladies of Redemption, and Kariamtu & Company: Traditions.

Soul In Motion African Dance and Drum

Founded by Michael Friend and his sister Khandi in 1984 as Soul In Motion Players, Soul In Motion Dancers and Drummers now boasts an energetic 11-member company performing at some of the premier dance events in the Washington, DC area including the ever-popular Dance Africa hosted by the Dance Place. Soul In Motion's schedule continues to highlight a busy Black History Month season and a full calendar of annual events including festivals, weddings, and a wide variety of corporate events. Soul In Motion recently conducted a sold-out performance at the Wolfrap Children's Theater in the Woods.





The Davies Concert Series is made possible by the Maryland State Arts Council's Creativity Grant and by your generous financial support. Scan the QR code below to make a tax-deductible donation today; thank you for joining us for our 51st Season opener!

