



**JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION  
HONORING BLACK CHORAL MUSIC**

**Wednesday, June 19, 2024 - 7pm**

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**The Princeton Festival**  
Performance Pavilion  
Morven Museum & Garden

## **JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION HONORING BLACK CHORAL MUSIC**

**Rev. Simeon Spencer**, speaker

Princeton Festival Community Chorus  
**Vinroy D. Brown, Jr.**, conductor

Capital Singers of Trenton  
Caritas Chamber Chorale  
St. David The King Church  
Union Baptist Church  
Elmwood Concert Singers-Elmwood United Presbyterian Church  
Trenton Children's Chorus  
Absalom Jones Inspirational Choir- Trinity Episcopal Church (Trenton)  
Princeton Pro Musica  
Philomusica Concert Choir

### **PROGRAM**

Capital Singers of Trenton  
Vinroy D. Brown, Jr., Artistic Director & Conductor

**Mark Miller**

"I Believe"

*Tabia Richardson, soprano*

Rev. Simeon Spencer

Remarks

Capital Singers of Trenton Women's Ensemble  
Ellen J. Dondero, Conductor

**Trad. Spiritual**

(arr. Marques L. A. Garrett)

"Great Day"

**Trad. Spiritual**  
(arr. Rosephanye Powell)

“I Wanna Be Ready”  
*Brandi McLeod, soprano*

**Marques L. A. Garrett**

“Sing Out, My Soul”

PAUSE

**Robert Ray**  
(1865-1957)

Gospel Mass  
*Dawana Richardson, soprano*  
*George Johnson III, tenor*

*Spenser Gallo, piano*  
*Raushan Thompson, keyboard*  
*Anthony Ware, saxophone*  
*Cheyney Joplin, bass*  
*Daniel Ware, drums*

- I. Kyrie (Lord Have Mercy)
- II. Gloria (Glory to God in the Highest)
- III. Credo (I Believe in God)
- IV. Acclamation (Hallelujah, Praise the Lord)
- V. Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts)
- VI. Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

*With appreciation to Desiree Melegrito, Kristin Schenk, and Josh Wilson for preparing the singers from Trenton Children's Chorus.*

Princeton Festival Community Chorus  
Vinroy D. Brown, conductor

**James Weldon Johnson**  
**John Rosamond Johnson**

“Lift Every Voice & Sing”

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**This performance is made possible in part  
through the generosity of Sarah Ringer.**

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Large print programs and assistive listening devices are available. No audio or video recording or photography is permitted. Dates, times, artists, and programs are subject to change.



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



## ABOUT THE ARTISTS



**Rev. Simeon Spencer**  
Speaker

**Rev. Simeon Spencer** received his early nurture in the Christian faith under the tutelage of his father, the late Rev. J. Herbert Spencer, Sr. at the Morning Star Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. A graduate of the University of Alabama, his early career was spent working as a counselor at an alternative rehabilitation program for juvenile offenders. He then moved to Washington D.C., serving as Legislative Aide to United States Senator Richard C. Shelby for nearly ten years.

While working in the nation's capital, Rev. Spencer acknowledged his call to the Christian Ministry and was licensed to preach by the New Samaritan Baptist Church. He further pursued his call by enrolling in Princeton Theological Seminary, from which he received the Master of Divinity Degree. There he distinguished himself in academics and service and was awarded the Aaron Gast Prize for Urban Ministry.

Rev. Spencer now serves as Senior Pastor of the Union Baptist Church in Trenton, New Jersey. During his twelve years of leadership the church has experienced tremendous growth, as the congregation has more than quadrupled in size from a membership of 300 to 1200 persons.

A sought after and versatile preacher, Rev. Spencer has ministered in varied forums from the rural south to the chapel of England's prestigious Rugby School. His ministry, leadership, and contributions to the Trenton community and beyond have been recognized by several community organizations, including the NAACP and the Metropolitan Trenton Area Chamber of Commerce, and have led to his participation on Mercer County's A+ Task Force on Literacy, the Henry J. Austin Health Center's Capital Fund Campaign, and McCarter Theater's Board of Advisors.



## **Vinroy D. Brown, Jr., Conductor**

**Vinroy D. Brown, Jr.** holds credits in conducting, sacred music, and music education. He is a member of both the Performance Studies and Baccalaureate Honors Program faculty at Westminster Choir College, where he conducts the Westminster Jubilee Singers and previously taught African American Choral Literature. He was most recently a Lecturer of Music in the College of Communication & Fine Arts at Loyola Marymount University where he developed their inaugural course in music and social justice. A church musician, he is director of music and worship arts at Elmwood United Presbyterian Church. Maintaining an active conducting schedule, he is founder and artistic director of Elmwood Concert Singers and is artistic director and conductor of Capital Singers of Trenton.

An active conductor, Brown recently conducted the Mansfield Philharmonic, the Voices of Houston and the Westminster Jubilee Singers in a performance of Rosephanye Powell's *The Cry of Jeremiah* at the Convention of the National Association of Negro Musicians in Dallas, Texas. He also conducted the Newark Public Schools Vocal Jubilee at the historic Newark Symphony Hall and the CJMEA Region II Intermediate Treble Chorus last academic year. This season, he served as Guest Conductor of the New Jersey All Shore High School Chorus, headlined the Tenor-Bass Choral Festival at Rowan University, and conducted the Rowan University Concert Choir in performance. Most notably, Brown served as Chorus Conductor for the world premiere performances of *Omar* by Rihannon Giddens and Michael Abels, which received the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Music.

His scholarship elevates the music of the Black experience, women, and living composers, and explores the ways in which music can be used as a tool for social justice and anti-racism in diverse learning communities. He is published in the *Choral Journal* of the American Choral Directors Association and is a contributing author of *Choral Repertoire by Women Composers*, to be released in 2025. Brown is also the curator of the Black Psalmody Database, the first compendium of choral settings of the Psalter by Black composers.

Professor Brown has presented for the National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association, National Collegiate Choral Organization, New Jersey Education Association and for Virginia, Georgia, Illinois, and Maryland Music Education Association Conferences. He has lectured at the University of Miami, Millikin University,

Kutztown University, Princeton University, Yale University, Rowan University, The University of Delaware, and The College of New Jersey.

Professor Brown holds membership in the National Association for Music Education, National Alliance of Black School Educators, American Choral Directors Association, International Society for Black Musicians, National Collegiate Choral Organization, and the National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc., for which he is Eastern Region Director and Chief Editor of *EMERGENCE: Research & Performance Topics in Black Music*, a scholarly publication which will be released this year. Brown is also a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, Inc. He holds a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Temple University, where he was the recipient of the Elaine Brown Choral Award, the Master of Arts in Practical Theology degree from Regent University, and Bachelor of Music degrees in Sacred Music and Music Education from Westminster Choir College. Currently, Brown is pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Music Degree, Musicology concentration, from Temple University.

## CHORAL ROSTER

Princeton Festival Community Chorus

**Vinroy D. Brown, Jr.**, conductor

June 19, 2024

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### SOPRANO

Blessing Agunwamba  
Mia Alston  
Jacqueline Allen  
Norma M. Bernard  
Amie Boorse  
Kimberley Boyle  
Eleanor Carlton  
Nathalie Cassion  
Nyah Charles  
Aimee Cicchelli  
Kathy Cook  
Maise M. Daughtry  
Elizabeth Dixon  
Chloe Dondero  
Evelyn Erwin  
Kristin Friberg  
Spenser Gallo  
Sue Gummere

Gwendolyn Johnson  
Junghee Kim  
Janice E. Latella  
Ananias M Lee  
Dana Lopatin  
Fay Manicke  
Juliane Michelis  
Julia-Louis Missie  
Isioma Nwankwo  
Zulu Nwankwo  
Colette B. Pierce  
Bobbie Powell  
Donna Raskin  
Tabia B. Richardson  
O. Jimelle Ross  
Sabrina Shelton  
Pamela D. Smith  
Dola Walters

**ALTO**

Toyosi Adenuga  
Patricia Agoes  
Jean Bickal  
Azhanee Blackwell  
Jahmiah Bradford  
Greta Carlton  
Deborah E. Collins  
Ellen J. Dondero  
Loretta Fois  
Jacqueline Hart  
Constance Hurtt  
Roseanne Kanter  
Suzanne Kazi  
MarrLa D. LiPuma  
Mary Malloy  
Brandi McLeod  
Heidi Meyer  
Dee Dee Miles  
Jennylys Muñoz-Concepcion  
Jean Nelson  
Ann Orth  
Christine Parr  
Fran Perlman  
Deborah Poulson  
Suzanne Proulx  
Gina Santiago  
Nina Siwy  
Aury Vasquez  
Nora M. Walsh  
Avery Wehrs  
Cynthia J. Wellington  
Catherine Wetzell

**TENOR**

Joshua Baldwin  
Ziare Bellamy  
Doretta Berry  
Howard Crossland  
Emmanuel Kpehe  
Armgard Kucas  
Joe LiPuma  
Bernie Litzinger  
Christopher Ross  
Marita Sciarrotta Watson  
Thomas Wiley

**BASS**

David J. Abers  
Christian Ayerite  
Covenant Ayerite  
Josiah Boorse  
William Brown  
Justin Casler  
Alan Chausse  
Robert Coyne  
Carlos Delgado  
Peter Downey  
Sean Gavin  
John Gow  
Timothy M. Griscom  
Noriye Hawkins-Shrieves  
Matthew Hollenberg  
Bernard McMullan  
Florian Michelis  
Rainer Michelis  
Ernie Rich

**Participating Organizations**

Capital Singers of Trenton  
Caritas Chamber Chorale  
St. David The King Church  
Union Baptist Church  
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