



JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION HONORING BLACK CHORAL MUSIC

Wednesday, June 19, 2024 – 7pm



Presented in partnership with
the Municipality of Princeton

Wednesday, June 19, 2024 - 7pm
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)

*Special thanks to Desiree Melegrito, Kristin Schenk,
and Josh Wilson for preparing the Trenton Children's Chorus.*

Princeton Festival Community Chorus
Vinroy D. Brown, conductor

James Weldon Johnson
John Rosamond Johnson

“Lift Every Voice & Sing”

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

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

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
Azhaneeet 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
John C. Jackson
Emmanuel Kpehe
Armgard Kucas
Joe LiPuma
Bernie Litzinger
Christopher Ross
Marita Sciarrotta Watson

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

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Caritas Chamber Chorale
St. David The King Catholic Church
Union Baptist Church
Elmwood Concert Singers-Elmwood United Presbyterian Church
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