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Concert: Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra, Opera Noire of New York City

Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra

Opera Noire of New York City

Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers

Ithaca Children's Choir

Baruch J. Whitehead

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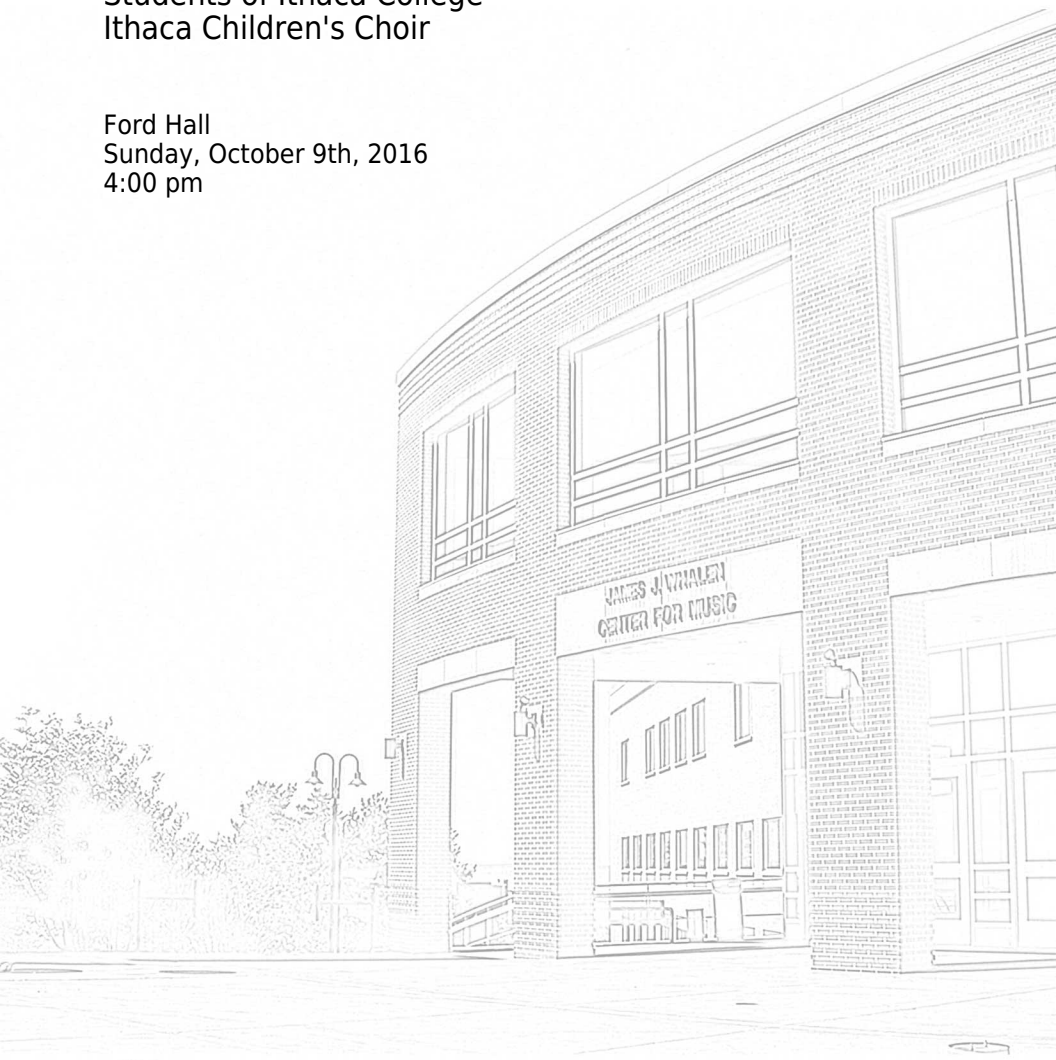
Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra, Opera Noire of New York City, Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers, Ithaca Children's Choir, Baruch J. Whitehead, and Leslie B. Dunner

Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra Opera Noire of New York City

Baruch J. Whitehead, Artistic Director
Leslie B. Dunner, conductor

Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers
Students of Ithaca College
Ithaca Children's Choir

Ford Hall
Sunday, October 9th, 2016
4:00 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Porgy and Bess

Porgy and Bess

George Gershwin
(1898 - 1937)

Act 1

Introduction
Jasbo Brown Blues
Summertime
A Woman Is A Sometime Thing
Here Comes De Honey Man
Oh Little Stars
Gone, Gone, Gone
Overflow
My Man's Gone Now
Leavin' For The Promise' Lan'

Act 2

It Takes A Long Pull To Get There
I Got Plenty O' Nuttin'
Bess, You Is My Woman
Oh, I Can't Sit Down
I Ain' Got No Shame
What You Want Wid Bess?

Intermission

Act 2, continued

Oh, Doctor Jesus
Strawberry Woman
Crab Man
I Loves You, Porgy
Oh, Hev'nly Father
Oh, De Lawd Shake De Heavens
Oh, Dere's Somebody Knockin' At De Do'
A Red Headed Woman

Act 3

Clara, Clara
There's A Boat Dat's Leavin' Soon For New York
Good Mornin', Sistuh
Oh, Bess, Oh Where's My Bess
Oh Lawd, I'm On My Way

Full Cast

Porgy - Kenneth Overton

Bess - Lisa Daltirus

Jasbo Brown - Oliver Scott

Crown - Darren Stokes

Sportin Life - Robert Mack

Serena: Mari - Yan Pringle

Maria - Lucia Bradford

Jake - Justin Austin

Clara - Brandie Sutton

Mingo - Martin Bakari

Robbins and Chorus - Taiwan Norris

Lily and Chorus - Angela Owens

Jim and Chorus - Nathaniel Thompson

Strawberry Woman and Chorus - Jeryl Cunningham-Fleming

Peter, Nelson, Crabman - D'quan Tyson

Lawyer Frazier - Josiah Spellman

Undertaker - Holden Turner

Annie - Sherley Ann Belleus

Other Woman - Delaney Bowry

Coroner - Andrew Sprague

Detective - Alex Kosick

The Plot

Act 1

Clara and her husband Jake each sing a lullaby (“Summertime” and “What, That Chile/ A Woman Is a Sometime Thing”) to their baby while the men play craps. A drunken Crown gets mad for losing to Robbins and stabs and kills him. As the crowd disperses, no one will take Bess in because of her disreputable reputation – except Porgy, a disabled beggar.

The community mourns for Robbins (“Gone, Gone, Gone”) and contributes to the burial fee (“Overflow”). Robbins’ widow, Serena, mourns (“Man’s Gone Now”); then Bess leads the mourners.

Act 2

Bess and Porgy (“Oh, I Got Plenty O’ Nuttin’”) are happy together. Maria, a shopkeeper, scoffs at the drug dealer Sporting Life (“Lessen There What I Tells You”), telling him to take his dope someplace else (“I Hates Your Struttin’ Style”). Sporting Life tries to get Bess high and convince her to go with him to New York; she refuses. Porgy chases him away; he and Bess sing about their new happiness. (“Bess, You Is My Woman”).

Everyone’s excited to go to a church picnic (“Oh, I Can’t Sit Down”) on an island where Crown is hiding. At the picnic, Sporting Life sings about his brand of religion (“It Ain’t Necessarily So”). Later, Crown seduces/attacks Bess in the bushes.

Bess returns to Porgy in Catfish Row, but is delirious. Serena prays for her (“Oh, Doctor Jesus”). When she recovers, she tells Porgy that she told Crown she’d go with him, but that she loves Porgy (“I Loves You, Porgy”).

During a hurricane, many pray in Serena’s room (“Oh, Doctor Jesus” and “Oh, De Lawd Shake De Heavens”), Clara comforts her baby (“One of Dese Mornin’s”). When a knock is heard at the door, the group thinks it is Death (“Oh, Dere’s Somebody Knockin’ At De Do”). Clara sees Jake’s empty boat float by.

Act 3

As the women mourn for the men who died in the storm ("Clara, Clara Don't You Be Downhearted"), Sporting Life laughs when they start mourning Crown; he is told off by Maria ("Ha, Ha, Ha"). After Bess comforts Clara's baby ("Summertime"), Crown tries to claim her; Porgy stabs him to death and is taken by a policeman. Sporting Life forces dope on Bess and convinces her to go to New York with him ("Listen: There's A Boat Dat's Leavin'").

A week later: Neighbors greet each other and children play ("Occupational Humoresque/Good Mornin' "). Porgy returns ("It's Porgy Comin' Home"); when he realizes that Bess has left for New York ("Oh, Bess, Oh Where's My Bess"), he prepares to go after her ("Where Bess Gone? Oh Lawd, I'm On My Way").

The History

After George Gershwin read "Porgy" by DuBose Heyward in 1926, he suggested to Heyward that they collaborate on a folk opera based on the novel. In 1933, Gershwin spent the summer near Charleston to get a feel for the community and its music.

The score not only reflects southern black traditions but also Gershwin's New York jazz and Jewish roots. The pieces are modeled after such black folk songs as jubilees, blues, praying songs, street cries, work songs, and spirituals, blended with traditional arias and recitatives. On the Jewish end, the melody to "It Ain't Necessarily So," for example, has been said to have been taken from either the Haftarah or Torah blessing.

George's brother Ira Gershwin, in New York, wrote lyrics to some of the opera's classic songs, most notably "It Ain't Necessarily So." Most of the lyrics, including "Summertime," were written by Heyward, who also wrote the libretto.

Conceived as an "American folk opera," Porgy and Bess was first performed in Carnegie Hall in 1935, with music by Gershwin, libretto by Heyward, and lyrics by Ira Gershwin and Heyward.

When it premiered, its cast of classically trained African-American singers was viewed as a daring artistic choice at the time. Blending blues and jazz into the classical art form

of opera, Gershwin considered it his finest work, but it wasn't widely accepted as a legitimate opera until 1976, when the Houston Grand Opera production was hailed as an artistic triumph. In 1985, the Metropolitan Opera performed it; this production was broadcast as part of the ongoing Saturday afternoon live Metropolitan Opera radio broadcasts. Although now considered part of the standard operatic repertoire, some critics have advocated that it is a racist portrayal of African Americans.

In 1993, the U.S. Postal Service recognized the opera's cultural significance by issuing a commemorative postage stamp; in 2001, the opera was proclaimed the official opera of the state of South Carolina.

The Composer

George Gershwin, a Jewish-American, composed *Porgy and Bess* to showcase the magnificent African-American operatic voice, which until that time, had been barred from the opera houses and theatres in America because of the segregationist customs and laws of the day.

Biographies

Artistic Team

Baruch J. Whitehead (Artistic Director)

Dr. Baruch J. Whitehead is an associate professor of music education at Ithaca College and the founding director of the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers, which is dedicated to the preservation of the Negro Spiritual. He also founded the Orff-Schulwerk certification program, a music education that views music as a basic system like language, at Ithaca College and Marshall University and is the Director of the annual Orff Certification Training Course at Boston University.

His other areas of expertise include diversity in music education; gospel music and its preservation within mainstream musical settings; African-American music; and the music of the Civil Rights Movement.

Dr. Whitehead has been a featured speaker/workshop presenter at many state, national and international conferences, including the International Arts and Humanities conference in Honolulu; MENC, NYSSMA, NJMEA and the American Orff-Schulwerk Association national conferences; the West Virginia Orff-Schulwerk Association, Twin Tier Orff Association and the Texas Orff-Schulwerk Association; the International Music Education Conference in Tenerife, Spain; the Society of Music in Porto Alegre, Brazil; the World Music Village in Helsinki, Finland.

The author of several academic papers, Dr. Whitehead is author of the chapter on music of the Civil Rights Movement in the book *Music and Conflict Transformation: Harmonies and Dissonances in Geopolitics* (I.B. Tauris, 2008).

As the founding director of the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers since 2010, Dr. Whitehead seeks to preserve the formal concert style Negro Spiritual, which he believe carries the power to promote social justice and racial healing. The chorus will perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., on Mother's Day, 2017. He directs or has directed the "Unshackled" Gospel Choir in Syracuse, the SUNY Cortland Gospel Choir, the Voices Multicultural Chorus, among others; has served as a clinician, conductor, and adjudicator in West

Virginia, Florida, Texas, Ohio and Central New York; and taught marching band and concert band for 15 years.

As a peace activist, Dr. Whitehead presented a peace concert with the famous Israeli composer and performer Yair Dalal with a group of young people from the Muslim and Jewish communities. His *Peace Cantata* premiered at the 2006 Martin Luther King Celebration at Ithaca College. His community service awards include the 2016 Henry Highland Garnet Lodge #40, Doriantia Chapter award; 2015 Southside Community Spirit Award; 2014 Martin Luther King Peacemaker Award; and the 2005 Ithaca College Excellence in Service Award.

He holds a doctorate from Capella University, an M.F.A. from the University of Florida, and B.A. and B.M.E. degrees from the University of Cincinnati.

Leslie B. Dunner (Conductor)

Leslie B. Dunner's performances of William Grant Still's opera *Troubled Island* was rated as the best moment of any classical music/opera in Chicago in 2013 by the *Chicago Sun-Times*. In 2014-15, Dunner returned to the South Shore Opera Company for operatic and concert performances as Music Director, conducted a subscription week with the Orlando Philharmonic, returned to Opera Ebony to conduct their production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, and debuted with Skylight Music Theatre of Milwaukee conducting 42 performances of The Royal Shakespeare Company's version of Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz*. Other engagements have included South Africa's annual Starlight Pop Opera concert with the Kwa-Zulu Natal Philharmonic, Opera Ebony's 2013 tribute to Verdi with scenes from *Rigoletto* and *La Traviata* in New York City, the Opera/Ballet Gala performance of *Carmen* in Guadalajara, Mexico during the 2011 International Pan American Games' Opening Ceremonies, and Opera Africa's production of Mziliazi Khumalo's opera *Princess Magogo kaDinuzulu* at Den Norske Opera in Oslo, Norway in 2007.

Dr. Dunner's guest conducting has included appearances with virtually every major U.S. orchestra. He has worked with orchestras in Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, Russia, Estonia, South Africa, Italy, and Spain. Ballet engagements have included The American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, the

Washington, Orlando and Madison Ballets, London's Royal Ballet at Covent Garden and The Birmingham Royal Ballet (in London and on tour throughout England), Michigan Opera Theatre, and The South African Ballet Theatre. With Dance Theatre of Harlem, Dunner conducted international tours to Austria's Salzburg Festival, Denmark's Tivoli Festival, the former Soviet Union, and on the troupe's historic 1992 tour to South Africa, performing for Nelson Mandela. Their 1988 tours to London and the UK included a gala performance for Diana, Princess of Wales as well as performances at the Kremlin in Moscow and the Kirov Theater in Leningrad in the former USSR.

He has received the "Distinguished Achievement" and "James Weldon Johnson" awards from the NAACP, the "Distinguished Young Alumnus Award" from CCM/University of Cincinnati, and the "Charles Stone Award" from the National Association of Negro Musicians. Dunner was co-winner of the Colorado Philharmonic Conducting Competition, and the 1st American prize-winner in the Toscanini International Conducting Competition. He was also a participant in the "Leonard Bernstein American Conductors' Program."

His large scale work, *The Whirligigs of Time: Twelfth Night Suite* for mezzo-soprano, chorus and orchestra was premiered by the Prince George's Philharmonic in March 2006. His *Motherless Child Songs*, recorded by the Minnesota Composers Forum, is available on the Innova label. His recording *Magical, Mystical Mouse* with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra (music from animated films), is available on the Pro Arte label. His live-recording performance of Alvin Singleton's *BluesKonzert* with pianist Ursula Oppens and the DSO, released to critical acclaim on the album *Ellington and the Great Masters*, is available on the Chandos label. His two most recent recordings with the Center For Black Music Research, *The African Diaspora: Five Movements in Color* by Mary Watkins and the groundbreaking *Symphony in E minor* and *Piano Concerto in One Movement* by Florence Price are available from Albany records. In 2014, Maestro Dunner joined the Board of Chicago's South Shore Opera Company and also serves as their Music Director.

Opera Noire Artists

Kenneth Overton (Porgy)

As a leading baritone, Kenneth has sung with San Francisco Opera, Opera Memphis, Nashville Opera, Connecticut Opera, Chattanooga Symphony and Opera, Boheme Opera of NJ, Houston Ebony Opera Guild, Opera Delaware, Sacramento Opera and Opera Carolina. His roles with these companies include Papageno (*Die Zauberflöte*), Sharpless (*Madama Butterfly*), Leporello (*Don Giovanni*), Schaunard (*La Bohème*), Ping (*Turandot*) as well as Angelotti (*Tosca*), Bello and Sid (*La Fanciulla del West*). Kenneth's interpretation of the title role in *Porgy and Bess* has been acclaimed as "breathtaking." In 2014, he debuted with Opéra de Montréal, Palacio Bellas Artes and the Royal Danish Opera as Porgy. He made his international debut at Deutsche Oper Berlin in the critically-acclaimed production from South Africa's Cape Town Opera. Kenneth portrayed Porgy with Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh, Opera Memphis, Opera Carolina, Lexington Opera Society, and in concert with The WDR Orchestra of Cologne at the Klangvokal Music Festival in Dortmund, The Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra, The Richmond Symphony, The Paducha Symphony and on tour throughout the British Isles. In 2016 performances include a return to Lincoln Center in Mozart's *Requiem* and A Gershwin Gala, at David Geffen Hall.

Lisa Daltirus (Bess)

Possessing a radiant voice of beauty, power, nuance and musicality, as well as a demanding stage presence, Lisa Daltirus has performed internationally for opera houses, symphonies and other arts organizations. In her professional operatic debut as *Tosca*, The New York Times said, "Imperious, Her Eyes Ablaze, The Very Image of *Tosca*... She exuded an intangible electricity, that charge that comes across to the audience when something is really happening on stage." Of a subsequent *Tosca* performance, Opera News reported, "plainly a star in the making... Leontyne Price is a clear (and welcome) model vocally..."

Recently she performed Santuzza in *Cavalleria Rusticana* at Opera Lyra Ottawa, Canada, Bess in *Porgy and Bess* with the Seattle Opera, New Orleans Opera and in concert with the Chicago Sinfonietta, Leonora in *Il Trovatore* at Opera Carolina,

and the title role of *Aida* at the Arizona Opera and in concert with the Greater Bridgeport Symphony and the New Jersey Festival Orchestra. European engagements include Bess in *Porgy and Bess* with Royal Danish Opera, Copenhagen, Denmark; Lia in Debussy's *L'Enfant Prodigue* under the baton of Valery Gergiev at the Concertgebouw, and Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus* in Thessaloniki, and Greece as well as Nedda in *Pagliacci* for the Opera Nationale de Nancy.

Darren K. Stokes (Crown)

Darren K. Stokes is an alumnus of the distinguished Ryan Opera Center of the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Mr. Stokes has had the pleasure of performing on stages of prominent opera companies throughout the US and Europe, including Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Washington National Opera, Seattle Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Die Hamburgische Staatsoper, Alte Opera Frankfurt. Mr. Stokes' 2016 engagements began with his New York City Opera mainstage debut in the company's production of *Tosca* at Lincoln Center. His relationship with City Opera began in 2015 as Escamillo in *Carmen*. During the summer of 2016 he joined the Barkhymer Tour for performances throughout Germany as Crown in *Porgy and Bess* a role he debuted at the famous Palacio de Bellas artes in Mexico City. Future engagements include *Romeo & Juliette* with Richmond Symphony and a return to the Buffalo Philharmonic for Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*.

Robert Mack (Sportn'Life)

Robert Mack, tenor, has received glorious reviews for his powerful but sweet lyric tenor voice, throughout the US and Europe. He has performed principal roles with noted opera companies, such as Houston Grand Opera, New York City Opera, Opéra Française de New York, Nashville Opera, Opera Carolina, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Indianapolis Opera, The Paris Bastille, The Teatro Real in Spain, The Royal Danish Theater, Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City and is on the roster of The Metropolitan Opera. He performs tenor solos with The Collegiate Chorale and The Alvin Ailey Dance Company in Revelations and has performed in Spoleto Festival's premier of *Amistad* where the critics made mention of his very solid performance. Mr. Mack has performed on Broadway in *Smokey Joe's Café* and *3 Mo' Tenors*. He can be heard on Decca records, Paragon records KSW Music. Mr. Mack co-founded and is the

General Director of Opera Noire of New of New York.

Mari-Yan Pringle (Serena)

Winner of the Schuyler Foundation for Career Bridges, and semi-finalist of the Elizabeth Connell Prize for Dramatic Voices. Ms. Pringle debuted in Switzerland's Grand Théâtre de Genève, and reviewers said Mari-Yan "...has a huge voice, which she used to wonderful dramatic effect" and possesses "...a solid and beautifully led instrument." Recently, Mari-Yan was the Soprano Soloist in Rossini's *Stabat Mater* at Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church in Harlem and Verdi's *Lady Macbeth in La Forza dell'Opera*.

Lucia Bradford (Maria)

Lucia, has received a BA in music education and an MM in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College. Ms. Bradford has had the privilege of singing and touring in Russia in 2014 with Opera Noire of New York City and Spain with the American Spirituals Ensemble. She has performed works of Schubert, Rossini, Moses Hogan at the prestigious Kimmel Center with the renowned Maestro Christoph Eschenbach at the piano.

Justin Austin (Jake)

Baritone Justin Austin holds a Bachelor of Music degree from The Manhattan School of Music and is currently a first year Master's degree candidate under the tutelage of Catherine Malfitano. Praised in Opera News as "a gentle actor and elegant musician", Winner of the 2013 Leontyne Price Competition and 2014 Ben Mathews Vocal Competition, baritone Justin Michael Austin Recently performed the role of Jake in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* at Landestheater Linz in Linz, Austria and Théâtre de Genève in Geneva, Switzerland. Originally from Stuttgart, Germany, Mr. Austin has sung as, Adam in Hayden's *Die Schöpfung*, Sabari in Cavalli's *La Doriclea*, and the baritone soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, Monteverdi's *Vespers*, and Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*. This season Mr. Austin will be a 2016 Caramoor Vocal Rising Star and will also perform the role of Pyarelal in the world premier of *Shalimar the Clown* at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis as a Festival Artist.

Brandie Sutton (Clara)

Brandie Sutton, hailed by the New York Times for her "warm, ample voice" and "distinctive earthy coloring" in her most recent performance of *Madama Butterfly* with The Martina Arroyo Foundation's Prelude to Performance, has performed with the National Symphony Orchestra, Radio Orpheus Symphony Orchestra (Moscow), the Krasnoyarsk Philharmonic. She is a district winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

Martin Bakari (Mingo)

Praised by *Opera News* as a "vocally charismatic" performer with a "golden tenor," Mr. Bakari has appeared in recent seasons with Portland Opera, Virginia Opera, Opera Carolina, Palm Beach Opera, Opera Saratoga, the Kennedy Center, the New Hampshire Philharmonic, and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis. Trained at Juilliard, Tanglewood, and the Boston University Opera Institute, Mr. Bakari recently performed the roles of Sportin' Life and Mingo in a German tour of *Porgy and Bess* with performances at Semperoper Dresden, Staatsoper Hamburg, Deutsches Theater München, Alte Oper Frankfurt, and the Kölner Philharmonie.

Taiwan Norris (Robbins/Chorus)

Taiwan Norris, an internationally hailed lyric tenor has sung all over the world. He recently made his debut at the New York's prestigious Carnegie Hall. Other venues include: Grand Theatre de Geneve, Komische Oper Berlin, Hamburgische Staatsoper, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, and Opera Philadelphia. Mr. Norris Holds a B.A. in Vocal Performance degree from Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD.

Angela Owens (Lily/Chorus)

Internationally recognized for her "beautifully musical" (The London Times) performances, Ms. Owens began the 2016-2017 season as guest lecturer and recitalist for Columbia University at Earl Hall. Other recent performances include *Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra* at Chautauqua Institution, and in Harlem's Highbridge Park with the West Village String Quartet. 2015-16 season included concerts at The American Church in Paris with chef de chant à

l'Opéra national de Paris, Morgane Fauchois-Prado, and with Tania León's innovative Composers Now Festival. In opera, she sang the role of Maxine McNair in Richard Pearson Thomas's *Blood of Angels* for Manhattan School of Music's Page to Stage Series, sponsored by American Opera Projects. Angela also sang the role of Alice Ruth Moore in Scottish composer Richard Thompson's opera, *Mask in the Mirror* and subsequently recorded the role in 2016 under the baton of Maestro Stephen Tucker with members of the L.A. Opera orchestra.

Nathaniel E. Thompson (Jim/Chorus)

Nathaniel E. Thompson is performing opera, spirituals, gospels, and jazz from the United States to South America to Europe. He has worked with the Royal Danish Opera, NJ State Opera, NY Harlem Productions, Harlem Opera Theater, Harlem Jubilee Singers, Tutti Bravi Productions Inc., Cincinnati Opera, Umbria Jazz Festival and The American Spiritual Ensemble. Nathaniel made his off-broadway debut as Joshua in Tyrone Stanley's *Souls On Fire*.

Jeryl Cunningham-Fleming - Strawberry Woman/Chorus

Jeryl Cunningham-Fleming, soprano, has been praised for her "gorgeous, full voice" (Lexington Herald-Leader). She received the B.M. in General Music from Oakwood University, M.M. in Vocal Performance from Mannes College The New School for Music, and D.M.A. in Vocal Performance from the University of Kentucky. An artist of great sensitivity, Ms.

Cunningham-Fleming has concertized extensively throughout the United States, South America, Europe, and Japan. She has performed various operatic roles that include the Countess (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), the Queen of the Night (*The Magic Flute*), Cleopatra (*Giulio Cesare*), and Clara (*Porgy and Bess*).

Recently, she appeared in concert in Russia with the Radio Orpheus Symphony Orchestra (Moscow), and the Krasnoyarsk Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (Siberia) with Opera Noire of New York, the Barcelona Jazz Orchestra, and the American Spiritual Ensemble. She is a regular soloist and Assistant Director of the American Spiritual Ensemble and can be heard on many of their recordings.

Ithaca College Student Artists

D'quan Tyson (Peter/Nelson/Crabman)

D'quan Tyson, baritone, is a recent graduate of Ithaca College. Credits include Young Buck/featured ensemble at *Gaybraham Lincoln: The Musical* (Thespis Festival), Ensemble in *Don Giovanni* (Opera Ithaca) as well as *Semele* and *Little Women* (Ithaca College). He is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with this production and hopes that you enjoy the show!

Josiah Spellman (Lawyer Frazier)

Josiah is a Music Education/Voice major studying with Dr. Brad Hougham at Ithaca College. He has performed at Carnegie Hall, a Celia Cruz concert when Tony Bennett was in attendance, and at Mayor Bill de Blasio's inauguration in New York City (2014). He is a member of the Ithaca College Choir and the Negro Spiritual Community Choir. He is a young, ambitious, and upcoming educator who is dedicated to his craft of teaching and spreading the greatness of music across the globe through performing.

Holden Turner (Undertaker)

Holden is currently a Sophomore Vocal Performance major at Ithaca College, and a member in the Ithaca College Choir. He's had the pleasure being a chorus member in Ithaca College's Production of Handel's *Semele*. In addition, he has conducted his high school orchestra at Disney World and his high school chorus in Boston. Holden has received awards from the New York State Summer School of the Arts, the Rochester Philharmonic League, the Eastman School of Music and more.

Sherley Ann Belleus (Annie)

Sherley Ann Belleus is a vocal Music Education major at Ithaca College. Sherley has been in the opera ensembles of *Semele* by Handel and *Wolf By The Ears* by Dana Wilson.

Delaney Bowry (Other Woman)

Delaney is a Junior Vocal Performance major with an outside field in Musical Theatre and a Dance minor. She has participated in "Wolf by the Ears" by Dana Wilson and is exited

to be able to continue this journey with such amazing musicians.

Andrew Sprague (Coroner)

Andrew is a Freshman Vocal Performance major and is very excited to be playing the parts of the Policeman and Coroner in *Porgy & Bess*! Andrew studies voice under the direction of Dr. Brad Hougham.

Alex Kosick (Detective)

Alex Kosick is a sophomore Music major with an outside field in Theatre. He is from Vestal, NY, and he is from the Voice Studio of Dr. David Parks.

Ensembles

Opera Noire of New York

Mission Statement

Opera Noire of New York (ONNY) is a performing arts organization led by African American singers in pursuit of a serious performing career. Our mission is to empower members to achieve their full potential in a mutually supportive, honest and positive environment, which promotes effective training, constructive sharing and unselfish generosity. Our vision is to provide every member the opportunity to develop vocally, dramatically and artistically, which in turn fosters self-confidence and personal growth.

History

ONNY was founded in 2005 by baritone, Barron Coleman; tenor, Robert Mack; and baritone, Kenneth Overton. Each of the founders has been recognized worldwide for their extraordinary talent and has a long history of personal accomplishments. It is the driving spirit of General Director Robert Mack and Artistic Director Kenneth Overton that has enabled ONNY to contribute to the cultural and intellectual community of New York, and continue to transform the once monochromatic classical music world into a brilliant mosaic.

ONNY is not only a performing arts company, it also serves as a resource committed to training and preparing the next generation of artists. Their goal of facilitating a distinguished and prolific operatic career for young performers is accomplished through ONNY's Education and Community Outreach activities which include master classes at several colleges, and educational programs in inner-city and suburban schools. ONNY's dedication to education led the company to produce fund-raising concerts to send high school chorales overseas to perform. During performances, ONNY stresses the importance of learning the origin of Classical music, Negro Spirituals and Broadway, while bridging the gap between today's popular music. World-renowned conductors, directors, voice teachers and legendary opera singers proudly support ONNY. In a supportive master class setting, ONNY's members have benefited greatly from the expertise of great artists as Metropolitan Opera legends, Martina Arroyo, Hilda Harris,

Denyce Graves, Angela M. Brown, Diana Soviero; Maestro Willie Anthony Waters; Director/Agent Bernard Uzan; and Beth Greenberg and Virginia Grasso.

As major opera houses struggle to remain relevant, ONNY has begun to diversify and increase audiences worldwide by presenting works that continue to promote themes representing African American Composers and Legendary Artists. By continuing to perform the classics with a fresh new face, ONNY takes pride in fulfilling the company's mission, which is to expose audiences to the world's finest new artists. ONNY members have performed in some of the world's leading opera houses such as The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, San Francisco Opera, Milan's La Scala, Paris' Théâtre du Châtelet, Berlin's Deutsche Opera, The Danish Royal Opera House in Copenhagen, five major concert venues in Russia.

The Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers

The Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers (DCJS) was founded in 2010 by Dr. Baruch Whitehead, associate professor of music education at Ithaca College, and is dedicated to the preservation of the "Negro Spirituals." This group of community singers, directed by Dr. Whitehead, was named in honor of current Ithaca resident Dorothy Cotton, civil rights pioneer who served as education director for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Currently, the DCJS perform at two semi-annual concerts, as invited participants for numerous community events and organizations (in both Ithaca and beyond), and as part of formal programs at Ithaca College and Cornell University. The programs at Ithaca College and Cornell have often been in conjunction with celebrations of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday and Black History Month.

While the main focus of the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers is to share the music of the Negro Spirituals with others, there is a substantial educational piece that is woven into the fabric of our singing. At our concerts, our director Baruch Whitehead often introduces the different songs with narration about their hidden meanings, history, or significance to enslaved Africans of the time. Sometimes we have a more formal presentation of some aspect of the history of the spirituals.

Participation in the DCJS also serves as an educational

opportunity for numerous Ithaca College students who have been part of the singing group since the fall of 2012. Some have conducted songs for our concerts, some have made original arrangements for us to sing, some have sung solos, some have helped with weekly rehearsals by providing voice lessons before rehearsals or running sectionals during rehearsals that facilitate our learning of new songs. While not formally connected to our group, children from the Southside Afterschool Music Program presented a concert in connection with our Spring Concert at Southside in April 2013. Finally, the diversity of the membership of the chorus encourages interaction among individuals of varying ages, heritage, and backgrounds. All of the singers in the DCJS look forward to continuing our educational role in connection with this powerful music. In addition, we look forward to learning more about how we could make a meaningful contribution to the work of the CUMEP in the Ithaca area.

Help us keep our concerts free, become a Friend today by visiting our website at dcjsingers.com or the table during intermission. DCJS will make their Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts debut on May 14th, 2017 in Washington D.C.

Want to Join Us? Visit Our Website at <http://dcjsingers.com>

The Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers is grateful for the support of the Legacy Foundation of Tompkins County for their generous support of this project.

Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra

Michael Hall, conductor

Flute

Thomas Barkal
Carmen Vieytez

Oboe

Stefanie Nicou
Erica Erath

Clarinet

Brooke Miller
Vivian Becker
Erin Dowler
Nikhil Bartolomeo

Saxophone

Richard Laprise
Alexander Clift
Matthew Kiel

Bassoon

Sonja Larson
Julia Ladd

Horn

Evan Young
Jerem Straus
Elizabeth DeGroff

Trumpet

Shaun Rimkunas
Matt Brockman
Peter Gehres

Trombone

Ryan Kuehas
Andrea Dollinger

Tuba

Jasmine Pigott

Percussion

Daniel Monte
Grace Asuncion
Ben Grant
David Hawthorne

Piano

Oliver Scott

Banjo

John B. Bunge

Violin 1

Corey Dusel
Darya Barna
Kai Hedin
Jason Kim
Rachel Doud
Cynthia Mathiesen
Kristina Sharra
Dgybert Jean
Julia Plato
Kate Jurek
Maggy Simon
Brianna Hoody

Violin 2

Esther Witherell
Emily Kenyon
Matthew Barnard
Tyler Bage
Maryelisabeth Mackay
Anna Lugbill
Katelyn Tai
Taylor Payne
Emma Rabinowitz
Amy Whitesell
Masakazu Yasumoto

Viola

Michelle Metty
Jessica Herman
Simone Cartales
Nikolette Cartales
Jamie Shum
Alyssa Budzynski
Maria Dupree
Geoffrey Devereux
Samantha Cooper

Cello

Craig Mehler
Julia Rupp
Wren Murray
Mel Saddoff
Mechu Lippert
Malachi Brown
Kelton Burnside
Felicya Schwarzman
Grace Miller
Hannah Weibley
Michael Ziegler
Colleen d'Alelio
Annika Kushner
Charlie Siegener

Bass

Tristen Jarvis
Tom Brody
Ryan Petriell
Kiefer Fuller
Kevin Thompson
Katie Adams
Zane Carnes
Cara Turnbull
Adam Siegler
Samuel Higgins

Assistant Conductor

Keehun Nam

The Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers

Soprano

Eloise Barrett
Susan Brown
Juliana Child*
Mihee Choi
Juliette Corazón
Enaw Elonge*
Christine Evans
Catherine Exantus
Mary Beth (MB) Grant
Brittany Jaromin
Susan Lang
Kathleen Lilley
Lorraine E Maxwell
Janet Morgan
Anna O'connell
Michele Peterson
Stella Rivera
Asha Sanaker
Martha L Smith
Moriah Tebor Shaw
Aquiala Walden**
Amber Ward
Judelle White
Laura White*
Cordelia Wilson
Paula E F Younger

Alto

Josephine Allen
Mara Alper
Monipel Ansong
Laura Batten
D'Laney Bowry
Anne Brady*
Judy Clay
Candace Collmer
Laurie Damiani
Barbara C Harrison
Thea Hollman
Susan Kelly
Carolyn McMaster
Alison Melchionna*
Markeisha Miner
Hannah Morris
Tina Nilsen-Hodges
April Peress

Alto, continued

Joan Spielholz
Anna Steinkraus
Heather Stewart
Maggie Storm
Alicia Swords
Gillie Waddington

Tenor

Daniel Block*
Andrew Carr*
David Caughey
Millicent L Clarke-Maynard
Bill Fry
Gayle, Vicki Gayle
Wendy Henderson
Barbara Kane Lewis
Bill Klepack
Mark Piechota
Susan Robinson

Bass

Christian Brand
Tad Brennan
Ken Brown
Hayden Bustamante
Brian Cutler
Jonathan Fulcher**
James A Grant
Peter Kelly
Roosevelt Lee
William Leichy*
Art Lustgarten
Marshall Pokrentowski*
Oliver Scott
Tim Shenk
Josiah Spellman
Holden Turner
Stephen Westin
Michael White
Joshua Williams

* Section Leader

** Appears in Dr. Jesus Scene

Children's Chorus

Comprising of the members of Prelude and Intermezzo choirs at the Community School of the Arts and choirs at St. James A.M.E. Zion Church & Community Unity Music Education Program.

Ella Avgar (Intermezzo)
Jezzabelle Browne (Intermezzo)
Simone Benton (St. James A.M.E. Zion Church)
J.P. Campbell (Community Unity Music Education)
Nyrecc Cox (Community Unity Music Education)
Lucy Farmer (Intermezzo)
Anna Hummel (Intermezzo)
Ella Kramer (Intermezzo)
Kiara Krause (Intermezzo)
Anya Packard (Intermezzo)
Ninyee She (Prelude)
Joyce Spears (Community Unity Music Education)
Ashanti Stanley (St. James A.M.E. Zion Church)
Dav'e Stanley (St. James A.M.E. Zion Church)
Max Titlebaum (Intermezzo)
Shaine Wei (Intermezzo)
Sophie Wei (Intermezzo)
Chaya' Rose Wilson (St. James A.M.E. Zion Church)

Intermezzo is directed by Sarah Smokay Linfors

Katie Ballantyne is the Artistic Director at Community School of the Arts

The Children's Choir at St. James A.M.E. Zion Church and Community Unity Music Education Program is Baruch J. Whitehead.