

Loyola University New Orleans
School of Music and Theatre Arts
Presents

Opera Connects:
Three Centuries of Song:
A Celebration of
African-American Composers

In partnership with
Xavier University

featuring
Givonna Joseph, Mistress of Ceremonies

and Guest Artists
Dr. Aaron Mathews, pianist
Carol Rausch, pianist

Thursday, February 17, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
Nunemaker Auditorium

Program

19th Century New Orleans

“The Golden Bird of Hope” Thomas J. Martin
(ca. 1825–unkown)
Dr. Sakinah A. Davis, soprano
Carol Rausch, pianist

The Concert Spiritual

“Scandalize My Name” arr. Hall Johnson
(1888–1970)
Dr. Sakinah A. Davis, soprano
Taylor J. White, soprano
Dr. Aaron Mathews, pianist

“Run, Sinner, Run” arr. Margaret Bonds
(1913-1972)
Taylor Witherspoon, soprano
Carol Rausch, pianist

“Ride on King Jesus” arr. Hall Johnson
(1888–1970)
Reign Zurri, soprano
Dr. Aaron Mathews, pianist

“Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child” arr. Moses Hogan
(1957-2003)
Kieva Banks, soprano
Dr. Aaron Mathews, pianist

“Come by Here, Good Lord”

arr. Damien Sneed

(b. 1979)

Jeremiah Tyson, tenor

Carol Rausch, pianist

“Deep River”

arr. Harry T. Burleigh

(1866-1949)

Reign Zurri, soprano

Carol Rausch, pianist

“Toccat: Ride on, King Jesus!”

arr. John Carter

from *Cantata*

(1932–1981)

Taylor J. White, soprano

Dr. Aaron Mathews, pianist

Exploring Art Song

“Beside the Sea”

Florence B. Price

(1887-1953)

Emily Cotten, mezzo-soprano

Carol Rausch, pianist

“The Heart of a Woman”

Sofia Riggio, mezzo-soprano

Carol Rausch, pianist

“Song to the Dark Virgin”

Kalea Cook, mezzo-soprano

Dr. Aaron Mathews, pianist

“The Negro Speaks of Rivers”

Langston Hughes

(1901-1967)

Ivan Griffin, recitation

“Dream Variation”

Margaret Bonds

from *Three Dream Portraits*

(1913-1972)

Tamia Poret, soprano

Dr. Aaron Mathews, pianist

“I, Too”

from *Three Dream Portraits*

Kalea Cook, mezzo-soprano

Dr. Aaron Mathews, pianist

“Hyacinth”

from *Six Songs on Poems by Edna St. Vincent Millay*

Emily Cotten, mezzo-soprano

Carol Rausch, pianist

Selections from *Nightsongs*

H. Leslie Adams

“Prayer”

(b. 1932)

Dr. Sakinah A. Davis, soprano

Jeremiah Tyson, tenor

Carol Rausch, pianist

“Creole Girl”

Jeremiah Tyson, tenor

Dr. Aaron Mathews, pianist

The 21st Century

“Eating Fire”

from *Atwood Songs*

Tania León

(b. 1943)

Lara Lignitz, soprano

Carol Rausch, pianist

“Philippians 4:6-7”

from *To Meditate in His Temple*

Maria Thompson Corley

(b. 1966)

Taylor J. White, soprano

Dr. Aaron Mathews, pianist

About Opera Connects

"Opera Connects" is a new artistic partnership between the opera programs of Loyola University New Orleans and Xavier University of Louisiana. Both universities have made substantial contributions to the distinguished operatic legacy of our city. This inaugural concert showcases faculty and students from the two institutions in performance of vocal music by three centuries of Black composers.

The program celebrates the diversity and variety of the output of these composers, featuring art song, folk and spiritual arrangements with texts drawn from major writers such as Margaret Atwood, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Edna St. Vincent Millay, James Weldon Johnson and Langston Hughes. Givonna Joseph, founder of OperaCréole, will guide us through this journey by offering insightful commentary and historical context.

Opera Connects Committee

Dr. Sakinah A. Davis – Assistant Professor of Voice and Director of Opera, Xavier University of Louisiana

Ivan Griffin – Instructor of Voice, Loyola University New Orleans

Givonna Joseph – Guest Lecturer of Music History, Loyola University New Orleans

Dr. Aaron Mathews – Artist-in-Residence, Piano, Xavier University of Louisiana

Carol Rausch – Director of Opera, Loyola University New Orleans

Taylor J. White – Loyola University New Orleans, Class of 2022;
Xavier University, Class of 2020

Performers

Soprano

Kieva Banks

Dr. Sakinah A. Davis

Lara Lignitz

Tamia Poret

Taylor J. White

Taylor Witherspoon

Mezzo-Soprano

Kalea Cook

Emily Cotten

Sofia Riggio

Givonna Joseph

Tenor

Jeremiah Tyson

Recitation

Ivan Griffin

Upcoming Events

Graduate Recital: Sofia Riggio, voice

Sunday, Feb. 20, 3 p.m.

Nunemaker | Free admission

Senior Recital: Peter James, jazz piano

Tuesday, Mar. 8, 7:30 p.m.

Roussel | Free admission

Jazz Underground: Loyola Jazz Faculty

Thursday, Mar. 10, 7:30 p.m.

Nunemaker | Ticket required

Jazz Ensemble feat. Camille Thurman

Saturday, Mar. 12, 4:30 p.m.

Roussel | Ticket required

Junior Recital: Sam Ater, voice

Sunday, Mar. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Nunemaker Auditorium | Free admission

Loyola Concerto Competition Finals

Saturday, Mar. 19, 3 p.m.

Roussel | Free admission

Graduate Recital: Taylor White, soprano

Sunday, Mar. 27, 3 p.m.

Roussel | Free admission

Graduate Recital: Emily Cotten, mezzo-soprano

Saturday, Apr. 9, 3 p.m.

Roussel | Free admission

Graduate Recital: Jeremiah Tyson, tenor

Saturday, Apr. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Nunemaker | Free admission

Loyola Opera:

Suor Angelica & Gianni Schicchi

Apr. 22 & 24

Roussel | Ticket required

Graduate Recital: Taylor Witherspoon, voice

Saturday, Apr. 30, 3 p.m.

Nunemaker | Free admission

Senior Recital: Veronica Samiec, voice

Sunday, May 1, 3 p.m.

Nunemaker | Free admission

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