

THE SUNDERMAN  
CHAMBER MUSIC FOUNDATION  
CONCERT SERIES

*presents*

AMERICAN SPIRITUAL  
ENSEMBLE

Everett McCorvey, Founder and Music Director



*Photo credit: Henry Huhtulag Photography*



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025

7:30PM

CHRIST CHAPEL  
GETTYSBURG, PA

COMMUNITY SING AND WORKSHOP TO FOLLOW

The use of photography and recording equipment of any kind is strictly prohibited.  
Please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices.  
Food and drink are not permitted in the Christ Chapel.



**American Spiritual Ensemble  
Concerts and Residency**



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Events Here**



The American Spiritual Ensemble is represented in the United States by  
Alkahest Artists & Attractions, Inc.

(888) 728-8989

[info@Alkahestartists.net](mailto:info@Alkahestartists.net) or [www.Alkahestartists.net](http://www.Alkahestartists.net)

or in Europe by

Quintana Artist Management, Bob Quintana, Personal Representative

<https://quintanaartists.com>

VISIT THE AMERICAN SPIRITUAL ENSEMBLE WEBSITE AT:

[www.americanspiritualensemble.com](http://www.americanspiritualensemble.com)

**Founder and Music Director**

Everett McCorvey

**Assistant Conductor**

Jeryl Cunningham-Fleming

**Business/Company Manager**

Peggy Stamps, SquarePegGroup, Inc.

**Talent and Auditions Support**

Kenneth Overton

**Logistics**

Nathaniel Thompson

**Sales Support**

Amelia Groetsch

**Tour Members of the American Spiritual Ensemble**

**Sopranos**

Grace Ashley  
Angela M. Brown  
Tiffany Bostic-Brown  
Jeryl Cunningham-Fleming  
Kayla Wilson Emerson  
Erica Gabriel  
Alicia Helm

**Tenors**

Bryan Ijames  
Robert Mack  
Taiwan Norris  
Edward Washington  
John Wesley Wright

**Pianist**

Tedrin Blair Lindsay

**Altos**

Frank Espinosa  
Audrianna Hughes  
Hope Koehler  
Darryl Taylor

**Basses**

Jonathan R. Green  
Martin Hargrove  
Nathan De'Shon Myers  
Tshilidzi Ndou  
Kenneth Overton  
Nathaniel Thompson

**Percussion**

Ali Abdul Barr

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## PROGRAM

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*The American Spiritual Ensemble's 30th Anniversary Tour is sponsored in part by the Harry T. Burleigh Legacy Foundation, The Elhapa Foundation, LexArts, and Kathy DeBoer in memory of Mark Pittman. A full listing of donors can be found at [www.americanspiritualensemble.com](http://www.americanspiritualensemble.com).*

**Walk Together, Children**.....arr. W. Henry Smith

**I Thank You, Jesus**.....arr. Robert L. Morris  
Alicia Helm, Soprano Soloist

**I Can Tell the World**.....arr. Moses Hogan

**In Bright Mansions Above**.....arr. Roland Carter

**Witness**.....arr. Hall Johnson  
Nathan De'Shon Myers, Baritone

**Lord, How Come Me Here**.....Traditional Negro Spiritual  
Angela M. Brown, Soprano

**He'll Bring It to Pass**.....arr. Joseph Joubert  
Edward Washington, Tenor

**No More Auction Block**.....Traditional Negro Spiritual  
**Go Down, Moses** arr. Johnie Dean  
Martin Hargrove, Bass  
Nathaniel Thompson, Bass

**Anchored in the Lord**.....arr. M. Roger Holland, II  
Jeryl Cunningham-Fleming, Soprano Soloist

**God Is a God**.....arr. Shawn E. Okpebholo  
Nathan De'Shon Myers, Baritone Soloist

**You Must Have That True Religion**.....arr. Roland Carter  
Angela M. Brown, Soprano Soloist

**Singing in the Oral Tradition**..... John Wesley Wright, DMA  
Calls and Chants  
Ring Shouts and Spirituals  
Hymns and Gospel

**Question and Answer**

**Ol' Time Religion/When the Saints**.....arr. Everett McCorvey  
& Keith McCutchen  
Hope Koehler, Mezzo-Soprano Soloist

**Circle of Life (*The Lion King*)**.....Elton John & Tim Rice  
John Wesley Wright, Audrianna Hughes & Taiwan Norris, Soloists

*(Program subject to change)*





**American Spiritual Ensemble**  
**Everett McCorvey, Founder and Music Director**  
**[www.americanspiritualensemble.com](http://www.americanspiritualensemble.com)**

**The American Spiritual Ensemble** was founded by Everett McCorvey in 1995. The mission of the American Spiritual Ensemble is to keep the American Negro Spiritual alive. Its members have sung in theaters and opera houses around the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Houston Grand Opera, The Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and abroad in Italy, Germany, Britain, Scotland, Spain, China, and Japan. In 2014, the American Spiritual Ensemble performed in the Folle Journée Festival in Nantes, where the reviewers commented that the musicians provided the audience with “a tremendous explosion of joy.” In its 30-year history, the group has given over 100 concerts in Spain, as well as performances in other parts of Europe, South America, and throughout North America. The repertoire of the American Spiritual Ensemble ranges from opera to spirituals to Broadway. The members of the American Spiritual Ensemble are soloists in their own right and have thrilled audiences around the world with their dynamic renditions of classic spirituals, jazz, and Broadway numbers highlighting the Black experience.

**Everett McCorvey** is a native of Montgomery, Alabama. He received his degrees from the University of Alabama, including a Doctor of Musical Arts. As a tenor soloist, Dr. McCorvey has performed in major centers around the world including the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Metropolitan Opera in New York, Aspen Music Festival in Colorado, Radio City Music Hall in New York and in England, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, China, Hungary, Poland and the Czech and Slovak Republics. He joined the Tony Award winning Sherwin Goldman Production of *Porgy and Bess* at Radio City Music Hall in 1982 and was also part of the Metropolitan Opera’s Debut Production of *Porgy and Bess* in 1985.

Dr. McCorvey is the founder and Music Director of the *American Spiritual Ensemble*, [www.americanspiritualensemble.com](http://www.americanspiritualensemble.com), a group of 24 professional singers performing spirituals and other compositions of African American composers dedicated to keeping the American Negro Spiritual alive. McCorvey's career has spanned all areas of the performing arts business from performer to musical director, stage director, voice teacher, producer, impresario, conductor, union representative, administrator, and mentor. He is in his tenth season as the Artistic Director of the National Chorale of New York City [www.nationalchorale.org](http://www.nationalchorale.org). He conducted the National Chorale, along with the US Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus at Liberty State Park in New Jersey this past September 11th, in the 20th Anniversary Commemoration of the attacks on our country. He is on the opera faculty in the summers at the Bay View Music Festival in Petoskey, MI, [www.bayviewassociation.org/performingarts/musicfestival](http://www.bayviewassociation.org/performingarts/musicfestival), and is co-director of the Bay View Music Festival's American Negro Spirituals Intensive program, a program dedicated to helping young singers learn about the American Negro Spirituals. He has served on the faculty of the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria, and is a frequent guest conductor with the Ocean Grove Choral Music Festival in Ocean Grove, NJ. He holds an Endowed Chair in Opera Studies at the University of Kentucky where he is Director of Opera and Professor of Voice. [www.ukoperatheatre.org](http://www.ukoperatheatre.org). He is of the belief that every citizen should find ways to give back to their community and to their profession in which they serve, and with that in mind, he serves on many local, regional, and national boards and committees. In his home state of Kentucky, he is Chairman of the Kentucky Arts Council Board and nationally he is on the Sullivan Foundation Board of Trustees, [www.sullivanfoundation.org](http://www.sullivanfoundation.org), an organization dedicated to supporting young professional singers with career grants and study awards for continuing development. In September of 2010, Dr. McCorvey served as the Executive Producer of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Alltech 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games, which was broadcasted on NBC Sports and was viewed by over 500 million people worldwide. He is married to soprano Alicia Helm. They have three children. [www.everettmccorvey.com](http://www.everettmccorvey.com)

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## BIOGRAPHIES

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**Grace Ashley**, soprano, is a passionate performer and voice teacher. Her work both onstage and in the voice studio is driven by her belief that music is a universal and necessary tool for communication and human connection. Ms. Ashley is currently a DMA candidate at the University of Kentucky and studies under Dr. Everett McCorvey. She recently made her Kentucky Opera debut in Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*.

**Ali Barr**, percussionist, was born in Philadelphia. He has been playing percussion instruments and jazz trumpet, from childhood under the guidance of his father, Dr. James Barr, and master drummer, Bobby Crowder. A graduate of Temple University in Philadelphia, Ali has recorded and performed extensively with various artists, including Grammy nominated Russell Gunn, the legendary Roy Ayers, and Jamaleddeen Tacuma.

Soprano **Angela Brown's** multi-award-winning career has been lauded on the front page of *The New York Times*, on CNN and CBS, in *Oprah Magazine* and *Reader's Digest*. Angela is featured on the two-time Grammy Award® winning recording "Ask Your Mama" by Laura Karpman. Her voice is the inspiration for multiple new works.

**Tiffany Bostic-Brown**, a Filipino-American soprano, known for her "sweet and ethereal" sound, has traveled the United States and Europe as a concert artist, recitalist, and operatic artist. She is the Co-President of Walk with Me Foundation. Dr. Bostic-Brown is currently on faculty at Western Kentucky University.



**Jeryl Cunningham-Fleming**, soprano, and Assistant Director of the American Spiritual Ensemble, has performed in more than ten countries and on four continents. She has recorded extensively with ASE and other artists. Her solo CD, *Stand the Storm: Anthems, Hymns, and Spirituals of Faith and Hope* was released in 2016. She is a featured soloist on Courtney Carey's 2023 recording, *I Wanna Be Ready*. For more information, visit [www.jerylcunningham.com](http://www.jerylcunningham.com).

**Kayla Wilson Emerson**, soprano and proud native of Riverdale, Georgia, holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Jackson State University in Mississippi. She is currently completing her Master of Music in Vocal Performance at the University of Kentucky. Kayla is an active performer with Kentucky Opera and UK Opera Theatre, while also preparing for a variety of recitals and concerts.

**Frank Espinosa**, countertenor, is a nationally awarded vocalist and teacher from Los Angeles, Ca. He holds a Master of Music Degree from Boston University and has performed in many operatic works by Handel to the titular role of Floyd's, Susannah. He was a past Regional Encouragement Award winner of the 2022-2023 Laffont Competition.

**Erica Gabriel**, hailed "Stunning Soprano" by The Buffalo News, was cast in the newly concertized version of *Ragtime*, which premiered at Music Hall with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. She was also cast in Ravinia's production of Bernstein's *Mass* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which Aired on the PBS Television Network as a part of their Great Performances series and is the 2018 Gold Medal winner of the American Traditions Vocal Competition.

**Jonathan R. Green**, baritone, originally from Chicago and now resides in Northern NJ. Jonathan is an alumnus of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and studied with Richard Miller. Jonathan's operatic credits include the title roles of Rigoletto, Falstaff, and Figaro (Mozart and Rossini), Scarpia (*Tosca*), Renato (*Un ballo in maschera*), Marcello (*La Bohème*), Crown (*Porgy and Bess*), Count di Luna (*Il Trovatore*), and Enrico (*Lucia di Lammermoor*).

**Martin Hargrove**, bass, has performed in Opera and concerts around the globe. He's sung Handel's *Messiah*, Beethoven's *9th Symphony*, and Alice Parker's *Sermon on the Mountain*. Opera roles include Colline, Figaro, Sparafucile, Angelotti, and Jake in *Porgy and Bess*. In Musical Theater, Martin has performed in "Ain't Misbehavin'", and "Little Shop of Horrors", "The Color Purple", and "Show Boat". In 2025 he celebrates his eleventh season with the American Spiritual Ensemble.

**Alicia Helm**, soprano, has performed with the Metropolitan Opera, Opera Carolina, Aspen Music Festival, Chautauqua Opera, Miami Opera, Acadiana Symphony Orchestra/Opera-Louisiana, toured with the American Spiritual Ensemble and given concerts in Spain, England, Brazil, the Czech Republic and Japan, and many more. She is also the Artist in Residence at The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Lexington, KY.

**Audrianna Hughes**, mezzo-soprano, is a Paducah, KY native and is currently pursuing her M.M. in Performance at the University of Kentucky. Recently, she won an Encouragement Award at the KY District of The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, performed in KY Opera's *Madama Butterfly*, and Cenerentola in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* at Bay View Music Festival. Audrianna is also a new mentee of the Black Leadership Arts Collective. For more information, visit [www.audriannahughes.com](http://www.audriannahughes.com).

**Bryan Anthony Ijames, D.M.A.** A dynamic conductor, tenor, and educator, he serves as Assistant Professor of Music Education and Associate Director of Choral Activities at Florida Gulf Coast University. Passionate about championing diverse voices, mentoring aspiring musicians, and revitalizing overlooked works, his dedication to artistry, innovation, and equity inspires students, empowers colleagues, and fosters growth within the choral arts community.

**Christine Jobson, D.M.A.,** soprano and Shared Voices Program Coordinator at the Denyce Graves Foundation, holds a D.M.A. from the University of Miami. An Extra Chorister and featured soloist at the Metropolitan Opera, she is also the author of *Lily's First Trip to the Opera* and the soloist and producer of her second album, *Nearly Lost: Art Songs by Florence Price*.

**Hope Koehler,** soprano, has performed in opera, concerts, and recitals in the USA, Canada, South America, Europe, and Asia. She is a featured soloist on several CDs with the American Spiritual Ensemble, and her two solo recordings, *The Songs of John Jacob Niles* and *Lost Melodies* are available through ASE and on Amazon. She is the owner/founder of High Hopes Music Academy in Tullahoma, TN.

**Tedrin Blair Lindsay,** pianist, composer, and musicologist from Rome, Italy, has been a professional performer since the age of ten. He currently serves on the opera faculty at the University of Kentucky, where he earned a Ph.D. in 2009, and at FIO-Mondo (Festival of International Opera) in Urbania, Italy. He performs throughout the world as a collaborative pianist and soloist, and has produced two solo albums, *Tedrin* (2015) and *It Is Well with My Soul* (2016).

**Robert Anthony Mack**, tenor, has appeared with The Metropolitan Opera House, Houston Grand Opera, New York City Opera, Margaret Island Open-Air Theatre in Budapest, The Paris Bastille, Teatro Real in Spain, The Royal Danish Opera, Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City, The Alvin Ailey American Dance Company, Three Mo' Tenors. He serves as General and Artistic Director of Opera Noire International.

**Nathan De'Shon Myers**, American singer/conductor, has an international hybrid career that spans more than 26 years. He has been a soloist with opera companies and orchestras throughout the United States and across Europe. A former fest soloist with the Deutsche Oper Berlin, he is now an associate Professor of Voice at Arizona State University and remains an active solo artist.

**Tshilidzi Ndou**, South African baritone, performs internationally, winning awards in the George Shirley Vocal Competition and Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Recent roles include Escamillo, Samual, and Schaunard, with upcoming performances as Prince Yamadori in 2025.

**Taiwan Norris**, an internationally hailed, rich voiced, lyric tenor, has been blessed to share his gift all over the world. He has sung with six of the major companies of New York's illustrious Lincoln Center complex, including the esteemed Metropolitan Opera. Norris is thrilled to have recently returned to Lincoln Center as tenor soloist in National Chorale's Messiah Sing-In at David Geffen Hall.

**Kenneth Overton**, baritone, is a 2021 Grammy Award Winner, and a twotime Billboard Top 10 Recording Artist. Career Highlights include appearances with The Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, New York City Opera, Royal Danish Opera, Welsh National Opera, L'Opera Montreal, Palacio Bellas Artes, Deutsche Oper Berlin, and a Broadway Debut in Baz Luhrman's Production of *La Boheme*. For more information: [www.KennethOverton.com](http://www.KennethOverton.com).

**Peggy Stamps**, Business Affairs, is the founder/owner of The SquarePeg Group, Inc. (SPG), a New York City based talent management company. SPG represents performers who have appeared in major feature film, television, and Broadway productions. Peggy is a graduate of Purdue University Schools of Engineering and retired from a Fortune 100 high tech corporation in 2010.

**Darryl Taylor's** international career spans art song, opera, and oratorio. Highlights include *Akhmaten* with Long Beach Opera, L.A. Opera's *Dido and Aeneas*, and performances at Carnegie Hall. Founder of the African American Art Song Alliance, he boasts an acclaimed discography and is a member of the American Academy of Teachers of Singing. For more information [www.darryltaylor.com](http://www.darryltaylor.com).

**Nathaniel E. Thompson**, Bahamian American bass-baritone, has performed in many countries including, Europe, Asia and South America. Most recently, Mr. Thompson performed as the Undertaker, in Cincinnati Opera's production of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. He has degrees from Kentucky State University and the University of Kentucky in Liberal Arts, Vocal Arts, and M.A. in Arts Administration.

**Edward Washington II**, American tenor, has performed with major opera companies, including the Metropolitan Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera and Detroit Opera. He's soloed with Alexandria Symphony, Ocala Symphony and the United States Air Force Band and has seven world premiere performances of works by American composers. Edward is a strong advocate for the performance and preservation of Negro Spirituals.

**John Wesley Wright, D.M.A.**, tenor, is known for his soulful interpretations of music from baroque to Broadway. Holding degrees from Maryville College and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Wright has performed throughout the United States, Europe and Japan. Winner of the American Traditions Competition 2000, John is a native of Rome, GA, and coordinates the voice program at Salisbury University in Maryland.



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# UPCOMING SUNDERMAN CONSERVATORY EVENTS

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April 18 • 8:00pm *Symphony Orchestra* Majestic Theater

April 19 • 8:00pm *Jazz Ensemble* Majestic Theater

April 24 • 5:30pm *Haulin' Brass Spring Concert* Paul Recital Hall

April 25 • 7:30pm *Opera Workshop Performance* Majestic Theater

April 26 • 7:30pm *Opera Workshop Performance* Majestic Theater

April 27 • 7:00pm *Jazz Combo* Paul Recital Hall

April 28 • 5:00pm *Wind Symphony Student Conductor Concert* Majestic Theater

April 28 • 7:30pm *Gettysburg Flutes!* Paul Recital Hall

April 30 • 7:00pm *Jazz Appreciation Day Concert* CUB Junction

May 1 • 6:30pm *Piano Citizens Recital* Paul Recital Hall

May 2 • 3:00pm *Sunderman Conservatory Percussion Ensemble Concert*  
Paul Recital Hall



*Thank you for attending a Sunderman Conservatory of Music event.*

*We hope you return to support Gettysburg College students,  
Conservatory faculty, and visiting performers.*

*For Information 717.337.6815*

*[www.gettysburg.edu/sunderman](http://www.gettysburg.edu/sunderman) or [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org)*