PRESENTS
BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONCERT SERIES

SOUL TO SOUL
THE EVOLUTION OF AFRICAN MUSIC IN AMERICA

February 22-23, 2024
Chicago Symphony Center

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JACKSON LEGACY FOUNDATION & RAINBOW PUSH COALITION
ABOUT UNITING VOICES CHICAGO

Founded in 1956 at the dawn of the Civil Rights Movement, Uniting Voices Chicago (formerly Chicago Children’s Choir) empowers and unites youth from diverse backgrounds to find their voice and celebrate their common humanity through the power of music. As a leading nonprofit organization, we serve thousands of youth ages 6-18 from every zip code of Chicago through transformative and accessible music education programs and performance opportunities.

ABOUT THE BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

Curated by Director of Africana Studies, Mr. Lonnie Norwood, Jr., Conductor & Choreographer Farlanda Buchannon and Conductor Bailey Haynes, Uniting Voices Chicago’s Black History Month concert series is the culmination of months of learning about music and culture of the African diaspora. The program brings together singers from nearly 90 school program partners, the premier ensemble Voice of Chicago, culture bearers and guest artists. The Black History Month curriculum and concert series is perennially the organization’s largest programmatic investment, allowing young people to celebrate their heritage and each other.

LEAD PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS

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SOUL TO SOUL:  
THE EVOLUTION OF AFRICAN MUSIC IN AMERICA

Exploring the rich ways Africana music uses rhythm and melody to connect the heart, mind, body, and soul, Uniting Voices Chicago continues its commitment to rigorous performance education and the visibility of authentic Africana music. Embracing the rich legacy of Africana influence in the evolution of modern America, Soul to Soul connects the music that moves us to the globally connected state of our world.

Special guests include Sunn m’Cheaux, 79rs Gang, Jenipher Jones, Roxanne Stevenson and The Chicago State University Community Jazz Band.
Lift Every Voice and Sing
Music by John Rosemond Johnson;
lyrics by James Weldon Johnson

Step It Down
Trad. Gullah Ring Play;
arr. Lonnie Norwood, Jr.

Sew, Sew, Sew with Needle Don’t Lie
As performed by the 79rs Gang

Eyes on de Prize
African American Spiritual adapted by Alice Wine and leaders of the American Civil Rights Movement;
arr. Lonnie Norwood, Jr.

It Don’t Mean A Thing (If it Ain’t Got that Swing)
Duke Ellington; additional lyrics by Irving Mills; vocal arr. Bailey Haynes

Sir Duke
Stevie Wonder

Let’s Get Funky

For Every Mountain
Kurt Carr; vocal arr. Lonnie Norwood, Jr.

We Shall Overcome
As recorded by Bishop Paul S. Morton & Greater St. Stephen Mass Choir; vocal arr. Lonnie Norwood, Jr.

STREAM OUR MUSIC
Check out our Black History Month playlist with music from today’s concert and other classics.
**VOICE OF CHICAGO**

**SOPRANO/ALTO**
- Christabel Abiola-Fagba*
- Ella Anello*+
- Lexie Antoine
- Sofia Bondurant*+
- Ro Boraz
- Ameeor Bunkley*
- Elisabeth Cami
- Daelyn Calloway
- Isis Clark+
- Chloe Combs*
- Stella Corotis
- Lauren Cusick*
- Annie DeMarea
- Emma Ferrell*
- Lila Finegold
- Monique Frauenheim+
- Victoria Gekker*
- Mercedes Gong
- Tori Hampton*
- Lucy Hawk
- Andrea Hernandez*
- Maude Hovey-Bradshaw
- Alethia Ikem
- Riley Jacobson*
- Mira Jain*
- Hana Javed*
- Camille Kejo*
- Emily Kirkpatrick
- Eleanor Koss
- Lydia Kuhr*
- Salome Kuhr
- Nora Lerner

**TENOR/BASS**
- Raiva Lessing
- Isabel Loza
- Landyn McClain
- Eve McMillin*
- Isamary Medina Marrero*+
- Charlotte Miller*
- Tori Mooney*
- Myah Morris+
- Olivia Nach*+
- Sydney Nelkin*
- Claire Nitzche*
- Zoey Nitzche
- Megan O’Connor*
- Abigail Pazmino
- Mia Pensinger-Sok
- Khushi Pusnur
- Nico Rademacher-Wedd
- Abby Rades*
- Olivia Roman*
- Lucia Roman+
- Myra Sahai*
- Rochelle Sazon
- Samantha Schulz*
- Annika Sevig
- Lucy Shirrell
- Esme Siegelin
- Sophia Smith*
- Gabrielle Sneed*+
- Avery Soellner
- Ari Stanton-Thomas
- Katherine Talmers*+
- Laelia van der Bijl
- Edie Vanada
- Matilde Velez-Lauria
- Kaliyah Venson+
- Nadia Wieda

**CONCERT LEADERS**
- Lonnie Norwood, Director of Africana Studies
- Josephine Lee, President
- Judy Hanson, Senior Director

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH CURATORS**
- Lonnie Norwood, Director of Africana Studies
- Farlanda Buchannon, Conductor & Choreographer
- Bailey Haynes, Conductor

**SCHOOL PROGRAM CONDUCTORS**
- Elisabeth Baker
- Dewey Bolz
- Alex Bravos
- Farlanda Buchannon
- Geo Cooper
- Magdalena Delgado
- Gavin Harper
- Bailey Haynes
- Nana Jenkins
- Veronica Román-Meyer
- Heather Stewart
- Amanda Wolff

**INSTRUMENTALISTS**
- Dave Hultebrand
- Brandon Lampkin
- Mitchell Owens
- Chicago State University Jazz Ensemble
- Roxanne Stevenson, Director

**KEY**
- * Encore
- + Groove
School Program Partners

Alain Locke Charter School
Annunciata School
George B. Armstrong School of International Studies
Barbara A. Sizemore Academy
Belmont-Cragin Elementary School
Orville T. Bright Elementary School
Milton Brunson Math & Science Specialty School
Michael M. Byrne Elementary School
Carroll-Rosenwald Elementary School
George Washington Carver Elementary School
Catalyst Circle Rock Charter School
Catalyst Maria Charter School
CICS Irving Park
CICS Prairie
George Rogers Clark Elementary School
Grover Cleveland Elementary School
John C. Coonley Elementary School
Darwin Elementary School
Miles Davis Magnet Academy
Disney II Magnet School
Medgar Evers Fine & Performing Arts School
Horace Greeley Elementary School
Wendell E. Green Elementary School
Gresham School of Excellence
Lionel Hampton Fine & Performing Arts School
Bret Harte Math & Science Magnet Cluster School
Harvard School of Excellence
Hawthorne Scholastic Academy
James Hedges Fine & Performing Arts School
William G. Hibbard Elementary School
Thomas J. Higgins Elementary Community Academy
Langston Hughes STEM Elementary School
Edward N. Hurley Elementary School
Intercultural Montessori Language School
Jordan Community School
Joseph J. Jungman STEM Magnet School
Kate Starr Kellogg Elementary School
Joshua D. Kershaw Magnet School
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Academy of Social Justice
Kozminski Community Academy
LaSalle Language Academy
Mildred I. Lavizzo Elementary School
James Madison Elementary School
Mahalia Jackson Elementary School
Cyrus H. McCormick Elementary School
Morrill Math & Science Specialty School
Mount Vernon Elementary School
Murray Language Academy
Nathan S. Davis Dual Language School
The Nettelhorst School
New Field Primary School
Alfred Nobel Dual Language School
Old St Mary’s School
Orozco Academy
Parker Community Academy
William Penn Elementary School
John J. Pershing Elementary Humanities Magnet School
Mary Gage Peterson Elementary School
Plato Learning Academy
Edgar Allan Poe Classical School
Polaris Charter Academy
William H. Prescott Elementary School
A.N. Pritzker School
Philip Rodgers Fine Arts School
Rowe Elementary School
Rowe Middle School
Theophilus Schmid Elementary School
Jesse Sherwood Elementary School
Beulah Shoesmith Elementary School
Mark T. Skinner West Elementary School
South Loop Elementary School
South Shore Fine Arts Academy
John Spry Community School
Adlai E. Stevenson Elementary School
Stone Scholastic Academy
Elizabeth H. Sutherland Elementary School
George B. Swift Specialty School
Monarcas Academy
John A. Walsh Elementary School
West Park STEAM Academy
Whittier Dual Language Magnet School
Wildwood IB World Magnet School
Woodlawn Community Elementary School
Richard Yates Elementary School
Ella Flagg Young Elementary School
YOUR SUPPORT MAKES
A HARMONIOUS WORLD POSSIBLE

Nearly 80 percent of Uniting Voices Chicago’s operating budget is funded through charitable donations from generous individuals, corporate partners, foundations and government agencies. This critical support fuels accessible music programs in schools and communities across Chicago, helping thousands of youth strengthen their voices to become the next generation of global leaders. Join our donor community!

ANNUAL BUDGET

100% of our singers participate at a subsidized rate

74% Your Generosity

26% Tuition & Other Earned Revenue

100% High school graduation & college acceptance rate

YOUR GIFTS MAKE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT

Scan to donate today.

$20
A meal for a singer while in our care

$50
Year’s worth of sheet music for a singer

$100
Pair of performance shoes to make a singer look and feel good

$500
Workshop with artists & culture bearers from across the globe

$1500
36 weeks of enrichment and safe spaces after school for one singer

$2500
Domestic tour experience for two singers

*numbers based on 2022-23 data
Thank you to the following sponsors who provide support for our School Program:

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ComEd, an Exelon Company
Crown Family Philanthropies
Lewis Greenwood Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation
Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
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SPECIAL THANKS
Chicago Symphony Center
Our School Partners, Principals and Liaisons
Our Volunteers
Our Curriculum Voice Actors - Father David Jones, Gloria Norwood and Kaylah Wright

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