



*University of Maryland School of Music Presents*

**NO WAYS TIRED**  
**A CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Curated by the School of Music's IDEA Committee in partnership with the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts

February 28, 2021 • 7:00PM



**SCHOOL OF  
MUSIC**

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Curated by the School of Music's IDEA Committee in partnership with the  
 Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts.

**PROGRAM**

**Greetings (MC / Narrators)**..... Pamela T. Simonson, Co-Founder, CAAPA  
 Terri Allen, Executive Director, CAAPA

**Introduction** of Bonnie Thornton Dill, *Dean, College of Arts and Humanities*

**Welcome**

**Poem - *Mother to Son*** Dean Bonnie Thornton Dill  
 by Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

***Guide My Feet... Precious Lord*** Aleea Elaine Powell, Soprano  
 arr. by Dr. Lester Green Dr. Lester Green, Piano, Spoken Word

***I, Too Sing America*** Christian Simmons, Bass-baritone  
 by Margaret Bonds (1913-1972) Dr. Lester Green, Piano

**“The Soul of My Soul...cries out to  
 Thee” from *Songs of Adoration*** VaShawn McIlwain-Lightfoot,  
 by Markus Williams (1972-2018) Bass-baritone  
 Dr. Lester Green, Piano

***The Negro Speaks of Rivers*** Kevin Short, Bass-baritone  
 by Howard Swanson (1907-1978) Dr. Lester Green, Piano

***Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho*** CAAPA Chorale  
 arr. by Moses Hogan (1957-2003) Greg Watkins, Director

**Poem - *If We Must Die*** John Harris,  
 by Claude McKay (1889-1948) Baltimore Concert Opera Board President

***Worth While*** Aleea Elaine Powell, Soprano  
 by Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949) Dr. Lester Green, Piano

***Stand the Storm*** Christian Simmons, Bass-baritone  
 by Tim Amukle Dr. Lester Green, Piano

<i>I Don't Feel No Ways Tired</i> arr. by Markus Williams (1972-2018)	VaShawn McIlwain-Lightfoot, Bass-baritone Dr. Lester Green, Piano
<i>Deep River</i> arr. by Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)	Kevin Short, Bass-baritone Dr. Lester Green, Piano
<i>In Bright Mansions Above</i> arr. by Roland Carter	Carter Legacy Singers Angelo Johnson, Jr., Director
<i>Lyric for Strings</i> by George Walker (1922-2018)	UMD Symphony Orchestra David L. Neely, Conductor
<i>Poem - Still I Rise</i> by Maya Angelou (1928-2014)	Carmen Balthrop, School of Music Associate Director
<i>City Called Heaven</i> arr. by Carmen Balthrop	Carmen Balthrop, Soprano
<i>Praise the Lord</i> by Florence Price (1887-1953)	Heritage Signature Chorale Stanley J. Thurston, Director
<i>Lift Every Voice and Sing</i> arr. by Roland Carter	Nicole Heaston Lane's Purple Robe Series Ensemble Damien Sneed, Director

## ABOUT THE IDEA COMMITTEE

The School of Music's **IDEA COMMITTEE**, composed of undergraduate and graduate students, staff and faculty, has a mission to help promote Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access in the school, the university and the surrounding community. Chaired by Mayron Tsong and William Robin, the IDEA committee advocates for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and other underrepresented voices in the School of Music, and in the broader music world and academy. The committee meets regularly to discuss new initiatives and changes to existing curricula that would create a more supportive and inclusive environment in the School of Music, and make recommendations to the school's administration and individual divisions to improve diversity throughout the school and beyond.

## ABOUT THE COALITION FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE PERFORMING ARTS (CAAPA)

*“Bringing Color to the Classics!®”*

**THE COALITION FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE PERFORMING ARTS (CAAPA)** is a 501c3 arts organization that supports Black classical musicians, youth and others in the performing arts by “Bringing Color to the Classics” through the mission “The CAAPA Cause,” a five (5) point initiative based the acronym CAAPA: Community Outreach, Arts Education, Audience Development, Performance Opportunities and Arts Partnerships with pre-Covid programs including: Opera for Fun Youth Outreach Program; Scholarship Program; STAR Career Development Program; Sing for Seniors Recitals; REACH: International Outreach; Arias at Sea Blacks in Classical Music Cruises; CAAPA CAMP; MasterClass Series; and The Performance Series. CAAPA pivoted their programming as a result of the pandemic to their virtual platforms Facebook LIVE and YouTube, which includes Chillax @ Home Performances; Vir-citals; OPERAations; Candid Cadenzas; and the Virtual MasterClass Series.

Founded by classically trained siblings; music director, conductor and composer Victor Simonson and Washington National Opera soprano and music educator Pamela Simonson in 2003 to “give back to the community,” the organization gained 501c3 status in 2013. The next time you look at the CAAPA logo, try and find the hidden musical symbols including a b clef, piano keys and an Andinkra symbol signifying creativity. Contact CAAPA [info@4caapa.org](mailto:info@4caapa.org) or visit [www.4caapa.org](http://www.4caapa.org), friend CAAPA on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



**TERRI ALLEN** (MC and narrator) is a New York native. She has played pivotal roles in arts administration for sixteen years, serving as the executive director of the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA). She has taken the organization from two performances per season to nearly three dozen performances annually locally, nationally and internationally, while increasing the budget ten-fold. Allen has also helped to rebrand CAAPA to include programs such as The Performance Series, Opera for Fun Youth Outreach, Scholarship Program, Sing for Seniors Recital Series, REACH: International & Ambassador Program, Opera Composer's Project and MasterClass Series.

Throughout her career in administration, marketing and advertising, which spans over twenty years, Allen has overseen newspapers and magazines, as well as managing accounts for some of the top names for the Fortune 500 Times-Mirror, Newsday/Tribune Corporation, where she spent more than a decade managing account budgets in excess of \$20 million dollars.

Having authored several books including the award-winning "Pearls of Wisdom from Three Generations," Allen is also an inspirational speaker, writer and is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions.

Allen pursued degrees at Pace Law School, SUNY @ Stony Brook University and Bethel Bible College. She currently lives with her husband of 22 years and business partner, Dale Allen, Ph.D. in Accokeek, Maryland.



**CARMEN BALTHROP** (reader and soprano) made her Metropolitan Opera debut as Pamina in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, having been the last of the First Place Winners in the Metropolitan Opera National Competition in New York. Acclaimed by The Washington Post as "electrifying... a consummate performer," by The New York Times as "a voice of power and uncommon tonal purity" and "a rapturously beautiful voice" by The Miami Herald, this American soprano has an astonishing range of repertoire from Baroque opera and song to contemporary literature. She has performed leading roles with some of the world's major opera companies and symphony orchestras, including the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Washington Opera, Canadian Opera, Deutsche Oper (Berlin), Teatro La Fenice (Venice), the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic and the National Symphony. Among her signature operatic roles are: Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly*, Violetta in *La Traviata*, Micaela in *Carmen*, Liu in *Turandot*, Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Poppea in *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* by Monteverdi and Susannah in *Susannah* by Carlisle Floyd. Her historical Broadway debut was in the title role of Scott Joplin's opera *Treemonisha*.

While her international appearances have taken her to concert halls in Austria, Amsterdam, the Bahamas, China, Mexico and Russia, in the United States, Balthrop has performed recitals in the White House, Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. Her Christmas art song recital, recorded live and performed at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., was chosen to be aired on Christmas day (2000) by National Public Radio (NPR) as part of their Millennium celebration.

Balthrop's discography, found on the Deutsche Grammophon, Elan, New World and Fonit Cetra labels, includes the title roles of Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha*, Claudio Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, John Knowles Paine's *Mass* and Leslie Burrs' *Vanqui*.

Her compact disc recordings entitled "The Art Of Christmas, Volume I" and "The Art of Christmas, The Original," heralded by the Washington Post as "a must have on everyone's Christmas recording list," are available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and [cdbaby.com](http://cdbaby.com). Balthrop regularly collaborates with living composers including: Dominick Argento, Leslie Burrs, Frank Proto and Robert Greenleaf among them.

Balthrop is professor of voice & opera and associate director for academic affairs & undergraduate studies at the University of Maryland School of Music. She holds a place in the University of Maryland's Hall of Fame and was formerly the coordinator of the School of Music's Voice & Opera Division.



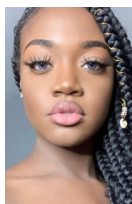
**DR. LESTER GREEN** (pianist) is a South Carolina native, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonian, multi-instrumentalist and genreist. Green has extensive credits as a solo pianist, recital partner and conductor. Green serves on the faculties of the University of Maryland School of Music and Morgan State University, and has performed as a collaborative pianist at the Kennedy Center, Washington National Opera, Colour of Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival and with many other arts organizations in venues across the United States and abroad. In addition to his teaching and performing activities, Green serves as artistic advisor to the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and on the artistic team of the Children's Chorus of Washington. Green also serves as artistic director for the Coalition for African American's in the Performing Arts, working with an executive team and community partners to showcase, acknowledge, encourage and develop excellence in the achievements of classical musicians of color and others in the United States and abroad. Green earned degrees in solo piano from the University of South Carolina and The Peabody Institute, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in collaborative piano at the University of Maryland. His film credits include *Samuel Coleridge Taylor and His Music in America: 1900-1912* and *Paul Laurence Dunbar: Beyond the Mask*, a PBS documentary. While Green enjoys singing, creative writing, composition and other creative activity, his most fulfilling work is in helping other artists unlock their own creative potential to express their art with emotional impact, excellence and integrity.



**JOHN HARRIS** (reader) serves as board president of the Baltimore Concert Opera, where he has been a member since 2016. About BCO, Harris said "I love the arts and opera has been an interest for years. BCO intentionally fosters an inclusiveness that brings me comfort as I nurture my appreciation of operatic vocal excellence!" BCO's mission statement: "We create a thrilling, meaningful shared experience between our audience and artists. We focus on the primary element of opera: the unamplified, extraordinary human voice." [www.baltimoreconcertopera.com](http://www.baltimoreconcertopera.com)



**VASHAWN SAVOY MCILWAIN-LIGHTFOOT** (bass-baritone) is a graduate of Duke Ellington School of the Arts, holds a B.M. from the University of Northern Iowa and an M.M. from the University of Maryland, where he is currently a McNair Fellow in the D.M.A. vocal performance program. His national credits include Marcello in Puccini's *La Bohème*, Morales in Bizet's *Carmen* and Leporello in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. International credits include Jake and Jim in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and Guglielmo in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. His concert works include Ysaye Barnwell's *Fortune's Bones*, Handel's *Messiah*, Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio* and Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music*. His theatrical credits include Thomas Rutling in Tazewell Thompson's *Jubilee*, the titular role in *Sweeney Todd* by Stephen Sondheim and Joe in Hammerstein & Kern's *Show Boat*. [www.vsavoymcilwain.com](http://www.vsavoymcilwain.com)



**ALEA ELAINE POWELL** (soprano) is a first-year graduate student at the University of Maryland, where she is pursuing a Master of Music in vocal performance. Her educational pursuit began at Baltimore School for the Arts and continued to The Juilliard School, where she was the recipient of the Cecille Weber Scholarship, Hans J. Heinz and Tatiana Troyanos Memorial Scholarship under the tutelage of Edith Bers and William Burden.

Her performance experience includes Blanche in *There's blood between Us*, Natalia Katyukova's *Liederabend*, Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Violetta in *La Traviata*, Cleopatra in *Giulio Cesare*, Dorothy in *The Wiz*, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* and the Opera Comp performance of *Becoming Hawk* as The Vagrant by composer/Co-Founder & Co-Artistic Director Chanson Goldschmitz and Director Ronny Goldschmitz.



**KEVIN SHORT** (bass-baritone) is associate professor of voice & opera at the University of Maryland. Short is also an active opera singer having performed with many of the world's finest opera companies and orchestras. A sampling of the organizations include the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Seattle Opera, Boston Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra and San Francisco Symphony, and in Europe and Asia with the Paris Opéra Comique, Bregenz Festspiele, Savonlinna Festival-Finland, Festival Aix-en-Provence, Vienna Volksoper, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Czech Philharmonic, Moscow Philharmonic, St. Petersburg Symphony-Russia, Swiss and Italian RAI Orchestra, New Japan Philharmonic, Hiroshima Symphony and with the Nagano Winter Olympics Festival Orchestra.

Short has recorded extensively, primarily on the Pentatone label, which includes his solo recording with the Marseille Philharmonic that was cited by NYC's WQXR as one of the outstanding classical recordings of 2018.





**CHRISTIAN SIMMONS** (bass-baritone) is a native of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area. He has performed with various festivals and companies around the world including the Morgan State University Theater, Bel Cantanti Opera Company, Washington Opera Society, Castleton Music Festival, Amalfi Coast Music Festival, Berlin Opera Academy and Bare Opera Company. Performance highlights include *The Devil and Daniel Webster* (Jabez Stone), *The Wiz* (Lion), *Romeo et Juliette* (Duke), *Le nozze di Figaro* (Figaro), *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (Seneca), *Aida* (King) and *Rigoletto* (Sparafucile). Simmons has been featured in several premieres of new works including *Four Freedoms* by Joseph C. Phillips and *Briscola the Magician* by Frances Polluck. Simmons is a student of Kevin Short and a second-year student with the Maryland Opera Studio at the University of Maryland.



**PAMELA T. SIMONSON** (MC and narrator) full lyric soprano, author and charity founder has been seen on stages throughout the United States and Europe with the Washington National Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Wolf Trap Opera and the Glory Gospel Singers. Simonson has been a featured soloist with the American Center for Puccini Studies and in Washington National Opera's productions of *Porgy and Bess*, *Showboat* and *Dead Man Walking*. Simonson has also been seen in over 30 opera productions such as *La Traviata*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Aida*, *The Magic Flute*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *La Bohème*, *Don Giovanni* and *Macbeth*, among many others. Simonson is on the roster for the American Spiritual Ensemble and has frequently performed the soprano solo in Handel's *Messiah* throughout the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area.

Simonson obtained her Bachelor of Music degree from Eastman School of Music in vocal performance and a Master of Music degree from Manhattan School of Music, New York City, where she also served as assistant to the director for the Preparatory Division. She has a second level of Professional Certification in Orff Schulwerk Music Studies from George Mason University, Virginia. Simonson is founder and director of the CAAPA C.A.M.P. (Cultivating Artists, Musicians and Performers) and has served as director of music for Camp Arena Stage, Washington, D.C. for over 15 years and most recently serves as associate director. Simonson has been soprano section leader for New York City and Washington, D.C. area church choirs and is currently a vocal music teacher for Prince George's County Public Schools in Maryland. She conducts workshops, seminars and coaches private music students in the region.

In 2014, Simonson was awarded the esteemed Prince George's County "Forty Under 40" Award for her efforts in the arts community. With her mother and grandmother, she is the co-author of the award-winning book "Pearls of Wisdom from Three Generations." Along with her musically gifted brother Victor Simonson, she is the co-founder of the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts.





**BONNIE THORNTON DILL** (reader) was appointed dean of the University of Maryland's 550-plus faculty, 3,500-student, 14-department College of Arts and Humanities in 2011. The first African American woman ever to hold the dean's title in the college, Thornton Dill has worked to increase support for and the visibility of arts and humanities research and scholarship; provide leadership for interdisciplinary initiatives within the college and across the campus; support student engagement with underserved communities; and increase the number of the University of Maryland's national scholarship award recipients. A pioneering scholar on the intersections of race, class and gender in the United States with an emphasis on African-American women, work and families, she is founding director of both the Center for Research on Women at the University of Memphis and the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity at the University of Maryland. Her scholarship includes three books and numerous articles. She is former president of the National Women's Studies Association; former vice president of the American Sociological Association; and former chair of the Committee of Scholars for Ms. magazine. She earned her doctoral and master's degrees in sociology and human relations, respectively, from New York University and her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Rochester.



**THE CAAPA CHORALE** is the musical entity of the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA), performing as the elite vocal ensemble and showcasing a variety of exciting genres, with a focus on classical music. Founded in 2020, the chorale strives for excellence by honoring the legacy of the

African Diaspora juxtaposed with the tradition of Western Classical Music. Under the direction of Music Director Greg Watkins, to help in “Bringing Color to the Classics!” The chorale enjoys partnering and collaborating in projects. Additional CAAPA ensembles include the CAAPA Chamber Ensemble and the CAAPA Jazz Ensemble. To contact the ensembles or chorale email [info@4caapa.org](mailto:info@4caapa.org) with Chorale in the subject line.



**GREG WATKINS** is an award-winning artist; respected pianist, singer, actor, musical director, composer and newly-appointed artistic director of the CAAPA Chorale. An alumnus of The Duke Ellington School of the Arts and Howard University (B.M. music education), Watkins is a two-time Dr. Quincy Jones award recipient (ASCAP Foundation/Cherry Lane Foundation/Music Alive, 2008; The Raney-Moss Group, 2019) and Helen Hayes Award Winner for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Musical (*Legally Blonde*, 2019, Keegan Theatre). As an onstage performer, Watkins has performed in numerous professional productions in the Washington Metropolitan area, including *Jubilee* (Arena Stage), *Aida* (Constellation Theatre Company), *Rock of Ages* (Workhouse Arts Center), *Sister Act* (Arts Centric) and *The Lyrics of Sunshine and Shadows* (Opera North). He is the former artistic director of The MusicianShip Washington Youth Choir and former member of Stellar Award nominated gospel group Patrick Lundy & the Ministers of Music, where he is credited as lead soloist on the group’s smash hit single, “Take It to the Lord in Prayer” (album entitled, *MAJESTY: A LIVE Recording of Anthems, Hymns and Spirituals*). [www.gregwatkinsmusic.com](http://www.gregwatkinsmusic.com)



**THE CARTER LEGACY SINGERS (CLS)**, under the direction of Angelo Johnson, is a community-based performance ensemble named and dedicated to the honor of the late Dr. Nathan M. Carter, whom many of the group members

studied under. Carter’s eminence as a choral director was echoed throughout the United States and abroad, as he brought recognition to the music department at Morgan State University where he served for over 30 years as chairperson. His mastery of music and standard of excellence lives on in many of the students who sat at the feet of his brilliance, with particular emphasis at preserving the traditional performance practices of the Negro Spiritual.

The core of the Carter Legacy Singers’ mission is to use the power of the Negro Spiritual and other genres to develop performance-based educational opportunities that

strengthen organizations and communities across the country and abroad. The group boasts membership of 100+ singers throughout cities across the United States with a traveling group of approximately 40. Sought after for its spirited interpretations of the melodies and rhythms of the past, CLS presents a first class repertoire that includes classical music, gospel, jazz and opera, finding comfort in each genre.



**ANGELO D. JOHNSON, JR.**, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, has performed with various vocal ensembles and orchestras including the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, Baltimore Symphony Chorus and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. Johnson has toured throughout the United States and overseas as a bass soloist with several ensembles, most notably The Moses Hogan Chorale, The Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers and The American Spiritual Ensemble. He has performed with various opera

companies but most recently, The Opera Company of Philadelphia, Dayton Opera and The Washington Opera Society, to name a few. He has served as the assistant director of vocal music at the Cleveland School of the Arts in past years and is the founder and artistic director of The Carter Legacy Singers.



#### **THE HERITAGE SIGNATURE CHORALE**

opened its 20th season as the anchor choir, performing Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the National Symphony Orchestra as part of the grand opening for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts REACH expansion. Additional performances in the 19th and 20th seasons included a

performance at the Black Artist Retreat in New York City, stage choir for the NSO Pops' *Get Out* film screening at the John F. Kennedy Center Concert Hall, Heritage Presents! Master Performance—two evocative Masterworks with full orchestra—Francis Poulenc's Gloria and Darin Atwater's *Proclamations*, George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* with the National Orchestral Institute and Festival and their 19th Annual Concert entitled *Showcase of HSC Performing Ensembles*.

The Chorale began its 18th season on the heels of a singing tour of Italy, where Festival Corale Internazionale di Roma awarded HSC's Rome concert as the Outstanding Performance. The Chorale made its return performance in the 5th Annual Colour of Music Festival, in Charleston, South Carolina, performing R. Nathaniel Dett's *The Chariot Jubilee* and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*; and presented, along with the Capitol Hill Chorale, *Prayers for the Black Madonna*, the 3rd installment of the Smithsonian Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden's acclaimed *Processions Series* envisioned by Theaster Gates. A major highlight of Season 18 was the debut performance of Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* in concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City on March 19, 2018, with the New England Symphonic Ensemble. On June 10, 2018, the Chorale and orchestra wrapped up its season with their 18th Anniversary Concert, *Women's Works—Songs of African American Women Composers*. [www.HeritageSignatureChorale.org](http://www.HeritageSignatureChorale.org)



**STANLEY J. THURSTON** is founder and artistic director of The Heritage Signature Chorale, artist-in-residence at Washington National Cathedral and artistic director emeritus of Washington Performing Arts Choirs. He has been conductor with Kathleen Battle, Kiri te Kanawa, Denyce Graves, Wynton Marsalis, Canadian Brass and Ramsey Lewis; and guest conductor with the National Symphony Orchestra, Columbus Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Civic Orchestra, Prince George's Philharmonic, Soulful Symphony and Romania's Opera Constanta. Guest director appearances have included Choral Arts of Washington, Cathedral Choral Society, IN Series Opera and Opera Americana. His concert venues include Carnegie Hall (NYC), The Kennedy Center, The Music Center at Strathmore, The Clarice, Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, Carter Barron Amphitheater, the United States Capitol and DAR Constitution Hall. He is currently director of music ministries at Foundry United Methodist Church. On March 19, 2018, he conducted The Heritage Signature Chorale's debut performance at Carnegie Hall with the New England Symphonic Ensemble. In 2019, Thurston led the 250-voice choir performing Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the National Symphony Orchestra.



**THE UMD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (UMSO)**, through its committed and polished performances led by Director of Orchestral Activities David Neely, is dedicated to the power of musical communication. In its repertoire, the orchestra explores the intersection between traditional symphonic masterworks and marginalized works from various eras, with many programs featuring composers of diverse backgrounds deserving of overdue recognition.



**DAVID NEELY** joined the faculty of the University of Maryland in fall of 2019 as director of orchestral activities and associate professor of orchestral conducting. He previously served on the faculty of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and the University of Kansas. Recent conducting highlights include the world premiere of Maria Newman's *Our Rights and Nothing Less* at the University of Maryland, subscription concerts with the Memphis Symphony and Portland Symphony Orchestras, *West Side Story* with Atlanta Opera, *Dialogues of the Carmelites* with Sarasota Opera, as well as *Wozzeck*, *Candide*, *Billy Budd* and *Rusalka* with Des Moines Metro, where he has been Marshall and Judy Flapan music director and principal conductor since 2012. He is currently conductor for Washington National Opera's 2021 American Opera Initiative, and is dedicated to advocating for and performing a broad range of symphonic and operatic repertoire and styles.



**JESSE LEONG** is a true 21st-century artist working as a conductor, pianist, activist, videographer, educator, singer and author. His conducting was called “taut and assured” by Opera Today for Derrick Wang’s *Scalia/Ginsburg* at The Glimmerglass Festival for Justice Ginsburg herself. He served as the 2019 Julius Rudel/Kurt Weill conducting fellow and associate conductor on *Lady in the Dark* at New York City Center. Other conducting and coaching highlights include Cincinnati Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera (DMMO), Pacific Opera Project, Queen City Opera, Dayton Opera, Opera NexGen, Opera Saratoga and Pittsburgh Festival Opera.

His audio/video production work can be seen at DMMO, University of Maryland, College of Fellows of the American Theatre, Wear Yellow Proudly, Monterey Youth Orchestra, Unitarian Universalist Church in Reston, Virginia, and Bella Voce a cappella ensemble. Writings include a reference book “La bohème: A Connotative and Grammatical Translation” and his upcoming dissertation, “The Butterfly Effect: Color Conscious Casting in the 21st Century.”

Leong has a B.M. in piano performance and an M.M. in orchestral conducting from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He is a D.M.A. candidate in orchestral conducting at the University of Maryland. [www.jesseleong.com](http://www.jesseleong.com)

*Special thanks to Terri Allen, Kelsey Eustace, Austin Gaskin, Dr. Lester Green, Nicole Heaston Lane, Jesse Leong, Heather Markle, VaShawn McIlwain-Lightfoot, Aaron Muller, Jeanette Nelson, William Robin, Kevin Short, Pamela Simonson, Liana Stiegler Orndorff, Mayron Tsong, ARHU Marketing & Communications and The Clarice’s Production Team.*

# UMD SCHOOL OF MUSIC PERFORMANCES

## PASSAGES

AVAILABLE ON DEMAND

### WATCH ON VIMEO

Members of the UMD Wind Ensemble who participated in remote learning for the Fall 2020 semester virtually performed "Passages" by American female composer Alex Shapiro. In a world in constant flux, "Passages" offers a calming, centering, meditative and encouraging outlook.

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## FACULTY ARTIST SERIES:

**STERN AND ANDRIST DUO**

**APR 27 @ 8PM**

### WATCH ON VIMEO

Professor of violin James Stern and pianist Audrey Andrist perform the world-premiere of a composition by Dana Wilson titled *Of my dream before me....* This piece was inspired by the Langston Hughes poem "As I Grew Older." Rounding out the program will be works by Mozart, William Grant Still and Grażyna Bacewicz.

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## STUDENT DEGREE RECITALS

ONGOING

### WATCH ON VIMEO

Although guests are not able to come to the building at this time, many student degree recitals are being livestreamed this year. Check out The Clarice's Vimeo channel to watch recent and upcoming student degree recital livestreams. Please note that only the streams that the students have chosen to make publicly available will be listed.

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Check the [School of Music calendar](#) often to find additional events and performances as they are added.

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## UMD SCHOOL OF MUSIC ADMINISTRATION & STAFF

**GREGORY MILLER**

Director

**PATRICK WARFIELD**

Associate Director for Faculty Affairs & Graduate Studies

**CARMEN BALTHROP**

Associate Director for Academic Affairs & Undergraduate Studies

**LORI DeBOY**

Associate Director for Administrative Affairs

**AARON MULLER**

Senior Assistant Director for Productions & Operations

**KELSEY EUSTACE**

Marketing Communications Coordinator

**VÉRONIQUE FILLOUX**

Admissions Specialist

**ADAM GRISE**

Systems & Data Analyst

**TINA HOITT**

Athletic Bands Coordinator

**LAURI JOHNSON**

Choral Administrator

**SHARON KEYSER**

Assistant Director for Finance

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Athletic Bands Inventory & Communications Coordinator

**LAUREN MCDONALD**

Assistant Director for Admissions & Financial Aid

**ELIZABETH MILLIGAN**

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**HEATHER MUNDWILER**

Undergraduate Student Services Coordinator

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Business Manager

**ASHLEY POLLARD**

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Administrative Assistant

**JOSH THOMPSON**

Graduate Student Services Coordinator

**MARK WAKEFIELD**

Ensembles Manager

Visit [music.umd.edu/directory](http://music.umd.edu/directory) to find all faculty and staff.