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Concert recording 2016-01-29

Leo H. Davis

Curtis Goolsby

Aya Rowe

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Friday, January 29, 2016 – 7:30pm
 Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall

RECITAL: ORGAN MUSIC OF BLACK COMPOSERS

Dr. Leo H. Davis Jr.

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| Impromptu No. I in F Major (opus. 78.no.1) | S. Coleridge-Taylor |
| Go Down Moses | Fela Sowande |
| Retrospection | Florence B. Price |
| Suite for Organ, Violin and Violincello II <i>Theme and Variation</i> | Josef Rheinberger |
| <i>Curtis Goolsby, Violin</i> <i>Aya Rowe, Cello</i> | |
| Improvisation on <i>We Shall Overcome</i> | Arranged by Carl Haywood |



As a musician, conductor, instructor, and visionary leader in his field, LEO DAVIS has earned enormous respect as an artist for all seasons. His expertise ranges from the spiritual masterpieces of Moses G. Hogan to the classical treasures of Beethoven. Moreover, his music can usher an audience through centuries of praise and worship while inspiring them to raise their hands and touch the face of God here and now. A native of Chicago, Illinois, Leo embraced the rich musical heritage of his family and began piano lessons at an early age. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in church music and

conducting from the University of Memphis; a Master of Music in organ performance from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, Massachusetts; a Certificate from the Royal School of Church Music, Croydon, England; and a Bachelor of Music Degree from Roosevelt University, Chicago, Illinois. Since 1989, Leo has served as Minister of Music at the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Memphis, TN. Under his direction, the Mississippi Boulevard Music Department has acquired an international reputation for musical excellence and versatility in worship and performance. Leo's numerous accomplishments include co-production and project management of the Sanctuary Choir's CD titled *Live at The Boulevard* featuring Mississippi Boulevard Choirs and the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and a single CD titled *God Is Able*. Leo's special projects include serving as the Executive Producer and Musical Director of the Mississippi Boulevard Music Department's Annual Christmas Celebration Concert in collaboration with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra; Artistic Director and Producer of the Umoja Celebration, a Broadway-like cultural production that chronicles the journey from Africa to America; and Guest Conductor and Chorus Master of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra's Sounds of Celebration Concert.



STACEY V. GIBBS is manager, composer, clinician and arranger from Detroit, Michigan. His spirituals have been performed and commissioned by many fine choirs across the country and abroad, including the U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants, the St. Olaf Choir, the Stellenbosch University Choir of Africa, and Westminster Choir College. His music is performed in concert halls throughout the world and has become a staple at all-state festivals, NAfME conferences, The World Choir Games, and regional ACDA conferences. His works have been featured in five consecutive National ACDA Conventions since 2007. His setting, "Way Over in Beulah Lan" was performed at the 57th Inaugural Prayer Service in January 2013 for President Barack Obama. In the same month, he conducted The Wartburg Meistersinger Festival Chorus with the world renowned soloist Simon Estes performing his setting "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands." Mr. Gibbs has become a pioneer in the composition of spirituals for double choir with his settings of "Ezekiel" and "Soon I Will Be Done." The recording 'Didn't It Rain: The Spirituals of Stacey V. Gibbs' was released in 2012. It was recorded by The Sunday Night Singers of California. His next recording, "Ezekiel", will be released in May, 2016. Mr. Gibbs' has 45 published through a variety of mainline music publishing houses, and over sixty unpublished settings available via SVG Music. The Stacey V. Gibbs Choral Series with Gentry Publications was released in February, 2010. In 2015, he launched the Stacey V. Gibbs Chorale. In addition to composing, Gibbs has been in hospitality and retail management for over 19 years and serves a consultant in the genre of the concert spiritual.

Jacqueline Butler Hairston, award-winning ASCAP composer-arranger, legendary former Bay Area pianist, and music educator, who presently resides in Sacramento, CA, is pleased to accept her second guest conducting invitation to Carnegie Hall. Her program for this concert is two-fold: to honor the African Diaspora through her compositions and arrangements, and to pay homage to three luminaries who have inspired her consistently in diverse categories: The WORD - Pulitzer awardee/writer Alice Walker; The INSTRUMENT - celebrated Jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis; and The VOICE - internationally renowned soprano Kathleen Battle. Ms. Hairston, a product of The Juilliard School and Howard and Columbia Universities, is grateful for the Internationally renowned solo artists as well as orchestras worldwide who perform her works. Respected as a leading arranger of Spirituals and recipient of many honors, she is proudest of newer musical conquests since 2012: A World Premiere performed for the Denver Spirituals Project '13 commemorating the University of Denver's first African-American graduate; an original program, "Jacqui's JAZZAMATAZZ," a 2014 Revue in tribute to Harlem's Cotton Club for Sacramento's Heritage Park Seniors; the Howard Thurman 2014 Award for her notable contributions; her Fall '15 piano concert regaling Black Classical composers; and an historic 2015 SPIRITUALS CANTATA exploration at The CHURCH BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, Berkeley, CA. Shortly prior to this Carnegie experience, she will be honored with a residency "Celebrating Her Art Songs and Spirituals" at UNCC, Charlotte NC, her hometown.

