



ONEVOICECHORUS

... singing the beauty and power of diversity

presents

S OUR COLLECTIVE
SPIRIT

John W. McLean, Jr., *Guest Conductor*

Rebecca Kilpatrick, *Accompanist*

Pre-Concert Conversation

“Harmony in Living Black & White”

Ebony R. Wilkins, *Facilitator*

Saturday, May 21 ■ 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

Richmond, VA

One Voice Chorus

P.O. Box 70004 • Henrico, VA 23255

www.onevoicechorus.org

One Voice Chorus
John McLean, Jr., *Conductor*
Rebecca Kilpatrick, *Accompanist*

OUR COLLECTIVE SPIRIT

May 21, 2022

Sing Unto God
from Judas Maccabeus Georg Friedrich Handel

O for a Faith arr. Nathan Carter

I Hear a Voice a Prayin' Houston Bright

Navajo Blessing J. David Moore
Jennifer Blosser, *soprano*

Ubuntu Christi Jones
The One Voice Chorus Ensemble

The Way You Look Tonight Jerome Kern/arr. Kirby Shaw

Give Me Your Tired Your Poor Irving Berlin/arr. Roy Ringwald

Blessed Be the Name of the Lord

Dale Grotenhuis

Sure on This Shining Night

arr. Morton Lauridsen

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

arr. Moses Hogan

The One Voice Chorus Ensemble

Steal Away

arr. Norm Luboff

The Road Home

Stephen Paulus

Angela Powers Goolsby, *soprano*

I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free

Billy Taylor/

arr. Kirby Shaw

Phannetta Pearson, *contralto*



Tonight's performance is made possible in part through the generosity of the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Hirschler Law, and generous individuals in the community.

WELCOME TO OUR PERFORMANCE

Good Evening!

Welcome! A week before this concert was originally scheduled to take place, the world shut down! A mysterious virus (COVID-19) had been identified and it was viciously attacking people all over the world. Fast forward two years, and we are still dealing with COVID and her “cousins” (sub-variants); however, we have learned a lot about this “family” and are better equipped with vaccinations and scientific knowledge to take precautions while we attempt to get back to “normal.”

So, we are extremely excited about returning to our “new normal.” Under the capable direction of our second guest conductor, John “Jack” McLean, we are thrilled to welcome you to *Our Collective Spirit*, an eclectic collection of music Jack has compiled that is a beautiful sampling of what makes me love being a part of One Voice Chorus.

When we were originally learning this music, we worked especially hard on one of the most fundamental tasks of a chorus: blending many voices into one sound. When we returned, Jack focused on not just blending our sound, but ensuring we were singing optimally with masks. Rehearsal after rehearsal, our unique musical talents have been tirelessly woven together to create the fabric of our sound that truly represents our collective spirit. For two years, we were unable to be together – unable to sing together – but we stayed connected!

Much like this evening’s repertoire, we stand before you as a visual representation of our mission – *singing the beauty and power of diversity*. Like any community, each of our members is different; however, when we embrace our differences, we help to forge a relationship that keeps us together as a dynamic organism. As we perform for you, it is our hope that the synergy in our “y’all come” chorus will demonstrate just that!

We are so delighted that you are with us this evening, and we are grateful you are joining *Our Collective Spirit*. Sit back! Relax! Enjoy!

Alma Hughes, *President*

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

Our Collective Spirit harkens to the genuine bond within a large ensemble, which germinates from the first rehearsal together. Each member brings a wealth of experience, musical and beyond, to every rehearsal, as we strive to unravel our individual complexities and interpretations to that of a unified collective – striving to merge and then share a mutual musical message. We, the ensemble, then present in concert a sincere effort to give import to the text and musical intent of the composer/arranger . . . sharing with our listeners our gift of song, an outpouring of our commitment to the very significant beauty of the choral sound.

The history of the United States is reflected in its vast variety of music. Our ancestors brought music of their homelands with them to America - their words, harmonies, and rhythms continuing to influence music composition today. Folk Music, spirituals, and hymns from long ago and far away made extremely significant contributions to the evolution of blues, gospel, and jazz – all acknowledged as original American music.

Tonight's program is selected from this great body of music, a choral potpourri of McLean favorites experienced throughout my life as a child, student, singer, and conductor; the concert theme reflected in the repertoire – eternal faith, hope, and love. It is my belief that there is One God, who is reflected in every soul here, and that we are all connected – if only we would listen to that spirit within and act accordingly!

There are two essential elements that differentiate choral from instrumental music. The first is, of course, the human voice and the second is the use of words. As we combine these elements with instruments and dance, I sincerely hope that you, the listener, will be compelled/moved to absorb this musical message and be inspired by its beauty. It's up to US, collectively, to make this world a better place...

One Voice Chorus is an invaluable resource to the Greater Richmond Community. It has been my joy and great privilege to work with you toward tonight's performance. May your vision continue to crystalize and resonate throughout this region and beyond for many years to come.

John McLean, Jr., *Guest Conductor*

LEADING OUR PERFORMANCE



JOHN W. McLEAN, JR., a notable conductor and choral clinician, has served as the Director of Choral Activities & Conducting at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (TX), Bennett College (NC), Assistant Director of Choral Activities at Baylor University, and taught with the music faculties of University of California-Berkeley, University of Texas at Austin, and Houston-Tillotson University (TX).

John is the former Conductor of the Waco Symphony Chorus, the UMHB Opera; Artistic Director of the Bell Civic Chorale (TX), Austin Vocal Arts Ensemble, the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin, & the Penn Chorale (NC). In addition, Mr. McLean has guest-conducted the Oakland Symphony & Waco Symphony Orchestras, and the orchestras of the Universities of California, Texas, & Baylor. He also served as Chorus Master of the Des Moines Metro Opera (IA). In all the aforementioned locales, John served numerous churches as Director of Music, among them: First United Methodist Church (Austin, TX), First Presbyterian Church (Oakland, CA), Shiloh Baptist Church (Greensboro, NC), Calvary Baptist Church (Waco, TX), and Austin Avenue Methodist Church (Waco).

Most recently he was Director of Music at Ebenezer Baptist Church here in Richmond, where he led the Sanctuary, Women's, Combined Choirs & Orchestra. A native of NC, he is an honors graduate in vocal & trumpet performance from Simpson College (IA), received his master's degree in conducting & vocal performance at UT Austin, and was a Doctoral fellow in Conducting at UT Austin.



JAMIE KILPATRICK began studying piano at age five as a gift from her grandmother, who hoped to tame the cacophony of a young child banging wildly on keys and mold that energy into intention and art. This seed, once planted, grew an assortment of musical endeavors that blossomed over the years. From picking up the cello in middle school, marching piccolo in high school, competing in international solo and jazz competitions, and starting a social justice street protest choir, music has always been a cornerstone of her life. After studying piano performance

at Boston University, Jamie landed in Richmond, Virginia, where she found her home playing piano for the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond, a job she has loved since 2007. Between her work ministering with music, as well as teaching private lessons, Jamie is overjoyed to be collaborating with One Voice Chorus. The shared experience of live music is a gift both to, and from, the world, and she is honored to be welcomed into One Voice's community and mission.



KAREN L. WATKINS-RIOS began her dance training at age three at the School of the Richmond Ballet here in Richmond. At age 18, she was invited by Arthur Mitchell to complete her training in classical ballet at the prestigious Dance Theatre of Harlem Professional School in New York City. Upon graduating cum laude from Howard University in Washington DC, Karen became a senior company member of the Asaph Dance Ensemble, in Washington, D.C. dancing as a soloist for five years. A personal highlight was being invited to dance with the Christian Performing Arts Fellowship in the 1996 Christmas Celebrations in Israel for Prime Minister Yassir Arafat.

In 2012, Karen founded The Dance Candle Academy of Sacred and Performing Arts. Its mission is to combine the elegance, excellence, grace and artistry of technique with the heart, passion, conviction and soul of

ABOUT HARMONY IN LIVING BLACK & WHITE AND THIS EVENING'S GUEST FACILITATOR

One Voice Chorus' signature activity to help promote understanding and reconciliation is *Harmony in Living Black & White*, a conversation that begins one hour before each of our major concerts. Participants are encouraged to share their perspectives and embrace their similarities and differences.



Our facilitator for tonight's conversation is **EBONY WILKINS**. Born and raised in Richmond, Virginia, Ebony graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a major in History and a minor in African American Studies. In her professional role, Ebony is the Diversity, Inclusion and

Talent Manager for the local real estate company, HHHunt, Inc. She is a Senior certified Human Resources Professional and a certified Diversity and Inclusion Practitioner through Cornell University.

Ebony is passionate about creating safe spaces where everyone can be their most authentic self. Professionally, she is active in the Richmond chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management. Personally, she is an ordained Deaconess in her church and serves on several committees. Ebony's proudest accomplishments are being Michael's wife of 25 years and N'Daya, Amaris and Noah's mommy.



••• THE RICHMOND PLEDGE •••

I BELIEVE that every person has worth as an individual.

I BELIEVE that every person is entitled to dignity and respect, regardless of race or color.

I BELIEVE that every thought and every act of racial prejudice is harmful; if it is my thought or act, then it is harmful to me as well as to others.

Therefore, from this day forward I WILL strive daily to eliminate racial prejudice from my thoughts and actions.

I WILL discourage racial prejudice by others at every opportunity.

I WILL treat all people with dignity and respect.

I WILL commit to working with others to transform the Greater Richmond region into a place that treats people of all races, ethnicities, and cultures with justice, equity, and compassion, and

I WILL strive daily to honor this pledge, knowing that the world will be a better place because of my effort.

ABOUT ONE VOICE CHORUS

One Voice Chorus was founded in 2002 by Barbara Baynham and Glen McCune, then musical directors at traditionally African-American and European-American churches respectively, in Richmond. The group was formed to be an intentionally integrated, non-auditioned, adult chorus.

By 2004, One Voice Chorus was incorporated as an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization and continues to offer a musically diverse range of excellent choral performances to audiences in Richmond, Virginia and wherever there are those who need to hear One Voice. The mission of One Voice Chorus is *Singing the Beauty and Power of Diversity*. By demonstrating that there is so much more that unites than divides, One Voice helps the greater Richmond community and beyond find the power in its collective strength. To date, more than 900 singers have performed at major concerts and community outreach events for diverse audiences of over 50,000 people collectively in the greater Richmond region and across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Values and Brand Promises

In 2016, the One Voice Chorus Board of Directors set out to more clearly define the organization's values and brand. One Voice Chorus values Collaboration, Hope, Excellence, Respect and Passion, and these values are reflected throughout the organization. The Chorus members, volunteers, audiences and patrons are promised three things:

- 1) an uplifting choral experience;
- 2) radical inclusion and welcome; and
- 3) exposure, enlightenment and education.

Now in its 17th season, One Voice Chorus has further developed its strategic plan to expand its mission and regional service and to build sustainability in its operations and financial support.

For more information, visit www.onevoicechorus.org.

One Voice Chorus

... singing the beauty and power of diversity

SOPRANOS

♪ Edie Balbeisi	Bobbie Moore
Lorraine Blackwell	Linda Murray
♪ Jennifer Blosser	Bergen Nelson
Sandy Bogen	Mil Norman-Risch
Diana Cruickshank	♪ Suzanne Spooner-Munch
♪ Ursule Essangabela	Mary Virginia Overholser
Martha Glenn-Ryle	♪ Angelica Powers Goolsby
Holly Gordon	♪ Loletha P. Smith
Charlyn Harrison	Jessica Taylor
♪ Alma Hughes	Bernice Townes
♪ Beth Kaiser	♪ Rita Wainwright
Jeanne Lefever	Lauren Watkins

ALTOS

Leslie Anderson	Claire Luce
Ann Barry	Karyn Mauch
♪ Diane Becken	Pat Mays
Louise Brierre	Phyllis McCafferty
Christina Bryza	Christine McNeely
♪ Cary Davis	Nancy Norris
Janet Edmundson	♪ Phannetta Pearson
Emi Endo	Teresa Pesetti
Lori Garrett	♪ Patricia Rodgers
Donna Gilles	Frances Rudock
Marti Hurlburt	Renaë Sands
♪ Kim Kacani	♪ Mary Ellen Stumpf
Bev Koerin	Cathy Tatum

TENORS

Jack Austin

Dee Dee Damschroder

♪ ☆ Eunice Evans

♪ Drea Keppler

♪ Ronald Lanier

Hester Lewis

Sheryl Luebke

Bill Miller

Roosevelt Shackelford

♪ Judith Wansley

Jeff White

♪ Arnold Woodruff

BASSES

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♪ Carl Fischer

♪ David Gillespie

Thomas Hockey

Herbert Jones

♪ Stan Orchowsky

♪ Ensemble Member

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GUEST INSTRUMENTALISTS

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Percussion

Bruce Swartz
Bass

Christopher Reynolds
Organ

Imam Williams
Flute

GUEST DANCERS

Dance Candle Academy Dancers
Karen Watkins-Rios, *Artistic Director*

Milana Acham

Charis Milan

Madison Bray

Shannon Montgomery

Joy Brown

Karen Rios

Moriah Grannum

Ephenia Simpson

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR ONE VOICE



One Voice Chorus, like any non-profit organization, depends on the support of its community . . . and the people who are singing tonight, and you – our audience – make up our community! I am confident it will not come as a surprise to you that as a 501(c)3, we need your support – your continued support – to fulfill our mission. As we share the beauty and power of the music in tonight’s program, we hope you will be moved by our embrace of the beauty and power of diversity to make an additional donation to allow us to continue this important work.

Our ushers will be happy to take your donations tonight. If you wish to use a debit or credit card to make your contribution, please be sure to stop by the table in the lobby. Your donation can also be made at a later date by mailing in the envelope found in your program. Thank you for your generous support!

Alma Hughes, President

————— *Thank you* —————

2020 – 2022

COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND CONCERT HOSTS

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Mary Alice Weiser
Jeff White
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Lou Woodhouse

* In memory of Dee Steinacker

*Note: Listing does not include
online donations.*

OUR THANKS . . .

to our rehearsal homes, First Unitarian Universalist Church and St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, and to St. Paul's Episcopal Church for being our venue for tonight's performance. Thanks to Cary Davis, Beth Kaiser, Bev Koerin, Drea Keppler, Sheryl Luebke, Phannetta Pearson, Jacki Quinlan, Pat Rodgers, Suzanne Spooner-Munch, and Jeff White for their assistance with chorus support and concert production needs. Thanks also to Evan Clarke, Jeff Geiger, Marti Hurlburt, Kate Magee, Lannie Martin, Phyllis McCafferty Stan Orchowsky, Rakesh Parikh, Mary Ellen Stumpf, Dr. Melissa Viray, Nick Vogel, Jeff White, Ebony Wilkins, and First Unitarian Universalist Church for their generous in-kind contributions this fiscal year.

Special thanks to Bari Ramsey, Margaret Rush, and Matt Steppanich of First UU for their assistance. Frank Coleman recorded tonight's concert. Our thanks also to OVC family acting as ushers and support for the concert; to Lannie Martin for her stellar work in the creation of tonight's program booklet, and to our Board of Directors and community supporters. You are all so appreciated! Please consider supporting the businesses who generously placed ads in tonight's program!

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In Memoriam

We dedicate this concert, with all our love, to the One Voice family members and friends we have lost in the past two years.



ADELE JOHNSON
Past Board President,
OVC Member



DEE STEINACKER
Founding Member, OVC
Sang in every OVC concert



ED AND JANE
MENDENHALL



ULYSSES KIRKSEY
Conductor,
Petersburg Symphony



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THANK YOU, JOHN,
FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP THIS CONCERT CYCLE.

THE ONE VOICE CHORUS BOARD



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to One Voice Chorus,
your welcoming spirit at rehearsals
and your genuine concern for
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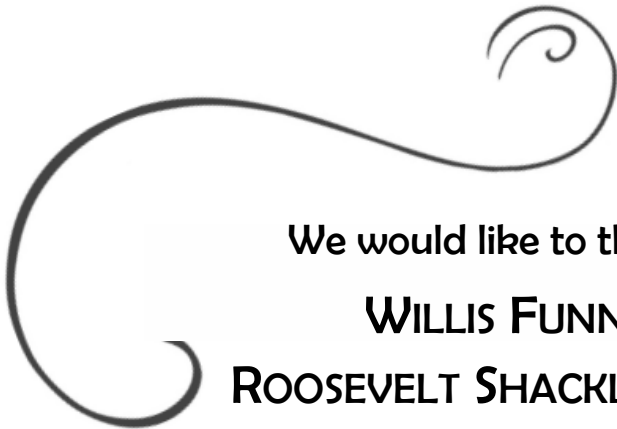
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Jamie Kilpatrick

for

STEPPING
UP



*Thank You,
Rita Smith!*

*For your many years of devotion to
One Voice Chorus*

THE ALTOS
OF ONE VOICE CHORUS

- Good Stuff in the Middle -



*"Music, once admitted to the soul,
becomes a sort of spirit, and never
dies." - Edward Bulwer-Lytton*

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AND THE WINNER IS DIVERSITY



And
thank you
to all
the people
who love me

EXACTLY
as God made me.

VIOLA DAVIS

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Still
lifting
our
voices
in
Song!



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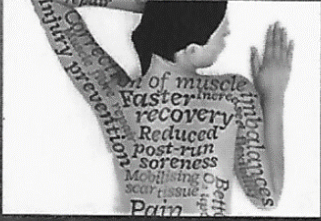
FAMILY SPIRIT



Love is the oil that eases friction,
the cement that binds closer together
and the music that brings harmony. *Eva Burrows*

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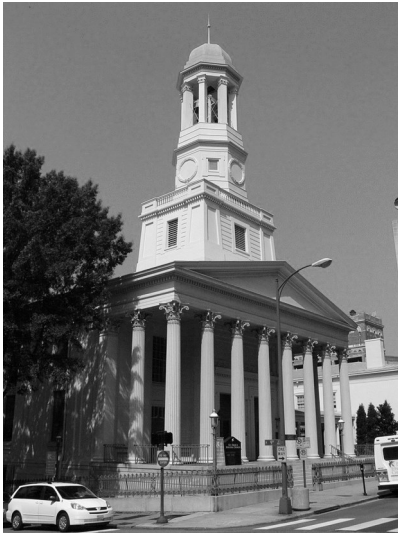
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The One Voice Tenors



Singing in the Spirit
...with the beauty and
power of diversity



The Greater Richmond branch of the
American Association of University Women
celebrates
the Virginia General Assembly's passage of the
Equal Rights Amendment on January 27, 2020
- becoming the 38th state to ratify!

While inclusion of the Equal Rights Amendment in the U.S. Constitution may not be as automatic as this vote suggests, efforts will continue to include the ERA in the Constitution. We still have something to celebrate!!



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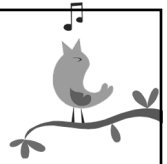
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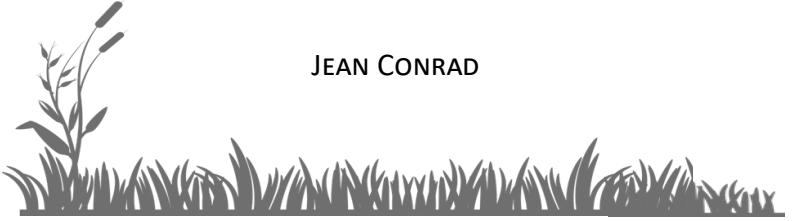
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Rehearsal after rehearsal,
your gracious spirit of volunteerism
helps OVC keep it all together.



*Thanking our families,
friends & teachers
for immersing us in
a music filled life!*

JEAN CONRAD





In Memory of Our parents

Jane & Russ

for sharing the love of music with us.

Marti & Beth

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles.*

*From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips.*

*"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

Emma Lazarus
The New Colossus
November 2, 1883



WHATEVER THE SPIRIT
THAT CAUSED OUR PATHS TO CROSS,
TOGETHER WE ARE

ONE VOICE CHORUS



. . . SINGING THE BEAUTY
AND POWER OF DIVERSITY

Marti and Phyllis,

*Your
spirit of
caring
lifts us
up.*



Thanks so much



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Please join us on Tuesday June 7, 2022
as we discuss "Born A Crime" by Trevor Noah.

Becoming Kindred Book Circle is a group of readers that represent a cross-section of Richmond Virginia's diverse population. We purposely have cultivated – and shall continue to cultivate – the members of our book circle so that we are diverse in nature and include African American voices as well as other minorities who are represented in our reading selections. Our goal is to offer a comfortable stage on which people of all races can frankly talk about the history and challenges that have been and continue to be faced by Americans of African and European descent. We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

If you are interested in joining our discussions
please contact Sheryl Luebke (spidersweb1997@gmail.com)
or Phannetta Pearson (phay.hoy@gmail.com).

Join the VCU Health
Orchestra and the One
Voice Chorus Ensemble in
a free concert on Friday,
June 10, at 7:30 pm
at the Cathedral of
the Sacred Heart,
823 Cathedral Place.

YOU'RE INVITED!



WE'D LOVE TO SING AT YOUR EVENT!

ONE VOICE CHORUS AND/OR ENSEMBLE

COMMUNITY - CORPORATE - PRIVATE

Many organizations book the Ensemble for events relating to Black History Month or Diversity Day, but we are also available for weddings and other celebrations, corporate meetings and dinners, or community events at large.



We can come to your event (yes, we have a portable professional keyboard and a portable accompanist) and entertain your guests, employees, or visitors from sets of 20 minutes to one hour long. Our repertoire is varied and hugely entertaining.

FOR BOOKINGS:

Call 804-716-5232 or email alma@onevoicechorus.org
or visit www.onevoicechorus.org for additional information!

