



2014-2015
46TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

WITNESS:

LET FREEDOM RING

Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 4 pm
Orchestra Hall
1111 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN

Pre-Concert Conversation at 3 pm with
Classical Minnesota Public Radio Host John Birge,
Sounds of Blackness Director Gary Hines,
and Don Shelby.

VocalEssence Chorus
Sounds of Blackness
South High School Varsity Choir
Talented Tenth Apprentices from
Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church
Philip Brunelle, *conductor*
Gary Hines, *director*
Laurie Meyers, *conductor*
Charles Kemper, *pianist*

SPECIAL THANKS

Ta-coumba Aiken
Christopher Aspaas
Timothy Berry
John Birge, Minnesota Public Radio
Ginger Commodore
Joanna Cortright
Melissa Dalluhn
Judy Drobek
Heritage Park Senior Services Center
 Janine McQuillan
 Gail Skoglund
Gary Hines
Chris Johnson, Minnesota Orchestra
Siri Keller
Georgia Marinkov-Omorean,
 Sabathani Community Center
Drew Miller
Sanford Moore, Fellowship Missionary
 Baptist Church
Vicki Olsen, Augsburg College
Laura Olson
Coral Sampson
Don Shelby
South High School
 Ray Aponte
 Laurie Meyers
Unisys
 Denise Anderson
 Judy K. Bornetun
 Kim Loskota
Tesfa Wondemagegnehu

DEDICATION

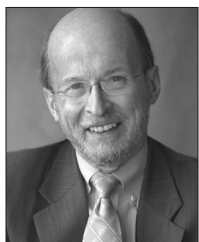
Today's WITNESS concert is dedicated to the memory of a wonderful man who believed in the VocalEssence WITNESS program from the very beginning: Dr. N. Judge King Jr. Judge encouraged us to promote the work of WITNESS in the schools and in concerts through his contributions, both financial and verbal, along with his wife, Reatha, and his family. We are indebted to the kind of inspiration that he gave VocalEssence for 25 years. He will be greatly missed!

CHORAL PATHWAYS AND VINTAGE VOICES

VocalEssence would like to welcome our special guests who are attending this afternoon's WITNESS concert through the VocalEssence Choral Pathways and Vintage Voices programs, which enrich the appreciation of choral music for older adults in the Twin Cities.

*Open Circle at Heritage Park
Senior Services Center
Sabathani Community Center
Senior Center*

WELCOME TO WITNESS: LET FREEDOM RING



How amazing! This is the 25th anniversary of VocalEssence WITNESS, celebrating the contributions of African Americans to our shared American heritage through concerts, recordings and a comprehensive educational program. What began 25 years ago as a single concert (at the Basilica of St. Mary) and one school program (Central High School, St. Paul) now embraces 50 schools throughout the greater Twin Cities. And our WITNESS Teacher Resource Guide serves as a model nationwide, helping teachers to celebrate the African American experience through the arts.

We are very pleased to welcome the South High School Varsity Choir as participants today as well as young people from Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in our Talented Tenth Apprentice Program. And, of course, it is a joy to welcome Sounds of Blackness and their director, Gary Hines, as our guests—I cannot think of any more appropriate way to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. than by hearing this magnificent Minnesota treasure!

– *Philip Brunelle, Artistic Director and Founder, VocalEssence*

VocalEssence would like to thank Reatha Clark King, Dr. N. Judge King III, M.D., Kristin N. King, MacKensey E. King, Kayla C. King, N. Judge King IV, and Scott C. King for the family's memorial gift to **WITNESS** in honor of Dr. N. Judge King Jr.

THE PROGRAM

VOCALLESSENCE CHORUS

Philip Brunelle, *conductor*

Folks, I'm Telling You

Elizabeth Alexander

JoAnna Swantek, *soprano*, and Michael Fairbairn, *tenor*

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

arr. Rosephanye Powell

My Good Lord's Done Been Here

arr. André Thomas

— PRESENTATION OF REATHA CLARK KING AWARD —

SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHOIR

Laurie Meyers, *conductor*

Sit Down Servant

arr. Linda Twine

VOCALLESSENCE CHORUS, SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHOIR, AND TALENTED TENTH APPRENTICES

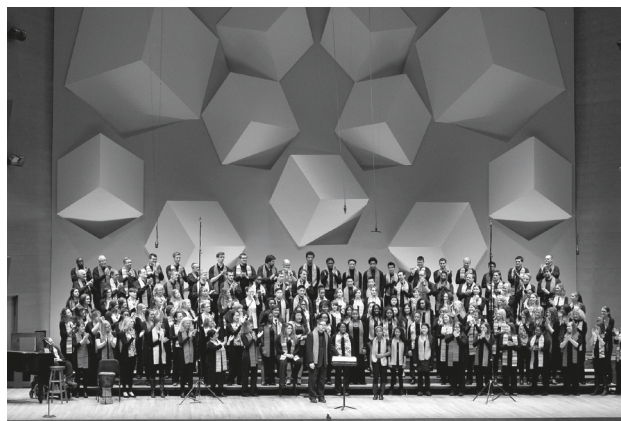
There Is a Balm in Gilead

arr. William Dawson

Elwyn Alexander Fraser Junior, *baritone*

— READINGS BY COLUMBIA HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS —

Jada Bell and Elijah Vanderpoel



SOUNDS OF BLACKNESS

Gary Hines, *director*

Love Train

Kenneth Gamble, Leon Huff

arr. Gary Hines

Harambee

Gary Hines

Odunde'

arr. Gary Hines

Kingdoms

arr. Gary Hines

Hold on Just a Little While Longer

arr. Gary Hines

March Song Medley

arr. Gary Hines

(Eyes on the Prize, Turn Me 'Round, Oh Freedom, My Soul Is Rested, Free at Last)

VOCALESSENCE CHORUS AND SOUNDS OF BLACKNESS

Martin Luther King

Gary Hines

VOCALESSENCE CHORUS, SOUNDS OF BLACKNESS, SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHOIR, AND TALENTED TENTH APPRENTICES

Hold On (Change Is Comin')

Billy Steele, Levi Seacer

AUDIENCE SING

We Shall Overcome

arr. Uzee Brown, Jr.



TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

FOLKS, I'M TELLING YOU

Elizabeth Alexander (1992)

Folks, I'm telling you,
birthing is hard
and dying is mean—
so get yourself
a little loving
in between.

Langston Hughes

SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A MOTHERLESS CHILD

arr. Rosephanye Powell (2003)

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child,
A long ways from home.
Sometimes I feel like I'm almost gone,
Way off in the heavenly land.
Bokaya kaya. (*Something terrible has
happened.*)
Nu wo vinowo. (*Something has
happened to mothers.*)

MY GOOD LORD'S DONE BEEN HERE

arr. André Thomas (2009)

O my good Lord's done been here,
blessed my soul and gone away,

My good Lord's done been here,
blessed my soul and gone.

When I get up in heaven and my work
is done,
Goin' to sit down by Sister Mary and
chatter with the darlin' son.

Hold up the Baptist finger, hold up the
Baptist hand,
When I get in the heaven, going a-join
the Baptist band.

You may be a white man, white man as
the drifting snow,
If your soul ain't be converted, to hell
you're sure to go.

SIT DOWN, SERVANT

arr. Linda Twine (1999)

Sit down, servant!
I can't sit down! My soul's so happy,
Lord, I can't, caina sit!
Sit down, sit, you better sit down.
No! I can't sit. No! I can't quit.
I've got to sing Hallelujah Glory Hallelu.
No! I can't rush. No! I can't hush.
I've got to sing Hallelujah Amen.
No! No! No! I can't eat. No! I can't sleep.
I've got to sing Hallelujah Glory
Hallelu.
No! I can't grouch. No! I can't slouch.
I've got to sing Hallelujah Amen.

Sit down, servant!
I can't sit down!

THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD

arr. William Dawson (1949)

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead to make the
wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the
sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and
think my work's in vain,
But then a gentle spirit revives my
soul again. *Refrain:*

LOVE TRAIN

*Kenneth Gamble, Leon Huff (1972),
arr. Gary Hines (1988)*

People all over the world (everybody)
Join hands (join)
Start a love train, love train
People all over the world (all the
world, now)
Join hands (love ride)
Start a love train (love ride), love train

The next stop that we make will be soon
Tell all the folks in Russia, and China, too
Don't you know that it's time to get on
board

And let this train keep on riding,
riding on through
Well, well

People all over the world (you don't
need no money)
Join hands (come on)
Start a love train, love train (don't
need no ticket, come on)
People all over the world (join in, ride
this train)
Join in (ride this train, y'all)
Start a love train (come on, train),
love train

All of you brothers over in Africa
Tell all the folks in Egypt, and Israel,
too
Please don't miss this train at the
station
'Cause if you miss it, I feel sorry, sorry
for you
Well

People all over the world (sisters and
brothers)
Join hands (join, come on)
Start a love train (ride this train, y'all),
love train (come on)
People all over the world (don't need
no tickets)
Join hands (come on, ride)
Start a love train, love train
Ride, let it ride
Let it ride

Let it ride
People, ain't no war
People all over the world (on this
train)
Join in (ride the train)
Start a love train, love train (ride the
train, y'all)
People all over the world (come on)
Join hands (you can ride or stand,
yeah)
Start a love train, love train (makin'
love)
People all over the world ('round the
world, y'all)
Join hands (come on)
Start a love train, love train

HARAMBEE

("LET US ALL PULL TOGETHER,"
SWAHILI)
Gary Hines (1991)

Harambee, harambee, harambee
Imani (Faith) to uhuru (Freedom)
Harambee, harambee.

ODUNDE'

("HAPPY NEW YEAR," YORUBA)
arr. Gary Hines (2007)

Odunde', odunde'
The birth of a new year

The joy of children, showers and
blessings
Glory, glory

KINGDOMS

Gary Hines (1994)

Kingdoms—Ghana, Mali & Songhai
Royal Kingdoms whose names the
history books passed by.
Glorious Kingdoms—their greatness
no one can deny.
Mighty Kingdoms—we'll never let
your memory die.

Kingdoms—Ethiopia and Egypt land.
Builders of The Pyramids—Four
thousand years and still they
stand.

Knowledge of The Universe. Knew
the stars in the heavens above.
All the people of the Earth, need to
know who we're singing of.

Kingdoms—Wealth beyond imagination.
Zimbabwe, Timbuktu and Ashanti
Nation.

Birthplace of Humanity. Cradle of
Civilization.
Africa The Motherland—since The
Dawn of Creation.

Kingdoms—Power and Majesty yet
remain.

Bountiful Kingdoms, their Royal
blood flows through our veins.
Beautiful Kingdoms, alive in us
waiting to ascend.
Marvelous Kingdoms, call for us to
build them again—
Kingdoms

HOLD ON JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER

arr. Gary Hines (1993)

Hold on just a little while longer,
Everything is gonna be alright.

Sing on just a little while longer,
Everything is gonna be alright.

Fight on just a little while longer,
Everything is gonna be alright.

MARCH SONG MEDLEY

(EYES ON THE PRIZE, TURN ME
'ROUND, OH FREEDOM, MY SOUL
IS RESTED, FREE AT LAST)

arr. Gary Hines (1987)

Eyes on the Prize

Keep your eyes on the prize, Oh Lord
The River Jordan is chilly and cold
Chilled my body, but not my soul
Keep your eyes on the prize, Oh Lord
The River Jordan is deep and wide

But I'll meet you on the other side

Turn Me 'Round

Ain't gonna let nobody
Turn me 'round
We're gonna keep on a-walkin'
Keep on a-talkin'
Marchin' till the day is done

Oh Freedom

Oh freedom, oh freedom
Oh freedom over me
And before I'll be a slave
I'll be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free.

They'll be singin'
They'll be singin' over me
And before I'll be a slave
I'll be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free.
They'll be prayin'
They'll be prayin'
And before I'll be a slave
I'll be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free.

My Soul Is Rested

Gary Hines (1988)

Well my feet is tired but my soul is
rested,
My soul is rested, gonna journey on.

We been 'buked and we been scorned,

We been talked about sho' as you born.
But we're marchin' down the freedom
road,
and we're on our journey home.

My body is achin' and my feets is tired,
but we can't get housing and we can't
get hired.

But we're marchin' on cause we've
been inspired,
and we're on our journey home.

Free at Last

arr. Gary Hines (1987)

Free at last, free at last,
Thank God Almighty, I'm free at last.

One of these mornings, it won't be
long,
You're gonna look for me and I'll be
gone.

I'm goin' up to heaven to sing and
shout,
One of these mornings,
Be nobody there to put me out.

One of these mornings, bright and fair
I'm gonna put on my wings and cleave
the air.

If you get to heaven before I do,
Tell all my friends I'm comin' too.

Thank God almighty
I'm free at last,
Thank God.

MARTIN LUTHER KING

Gary Hines (1987)

I wanna tell you 'bout a man I know,
who walked among us not long ago.
He lived for peace down here below,
his name is Martin.

He marched and suffered for you and
me, he fought and died for liberty,
So we can have dignity, I thank you
Martin.

And although I never met you, no, I
never shall forget you, no never,
never.

Refrain:

Oh-oh-oh-oh Martin, Reverend Dr.
Martin Luther King,
We have not forgotten, how you said
for all let freedom ring.
Ring throughout the nation,
brotherhood from sea to shining sea,
No discrimination, only justice and
equality.

So I remembered his name and I
remember it well, for his is a story to
forever tell.

Then everyone can ring the freedom
bell, because of Martin.

Drum major for justice, and a warrior
for peace,
With a message from heaven to make
the hatred cease.

Gave your life for freedom (thank
you) and you truly showed us the
way,
People had you lead them to a
brighter day. *Refrain:*

HOLD ON (CHANGE IS COMIN')

Billy Steele, Levi Seacer (1997)

Alright, ooh yeah, well, oh yeah, here
we go y'all
Singin' out the message for those of
y'all
Who feel like you're strugglin'
It's a simple song

Yesterday, a man stepped to me
He said, "How can you smile
When your world is crumbling down?"
I said, "Here's my secret, when I
wanna cry
I take a look around and I see that I'm
getting by"

Refrain:
And hold on (Hold on)

A change is coming (Change is coming)
Hold on (Hold on)
Don't you worry (Don't worry 'bout a
thing)

Hold on (Hold on)
You can make it (You can make it)
Hold on (Hold on)
Everything (Everything will be
alright)

Some people like to worry
Some people like to hide
Some people like to run away
From the pain inside
Now it's your business
Do whatever you wanna' do
But if it don't work out
Here's what you oughta' do. *Refrain:*

When the troubles of life weigh you
down
Just lift your head up, yeah, yeah
When the love you seek is hard to find
Don't give up, just keep strong, keep
the faith. *Refrain:*

Here's the little simple song, y'all
When the troubles seem like they just
won't go away
Friends let you down, things gettin'
bounced around
Here's the little lullaby we like to sing
And it goes a little like this, come on,
listen

WE SHALL OVERCOME

arr. Uzee Brown, Jr. (2007)

We shall overcome,
We shall overcome,
We shall overcome some day.
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe,
That we shall overcome some day.

We'll walk hand in hand,
We'll walk hand in hand.
We'll walk hand in hand some day,
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe,
That we shall overcome some day.

We are not afraid,
We are not afraid,
We are not afraid today,
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe,
That we shall overcome some day.

We shall overcome,
We shall overcome,
We shall overcome some day,
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe,
That we shall overcome some day.



FEATURED ARTISTS



Since 1971, the Grammy Award-winning **Sounds of Blackness** have performed and proclaimed the music, culture and history of African Americans to audiences all over the world. From jazz to rock and roll, rhythm and blues, gospel, spirituals, hip-hop, reggae and soul, the group colors each “sound of blackness” with uplifting messages of hope, unity, love and peace—and works to achieve it.

They have appeared with or recorded for Quincy Jones, Stevie Wonder, Prince, Sting, Santana, Eric Clapton, Usher, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, Elton John, Sir Andrew Lloyd Weber, Luther Vandross, Aretha Franklin, Dolly Parton, Vince Gill, Lyle Lovett, Bob Dylan, Earth Wind & Fire, Yolanda Adams, Kirk Franklin, President Bill Clinton, Jay Leno, BB King, the Minnesota Orchestra, Robert Duvall, Maya Angelou and many others.

Endeavors under the direction of Director Gary Hines have included performances on five continents, including the World Music Awards, the White House, the Grammy Awards, the 1994 World Cup and the 1996 Olympics. The group has participated in worldwide benefit concerts and recordings for such causes as the United Negro College Fund, Scholarship America, and Hurricane Katrina and Tsunami Fundraisers. Their theatrical productions, master classes, workshops on African American music, culture and history are offered for pre-school to post-graduate levels, from the Smithsonian Institute to the Kennedy Center.

The Sounds of Blackness has won three Grammy Awards, for *The Evolution of Gospel*, *Soulful Celebrations*, and *The Apostle Soundtrack*, and has received seven Stellar Awards, five NAACP Image Awards and the International Time for Peace Award, among others.



Gary D. Hines is music director and producer of the three-time Grammy Award-winning *Sounds of Blackness*. Embracing a wide range of styles, Gary has

performed in every major city in the United States, and abroad in Africa, England, Holland, Switzerland, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Japan, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, Bermuda, Jamaica, Martinique and the Bahamas with *Sounds of Blackness*. Gary has also conducted countless music workshops and master classes across the United States and internationally about the history, impact and evolution of African American music and culture. Gary has been the recipient of such honors as a Grammy, an International Time For Peace Award, Minnesota Music Academy Awards, a Minnesota Music Hall of Fame Award, a Distinguished Citizen Award, the Golden Scroll For the Promise of Greatness Award and an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from his alma mater, Macalester College in St. Paul.

COLLABORATORS

South High School Varsity Choir

The mission of the choral program at South High School is to cultivate the inner voice of each student and to provide the skills and knowledge necessary to remain active in music-making for a lifetime. South offers the Pop Singers, Varsity Choir, Women's Choir, and Concert Choir. The Varsity Choir, created in 2007, has performed with Cantus, VocalEssence, and the Minnesota Youth Symphonies, and is honored to perform in this year's WITNESS Concert.



Laurie Meyers, director of choirs at South High School, has been teaching music since 1998 and holds an M.A. from Nova Southeastern University and a Bachelor of Music Education from Drake University. In addition to teaching in the Minneapolis Public Schools, Laurie has taught in District 196 and in Jordan as a member of the Peace Corps. She is a member of the American Choral Directors Association and the Minnesota Music Educators Association.

The Talented Tenth Apprentice Program



Inspired by the principals of African American scholar W.E.B. DuBois, the VocalEssence Talented Tenth Apprentice Program offers urban-area high school students the opportunity to receive professional music and vocal training. The program includes:

- Group voice lessons with a professional singer
- Free tickets to VocalEssence concerts
- The opportunity to sing on stage with VocalEssence

In partnership with Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, Sanford Moore has worked with this year's Talented Tenth students, teaching them selected repertoire from the WITNESS concert. VocalEssence singers and the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church Choir also joined together at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church to sing with the students during their worship service on February 1st.

Through the generous support of Sanford Moore and Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, VocalEssence offers the program free of charge.

2015 Participants

Natalie Anderson
Chanda Dennis
Ireaia Machuca
Remaia Machuca
Jaeda Stubblefield
Winston Ware

**SPECIAL THANKS
FOR THE SUPPORT
OF THIS CONCERT**

PLATINUM



*Katherine B. Andersen
Fund of The Saint
Paul Foundation*

*Curtis L. Carlson
Family Foundation*

GOLD



SILVER



*Leland T. Lynch and
Terry Saario Fund
of The Minneapolis
Foundation*

BRONZE



*Walt McCarthy and
Clara Ueland*

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**MUSIC
MAKES US
WHOLE**

**VocalEssence is a proud partner
of Music Makes Us Whole.**

2014-2015 SEASON SPONSORS



GENERAL MILLS

Minnesota
Monthly



*This activity is made possible by the voters of
Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts
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cultural heritage fund, and a grant from the
Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.*

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