

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT AT THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT

WHO WILL I SEE AND HEAR?

Joe Davis and The Poetic Diaspora



The WITNESS *Reawakening Love* Young People's Concerts will feature Joe Davis and the Poetic Diaspora performing alongside the VocalEssence Singers Of This Age and a few members from the VocalEssence Chorus.

The Poetic Diaspora is soul, funk band comprised of two vocalists and also features violin, electric bass, lead guitar, piano, drums/percussion, and the occasional moment of beat-boxing.

This 50-minute performance will feature WITNESS Teaching Artists reading poetry from by Joe Davis, alongside new arrangements of traditional spirituals, gospel, and original songs. This program of music and spoken word is a blueprint inviting each of us to consider how we can create a movement of love, respect, reconciliation, and truth telling. *And yes, YOU, the audience will have a chance to sing with us!*

VocalEssence Teaching Artists



The VocalEssence Teaching Artists represent a wide array of artforms, and are leaders in the Twin Cities performing arts community. Not only do they teach their art form to students in schools and adults in the community, they are also award-winning performers with local, national and international acclaim! They include professional dancers, choreographers, composers, music producers, actors and musicians. Many of you will experience workshops with them in your classrooms. They are delighted to share their artistic gifts with you in this collaborative concert!

VocalEssence Singers Of This Age and Chorus



The VocalEssence Singers Of This Age, also known as SOTA, are a dynamic group of young people from Twin Cities high schools who sing, dance, write their own music, rap, and—most importantly—reflect the diversity of our community in its membership. They have worked hard to prepare for today's concert, and are excited to see you all in the audience!

The VocalEssence Chorus is an exceptional group of talented, committed adult singers from many walks of life. The Chorus is well known around the world. People recognize them for their great voices as well as their performances of new and rarely heard songs.

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

- Music can express things that people cannot put into words alone.
- All people have music in their lives, no matter where they grew up.
- Singing brings people together.
- Learning about people who create and perform music can help us better understand our differences and similarities.

WHERE WILL IT BE?

This year's concert will be held at Orchestra Hall in downtown Minneapolis. Just a few blocks from Orchestra Hall, the Convention Center Auditorium hosts many different types of events every year.



Orchestra Hall, downtown Minneapolis

HOW SHOULD I ACT?

When you go to the concert, concentrate on listening to the music...

- Try to feel the rhythms and follow the tunes.
- Listen for changes in the music—sometimes it will be very powerful and loud, and other times very soft and delicate.

...also, don't forget to watch the performers on stage...

- Which instrument or voice has the main tune?
- What can you tell about the music by how the performers interact with one another?

...and reflect on what you hear.

- How does it make you feel?
- Does it bring back certain memories?
- Could you sing these songs?

If you feel a little nervous because this is your first concert, that's okay. You are not alone. Other students feel the same way, even though they may not show it. The main thing to remember is that although performers like to hear your applause, they are also grateful for your quiet attention. Remembering the following rules will help make the experience more enjoyable for everyone.

Refrain from talking.

The first and greatest rule. It also includes whispering during the music. If you like, tap your toes quietly inside your shoes— it's a good exercise to reduce toe fat.

Please have nothing in your mouth, besides your teeth and tongue.

Gum and candy are not allowed.

Do not ring or text.

Leave cell phones, video games, iPods, cameras and other electronic devices at school or on the bus.

Do not sigh with boredom.

If you are really bored, try to keep it to yourself. Your neighbor just may be having a good time listening!

Do not embarrass your teacher or your school.

Remember that you are representing your school. There are many eyes looking at you. Show respect to the students and teachers around you, and to the artists performing on stage.

Do not compete to be the loudest cheerer!

At Orchestra Hall, applause and some cheering are the best ways to show you have enjoyed something.

(Adapted from "The Ten Rules of Concert Etiquette for Students," by the National Association for Music Education.)