

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The AFRO-AMERICAN CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY ORCHESTRA (AACMSO) Founded in 1988 by Professor Janise White, graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music (B.M., piano; Minor, Harpsichord), Oberlin Conservatory (Artist Diploma Studies), Cal State University Hayward (B.A. Music Education, Choral Credential) & University of Southern California (M.M., piano) the Afro-American Chamber Music Society Orchestra (AACMSO) is dedicated to the preservation & performance of music by Black symphonists. Since its inception, AACMSO has performed the works of a plethora of Black symphonists on KUSC "Sundays Live" from 1988 to 2014. In October 2015, AACMSO's Sancho Minuets recording was displayed at the West African Exhibit at the British Library from October 2015 to February 2016; archived in the British Library Repository (2015-16) & broadcast over BBC Radio 4 - "Britain's Black Past" in a ten-part documentary that aired in October 2016. Also in 2015, two commissioned works & recordings of "Cape Coast Castle Symphony" & "Jazz Flute Concertino" by Dr. Joyce Solomon Moorman were archived in the Research Foundation Library of the City University of New York. In 2021, AACMSO performed for the Columbus Chamber Music Series of Columbus Ohio. AACMSO is listed in the Bibliography of Black Composers by Dominique Rene de Lerma & mentioned in the International Dictionary of Black Composers by Samuel Coleridge, Jr.; Brass Music of Black Composers by Aaron Horne; Music by Black Women Composers: A Bibliography of Available Scores by Helen Walker-Hill; From Spirituals to Symphonies: African-American Women Composers by Helen Walker-Hill; Black American Music: Past & Present by Hildred Roach; & Encyclopedia of Women Composers by Aaron Cohen.

MAESTRO VINCE WOMACK, AACMSO CONDUCTOR June 2019-

Mr. Womack serves as Adjunct Professor of Music Education at The University of Southern California Thornton School of Music. He has taught Instrumental Methods and Music Education courses at USC and also served as Assistant Director of the USC Trojan Marching Band. Mr. Womack is Music Director at James A. Foshay Learning Center, an urban, K-12 Band in Los Angeles. He holds a Master's of Music Education degree from the University of Southern California.

From Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Dolby Theater, to the Hollywood Bowl and the Cathedral of Our Lady, Mr. Womack has conducted ensembles in the finest venues in Los Angeles. Most recently, Maestro Womack debuted as conductor with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

ORCHESTRA MEMBERS

VIOLIN

Karen Elaine †
Ruthie Brugger
Jeff Corwin
Vainayaki Sivaji
Irina Boutyrskaya
Philip Vaiman

VIOLAS

Darrel Sims*
Gracie McLeer
Monica Crusoe
Cecille Asuncion

OBOE

Francisco Castillo*
David Hernandez

HORNS

Kelsi McGlothlan*
Will Grace

CELLOS

Maksim Velichkin*

HARPSICHORD

Janise White

SECOND VIOLINS

Edgar Sandoval*
Lowell Crystal
Xander Knecht
Shirgeru Logan
Judy Garf

Hope Easton
Circe Diaz Gamero

BASS

Nedra Wheeler*
Edwin Livingston
Andrew Ullah

† Concertmaster * Principal

AACMS SINGERS, JANISE WHITE, DIRECTOR

Ferra Adamou, Cory Anderson, Donna Bedney, Janet Corbin, Karen Corbin, Gigi Edwards, Connie Johnson, Lynette Moore, Keith Nevels, Mijan Owens, Ralph Pettiford, Margaret Strawder, Ramond Thomas, Carol Wooten

Afro-American Chamber Music Society

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Visit our website for program notes



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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

First Congregational Church of Los Angeles, Pastor Fregin

for the use of the concert venue;

Chester McCurry & Reniece Edwards, Coordinators, FCCLA

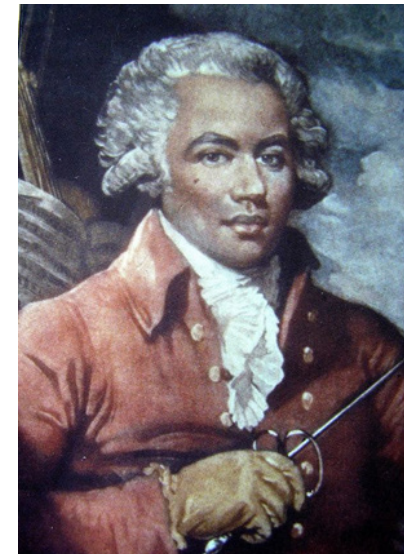
David Salmanda, Videographer, FCCLA

Malcom Ali, Photographer, Finart

Curtis Berak, Harpsichord Builder



SAINT GEORGES FESTIVAL CONCERT



MAESTRO VINCE WOMACK, CONDUCTOR
JANISE WHITE, FOUNDER & MUSICAL DIRECTOR

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES
MAY 1, 2022 5:00 PM



PROGRAM

Lift Every Voice and Sing.....J. Rosamond Johnson

Welcome & Prayer.....Pastor Laura Vail Fregin, FCCLA

SYMPHONIE XI NO. 2 IN D & OVERTURE TO

“L'AMANT ANONIME”.....Le Chevalier de Saint-Georges
(The Anonymous Lover Opera (1780)

I. Allegro Presto
II. Andante
III. Presto

Violin Concerto in C, Opus 5 No. 1 (1775)

Manoela Wunder, Violinist

I. Allegro II. Andante Moderato III. Rondeau

ARIA FOR VALCOUR “DEPUIS LONGTEMPS MON COEUR SOUPIRE”

(My Heart Has Sighed for a Long Time)

Valcour, Daniel Voigt, Tenor

ARIA FOR LEONTINE “SON AMOUR SA CONSTANCE EXTREME”

(His Love is Extremely Constant)

Leontine, Lettrice Lawrence, Soprano

DUET FOR JEANETTE & COLIN “CHANTONS, CELEBRONS NOTRE DAME”

(Let's Celebrate Our Lady)

Jeanette, Dr. Britany Moore Alexander

Colin, Richard Taylor, Baritone

AACMSO Ensemble

DUET FOR JEANETTE & COLIN “JOUISSEZ DE L'ALLEGRESSE”

(Enjoy the Happiness)

Jeanette, Dr. Britany Moore Alexander

Colin, Richard Taylor, Baritone

INTERMISSION

VIOLIN CONCERTO IN D, OPUS 2 NO. 2 (1773)

Dr. Lyndon Johnston Taylor, LA Philharmonic Violinist

I. Allegro II. Adagio III. Rondeau

ARIA FOR OPHEMON “AIMER SANS POUVOIR LE DIRE”

(Love without Expression)

Ophemon, Richard Taylor, Baritone

TRIO FOR LEONTINE, VALCOUR & OPHEMON “AH! QUEL TROUBLE”

“What Agitation Love Causes Me”

Leontine, Lettrice Lawrence, Soprano

Valcour, Daniel Voigt, Tenor

Ophemon, Richard Taylor, Baritone

QUATUOR FOR LEONTINE & VALCOUR & COLIN “AIMONS NOUS”

(Let's Love Each Other Forever)

Leontine, Lettrice Lawrence, Soprano

Jeanette, Dr. Britany Moore Alexander, Soprano

Valcour, Daniel Voigt, Tenor

Ophemon, Richard Taylor, Baritone

-FINE-

COMPOSER

LE CHEVALIER DE ST. GEORGES (1745-99) Virtuoso Violinist, Conductor, Royal Guard (Three Musketeers), Colonel of the Legion Nationale des Americains et du Midi

Le Chevalier de St. Georges was born on Christmas Day, 1745 on a Guadelupe plantation as the son of a Senegalese slave mother, Nanon & father, Guillaume Pierre de St Georges, a slave master and French Governor. His formative violin training began with Platon at age five on the Guadelupe plantation where he learned and performed Caribbean folk music along with cotillion and country dances. Emerging from the Guadelupe plantation, St. Georges entered into the royal French society at 13 becoming an iconic French classical musician. He attended the Royal Academy of Music in Paris, studying with director and violinist, Jean Marie LeClair. He assumed prestigious titles as the Duke of Orleans' Theater Director (1785), Paris Opera Director (1775), Concertmaster (1769-1781) under Gossec and later Conductor of the Concert des Amateurs Orchestras (1775-1780), Duke of Orleans' Theater Director (1785), and Conductor of the Concert de la Loge Olympique Orchestra (1778-85). The Sinfonias, Concertos, Symphonie Concertantes and Harpsichord works represent the music from the Royal Court of Queen Marie Antoinette and King Louis XVI of France. Stylized in the French Classical tradition, the works embody Le Chevalier de St. Georges' elegance, grace and grandeur. As an iconic musician and prolific composer, St Georges is historically the first composer of African descent to publish classical music in Europe including 130 songs, 2 sinfonias, 11 symphonies concertantes, 30 operas (13 performed on the stage of the Paris Opera), 10 Violin Concertos (written five notes higher than any Mozart concertos) and premiered with the Concert de Amateurs Orchestra 1772-), 10 harpsichord sonatas, 10 violin sonatas and 12 string quartets. St. Georges' success far surpasses those held by any musician of color from the Classical Era. Additionally, his unprecedented accomplishments include the first composer to publish string quartets in France, the invention of the symphonie concertante in collaboration with Gossec and violin concertos with a range of five notes above those by Classical composers of his time.

ABOUT THE GUEST ARTISTS

MANOELA WUNDER, VIOLINIST, Symphonie Concertante Soloist holds a Bachelor of Music from the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College (NY) in Violin Performance and a Master of Music degree with distinction under scholarship from DePaul University in Chicago. A native of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, violinist Manoela Wunder has performed with a wide range of orchestras and chamber groups in New York, Chicago, Miami, and Los Angeles as well as Europe. Her music has been heard in the most prominent halls across the country, including Alice Tully Hall (NY), Symphony Center Chicago and Walt Disney Concert Hall (LA). She is a multiple prizewinner of competitions in the United States and Europe and has been a guest at many prominent festivals throughout her career. In Brazil, she has been coaxed back to her hometown to perform as a soloist with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Rio de Janeiro, in the most prestigious halls of the city and on national television.

SIMON LUKE BROWN, CADENZA COMPOSER

Simon Luke Brown, who began violin studies at age four is a Violin Major in his senior year at Andrews University studying with Carla Trynchuk. He passion for music has influenced his specialization in all aspects of the art including composition and music history. On today's program you will hear twenty-two year old Simon's original violin cadenzas composed for his Uncle Lyndon Johnston Taylor.

DR. LYNDON JOHNSTON TAYLOR, DMA, VIOLINIST

Dr. Lyndon Taylor holds degrees in science and music including (Bachelor of Science, Chemistry), ((Master of Music Degree, California State University, Northridge) and (Doctor of Musical Arts Degree, Juilliard School). Dr. Taylor was awarded the Fritz Kreisler Scholarship while attending the Juilliard School of Music under the direction of Dorothy

DeLay. He debuted as the Taylor String Quartet comprised of his siblings concertizing with his Duo Piano parents in over 50 colleges and universities and on national radio and TV in Great Britain, Sweden, and Norway. He was also a member of the Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia. From 2007 to 201, Taylor served as Assistant Concertmaster for the New Zealand Symphony. He is currently serving as Principal Second Violin in the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In addition, he has been the recipient of the Coleman Chamber Music Award, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago Soloist Auditions, the Joseph Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, the Lipizer International Competition (Italy) and the 2000 Adventist Alumni Achievement Award for the Arts.

DANIEL VOIGT, TENOR - VALCOUR

Mr. Voigt is a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is currently a Freshman at the University of Southern California completing his Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Arts. He was introduced to the world of classical singing as an eleven year old at a New Jersey Boarding School with the American Boys Choir. Continuing his newly found passion, Daniel furthered his studies of classical singing and opera at Interlochen Arts Academy in Northern Michigan. Most recently, Daniel debuted as Jack in Into the Woods. He continues to engage in various classical performances around the Los Angeles area.

LETRICE LAWRENCE, DRAMATIC SOPRANO - LEONTINE

Mrs. Lawrence studied Vocal Performing Arts at Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles (Bachelor of Arts in Music, Vocal Performance).

This Los Angeles Diva is much in demand as a vocalist versatile in both classical and popular music genres. She has received the Ella Fitzgerald Humanitarian Award by Blacmail Productions, Heart 2 Heart Foundation and Mark Ridley-Thomas. She was nominated for an NAACP Award for a performance in “Can God's Love Reach you In the Dark” Part 2 by Spencer Collins. Additionally, she was awarded “Best New Artist 2020” by the Black Music Association and Academy of the Arts.

Mrs. Lawrence has performed with the Southeast Symphony and San Bernardino Symphony under Maestro Anthony Parnter. She has worked with Barbra Streisand for the Timeless Tour, Herman Andrus and Clifton Davis. She has just released “Ave Maria” in Europe and USA on Universal Music Group UK accessible on Amazon, Spotify and Apple Music.

DR. BRITANY EVONNE VICTORIA ALEXANDER, MD, COLORATURA SOPRANO - JEANETTE

Dr. Alexander is a soprano known for her soulful interpretation, lush lyrical tones and soaring coloratura range and Psychiatrist. She studied the Bel Canto musical philosophy privately under Dr. Julie Moore, and as student of the Vocal Arts Studio in Los Angeles. One of her favorite musical experiences was as a touring member of the Aeolians of Oakwood (then College) University under the direction of Dr. Lloyd Mallory. While in medical school, she was delighted to become a member of the Nashville Symphony Chorus. Today, she enjoys solo and choral performances for various local events in Southern California. Her wide repertoire includes classical arias, African American spirituals, hymns, show tunes, Disney showstoppers, and the Great American Songbook.

RICHARD TAYLOR, BARITONE - OPHEMON & COLIN

Richard Taylor received his Bachelor and Master Degrees in Voice from the University of Michigan studying with Dr. Willis Patterson. There he was awarded first prize in their Concerto Competition.

He debuted with the Michigan Opera Thetre singing the role of Jake in “Porgy and Bess”. Videmus for “Art Songs by Black American Composers” by Willis Patterson (Videmus Records, 1977, VIS 106). During his career he toured China with the Pacific Chorale and toured with the Houston Grand Opera in the United States and Europe. He performed Scarpia for the Anchorage Opera. In Barcelona, Spain he performed as soloist in the “Verdi Requiem”. His Carnegie Hall performances includes appearing as soloist in the world premiere of Earnestine Rodgers-Robinson's “The Nativity” and later singing the Faure and Verdi Requiems under the direction of Donald Neun.