

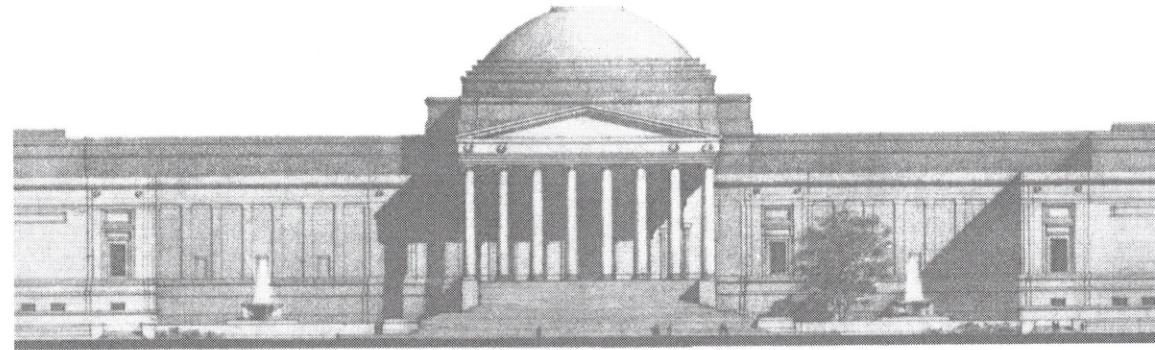
The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are turned off.

Please note that late entry or reentry of the West Building after 6:30 pm is not permitted.

For the convenience of concertgoers, the Garden Café remains open for light refreshments until 6:00 pm on Sundays.

Music Department  
National Gallery of Art  
Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC

[www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov)



The Sixty-ninth Season of  
The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin  
**Concerts**

National Gallery of Art  
2,835th Concert

**Women and Girls of the  
Washington Performing Arts Society Gospel Choir**  
Stanley J. Thurston, artistic director  
Michelle Fowlin, guest director; Diedre Neal, choreographer  
with  
Stephanie Thomas, pianist  
Deirdre Ball, bassist; Lynyetta Johnson, percussionist

March 27, 2011  
Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm  
West Building, West Garden Court

*Admission free*

*The program will be announced from the stage*

### The Musician

#### **WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY GOSPEL CHOIR**

Formed in the early 1990s to celebrate the tradition and inspirational roots of gospel music on America's main stages, the Washington Performing Arts Society's (WPAS) Men, Women, and Children of the Gospel Choir has showcased its distinctive style of inspirational performances for audiences at the Kennedy Center as well as the Atlas Performing Arts Center, the Harman Center, the United States Department of State, the Washington National Cathedral, and the White House. Having gained national recognition through repeated performances on NBC's *Today Show* and an appearance in *Jazz at Lincoln Center*, the choir has shared the stage with Yolanda Adams, Kathleen Battle, Kurt Carr, Y'Anna Crawley, Beverly Crawford, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Wynton Marsalis, Donnie McClurkin, Dottie Peoples, Richard Smallwood, and Vickie Winans as well as with such renowned ensembles as the Ramsey Lewis Trio and Sweet Honey In The Rock. Under the leadership of artistic director Stanley J. Thurston, the WPAS Gospel Choir has worked with some of the area's noted choral directors to enhance its training.

For more than four decades, the Washington Performing Arts Society has created profound opportunities for connecting the community to artists, in both education and performance. As one of the leading arts presenters in the nation, the Society supports a complete spectrum of arts presentations, revealed in performances of the highest quality. These include classical music, jazz, gospel, contemporary dance, international music, and works involving other art forms that bend genres in provocative ways. WPAS also commissions world premieres on local stages and dynamic education programs in schools. More information about WPAS is available at [www.wpas.org](http://www.wpas.org).

Performing in tonight's concert with the WPAS Women of the Gospel Choir are:

Ghordan Bingham	Phyllis Miller
Allean Brown	Annisette Murillo
Denise Bryant	Shelia Parker
Phyllis Chesley	Yolanda Peterson Jones
Julia Dennis	Sidney Porter
Gloria Duarte	Rebecca Powell
Candace Dyson	Noelle Price
Deborah Easter	Salma Qarnain
Jordan Embrack	Iris Richard
Cheryl Few	Jacqueline Richardson
Channita Fraser	Barbara Rogers
Karen Hall	Sharon Ross
Khanner Hancock	Janel Saunders
Phyllis Harris	Cheri Snyder
Dawn Hawkins	Joy Swafford
Tumara Jordan	Jamie Ward Black
June Lambert	Alexis Wilder
Jacqueline Lucas	Vickie Wilkerson
Kristina Lyles	Verica Williams
Annice Majette	Gina Abercrombie Winstanley
Mildred McCullough	Leavia Wright
Samantha McElhaney	



**MY GOD IS STANDING BY**  
**Walter Hawkins**

**Solo** -Everywhere you go there is trouble (**there is trouble**)  
**Solo** -Everywhere you go there is strife (**there is strife**)  
**Solo** -Everywhere you go there is something that worries you but remember  
**Choir** -My God is standing by

**Repeat**

**Bridge:**

**Solo** -God is standing by (**no need to cry**)  
**Solo** - My God is standing near (**no need to fear**)  
**Solo** - Jesus he'll be right there (**He's everywhere**)

**Solo** - He's rolled the dark clouds away (**yes**)  
**Solo** - And he'll answer you when you pray (**oh, yes**)  
**Solo** - He'll hear you when you call (**yes**)  
**Solo** - He'll catch you before you fall (**oh, yes**)  
**Solo** - Jesus, he'll be your friend (**yes**)  
**Solo** - Stick by you till the very end  
**Choir** - My God is standing by

**Repeat bridge**

**Performer Biographies and Song Texts**  
**Women and Girls of the Washington Performing Arts Society Gospel Choir**  
**March 27, 2011**

**Michelle Fowlin, guest director**

A graduate of Howard University with bachelor and master of music degrees, Michelle Fowlin studied vocal performance and pedagogy with Carmen Balthrop, Charlotte Holloman, and Regina McConnell. Under the tutelage of Dr. James Weldon Norris, she developed her conducting skills, serving as lead soloist and assistant to the conductor for the Howard University choirs during a period when the ensembles performed in England, Russia, Spain, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Upon completing her studies, Fowlin has continued her vocal career while serving as a music teacher in the Washington, DC, public school system. She has worked with the Washington Performing Arts Society's Children of the Gospel Summer Music Camp; led church youth choirs; and conducted vocal health and wellness clinics, voice and piano master classes, and gospel music workshops. Awards recognizing her service to the community include the Washington, DC, Mayor's Award and a Certificate of Recognition from the DC Commission on the Arts. Fowlin is currently the director of choirs at Eleanor Roosevelt High School and the cofounder of HerSanctuary™, a spiritual partnership of women musicians.

**Stephanie Thomas, pianist**

A native of Washington, DC, Stephanie Thomas has been singing and playing the piano since age five, and has received widespread recognition for her versatility and the passion of her performances. She has performed throughout the United States and in Europe as a soloist and in choirs and other ensembles. A graduate of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, where she double majored in public policy and music and studied under Donald Harrison, Anna Kijanowska, Harris Simon, and Maria Yefimova, Thomas currently studies law at The American University in Washington, DC. She is the keyboardist and Praise Team director at First Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dumfries, Virginia.



**I CANNOT STOP PRAISING THE LORD**

Shirley Caesar

**Deirdre Ball, bassist**

Gospel bassist Deirdre Ball regards her talent as an opportunity to minister through music. She has played for several Women's Day events in the Washington, DC, area and served as one of the bassists at Mount Ennon Baptist Church in Clinton, Maryland, as well as bassist for the male, women's, and massed choirs at First Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dumfries, Virginia.

**Lynetta Johnson, percussionist**

Cofounder with Michelle Fowlin of the all-female vocal and instrumental gospel music ensemble, HerSanctuary™, Lynetta Johnson has been involved in music since she was nine years old. She worked with many churches and gospel artists before founding an independent music label, It's About Time Records, in 2002. That same year she formed the Jonre Music Group (JMG) to produce an independent film, *SOUNDCHECK*. As a composer, Johnson wrote music for an award-winning commercial and won a composition contest sponsored by Kirk Franklin, General Mills, and *Jet* magazine. A member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, she studied music and communication at Brevard College and George Mason University.

**Chorus:**

No I'll never stop praising the Lord (2x)  
He brought me out of darkness into the marvelous light  
I'll never stop praising him (2x)

**Vs. 1 (solo):**

Now I am so grateful for all the lord has done for me  
He paid the price just to save a sinner like me  
When no one else was around, Jesus came from heaven down  
And I made up in my mind that I'll never, I'll never stop praising Him

**Chorus**

**Vs. 2 (solo):**

Now I can't stop lifting him up  
He's been better than good to me  
He fought my every battle and my sinful soul he set free  
You can always depend on him when everything around you looks dim  
I'll never (6x) never, never, never

**Chorus**

**Bridge:**

Cannot stop, will not stop, cannot stop  
Praising the lord  
Cannot stop, will not stop, cannot stop  
Gotta keep going on and on and on and on and on and on----

Cannot stop (3x) praising the Lord  
(repeat)

Cannot stop (11x)

Gotta keep going on and on and on and on and on and on----