



# 74TH SEASON OF CONCERTS

JANUARY 17, 2016 • NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART



# PROGRAM



## 3:30 • West Building, West Garden Court

Fisk Jubilee Singers®

Paul T. Kwami, musical director

Arr. John W. Work III  
*'Way Over in Egypt Land*

Arr. John W. Work III  
*Run Mourner, Run*  
Kierra Pryor, soprano  
Brianna Barbour, soprano  
Joi-Anissa Taylor, soprano

Arr. Moses Hogan  
*Old Time Religion*  
Domine B. Ezechukwu, alto

Arr. William L. Dawson  
*There Is a Balm in Gilead*  
Joi-Anissa Taylor

Arr. Jester Hairston  
*Poor Man Laz'rus*

Arr. Paul T. Kwami  
*Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*  
Kierra Pryor, soprano

Arr. Undine S. Moore  
*Daniel! Daniel! Servant of the Lord*  
Lyante Savala, tenor  
Kylan C. Parker, bass

Arr. Moses Hogan  
*Mr. Banjo*  
Dwayne P. Mitchell, tenor

Arr. John W. Work III  
*Let the Church Roll On*  
Torin Brown, tenor

Arr. John W. Work III  
*Jubilee! Jubilee!*  
Lyante Savala, tenor  
Allen Christian, bass

Arr. Noah F. Ryder  
*My Lord Is So high*  
Kierra Pryor, soprano  
Torin Brown, tenor

Intermission

*A Portrait Comes to Life*

Arr. R. Nathaniel Dett  
*There's a Meeting Here Tonight*  
Dwayne P. Mitchell, tenor

Arr. John W. Work III  
*Do Lord Remember Me*

Arr. John W. Work III  
*Rise, Shine for Thy Light Is A-Comin'*

*There's a Great Camp Meeting*  
Brianna Barbour, soprano

## The Musicians

The Fisk Jubilee Singers are vocal artists and students at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, who sing and travel worldwide. The original Jubilee Singers introduced “slave songs” to the world in 1871 and were instrumental in preserving this unique American musical tradition known today as Negro spirituals. The group broke racial barriers in the United States and abroad in the late nineteenth century and entertained kings and queens in Europe. At the same time, they raised money in support of their beloved school.

In 1999, the Fisk Jubilee Singers were featured in *Jubilee Singers: Sacrifice and Glory*, an award-winning PBS documentary series, produced by WGBH/Boston. In July 2007, the Fisk Jubilee Singers went on a sacred journey to Ghana at the invitation of the US State Department. It was a history-making event, as the ensemble traveled to Ghana for the first time and joined in the celebration of that nation’s Golden Jubilee, the fiftieth anniversary of independence. In 2008, at a ceremony in the White House, President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush presented the Fisk Jubilee Singers with the National Medal of Arts, the nation’s highest honor for artists and patrons of the arts. The Fisk Jubilee Singers continue the tradition of singing the Negro spiritual around the world. This allows the ensemble to share this rich culture globally, while also preserving this unique music.

### Soprano

Joi-Anissa Taylor '17

Brianna Barbour '16

Melody Beck '18

Kierra Pryor '17

### Alto

Crystal Brooks '17

Victoria Sanders '18

Lauren McClinton '16

Domine B. Ezechukwu '16

### Tenor

Lyante Savala '16

Torin Brown '18

Dwayne P. Mitchell '18

Evan Acklin '16

### Bass

Kylen C. Parker '18

Anthony Kennedy Jr. '19

Deonte Williams '19

Allen Christian '19

## Program Notes

Fisk University opened in Nashville in 1866 as the first American university to offer a liberal arts education to “young men and women irrespective of color.” Five years later the school was in dire financial straits. George L. White, Fisk treasurer and music professor at the time, created a nine-member choral ensemble of students and took it on tour to earn money for the school. The group left campus on October 6, 1871. Jubilee Day is celebrated annually on October 6, to commemorate this historic day.

The first concerts were in small towns. Surprise, curiosity, and some hostility were the early audience responses to these young black singers who did not perform in the traditional “minstrel fashion.” One early concert in Cincinnati brought in \$50, which was promptly donated to victims of the notorious 1871 Chicago fire. When the students reached Columbus, the next city on the tour, they were physically and emotionally drained. Mr. White, in a gesture of hope and encouragement, named them “The Jubilee Singers,” a Biblical reference to the year of Jubilee in the Book of Leviticus, Chapter 25. Continued perseverance and beautiful voices began to change attitudes among the predominantly white audiences. Eventually, skepticism was replaced by standing ovations and critical praise in reviews. Gradually the group earned enough to cover expenses and also contribute to Fisk.

In 1872, they sang at the World Peace Festival in Boston, and at the end of the year President Ulysses S. Grant invited them to perform at the White House. In 1873, the group grew to eleven members and toured Europe for the first time. Funds raised that year were used to construct the school’s first permanent building, Jubilee Hall. Today Jubilee Hall, designated a National Historic Landmark by the US Department of the Interior in 1975, is one of the oldest structures on campus. The beautiful Victorian Gothic building houses a floor-to-ceiling portrait of the original Jubilee Singers, commissioned by Queen Victoria during the group’s 1873 tour and given as a gift from England to Fisk.

The ensemble continues to travel around the world, singing the Negro spiritual and representing Fisk University. The two-time Grammy-nominated Fisk Jubilee Singers have won a Dove Award and have been inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, as well as the Music City Walk of Fame.

**Upcoming events of the Seventy-Fourth Season of The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lammot Belin Concerts**

Aspen String Trio

J. S. Bach's *Goldberg Variations*

January 24, Sunday, 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

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National Gallery of Art Vocal Ensemble  
Songs inspired by mythology. Presented in honor of *Power and Pathos: Bronze Sculptures of the Hellenistic World*

January 31, Sunday, 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

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Cantus

*The Four Loves*

February 7, Sunday, 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

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Cann Duo

Music from the African diaspora, including works by Leonard Bernstein, Margaret Bonds, Stephen Foster, Astor Piazzolla, and George Walker. Presented in honor of African American History Month

February 14, Sunday, 3:30

February 14, Sunday, 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

**General Information**

Admission to the National Gallery of Art and all of its programs is free of charge, except as noted.

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that all portable electronic devices are turned off.

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Concerts are made possible in part through the generosity of donors to the National Gallery of Art through The Circle. Reserved seating is available in recognition of their support. Please contact the development office at (202) 842-6450 or [circle@nga.gov](mailto:circle@nga.gov) for more information.

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**Cover** Anonymous, *Concert of Birds* (detail), 1660/1670, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of John Dimick

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