



WASHINGTON
NATIONAL
CATHEDRAL

A promotional image for the musical 'Onward and Upward'. The background shows three dancers in white and red costumes with their arms raised. In the foreground, a young girl holds a book titled 'RUBY BRIDGES', a woman looks on, and a young boy holds a wooden instrument. Below them, a large group of children in formal attire are singing and raising their hands.

Onward AND Upward

A MUSICAL CELEBRATION
OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024 • 4 PM



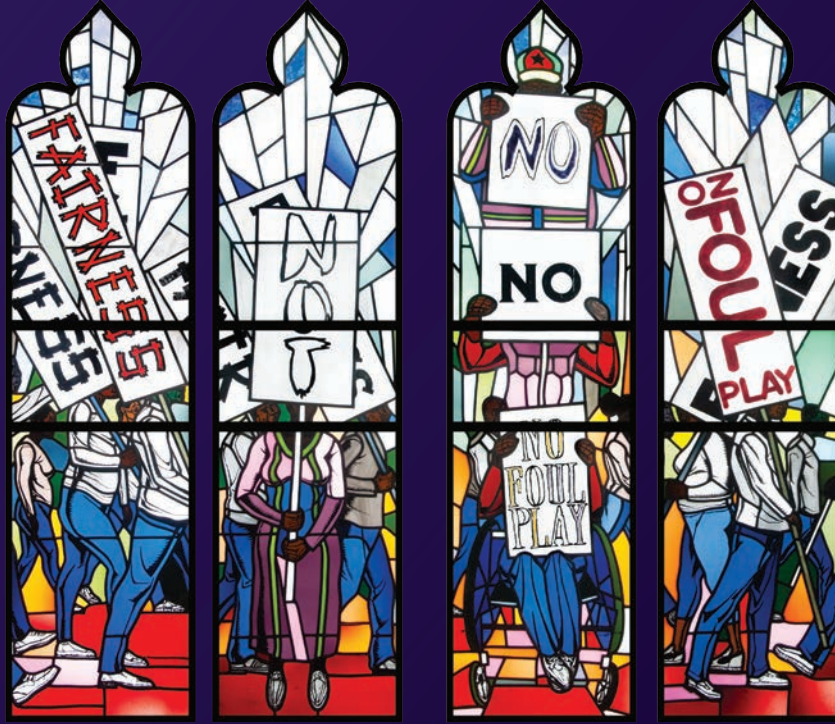
WASHINGTON
NATIONAL
CATHEDRAL

EXPERIENCE THE
**NOW AND
FOREVER
WINDOWS**

BY
KERRY JAMES
MARSHALL

WITH ORIGINAL POEM
**AMERICAN
SONG**

BY
ELIZABETH
ALEXANDER



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#NowAndForeverWindows



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Onward^{AND} Upward

A MUSICAL CELEBRATION
OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024 • 4 PM
WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

PROGRAM

THE POWER OF A NAME

“Stand Up” from Harriet

WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS
CHILDREN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR

Power

by Spinall, Ayana, DJ Snake,
and Summer Walker

KATHERINE SMITH CONTEMPORARY DANCE ENSEMBLE

THE POWER OF BECOMING

Anything

by Nolan Williams

WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS
CHILDREN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR

Serena Williams

SOUTHEAST TENNIS AND LEARNING CENTER
“BLACKS IN WAX”

THE POWER OF MOVEMENT

This Is A Move

by Tasha Cobbs Leonard

KATHERINE SMITH CONTEMPORARY DANCE ENSEMBLE

Tamika Mallory

SOUTHEAST TENNIS AND LEARNING CENTER
“BLACKS IN WAX”

Why Do We Sing

by Gail Murphy Jones

WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS
CHILDREN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR

This Little Light of Mine

Arranged by James Glover

WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS
CHILDREN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR

THE POWER OF A DREAM

Jesse Jackson

SOUTHEAST TENNIS AND LEARNING CENTER
“BLACKS IN WAX”

Something Inside So Strong

by The Spiritual Chorus,
featuring Annatoria and Ché Kirah

KATHERINE SMITH CONTEMPORARY DANCE ENSEMBLE

There’s A Dream

by Evelyn Simpson Curenton

WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS
CHILDREN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR

WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS CHILDREN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR

Formed in 1993, **Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir** (WPA COTG) is one of Washington Performing Arts' resident ensembles. WPA COTG has become a destination choir for local students who look to develop excellence in artistry and technique as a performance ensemble. Chosen through a competitive audition process, choir members from D.C., Maryland, and Virginia commit to participating in a year of choral training, intensive workshops, and a variety of performances on Washington Performing Arts' main stage and through community events. WPA COTG's program provides opportunities for youth in grades four through twelve and promotes an environment of self-confidence,

teamwork, and respect. Under the leadership of artistic director Michele Fowlin, WPA COTG has been featured at the White House (with Sara Bareilles at the Canadian State Dinner honoring Prime Minister Justin Trudeau); the Inaugural Prayer Services for President Barack Obama and the National Memorial Service for Nelson Mandela, both at Washington National Cathedral; with Matthew Whitaker in concert; the Washington Performing Arts Gala with Broadway star Matthew Morrison; the historic Howard Theatre; the U.S. Department of State; and on NBC's *Today*.

KATHERINE SMITH CONTEMPORARY DANCE ENSEMBLE

Katherine Smith Contemporary Dance Ensemble (KSCDE) is committed to representing a high-level standard of excellence and artistry, traditionally

preparing all dancers of today in the dedication and discipline to become future professional dance artists. Our artists possess a prevalent and unwavering passion for the professional world of dance. Under the guidance and direction of artistic director Katherine Smith, dancers continue to develop their technical and performance skills with opportunities to perform throughout the greater Washington, D.C. area, participating in special community and seasonal events, as well as KSCDE's own sponsored annual programs. Ensemble members will also have the opportunity to experience a few master classes, workshops, seminars and choreographers from various professional artists to further cultivate their artistic gift. Ensemble members present various styles of works created by the artistic director as well as local and national choreographers. KSCDE is a multi-generational pre-performance dance ensemble with

WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS CHILDREN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR





three objectives: (1) fostering the pre-professional training of advanced-level youth dancers; (2) challenging and furthering the development of technical and performance skills for dancers ranging from ages 10-18 with sincere aspiration and potential to develop into young advanced-level dancers; and (3) providing a platform to adult performing artists who desire to enhance, maintain, and sustain their craft or re-embark on their dance aspirations.

SOUTHEAST TENNIS AND LEARNING CENTER "BLACKS IN WAX"

The **Southeast Tennis and Learning Center's** (SETLC) annual "Blacks in Wax" program is one of the Center's most unique and successful educational programs. Created in 2006 by the Recreation Wish List Committee (RWLC), in partnership with the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), this innovative program features SETLC scholars in period costumes posing behind rope, stanchion, and tap lights as "wax

statues" of iconic African Americans of the past and present. At the touch of a light, each figure comes to life with a first-person monologue depicting their contributions and place in history. Each year, the program also chronicles African American history with a new, original stage production.

Importantly, this teaching opportunity reaches far beyond the Center's doors to include more than 1,500 audience members of all ages. Because of the program's educational values, schools and parents allow the scholars to miss classes one day a year to present a matinee performance for

neighborhood school groups and seniors. An evening performance draws hundreds of families and friends from the community and the Washington, D.C. area. For the last couple of years, the "Blacks in Wax" performance at The Kennedy Center set a Millennium Stage record, holding the largest audience ever to attend a production on its public stage. Our scholars have been featured at the Cicely Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts, and as part of the Black Classic Cinema Series at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts Culture in Charlotte, North Carolina.





MICHELE FOWLIN

Michele Fowlin (artistic director, Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir) has cultivated her love and passion for music from a young age. At the age of nine, Fowlin was accepted into the Juilliard School's pre-college program for aspiring young musicians as a piano student. She won a variety of piano competitions and awards and participated in many festivals both nationally and internationally. Her musical pursuits eventually led her to focus on the voice and conducting. She attended Howard University and earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Vocal Performance/ Pedagogy with a minor in piano. While at Howard, she studied with renowned opera singers Regina McConnell, Carmen Balthrop, and Charlotte Holloman. Under the tutelage of Dr. James Weldon Norris, she was introduced to conducting and eventually became the Assistant to the Conductor for the University Choirs. Upon traveling with the choir nationally and internationally,

Fowlin conducted many concerts and eventually became one of the lead soloists. These opportunities led her to performances in Russia, England, Spain, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. She has performed for dignitaries including Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, former President Obama, former Vice Presidents Biden and Gore, former Secretary of Defense William Cohen, Ambassador Sasae of Japan, and numerous others, and as part of former First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let Girls Learn" campaign. She is the founder of the Arts and Culture podcast, *The Muses Behind the Music*.



KARON JOHNSON

Karon Johnson (resident choreographer, Washington Performing Arts) is a curricular research associate at Johns Hopkins University. Karon has been teaching dance for over seventeen years. She has extensive ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, lyrical, liturgical, pom pom, and modern and contemporary experiences. She is a graduate of Towson University (Towson, MD). She is finishing her graduate studies at Loyola University in Educational Technology. She looks forward to developing social-emotional learning, wellness, and community building through a social justice lens while infusing art. Karon has a timeline of endless awards and recognitions for her choreography, performance, and pedagogy practices throughout the DMV. She is in her third season of working with Washington Performing Arts and is incredibly excited to connect with partners who service the youth.

**WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS
CHILDREN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR**

Soprano

Katelyn Brown
 Kylee Brown
 Isabella Cooper
 Dasia Hayes
 Ava Lee
 Elisa Quesada Saylor
 Senyo Sablah
 Vinyo Sablah

Alto

Salincy Archard
 Sydney Broady
 Aniyah Butterworth
 Lena Hicks
 Anaya JeanJulien
 Cassidy King
 Ruby Malone
 Lillian Miles
 Absera Owen
 Oni Ransom
 Zaji Ransom
 Ambria Reese
 Nia Thomas

Tenor

Joshua Andrews
 Carmelo Coleman
 Xavier Gibbons
 Cameron King
 Joshua Malone
 Pierce Pearson IV
 Israel Russell
 Yoseph Vanterpool
 Aden Wright

Bass

Jason Ashman
 Lysle Follette
 Timothy Danticat
 Malachi George
 Robert Kennedy IV
 Gabriel McLean
 Kaelan Smith
 Rory Thompson
 Evan Watson

BAND

Piano

Tony Walker

Bass

Hamilton Hayes

Drums

Tim Steele

**SOUTHEAST TENNIS
AND LEARNING CENTER
“BLACKS IN WAX”**

Serena Williams

Janiya English

Jessie Jackson

Andrew Moore

Tameka Mallory

Arianna Merchinson

**KATHERINE SMITH
CONTEMPORARY DANCE ENSEMBLE**

Dancers

Olivia Fields	Kristen Murphy
Lyric Hunte	Layla Simon
Ayanna Jackson	Mandisa Spruell
Zenyra Jones	Essence Woodruff
Arion Malone	Chamir Yarborough

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WITH GUEST ORGANIST
KOLA OWOLABI
SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2024
2 PM

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WASHINGTON
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J. S. BACH'S
St. Matthew
PASSION
WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL CHOIR
AND BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024 • 4 PM



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