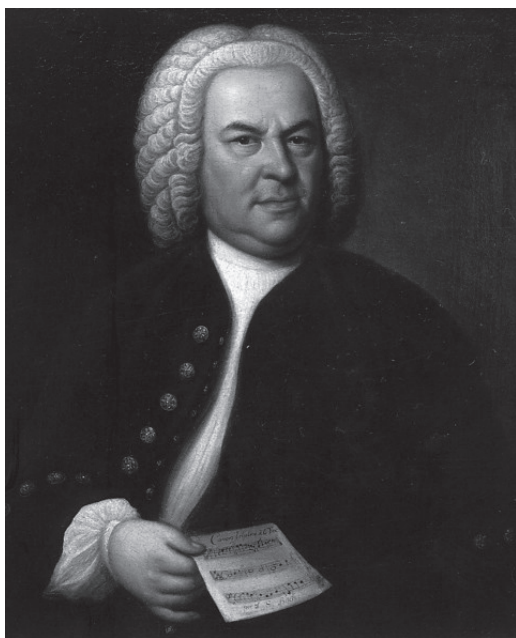


THE HARLEM CHAMBER PLAYERS

PRESENT THEIR

**ANNUAL
BACH
CONCERT**



**FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 18, 2016 AT 7 PM**

**BROADWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
601 WEST 114TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY**

PROGRAM

ALL MUSIC BY J.S. BACH

JAMES DAVIS JR., CONDUCTOR

Concerto in D Major, BWV 1053 for Oboe D'Amore

I. Allegro

II. Siciliano

III. Allegro

Gerard Reuter, oboe d'amore

Air from Orchestral Suite No. 3, BWV 1068

Members of The Harlem Chamber Players

“Hochgelobter Gottessohn” from Cantata BWV 6

“Können Tränen meiner Wangen”
from St. Matthew Passion, BWV 244

“Vergnügte Ruh, beliebte Seelenlust”
from Cantata BWV 170

Lucia Bradford, mezzo-soprano;

Gerard Reuter, English horn and oboe d'amore

INTERMISSION - 15 minutes

Concerto in C Minor, BWV 1060 for Oboe and Violin

I. Vivace

II. Largo ma non tanto

III. Allegro

Gerard Reuter, oboe; Belinda Whitney, violin

Keyboard Concerto in A Major, BWV 1055

I. Allegro

II. Larghetto

III. Allegro ma non tanto

Eric Malson, piano

PROGRAM NOTES

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685 – 1750)

This evening's concert celebrates the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, who is universally recognized as one of the greatest composers of all time. Bach's music has created an enormous impact on generations of composers and performers as well as on music lovers of all kinds. He is unequalled in his mastery of compositional technique and in the profoundness of his musical ideas.

Bach wrote prolifically for the church. He spent most of his professional life in church positions as a composer, choir director and organist. His numerous concertos and cantatas (large works for chorus, orchestra and vocal soloists) are fine examples of his great musical skill as well as his ability to evoke deep emotion. After his death in 1750, Bach's reputation as a composer at first declined. Then, during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, Bach was recognized and promoted by prominent composers, such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Frédéric Chopin, Robert Schumann, and Felix Mendelssohn.

Beethoven described him as "Urvater der Harmonie," the "original father of harmony." Felix Mendelssohn significantly contributed to the revival of Bach's reputation with his 1829 Berlin performance of the *St. Matthew Passion*. In 1850 the "Bach-Gesellschaft" (The Bach Society) was founded to promote and preserve his works. In 1899 the Society published a complete comprehensive edition of all the composer's known works. In Germany, many streets were named and statues erected in honor of Bach. A large crater in the "Bach Quadrangle" on Mercury is also named in Bach's honor, as are the main-belt asteroids "1814 Bach" and "1482 Sebastiana." Bach's music is featured three times more than that of any other composer on the Voyager Golden Record, a gramophone record containing a broad sample of images, common sounds, languages, and music from Planet Earth, that was sent into outer space with the two Voyager probes.

Bach was originally buried at Old St. John's Cemetery in Leipzig, but his grave went unmarked for nearly 150 years. In 1894, his remains were located and moved to a vault in St. John's Church, but the building was destroyed by Allied bombing during World War II. Once more, his remains were rescued and re-buried, this time in the altar-room of St. Thomaskirche, where he ended his career and where they remain today.

We hope you will enjoy the music in today's concert.

(Program notes compiled and directly quoted from various knowledgeable online sources.)

TRANSLATIONS

“KÖNNEN TRÄNEN MEINER WANGEN”

FROM ST. MATTHEW PASSION, BWV 244

Können Tränen meiner Wangen
Nichts erlangen,
O so nehmt mein Herz hinein!
Aber laßt es bei den Fluten,
Wenn die Wunden milde bluten,
Auch die Opferschale sein.

If the tears on my cheeks
can do nothing,
o then take my heart as well!
Yet let it, for the flow,
when the wounds gently bleed,
be the offering-bowl as well.

“HOCHGELOBTER GOTTESSOHN” FROM CANTATA BWV 6

Hochgelobter Gottessohn,
Laß es dir nicht sein entgegen,
Daß wir itzt vor deinem Thron
Eine Bitte niederlegen:
Bleib, ach bleibe unser Licht,
Weil die Finsternis einbricht.

Highly-praised Son of God,
let it be not displeasing to You,
that we now, before Your throne,
lay down a petition:
remain, ah, remain our Light,
because the darkness breaks forth.

“VERGNÜGTE RUH, BELIEBTE SEELENLUST”

FROM CANTATA BWV 170

Vergnügte Ruh, beliebte Seelenlust,
Dich kann man nicht bei Höllensünden,
Wohl aber Himmelseintracht finden;
Du stärkst allein die schwache Brust.
Drum sollen lauter Tugendgaben
In meinem Herzen Wohnung haben.

Delightful rest, beloved pleasure of the soul,
you cannot be found among the sins of hell,
but rather in the concord of heaven;
you alone strengthen the weak breast.
Therefore the pure gifts of virtue
shall have their dwelling in my heart.

THE HARLEM CHAMBER PLAYERS

VIOLINS

Belinda Whitney, concertmaster
José Manuel Pietri-Coimbre
Romulo Benavides
Ina Paris
Sandra Billingslea
Duane James
Fong Fong

VIOLAS

Amadi Azikiwe
Aundrey Mitchell

CELLOS

Clay Ruede
Niles Luther

DOUBLE BASS

Anthony Morris

ABOUT THE HOST & PERFORMERS



JAMES DAVIS JR., CONDUCTOR

One of the most recognized emerging music directors, James Davis Jr. has proven to be an artistic leader who captivates musicians, audiences, and communities with his deep passion for music.

As a music director, producer, conductor, performer, arranger and teacher, James is actively involved in the modern effort to preserve live music performance and to present music as an essential part of our culture and education. James' musicianship and artistic sensitivity both as a performer and a director have afforded him the opportunity

to collaborate with a myriad of notable artists across genres including Ashford & Simpson, Alicia Keys, Jessye Norman, John Legend, Lyle Lovett, Richard Smallwood and Wynton Marsalis.

His work behind the scenes is as equally intriguing as his stage presence as a conductor and instrumentalist. Known for his masterful productions and entertainment business acumen, James is on the short list of music directors who are sought out by industry professionals for music-related events and projects. James is the founder and president of JDJ Music, Inc. and has made an imprint both culturally and globally on the music scene. Most recently serving as the associate music director for Arena Stage's 2014 production of Smokey Joe's Cafe, James has supervised musical productions at Radio City Music Hall, Lincoln Center, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Apollo Theater, to name a few. Additionally, James was appointed Artistic Director/Curator of the August 2014 Lagos Jazz Festival in Lagos, Nigeria. James also serves as the Director of Music Ministries & Fine Arts at the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City and is currently the Associate Music Director for Opera Ebony. He has produced and arranged music for both film and television, including Spike Lee's "Red Hook Summer" and State Farm's commemorative commercial for the 10th Anniversary of 9/11, which aired nationwide.

A native of Winstonville, Mississippi, James' musical skills were evident from a very young age, as he started playing the piano on his own at age three. His first formal musical training commenced at age seven when he began studying piano and music theory with H.E. Marshall. James graduated from Morehouse College in 2004, where he studied piano with W. Floyd Ruffin and Joyce Johnson of Spelman College. He also studied organ performance and literature with David

Oliver and choral and orchestral conducting with David Morrow. Additionally, James participated in piano master classes with Awadagin Pratt, Stewart Goodyear and Joseph Joubert and conducting master classes with Robert Spano and Donald Runnicles. Also, while attending Morehouse, James became accompanist for the renowned Morehouse College Glee Club and by his senior year was named Student Conductor, a position that had not been attained by a non-music major in 25 years. In the summer of 2003, in the absence of the director David Morrow, he led the Morehouse Glee Club on a week-long tour of California cities. James is master of instruments in the keyboard family, including piano, pipe organ, Hammond B3 organ and synthesizer. His solid music education and natural born talent fuel his intrinsic drive to perform and produce music of all styles. James currently resides in New York City.



**GERARD REUTER, OBOE,
OBOE D'AMORE, ENGLISH HORN**

“Reuter clearly held the spotlight...richly earned...with a brilliant performance.”
(Washington Post)

Gerard Reuter has enjoyed a varied and distinguished career as chamber musician and soloist, touring the United States, Europe, India and Africa. He is a founding member of An Die Musik, of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and of Chelsea Chamber Ensemble, as well as being a member of the Dorian Wind Quintet. His guest appearances at music festivals in the United States have

included Caramoor, Marlboro, LaJolla, Round Top and the Chamber Music Festival of the Library of Congress; in Europe, the Flanders and Dartington festivals, as well as the International Musicians' Seminar at Prussia Cove. As a soloist, in New York he has appeared with the Jupiter Symphony, the Soviet Emigré Orchestra, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the Philharmonia Virtuoso and in Washington, DC with the National Chamber Orchestra.

He has been heard on major radio stations throughout this country and in Europe. He has recorded in concert for Sony, New World, Summit, Telarc, Columbia, Musical Heritage Society and the Voice of America. As a recipient of the Pro Musicis Foundation's 1992 International Award, Mr. Reuter has been presented in recitals in New York, Washington, Los Angeles and Boston as well as in major cities in Europe and Asia. Mr. Reuter serves on the faculty of New York University.



LUCIA BRADFORD, MEZZO-SOPRANO

Mezzo-soprano Lucia Bradford is a native of Brooklyn, New York. She has received a BA in music education and an MM in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College. Ms. Bradford has had the privilege of singing and touring in Russia in 2014 with Opera Noire of New York City and Spain with the American Spirituals Ensemble. She has performed works of Schubert, Rossini and Moses Hogan at the prestigious Kimmel Center in the Verizon Hall in Philadelphia with the renowned Maestro Christoph Eschenbach at the piano. She was the alto soloist in Undine Smith Moore's *The Scene for the Life of a Martyr* in Minnesota with the Witness Orchestra and

Chorus. Ms. Bradford has performed Menotti's *Old Maid and the Thief* as Miss Todd and Bizet's *La Tragedie de Carmen* as Carmen and Zita in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* with the Wendy Taucher Company. In past years at Opera North she has performed several roles including Hippolyta in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the Duchess of Plaza Toro in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*, the mother in Ravel's *L'Enfant des Sortileges* and Mrs. Quickly from Verdi's *Falstaff* in the matinee performance at Opera North. She played the role of Mercedes in Bizet's *Carmen* with the Houston Ebony Opera Company. She also enjoys singing new compositions and has sung for the New York City Opera in the VOX concert performing a new work called *Crescent City* by Anne LeBaron as Marie Leveau also in Yoav Gal's work called *Mosheh* as Miriam. She performed as Azelia Dessalines in the historic return of William Grant Still's opera *Troubled Island* with City Opera in 2009 at the Schomburg Center. She was also the Mother of Paul Dunbar in the premiere of *The Mask in the Mirror* by Richard Thompson. She also enjoys singing other genres such as gospel and jazz. She was a winner in the soloist category of the McDonald's Gospelfest 2000.



ERIC MALSON, PIANO

Eric Malson is an active soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician whose activities have taken him throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. As soloist, he has appeared with the Orquestra da Fundação Gulbenkian, Orquestra Metropolitana de Lisboa, North Carolina Symphony, Columbus (Ohio) Symphony, Dayton Philharmonic, Oak Ridge Symphony, and Prince William Symphony orchestras. As a collaborating pianist with the Steans Institute for Young Artists, he has appeared frequently at the Ravinia Festival, as well as the Tanglewood, Norfolk (Conn.), Wexford (Ireland), Caramoor (N.Y.), Scotia (Halifax), Chautauqua, Évora

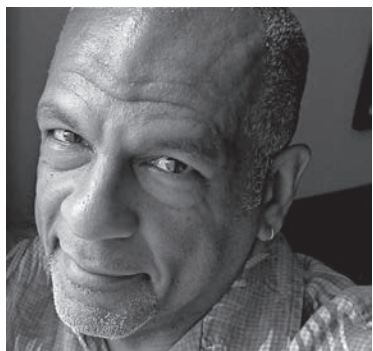
(Portugal), Verso il Millennio (Riva del Garda, Italy), and the Mt. Angel (Oregon) Bach festivals, and has appeared in concert with members of the Hagen, Vogler, Alexander, Lark, Cavani, and Ciompi quartets. Mr. Malson has served as official accompanist for various competitions, including the Eurovision Young Musicians Competition, Carnegie Hall International American Music Competition, and the Metropolitan Opera National Council District Auditions. He has served on the opera faculties of the Juilliard School of Music and the Mannes College of Music, as well as the accompanying and chamber music faculty of the Cleveland Institute of Music. In addition to working with opera companies throughout the U.S. and Europe, he has appeared in concert with sopranos Eva Urbanová, Deborah Voigt, tenors Lawrence Brownlee and Charles Reid, baritones Laurent Naouri and Christophorèn Nomura, and bass-baritone Alfred Walker among many others. He has recorded for the Sony and Lyricord labels, where his recording of the Brahms Magelone songs with tenor Paul Mow was released to critical acclaim.

Mr. Malson has served on the musical staffs of various opera companies, including the Bühnen der Stadt Köln, Teatro Nacional São Carlos (Lisbon), Seattle Opera (Wagner's *Ring* cycle), Washington Opera at Kennedy Center, Opera Zuid (Netherlands), Theater der Stadt Heidelberg, The Dallas Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, and the Cleveland Opera. Among the many conductors he has worked with are Leonard Bernstein, Charles Dutoit, Patrick Summers, Carlos Miguel Prieto, and Michael Recchiuti.



BELINDA WHITNEY, VIOLIN

Belinda Whitney has freelanced in New York City for over twenty-five years. She has served as concertmaster on Broadway in such shows as *Beauty and the Beast*, *South Pacific*, and currently *The King and I* at Lincoln Center. She is concertmaster and personnel manager of the Knickerbocker Chamber Orchestra. She has won awards in the Carnegie Hall International American Music Competition and the Savannah Symphony National Violin Competition, and appeared in recital and concert in the U.S and Europe. Ms. Whitney is delighted to appear with The Harlem Chamber Players.



ERIC K. WASHINGTON, HOST

Eric K. Washington is an independent historian and the author of the book, *Manhattanville: Old Heart of West Harlem*, which drew the half-forgotten neighborhood back into a well-earned spotlight. His research produced the Landmarks Preservation Commission's report for its 1998 designation of St. Mary's Episcopal Church Manhattanville—The Harlem Chamber Players' home base—as

an official New York City landmark. His permanently displayed interpretive signage in West Harlem Piers Park, on the Hudson River at the foot of 125th Street, earned him the Municipal Art Society's coveted 2010 MASTerworks Award. He is a key narrator of the documentary short, "Manhattanville: A New York Nexus," that is part of Columbia University's permanent exhibition about the area's historic dairy industry. Eric is a current fellow of Columbia's Community Scholars Program 2014 – 2017. He was a recipient of the CUNY Graduate Center's Leon Levy Center for Biography Fellowship 2015 – 2016, to research the life of James H. Williams (1878 – 1948), a Harlem community hero who was chief for nearly half a century of the iconic African American workforce known as Red Caps at Grand Central Terminal. His resulting biography, *Boss of the Grips*, was recently acquired by Liveright, an imprint of W.W. Norton, is to be published in the fall of 2018.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to all the musicians performing today for all the hard work and dedication you put into the rehearsals.

We would also like to give a huge thanks to our community partners, Goddard Riverside Community Center, Harlem School of the Arts and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.
#GIVINGTUESDAY™
November 29, 2016

Each year we try our best to keep bringing high-caliber, accessible and affordable or free live classical music uptown to our own neighborhoods, and we need your help this year more than ever. We are working very hard to

raise enough funds to be able to cover the programs we have scheduled for this 2016 – 2017 season, including the Harlem premiere of *A Hug for Harlem*, and we hope you will consider giving a little bit more this year.

Donate \$50 or more this holiday season and get a free Harlem Chamber Players' tote bag. Good for grocery shopping and good for the environment!

Thanks to Harlem One Stop for posting our concert announcements.

For your recording needs, call Robert Olmsted at 917-446-0946 or email him at robertolmsted@hotmail.com.

Thanks to our photographer Bob Curtis.

Special thanks to Susan Penn, Amy Fraser, Camilo Lopez, and Jacob Austin for helping with today's concert. Thanks to William Hoch, our treasurer, for keeping our finances in order.



The Harlem Chamber Players 2016 – 2017 Season is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; in part by Council Member Inez E. Dickens, 9th Council District, Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and the New York City Council; in part by a grant from Columbia Community Service; a grant from the New York Community Trust/Charles E. Culpeper Fund; and through the generous donations of our individual supporters. This 2016 – 2017 Season is also made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the Lily Auchincloss Foundation (in honor of the legacy of Janet Wolfe).



DONATION/MAILING FORM

In order to continue our series, we need your help. Proceeds from admissions cover less than 25% of all costs in putting together our concerts.

Donate \$50 or more to get a free Harlem Chamber Players' tote bag. Also receive 2 free tickets to our 9th Annual Black History Month Celebration for donations at \$100 or more.

Thank you for any support you are able to give!

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

Name: _____

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Donations are tax-deductible. Please write checks to "The Harlem Chamber Players, Inc." and mail using the enclosed stamped envelope or hand to an usher. ✂

Check your donation amount:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250

\$500 \$1,000 Other _____

Check one:

- Please list me as a donor.
- Please DO NOT list me as a donor.
- I am adding \$5 to my donation so you can mail me my tote bag. Bags are expected to be shipped after November 25, 2016.
- Please hold onto my tote bag. I will pick it up at the next concert.
- Check here if any or all of your contribution may be used toward the production of the Harlem premiere of *A Hug for Harlem*. Please indicate the amount you would like allotted toward this premiere: _____

Thank you for your support!

2016 – 2017 SEASON SUPPORTERS

Special thanks to the following donors for their generous contributions to The Harlem Chamber Players' Spring 2016 and this 2016 – 2017 season:

\$5000+

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(in memory of John Bender, Esq.)
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Marcia and Bill Clarkson
Jenny Cline
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Kima M. Kraimer
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Sandra Player
Betty Reardon
Morey Ritt
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Judith Rudiakov
Juanita R. Smith
E. Sharon Williams

ABOUT US

MISSION STATEMENT

The Harlem Chamber Players is an ethnically diverse collective of professional musicians dedicated to bringing high caliber, affordable and accessible live chamber music to people in the Harlem community and beyond.

HISTORY

Harlem's acclaimed chamber music series Music at St. Mary's began in 2008 as a partnership between clarinetist Liz Player and the late violist Charles Dalton, who met while performing at a Black History Month gala concert at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. Inspired and encouraged by Janet Wolfe, founder of the New York City Housing Authority Symphony Orchestra and long-time patron of minority classical musicians, Ms. Player and Mr. Dalton created a summer music festival in the neighborhood of Manhattanville/West Harlem that provided dynamic chamber music concerts. Following the enthusiastic reception of the festival, the former rector, Rev. Dr. Earl Kooperkamp, of the historic St. Mary's Episcopal Church welcomed and supported the creation of an ongoing series. After the departure of Mr. Dalton in 2010, Liz joined forces with Carl Jackson to form The Harlem Chamber Players. This 2015 – 2016 season marks our eighth season.

OUR HOME – ST. MARY'S CHURCH AT 521 WEST 126TH STREET

Established in 1823, St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Manhattanville is among the oldest churches in Harlem. For over 180 years, St. Mary's Church has been an important part of the West Harlem community, inspiring and responding to the needs of its people. Among the services the church provides are the St. Mary's Food Pantry, the Homeless Hunger Outreach, the Prison Ministry Outreach Program and an internship for young theological students. The burial vault of the church's founders, Lieut. Jacob Schieffelin and Hanna Lawrence Schieffelin, is still visible from the porch of St. Mary's Church, which continues to be a vital hub in the West Harlem community. In 1998 the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission designated the combined church, parish house (1851) and Sunday School building (1890) complex a New York City landmark.

STAFF

Liz Player, founder and executive director; Carl Jackson, associate director, stage manager and public relations; Deryck Clarke, educational program director; Amy Fraser, administrative coordinator

BOARD

Rev. Thomas Pellaton, president; William Hoch, treasurer; Susan Macaluso, secretary; John Bender, Esq.; Liz Player; Janet Wolfe; James Davis Jr.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2017 AT 4 PM

9TH ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Bass-baritone Steven Kirby will make his debut with The Harlem Chamber Players in a program featuring music by Florence Price, Carlos Simon, Jr., Franz Schubert, Jules Massenet and Duke Ellington. Mr. Kirby will be joined by pianist James Davis Jr. and other members of The Harlem Chamber Players.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 521 West 126th Street, between Broadway and Amsterdam. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for students/seniors.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017 AT 4 PM

6TH ANNUAL CONCERT W/OPUS 118 HARLEM SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Hear the highly acclaimed students from Opus 118 and meet the legendary founder and master teacher Roberta Guaspari, the inspiration behind the award-winning documentary *Small Wonders* and Miramax's film, *Music of the Heart*, starring Meryl Streep.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 521 West 126th Street, between Broadway and Amsterdam. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for students/seniors.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017 AT 6:30 PM

THE HARLEM PREMIERE OF A HUG FOR HARLEM

This season's highlight features the Harlem premiere of *A Hug for Harlem* for orator and orchestra by composer Jeff Scott of the Grammy-nominated group Imani Winds and composer of "urban classical" music. This piece takes its listener on a journey from the Jim Crow era through the Great Migration and to the Harlem Renaissance. Special guest artists will be the Grammy award-winning pianist Joseph Joubert and conductor John McLaughlin Williams, the first African-American conductor to win a Grammy award.

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 515 Malcolm X Boulevard/Lenox Avenue at 135th Street.

ALSO COMING UP...

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2017 AT 6:00 PM/7:30 PM

15TH ANNUAL SALUTE TO BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Join Harlem Opera Theater in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Sylvia Olden Lee (June 29, 1917 – April 10, 2004), a renowned vocal coach and pianist, and the first African-American to be employed by the Metropolitan Opera. At the Schomburg Center. More info at www.HarlemOperaTheater.org.

Visit our website www.HarlemChamberPlayers.org and sign up for our email list to get concert announcements and other updates.



THE HARLEM CHAMBER PLAYERS, INC.

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