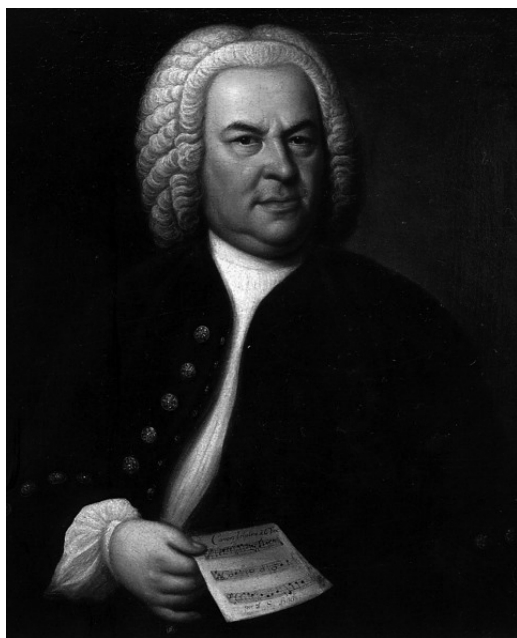


**THE HARLEM CHAMBER PLAYERS**

PRESENT THEIR

**ANNUAL  
BACH  
CONCERT**



**FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER 17, 2017 AT 7 PM**

**BROADWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
601 WEST 114<sup>TH</sup> STREET, NEW YORK, NY**



**PROGRAM**  
**ALL MUSIC BY J.S. BACH**  
JAMES DAVIS JR., CONDUCTOR

**Harpichord Concerto No. 4 in A Major, BWV 1055**

- I. Allegro
- II. Largetto
- III. Allegro ma non tanto

**Harpichord Concerto No. 7 in G Minor, BWV 1058**

- I. Allegro
  - II. Andante
  - III. Allegro assai
- Paolo Bordignon, solo harpsichord

**“Ihr, die ihr euch von Christo nennet” from Cantata BWV 164**

**“Erwäge wie sein blutgefärbter Rücken” from St. John Passion**

**“Komm, Jesu, komm zu deiner Kirche” from Cantata BWV 61**

Christopher Sierra, tenor  
Belinda Whitney & Ashley Horne, obbligato violins

**INTERMISSION - 15 minutes**

**Violin Concerto in G Minor, BWV 1056R**

- I. Moderato
  - II. Largo
  - III. Presto
- Belinda Whitney, solo violin

**Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, BWV 1048**

- I. Allegro
- II. Adagio
- III. Allegro assai

Orchestra comprised of members of The Harlem Chamber Players

# 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

## “IHR, DIE IHR EUCH VON CHRISTO NENNET”

### FROM CANTATA BWV 164

Ihr, die ihr euch von Christo nennet, wo bleibet die Barmherzigkeit, daran man Christi Glieder kennet? Sie ist von euch, ach, allzu weit. Die Herzen sollten liebe reich sein, so sind sie härter als ein Stein.	You who claim to be of Christ, where resides the compassion by which one recognizes Christ's members? It is, alas, all quite distant from you. Hearts should be rich in love, yet yours are harder than stone.
---	---

## “ERWÄGE WIE SEIN BLUTGEFÄRBTER RÜCKEN”

### FROM ST. JOHN PASSION, BWV 245

Erwäge, wie sein blutgefärbter Rücken In allen Stücken Dem Himmel gleiche geht, Daran, nachdem die Wasservogel Von unsrer Sündflut sich verzogen, Der allerschönste Regenbogen Als Gottes Gnadenzeichen steht!	Consider, how His blood-stained back in every aspect is like Heaven, in which, after the watery deluge was released upon our flood of sins, the most beautiful rainbow as God's sign of grace was placed!
--	---

## “KOMM, JESU, KOMM ZU DEINER KIRCHE”

### FROM CANTATA BWV 61

Komm, Jesu, komm zu deiner Kirche Und gib ein selig neues Jahr! Befördere deines Namens Ehre, Erhalte die gesunde Lehre Und segne Kanzel und Altar!	Come, Jesus, come to Your church and grant a blessed new year! Support the honor of Your name, uphold the sound teachings and bless the chancel and altar!
---	--

# THE HARLEM CHAMBER PLAYERS

## VIOLINS

Belinda Whitney\*, concertmaster  
Ashley Horne\*, co-concertmaster  
Eddie Venegas  
Romulo Benavides  
Chaeyoung Son  
José Manuel Pietri-Coimbre\*  
Garry Ianco  
Sandra Billingslea  
Duane James

## VIOLAS

Amadi Azikiwe\*  
Aundrey Mitchell  
Tia Allen

## CELLOS

Clay Ruede\*  
Seth Woods  
Marisol Espada

## DOUBLE BASS

Mike Levin\*

\*principal

# 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 Café, 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.



### **BELINDA WHITNEY, VIOLIN**

Violinist Belinda Whitney has had a diverse, versatile career. She began her musical studies in the Philadelphia public school system. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Temple University, where she was a student of Helen Kwalwasser. She holds a Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School, having been a scholarship student of renowned teacher Ivan Galamian. Other teachers and master classes have included Jascha Brodsky, David and Linda Cerone, Oscar Shumsky, David Nadien and many others.

Following her studies, Ms. Whitney began to pursue both classical and non-classical endeavors, recording extensively at Sigma Sound and Philadelphia International Records, playing shows, and performing in classical settings. She served as concertmaster of the Savannah Symphony for two seasons, and briefly as associate concertmaster of the North Carolina Symphony. She has won awards in the Carnegie Hall International American Music Competition, the Savannah Symphony National Violin Competition, the Perrenoud Foundation International Violin Competition, and appeared in recital and concert in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Ms. Whitney has been concertmaster of many shows on Broadway, including *City of Angels*, *Porgy and Bess*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, and beginning in 2018, *My Fair Lady*. She is currently concertmaster and personnel manager of

the Knickerbocker Chamber Orchestra. She has played on many film scores and records, and worked with artists as diverse as Michael Jackson, Luciano Pavarotti, Barbra Streisand, Stevie Wonder, and many others.

Ms. Whitney is delighted and grateful to appear with The Harlem Chamber Players.



**PAOLO BORDIGNON,  
HARPSICHORD**

Harpichordist, organist, and conductor Paolo Bordignon has received acclaim for “outstanding,” “lively and distinctive” interpretations of early music to “compelling” performances of avant-garde repertoire.

Paolo is harpsichordist of the New York Philharmonic and has performed with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Camerata Pacifica, Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, the Knights, English Chamber Orchestra, American Symphony Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and the Orchestra of St. Luke’s.

As a soloist and chamber musician, he has collaborated with Sir James Galway, Itzhak Perlman, David Robertson, Reinhard Goebel, Paul Hillier, Bobby McFerrin, and Midori, as well as Renee Fleming and Wynton Marsalis in a Juilliard Gala. For the opening of Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall, he gave the east coast première of Philip Glass’s *Concerto* for Harpsichord and Orchestra. He has also performed for New York Fashion Week.

Festival appearances include Aspen, Bard, Bay Chamber, Bridgehampton, Jackson Hole, Palm Beach, and Vail. He has recorded for Warner Classics, Universal Music, Manta, Tuneful Oasis, Red Bandana, and Eusonia Records. He has appeared on NBC, PBS, CNN, NPR, the CBC, and on Korean and Japanese national television.

Paolo has worked with composers such as Elliott Carter (performing *Double Concerto* for Harpsichord and Piano for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration), David Conte, Jean Guillou, Stephen Hartke, Christopher Theophanides, and Melinda Wagner. With the Clarion Music Society, he gave the world première of several newly-rediscovered chamber works of Felix Mendelssohn.





## **CHRISTOPHER SIERRA, TENOR**

Peruvian-American Tenor Christopher Sierra is recognized for his artistic sensitivity and versatility in repertoire ranging from Handel, Mozart, and Donizetti to Popov, Morrison, and contemporary premieres. He has sung 31 roles to date and has performed with the Santa Fe Opera, Opera New Jersey, Spoleto Festival USA, Princeton Festival Opera, Long Island Opera, and New York Lyric Opera Theater, among many others.

Recent engagements include performing the title role in Vinci's *Catone in Utica* with the Rutgers Baroque Players and Beppe in *Pagliacci* with the United Nations Symphony Orchestra. On the concert stage, Mr. Sierra has performed works such

as Schumann's *Spanisches Liederspiel Op.74*, Britten's *Les Illuminations Op.18*, Bach's *Weihnachts Oratorium*, Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*, Schubert's *Mass in G Major*, Brahms' *Liebeslieder Walzer*, and Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music*. He is also an active recitalist in the metropolitan area and the cofounder of Vocalis Consort, an ensemble dedicated to preserving the art of the song recital.

Mr. Sierra currently serves on the music faculty at Washington State University, where he teaches applied voice and courses in vocal pedagogy, music literature, and music theory. He has also taught applied voice at Monmouth University, Rutgers University, and Columbia University. Mr. Sierra holds degrees from Westminster Choir College (B.M. '10), Manhattan School of Music (M.M. '12), Columbia University (Ed.M '13), and Rutgers University (D.M.A. '17), where he was the recipient of the Victoria J. Mastrobuono Memorial Scholarship.



### **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' original 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

We would also like to give a huge thanks to our community partners, Goddard Riverside Community Center, Harlem School of the Arts, Opus 118 Harlem School of Music, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.



#GIVINGTUESDAY™

This year, #GivingTuesday is on November 28, 2017! 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 this 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2017 –

2018 Season. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution toward these efforts.

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, Jacob Austin, Uldine Collins for their assistance with this concert.

Thanks to all the musicians performing in today's concert.

Last but not least, thank you all for your continued support as we continue to build this series in Harlem.

The Harlem Chamber Players 2017 – 2018 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 a grant from Columbia Community Service; in part by a grant from the Lily Auchincloss Foundation; in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; in part by West Harlem Development Corporation via the Tides Foundation; and through the generous donations from our supporters and donors.

**NYC Cultural Affairs**

 COLUMBIA COMMUNITY SERVICE  
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

 NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY. | Council on  
the Arts

 West Harlem Development Corporation  
Solutions through collaborations™

# 2017 – 2018 SEASON SUPPORTERS

Special thanks to the following donors for their generous contributions toward The Harlem Chamber Players' Spring 2017 and this 2017 – 2018 season.

## **\$10,000+**

New York City Department of  
Cultural Affairs  
West Harlem Development  
Corporation

## **\$5,000 – \$9,999**

Columbia Community Service  
Lily Auchincloss Foundation  
New York State Council on the Arts

## **\$1,000 – \$4,999**

Sandra Billingslea  
Stanley Heckman  
Brenda Morgan  
Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation

## **\$100 – \$999**

Bagby Foundation  
Ieda and James Britton  
Carol Brown  
Jill Cashman  
Bill and Marcia Clarkson  
James and Eileen Cohn  
James Davis Jr.  
Barbara J. Fields  
Yin Yin Gene and Mark Schmitz  
Jo-Ann Graham  
Guideposts  
Nancy Hager  
Sanjeanetta Harris  
Thomas Heebner  
Deirdre Howley  
IDT Charitable Fund  
Fern Kahn  
Christiana Leonard  
Patmore Lewis  
Sylvia Ann Lutterloh  
Susan Macaluso  
Margaret P. Mautner

## **\$100 – \$999 (continued)**

James and Pamela Morton  
NYSE Foundation  
Estelle Parsons  
Elizabeth Player  
Betty Reardon  
Magdalene Sears  
Philip B. Spivey  
Forrest Taylor  
Upper Manhattan  
Empowerment Zone  
Elizabeth Voight  
Susan Wolf Post

## **\$1 – \$99**

James and Eileen Cohn  
Uldine Collins  
Jocelyn Dueck  
Barbara J. Dunlap  
Malva Filer  
Maureen Friar  
Frank Green  
Sanjeanetta Harris  
Kima Kraimer  
Gail Lerner  
Jack W. Maisel  
Jean McCurry  
Patricia Pates  
Sandra Player  
Betty Reardon  
Sharon Richter  
Morey Ritt  
Robyn Robinson  
Robert Rollerson  
Gloria Seward  
Juanita Smith  
Debra Vogel  
Norman Weiss  
Kara Yeargens  
Stefan Zucker

# 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 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, an East Harlem native, to form The Harlem Chamber Players.

This 2017 – 2018 season marks its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season.

## STAFF

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

## BOARD

Rev. Thomas Pellaton, president; Yin Yin Gene, treasurer; Susan Macaluso, secretary; James Davis Jr.; William Hoch; Brenda Morgan; Liz Player.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jo-Ann Graham, Ph.D., Joseph Joubert, Lee Koonce, Jean McCurry, Terrance McKnight, Alicia Hall Moran, Jason Moran.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018 AT 6:30 PM

### 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Members of The Harlem Chamber Players present Afro-British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Nonet* in a **FREE** concert. (You must RSVP online.) Also featuring soprano Andréa Bradford and baritone Kenneth Overton in music by H. Leslie Adams and selected spirituals. This concert is part of the month-long Harlem Classical Music Celebration and will take place at the Schomburg Center in Harlem, 515 Malcolm X Boulevard (Lenox Avenue) at 135<sup>th</sup> Street.

## FEBRUARY 2018

### HARLEM CLASSICAL MUSIC CELEBRATION

The Harlem Chamber Players join Harlem Opera Theater, Opera Ebony, Opera Noire and Three on 3 Presents for a month-long celebration of classical music uptown in Harlem. Visit our website soon for more information and to see a calendar of events.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018 AT 4 PM

### JOINT 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 documentary *Small Wonders* and Miramax's film, *Music of the Heart*, starring Meryl Streep. Also featuring members of The Harlem Chamber Players in music by Joseph Bologne (a.k.a. Chevalier de Saint-George) and Mozart. St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 521 West 126<sup>th</sup> Street, between Broadway and Amsterdam. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for students/seniors.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018 AT 7 PM

### HARLEM SONGFEST

We will close our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season with a gala concert, presenting some of the best voices in Harlem—Met Opera sopranos Janinah Burnett and Brandie Sutton, mezzo-soprano Lucia Bradford, tenor Phumzile Sojola, and baritone Kenneth Overton. James Davis Jr. will conduct. This concert features selected works for voices and orchestra chosen from the operatic repertoire. Miller Theatre at Columbia University, 2960 Broadway (116<sup>th</sup> Street). Tickets are \$20 – \$50.

Visit [www.HarlemChamberPlayers.org](http://www.HarlemChamberPlayers.org) for more info and to buy tickets.

# HARLEM SONGFEST

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018 AT 7 PM



## MILLER THEATRE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

A Gala Concert featuring some of Harlem's best voices, with James Davis Jr., conductor; Janinah Burnett, soprano; Brandie Sutton, soprano; Lucia Bradford, mezzo-soprano; Kenneth Overtone, baritone; Phumzile Sojola, tenor; Orchestra comprised of members of The Harlem Chamber Players

Tickets are now on sale online\* at:

**[www.HarlemSongfest.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.HarlemSongfest.brownpapertickets.com)**

\$50 - VIP Reserved Seating Patron Tickets

\$25 - General Admission at the door

\$20 - Senior/Student Discount at the door

\*All General Admission and Student/Senior tickets are \$20 online.





**THE HARLEM CHAMBER PLAYERS, INC.**

191 Claremont Avenue #25

New York, NY 10027

917-744-6948

[info@harlemchamberplayers.org](mailto:info@harlemchamberplayers.org)

[www.harlemchamberplayers.org](http://www.harlemchamberplayers.org)

[www.facebook.com/TheHarlemChamberPlayers](https://www.facebook.com/TheHarlemChamberPlayers)