



THE HARLEM CHAMBER PLAYERS SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER



The Harlem Chamber Players' orchestra for *Voodoo*. Bowing at the center is Met Opera soprano Janinah Burnett. To her right is music director and conductor Gregory Hopkins, founder and artistic director of Harlem Opera Theater. Photo by Marsha Thompson.

2015 – 2016 SEASON

We are now entering our 8th anniversary season and are happy to announce we have another exciting season in store! Virtuoso pianist David Berry returns along with violinists Joyce Hammann and Monica Davis, violist Amadi Azikiwe and cellist Lawrence Zoernig for our Season Opening Concert to perform two great classics, the Mendelssohn *Piano Trio in C Minor* and the Franck *Piano Quintet in F Minor*.

Goddard Riverside Community Center will host us in October to perform Beethoven's *Septet* and Nielsen's *Serenata in vano* in their Bernie Wohl Center.



Left to right: James Davis, Jr., Terrence Wilson, Lucia Bradford.

The renowned two-time Grammy nominee, pianist Terrence Wilson, makes his debut with The Harlem Chamber Players in the continuation of The Harlem Bach Project. Our all-Bach concert will also feature conductor James Davis, Jr. of the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church and mezzo-soprano Lucia Bradford as well as violinist Belinda Whitney and flutist Tia Roper.

Met Opera soprano Janinah Burnett and pianist James Davis, Jr. return for our 8th Annual Black History Month Celebration, which will feature music by Nkeiru Okoye, John Carter and Chevalier de St. George.

BERNSTEIN SERENADE
THE HARLEM BACH PROJECT
 NKEIRU OKOYE COPLAND APPALACHIAN SPRING
 BEETHOVEN SEPTET JEFFREY SCOTT
 CHEVALIER DE ST. GEORGE A HUG FOR
 NIELSEN SERENATA IN VANO HARLEM
 FRANCK PIANO QUINTET WORLD
STRAVINSKY PREMIERE
"DUMBARTON OAKS" CONCERTO

SEPTEMBER 26, 2015 AT 4 PM
 Season Opening Concert
 St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 521 West 126th Street

OCTOBER 25, 2015 AT 3 PM
 Beethoven & Nielsen
 Goddard Riverside Community Center
 Bernie Wohl Center at Columbus Avenue & 91st Street

NOVEMBER 20, 2015 AT 7 PM
 The Harlem Bach Project
 Broadway Presbyterian at 114th Street and Broadway

FEBRUARY 27, 2016 AT 4 PM
 8th Annual Black History Month Celebration
 St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 521 West 126th Street

APRIL 21, 2016 AT 7:30 PM
 Spring Concert co-presented by ChamberMusicNY
 Merkin Concert Hall, 129 West 67th Street

Visit www.HarlemChamberPlayers.org for more info.

West Harlem Development Corporation
 COLUMBIA COMMUNITY SERVICE
 Neighbors Helping Neighbors

NY CULTURE
 CITY OF NEW YORK

State of the Arts
 NYS CA

2015 – 2016 SEASON (CONT'D)



Composer Nkeiru Okoye and soprano Janinah Burnett.

In the spring The Harlem Chamber Players continue our partnership with the sensational students of Opus 118 Harlem School of Music, led by Roberta Guaspari, the inspiration behind the film “Music of the Heart.”



Violin students of Opus 118 Harlem School of Music in concert with The Harlem Chamber Players. Photo by Bob Curtis.

In April ChamberMusicNY and The Harlem Chamber Players will present a full chamber orchestra concert at Merkin Concert Hall with conductor Ariel Rudiakov and host/orator Terrance McKnight of WQXR. On the program will be the commissioned world premiere of *A Hug for Harlem* for orator and orchestra by composer Jeffrey Scott of the Grammy-nominated group Imani Winds, the Bernstein *Serenade*, featuring violinist Ashley Horne, Stravinsky’s *“Dumbarton Oaks” Concerto*, and Copland’s classic *Appalachian Spring for 13 Players*.



Conductor Ariel Rudiakov, composer Jeffrey Scott, host Terrance McKnight of WQXR, violinist Ashley Horne.

On the administrative end, we are happy to announce James Davis, Jr. of Abyssinian Baptist Church joined The Harlem Chamber Players’ board this year and Rev. Thomas Pellaton was elected president of the board.

2014 – 2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

Our previous season was by far our most ambitious and exciting year yet! In June The Harlem Chamber Players joined Morningside Opera and Harlem Opera Theater in presenting the long-lost Harlem Renaissance opera *Voodoo*, written by Harry Lawrence Freeman in 1914 and premiered in 1928.

Our two sold-out performances at the 688-seat Miller Theatre were the first performances since its 1928 premiere. This production garnered a multitude of articles and reviews, including those in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, NPR, “Here and Now” on ABC, *The Daily Beast* and *The Guardian*. In conjunction with our historic production, Columbia University hosted a two-day symposium “Restaging the Harlem Renaissance.”

In February members of The Harlem Chamber Players performed at the opening of artist Kehinde Wiley’s “A New Republic” exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum. We presented two exciting evenings of classical music infused with hip-hop, an adventurous new direction for us.



At the Brooklyn Museum. Top left to right: Janinah Burnett, Val Jeanty, Belinda Whitney, Lucia Bradford, Liz Player, Josh Henderson, Tia Allen. Bottom left to right: David Berry, Niles Luther, Kehinde Wiley, Daniel Roumain. Photo by Bob Curtis.

Our 7th Annual Black History Month Celebration, chosen as a *Timeout* Critics’ choice, featured a world premiere by James Lee III as well as music by other Black composers. Soprano Janinah Burnett and pianist James Davis, Jr. performed a tribute to victims of police brutality. Part of the proceeds were donated to the Justice League NYC.

In addition to our series of live accessible and affordable classical music concerts in New York City, we made our Newark debut, thanks to the Turrell Fund. We plan on continuing this initiative to broaden our reach by presenting educational programs in the Newark area.

Many thanks to all of you who have supported us over the years. We look forward to an even greater 2015 – 2016 season with your continued and much needed support.

Visit our website www.harlemchamberplayers.org and join our email list to receive concert announcements and other news.