



# SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER



THE HARLEM CHAMBER PLAYERS  
191 Claremont Avenue #25  
New York, NY 10027

## 2016 – 2017 CONCERTS

### SEPTEMBER 24, 2016 AT 4 PM

Season Opening Concert  
Broadway Presbyterian at 114<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway

### OCTOBER 2016 - DATE TBA

An Afternoon with Harpist Ashley Jackson  
Goddard Riverside Community Center  
Bernie Wohl Center at Columbus Avenue & 91<sup>st</sup> Street

### NOVEMBER 18, 2016 AT 7 PM

Annual Bach Concert  
Broadway Presbyterian at 114<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway

### FEBRUARY 25, 2017 AT 4 PM

9<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Month Celebration  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 521 West 126<sup>th</sup> Street

### MARCH 25, 2017 AT 4 PM

Spring Concert with Opus 118 Harlem School of Music  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 521 West 126<sup>th</sup> Street

### SPRING 2017 - DATE TBA

*A Hug for Harlem* - The Harlem Premiere  
The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture  
Langston Hughes Auditorium  
135<sup>th</sup> Street and Malcolm X Boulevard

Visit [www.HarlemChamberPlayers.org](http://www.HarlemChamberPlayers.org) for more info.

Staff: Liz Player, Executive and Artistic Director; Carl Jackson, Artistic Advisor; Deryck Clarke, Educational and Community Outreach Director; Amy Fraser, Administrative Coordinator.  
Board: Thomas Pellaton, President; William Hoch, Treasurer; Susan Macaluso, Secretary; James Davis Jr., Advisor.

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, 9<sup>th</sup> 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). The Harlem Chamber Players is a proud member of the Harlem Arts Alliance.



## 2015 – 2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

This past season marked yet another exciting, eventful year with many high points. Our Merkin Concert Hall debut, in partnership with ChamberMusicNY, included the world premiere of Jeff Scott's piece, *A Hug for Harlem* for orator and orchestra, as well as music by Copland, Stravinsky and Bernstein. This was the first classical music concert Harlem resident Novella Ford ever attended, and she was so impressed that she proclaimed "Let me tell you, this music filled spaces inside me I didn't know were empty."

In June members of The Harlem Chamber Players performed at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) in Richmond, Virginia in conjunction with the exhibit opening of the renowned artist Kehinde Wiley. In a new venture for us, artistic advisor Carl Jackson put together hip-hop beats for selections from the *Harlem Bach Project*, a modern take on original

works by the master J.S. Bach and other classical composers. Kehinde Wiley's team Double-D Production dressed up our featured vocalists in their signature eye-catching wigs, make-up and costumes for performances in the VMFA atrium and in their theater for a *Celebrate African & African American Art: Culture King* family day.

In January Terrance McKnight invited us to perform at WNYC/WQXR's Jerome L. Greene Space in their *Celebration in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* We are pleased to announce Mr. McKnight joined our Advisory Board this year.

**"...this music filled spaces inside me I didn't know were empty."**

—Novella Ford, Harlem resident

Top photo: After the premiere of *A Hug for Harlem*. Bottom photo: Left to right mezzo-soprano Lucia Bradford and soprano Brandie Sutton taking a bow with members of The Harlem Chamber Players in the background.



Photo by William Hoch





Photo by Eric K. Washington

## 2015 – 2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

Other exciting developments include a new partnership with the Harlem School of the Arts (HSA). In January the HSA invited us to perform in their inaugural Winter Music Festival, and in July we performed for music students visiting from the Cicely L. Tyson School of Performing and Fine Arts. Thanks to the Turrell Fund, we branched out throughout the Newark, NJ area to work with and perform for young students there. We hope to expand our educational outreach in Newark and in Harlem because it is empowering for these children to see and hear professional musicians of color in the classical music arena.



Photo by Brian Heumbuecher

We were invited to the Schomburg Center in May and performed the Beethoven *Septet* and music by Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson in their Before 5 program.

This past year was also a sad one for us as we lost two esteemed board members. Janet Wolfe, a long-time patron of minority musicians and the founder of the Housing Symphony Orchestra (a.k.a. the NYC Housing Authority Symphony Orchestra), died in November at the age of 101. John Bender, Esq., died in April. Ms. Wolfe was a founding board member and the inspiration behind the creation of The Harlem Chamber Players. The *New York Times* honored Ms. Wolfe with a front page tribute. Mr. Bender, who also served on the board of the Housing Symphony Orchestra, joined our board in 2010 and guided us during our formative years, especially throughout the incorporation process. We miss them both tremendously.

Top photo: After the performance of the Beethoven *Septet* in Schomburg Center's Langston Hughes Auditorium. Left to right are Amadi Azikiwe, Ashley Horne, Liz Player, Amy Fraser, Novella Ford, Lawrence Zoernig, Eric David and Anthony Morris. Middle photo: Janet Wolfe. Bottom photo: Students from the Institute of Music for Children at the Strings in Recital concert in Elizabeth, NJ.



Photo by Yolanda Wyns, Harlem School of the Arts

## 2016 – 2017 SEASON PREVIEW

We are excited to announce our 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, which kicks off on Saturday, September 24, 2016. This Opening Concert features the masterpiece *Piano Quintet in F Minor* by Brahms. Virtuoso pianist David Berry is back with other returning artists—violinists Joyce Hammann and Monica Davis, violist Amadi Azikiwe and cellist Lawrence Zoernig. Oboist Hassan Anderson will join this concert in a performance of the Arthur Bliss *Oboe Quintet*.

Our Annual Bach Concert is scheduled for Friday, November 18, 2016 and will feature conductor James Davis Jr., who is also the music director of the renowned Abyssinian Baptist Church. Mezzo-soprano Lucia Bradford will return as well as violinist Belinda Whitney, pianist Eric Malson, and oboist Gerard Reuter. For those of you who heard Mr. Malson's brilliant performance of the Bach *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5* last November, did you know that Mr. Malson learned only two days before the concert that he would be performing this virtuosic piece? This November, Mr. Malson returns to perform Bach's *Keyboard Concerto in A Major, BWV 1055*. Also on this concert will be the



Bach *Concerto in C Minor, BWV 1060* for Oboe and Violin, *Concerto in D Major, BWV 1053* for Oboe D'Amore, and selected arias.

Baritone Steven Kirby will be our special guest on February 25, 2017 for our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Month Celebration. Also performing will be pianist James Davis Jr. and a string quartet in this concert of spirituals as well as music by Florence Price, George Walker, and Margaret Bonds. On March 25, 2017 members of The Harlem Chamber Players will perform with the sensational students of Opus 118 Harlem School of Music. You must hear these students of the legendary master teacher Roberta Guaspari to understand why she was the inspiration behind the award-winning documentary *Small Wonders* and Miramax's film, *Music of the Heart*, starring Meryl Streep.

The highlight event of this season will take place in April 2017 in partnership with the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. This concert will feature the Harlem premiere of Jeff Scott's *A Hug for Harlem*, the very piece that blew everyone away at our Merkin Concert Hall debut in its heartrending journey from the Jim Crow era through the Great Migration to the Harlem Renaissance. Grammy award-winning pianist, composer, and conductor Joseph Joubert will be the featured artist. Terrance McKnight of WQXR will return as host and orator for this concert.

Visit [www.harlemchamberplayers.org](http://www.harlemchamberplayers.org) and join our email list to get concert announcements and other updates. You may also view our complete schedule and programs on our website.

Top photo: Left to right are Liz Player, Ashley Horne, David Berry and Patrice Jackson-Tilghman. Middle photo: Composer Jeff Scott. Bottom photo: Terrance McKnight of WQXR.