get happy

WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS
MEN AND WOMEN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR

Stanley J. Thurston, artistic director, and
Cathedral artist-in-residence
Theodore Thorpe, III, guest director
Raymond Wise, guest director

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL
SATURDAY, MAY 9, 7:30 PM
Join Today
and enjoy exclusive benefits
while supporting this national
treasure and house of prayer
for all people.
INFORMATION AT
CATHEDRAL.ORG/NCA

Volunteers were needed to make tonight's
concert possible. Hundreds of others are
needed year-round to share the Cathedral
with visitors from around the world and
support the Cathedral's vibrant worship life,
concerts, and spiritual programs.
To request more information,
email volunteer@cathedral.org.

- Water fountain and
  restrooms are located at
  the rear of the nave at
  the main entrance.
- No unauthorized
  photography, with or
  without flash, is permitted
  during the performance.
- No unauthorized video
  is permitted during the
  performance.
- No recording devices are
  permitted.
- Please turn off all cell phones,
  tablets, e-readers, alarm
  watches, and other noise-
  making items, as these
disturb those around you.
- Please, no food or drink in
  the nave.
- Contact an usher in case
  of emergency.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Saturday, May 9, 7:30 pm
Washington National Cathedral

Washington Performing Arts
Men and Women of the Gospel Choir
Stanley J. Thurston, artistic director
and Cathedral artist-in-residence
Theodore Thorpe, III and Raymond Wise, guest directors
Anthony Walker, piano
Christopher Suggs, bass guitar
Richard Slye, drums

God Is Worthy
With My Whole Heart

Stanley Thurston
Nolan Williams, Jr.

Prayer of Jabez
Anthony Walker, piano solo

Donald Lawrence and Andrae Crouch

He Never Failed Me Yet
Chunnita Fraser, Phyllis Miller, Valerie Dawkins, and Jacqueline Richardson, soloists

Robert Ray

Theodore Thorpe, III, director

I've Got a Robe
Lord I Love You, Yes I Do
Glory and Honor

arr. Raymond Wise
Raymond Wise
Raymond Wise

Raymond Wise, director

INTERMISSION

Steal Away

arr. Raymond Wise

Stanley Thurston, director

Take Me Back
Milton Pippens and Rebecca Powell, soloists

Andrae Crouch

Theodore Thorpe, III, director

Ol' Ship of Zion
Jacqueline Richardson, Chunnita Fraser, and Joshua Sommerville; solo ad lib

arr. Stanley Thurston

Make a Joyful Noise
Walk On

Raymond Wise
Raymond Wise

Trust Me

Richard Smallwood

Stanley Thurston, director

This performance is made possible through the generous support of Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated, and funded in part by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.
ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

STANLEY I. THURSTON, as artistic director of Washington Performing Arts' choirs, has conducted performances throughout the Washington, D.C., area for more than a decade. He recently served as music director for Of Thee We Sing: The Marian Anderson 75th Anniversary Celebration, presented by Washington Performing Arts in April 2014, directing a 250-voice choir comprised of leading choruses throughout the D.C. area. Under his direction, the Washington Performing Arts choirs have been featured with such well-known artists as Kiri Te Kanawa, Denyce Graves, Kathleen Battle, the Canadian Brass, Sweet Honey in the Rock, and jazz legends Ramsey Lewis and Wynton Marsalis.

He was commissioned to compose and conduct a special musical tribute for President Obama’s National Prayer Service in 2009, sung by the Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir at the National Cathedral. Additional performances have included a recording of holiday music for Sirius Radio, the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, guest appearances at Washington National Cathedral, Carnegie Hall, and the Today Show. Thurston is well known as a pianist, composer, and arranger. His arrangement of “Angels We Have Heard on High” debuted in December 2013 and his arrangement of the American folk song “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” made its Kennedy Center debut in 2014 at the 2014 Chorus America National Conference.

Choruses under his direction have performed with the National Symphony Orchestra, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, Annapolis Symphony Orchestra, Prince Georges Philharmonic, Washington Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Festival Orchestra, Joffrey Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and the Royal Ballet. As a conductor, he has appeared in concert venues including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, the U.S. Capitol, the Music Center at Strathmore, Carter Barron Amphitheater, DAR Constitution Hall, Arena Stage, the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, the Washington Hebrew Congregation, and the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. He has appeared as guest conductor with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, the Soulful Symphony, Columbus Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Civic Symphony, Prince Georges Philharmonic, and the National Symphony Orchestra.

Thurston is a graduate of Morgan State University, mentored by the renowned Dr. Nathan Carter, and a graduate of the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen, Colo., where he studied conducting with Murry Sidlin. He recently conducted opera performances of Mozart's Don Giovanni Bellini's La Sonnambula, Mozart's Abduction from the Seraglio and La Clemenza di Tito with the In Series, Puccini’s Tosca with the Aria Club of Washington, and a concert version of Gershwin's Porgy & Bess with the Heritage Signature Chorale and, following HSC's debut of the same work with Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Thurston is the founding music director of the Heritage Signature Chorale, and currently serves as the director of music ministries at Foundry United Methodist Church.

GUEST DIRECTORS

THEODORE THORPE III, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. began his musical training playing piano at the age of four. During his high school tenure, he served as church organist and pianist for the Christian Fellowship Seventh-day Adventist Church. He graduated from Northeastern Academy as co-valedictorian of his class and a proud member of the National Honor Society. In 2006, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in music, voice, from Oakwood College, now Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., serving as president, student accompanist, soloist, and conductor of the renowned Aeolians under the tutelage of Dr. Lloyd Mallory Jr. Thorpe toured with the Aeolians in Poland, Bermuda, and throughout the United States. In 2009, he also received his Master of Arts in music with emphasis in choral and orchestral conducting from Morgan State University, serving as the sole graduate conducting assistant to Dr. Eric Conway, the chairperson and director.

A composer and arranger, Thorpe has performed at major historical performing arts centers including Carnegie Hall, the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, the Strathmore Music Center, and the Kennedy Center. He has been artistic director for public performances of Handel’s Messiah, Faure’s Requiem, DVorak’s Te Deum, Christiansen and Anderson’s Too Hot to Handle, and McElroy and Joubert’s Great Joy, with full orchestra and chorus. He has worked with such acclaimed musicians as Darin Atwater of Soulful Symphony; John Stoddart of Urban Junction East Music; and Joseph Joubert, artistic director for Broadway shows Three Mo Tenors, The Color Purple, Billy Elliot, and Motown.

Thorpe's musical talents have been recognized for exemplifying musical excellence throughout the years. He was the former music director for the Washington Youth Choir, a nonprofit music program that served all high school students in the D.C. metropolitan area. He serves as assistant director for the Kennedy Center Honors (CBS TV) and Christmas in Washington (TNT cable) nationally televised productions; music director at Alfred Street Baptist Church; and director of choral activities at TC Williams High School, in Alexandria, Va.

Under his direction, the TC Williams High School Chorus has performed for the President of the United States and First Family. The choir has performed for the Alexandria branch of
the NAACP, and opened for the cast of Glee. The TC Williams Concert Choir has received a number of top honors such as the Grand Prize in the 2011 Ising Challenge Competition; at the 2012 and 2014 Orlando Festival located at Universal Studios, Fla. TC Williams Advanced Choir received the Grand Champion Award and Gold Trophy. Recently, the choir received additional Gold Trophy ratings at the Heritage Music Festival, Busch Gardens Music Festival, and Cedar Point festivals—culminating in a live performance at Carnegie Hall in the 2014-15 season.

He is married to the former Jennifer Alexander, who is also a Brooklyn native. They reside in Ft. Washington, Md. Thorpe strongly believes in excellence without excuses. He continues to look to make a difference in education, in the lives young people, while blazing a trail for upcoming musicians.

In 2004, Wise released an anthology of his concert spiritual arrangements entitled 21 Spirituals for the 21st Century. This collection has been praised and performed by choirs all across the nation. Since releasing the “21 Spirituals” collection, he has received commissions and invitations to compose original works for festivals including the Penn State University Spiritual’s Festival, the American Spirituals Ensemble, the AME Congress 145th Anniversary Celebration, the International Spirituals Festival held in honor of Moses Hogan in Prague, the Czech Republic, in the summer of 2008.

Wise’s goal is to use his education and experience to establish an accredited Center for the Gospel Arts in which gospel music and the gospel arts can be elevated, instructed, and promoted. To this end, he founded and is president of Raise Productions, a gospel music production company based in Columbus, Ohio. Raise has developed performing groups that have appeared throughout the United States and Europe; won Gospel Music Excellence Awards; produced musical reviews, plays, and concerts; and recorded several albums. Raise established the Center for the Gospel Arts in 1989 to provide educational training for gospel artists and the community. Dr. Raymond Wise, Ph. D., a native of Baltimore, Md.; is married to Dawnie Wise and has one son, Ryan Wise.

DR. RAYMOND WISE, PH. D., is professor of practice and associate director of the African American Arts Institute and director of the African American Choral Ensemble at Indiana University. He received his Ph.D. in music education from the Ohio State University (2002), his M.A. and Ohio teacher’s certification from the Ohio State University (1996), and his B.F.A. in Music from Denison University (1983). He did additional studies in opera, art, and German at the Institute for European Studies in Vienna, Austria (1982), in African American history, music, and dance at San Francisco State University in San Francisco, Cali. (1983), and completed an apprenticeship in the business and recording of gospel music with the Walter Hawkins Corporation (1983). His research and teaching interests includes the history and performance of African-American gospel and sacred music.

He regularly serves as a singer, pianist, composer, director, conductor, lecturer, and teacher for orchestras, opera companies, churches, and choral festivals throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia. As a composer, Wise has penned more than 600 compositions that have been performed and recorded by local, national, and international recording artists. He recently performed one of his many compositions at Carnegie Hall. Wise’s compositions have been published in hymnals such as Zion Still Sings and the soon-to-be-released Lead Me Guide Me Catholic hymnal. Wise co-wrote the script for God What Color is Trouble with director Ron Pitts. He has written the music for more than 20 original musical theater productions, including Dwight Collin’s Dark Symphony, the Samuel S. Davis production of The Snow Queen, and the Amera-flora production of Listen with Your Heart. Wise composed the musical score for the children’s opera Barefoot.
WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS
MEN AND WOMEN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR

For more than 20 years, Washington Performing Arts Men and Women of the Gospel Choir and Children of the Gospel Choir have celebrated the traditions of gospel music and its related genres with vibrant, dynamic performances in venues across the nation's capital. Under the direction of Artistic Director Stanley J. Thurston, Men and Women of the Gospel Choir presents this American art form at its highest artistic level in distinctive performances that thrill audiences throughout the D.C. metropolitan region. Named the recipient of the 2014 Choral Excellence Award for Outstanding Gospel Choir by the Choralis Foundation, the Men and Women of the Gospel Choir performs contemporary and classic works of African American heritage, including gospel standards, hymns, anthems, and other choral repertoire. As one of the resident ensembles of Washington Performing Arts, the Men and Women of the Gospel Choir has shared the stage with a wide array of artists, including Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Edwin Hawkins, the late Walter Hawkins, Ramsey Lewis, Sweet Honey in the Rock, and others. The choir was featured in Washington Performing Arts’ 2014 presentation Of Thee We Sing: The Marian Anderson 75th Anniversary Celebration, alongside members Children of the Gospel Choir and other D.C. choral ensembles, performing with internationally renowned artists including Jessye Norman, Dionne Warwick, the Winans Brothers, and Alyson Cambridge. The choir has been featured at the White House, the Howard Theatre, the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, the Harman Center for the Arts, Smithsonian Museums in Washington D.C., the Hamilton as part of the D.C. Jazz Festival, National Gallery of Art program saluting women composers, and on Sirius XM Radio.

With a dual commitment to excellence and access, Washington Performing Arts is committed to providing its gospel choirs with intensive workshops, master classes, and vocal training sessions with renowned composers and artists. Washington Performing Arts’ annual Children of the Gospel Vocal Workshop introduce young music students to the art of Gospel music. The camp is inclusive of all applicants and promotes an environment of self-confidence, teamwork, and respect, while nurturing the vocal talents of the D.C. area’s aspiring singers.

Washington Performing Arts would like to thank the staff of Washington National Cathedral for presenting us as part of the 2014–15 concert season!

SOPRANO
Janice Alexander
Austina Betters
Rosalie Boone
Allean Brown
Denise Bryant
Julia Caul
Kerri Cook
Candace Dyson
Veronica Edmonds
Juanita Finney
Margo Hall
Doreen Hamilton
Dawn Hawkins
Arlene King Berry
Heavenly McDuffie
Joan Monroe
Michelle Overton
Shelia Parker
Jacqueline Richardson
Kevia Richardson

ALTO
Mildred Benson
Coretta Brown
Phyllis Chesley
Sandra Collins
Valerie Dawks
Amanda Douglas
Deborah Easter
Channah Fraser
Karen Hall
Phyllis Harris
LaShaunda Haynes
Yolanda Henry
Tumara Jordan
Claudia Levy
Teisha McKie
Phyllis Miller
Laverne Minter
Lois Mockabee
Kaye Molley
Sherryl Newman
Shirley Phillips
Juanita Rollins
Gayle Shipp
Jamie Ward Black
Jacqueline White
Vickie Wilkerson
Leavia Wright

TENOR
Sharon Bausman
Ryan Buress
Archie Cowan
Gloria Duarte
Melinda Gooch
David Grandy
Chris Hollins
John Obie
Milton Pippens
Rebecca Powell
Barbara Rogers
Joshua Sommerville
Sherman Wright

BASS-BARITONE
Tom Bonsaint
Bob Fields
Chuck Kemp
Daniel Scott
Benjie Spencer
Brian Sullivan

Stanley J. Thurston, artistic director
Anthony Walker, piano
Christopher Suggs, bass guitar
Richard Slye, drums
Joshua Sommerville, James Glover, and Dana Kristina Joi Morgan, rehearsal pianists
Kathy Brewington, assistant director of education / director of gospel programs, Washington Performing Arts
SAVE THE DATE

The Art of the Spiritual: “Deep River”
Saturday, November 7, 3 pm and 8 pm
WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS MEN & WOMEN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR
STANLEY THURSTON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

In collaboration with and conceived by PostClassical Ensemble, Joseph Horowitz, executive director, and Angel Gil-Ordóñez, music director
Washington Performing Arts 2015–2016 Season just announced! Visit our website at washingtonperformingarts.org to see what is coming up.

WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS
SUMMER CAMPS
Register now! A world of opportunities can begin with Washington Performing Arts summer camps.

All camps located at
Alice Deal Middle School
3815 Fort Drive NW, Washington, D.C. 20016
Metrav. Tenleytown-AU (red line)
*Free breakfast and lunch provided at all camps supported by D.C. Free Summer Meals Program.

Capital Jazz Camp
June 22-26 • 8:30am–3:30pm
• Rising grades 6–8
• Application fee: $45 (non-refundable)
• Registration deadline: Monday, June 1

Capital Strings Camp
June 22-26 • 8:30am–3:30pm
• Rising grades 4-5
• Application fee: $45 (non-refundable)
• Registration deadline: Monday, June 1

Children of the Gospel Vocal Workshop
July 13–24 • 8:30am–3:30pm
• Rising grades 4–12 (minimum age: 9)
• Application Fee: $90 (non-refundable)
• Registration deadline: Monday, July 6

Summer Steps with Step Afrika!
August 3-7 • 8:30am–3:30pm
• Rising grades 4–12 (minimum age: 9)
• Application Fee: $43 (non-refundable)
• Registration deadline: Monday, July 6

WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS
For more information or to register, visit WashingtonPerformingArts.org or call (202) 533-1861.
Since 1965, WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS has had a foundational role in the arts in our nation's capital, creating profound opportunities that connect community and artists, in both education and performance. 2015–2016 Season just announced! Visit our website at washingtonperformingarts.org to see what is coming up.

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL is dedicated to be a house of prayer for all people and seeks to be a spiritual home for the nation. It strives to be a catalyst for spiritual harmony in our nation, reconciliation among faiths, and compassion in our world.

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