




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



2018 – 2019 EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 28, 2018 AT 7 PM

Season Opening Concert
Broadway Presbyterian at 114th Street and Broadway

OCTOBER 28, 2018 AT 3 PM

An Afternoon Chamber Music Concert
Goddard Riverside Community Center
Bernie Wohl Center at 647 Columbus Avenue at 91st Street

NOVEMBER 16, 2018 AT 7 PM

Annual Bach Concert
Broadway Presbyterian at 114th Street and Broadway

FEBRUARY 28, 2019 AT 6:30 PM

11th Annual Black History Month Celebration
The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
135th Street and Malcolm X Boulevard

MARCH 23, 2019 AT 4 PM

Joint Concert with Opus 118 Harlem School of Music
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 521 West 126th Street

MARCH 30, 2019 AT 8 PM

The Harlem Chamber Players join Jason Moran and Alicia Hall Moran in their multi-media production "Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration" at Carnegie Hall

SPRING 2019 - DATE AND LOCATION TBA

Season Finale Gala Concert

Staff: Liz Player, Executive and Artistic Director; Carl Jackson, Associate Director; Amadi Azikiwe, Community Engagement Director; Deryck Clarke, Educational Outreach Director; Robert Olmsted, Recording Engineer; Bob Curtis, Photographer; Amy Fraser, Administrative Coordinator.
 Board of Directors: Thomas Pellaton, President; William Hoch, Treasurer; Susan Macaluso, Secretary; Ieda Britton, Yin Yin Gene, Brenda Morgan, Liz Player, Advisors.
 Advisory Committee: Jo-Ann Graham, Ph.D., Lee Koonce, Alicia Hall Moran, Joseph Joubert, Jean McCurry, Terrance McKnight, Jason Moran, Russell Player, Eric K. Washington.



2017 – 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

This past year, our 10th Anniversary Season, turned out to be our most spectacular one yet with several memorable highlights, thanks to all of our supporters who helped us reach this milestone. We ended the season with a "Harlem Songfest" gala concert of operatic arias by Mozart, Verdi, Puccini, Donizetti, Bizet, and more for over 500 people in Miller Theatre at Columbia University. This concert featured a chamber orchestra led by conductor David Gilbert with some of Harlem's favorite singers—Met Opera sopranos Janinah Burnett and Brandie Sutton, mezzo-soprano Lucia Bradford, tenor Chauncey Packer, and baritone Kenneth Overton. George Grella captured the atmosphere of this event so well in his review in *The New York Classical Review*, describing it as "vocal fireworks" with an "enthusiastic audience [that] began to whoop and urge on the music" and how "[o]ne grew almost as giddy as the crowd as the performances each seemed to top the last." It was definitely a night to remember and how we wanted to celebrate our 10th year!

Thanks to City Council Member Bill Perkins and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, The Harlem Chamber Players was awarded a Cultural Immigrant Initiative grant. We used the opportunity to build upon our community engagement and educational outreach programs in Harlem

Top photo: After "Harlem Songfest" with singers Chauncey Packer, Brandie Sutton, Lucia Bradford, Janinah Burnett, and Kenneth Overton in front. Right photo: Members of The Harlem Chamber Players performing for the students at Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School in Harlem. All photos in this newsletter, unless otherwise noted, were taken by our photographer Bob Curtis.

and throughout Manhattan in partnership with Thurgood Marshall Academy, the Harlem YMCA's New Americans Welcome Center, Manhattan Academy for Arts & Languages, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and the Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center. We presented music from Europe to the Americas, featuring classics by Haydn and Dvořák to contemporary works by Paquito D'Rivera and Jessie Montgomery. We will continue to build upon these culturally relevant programs within the community for those who rarely or never get to hear live classical music. We believe it is empowering for young black and brown students to be exposed to a diverse array of composers and to experience classical music being performed by professional musicians of color who look like them.





2017 – 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

Violist and violinist Amadi Azikiwe was responsible for setting up the community and educational concerts. He did such a fantastic job that we asked him to continue as our new Community Engagement Director, and we are delighted to report that he has accepted the position. Amadi Azikiwe is the founder, music director, and conductor of Harlem Symphony Orchestra as well as a world-class sought after violist.

Another highlight last season was bringing our Annual Black History Month Celebration to the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture on February 15, 2018, which featured the rarely performed *Nonet* by the Afro-British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, as part of our

Black Composers Initiative. This concert was free and open to the public and garnered so much buzz that the Schomburg Center's 330-seat Langston Hughes Auditorium was at capacity. This concert was also part of the Harlem Classical Music Celebration, for which The Harlem Chamber Players joined Harlem Opera Theater, Three on 3 Presents, Opera Ebony, and Opera Noire in presenting concerts throughout Black History Month.

On March 24, 2018, we continued our partnership with the sensational students of Opus 118 Harlem School of Music in what is now our Annual Joint Spring Concert.

Top photo: Left to right are baritone Jorell Williams, pianist Mikael Darmanie, violist Amadi Azikiwe, bassoonist Amy Fraser, soprano Mari-Yan Pringle, violinist Ashley Horne, cellist Robert Burkhart, oboist Hassan Anderson, clarinetist Liz Player, double bassist Anthony Morris, French hornist Eric Davis. Middle right photo: Violist Amadi Azikiwe. Lower left photo: Before the performance of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Nonet* at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. The screen projection is that of the composer.



2018 – 2019 SEASON PREVIEW

For our 11th Anniversary Season our plans are to expand upon what we have established while continuing to bring beautiful music to the community. We are dedicated to continuing our Annual Joint Concerts with the string students of Opus 118 Harlem School of Music, which was founded by the now legendary master violin teacher Roberta Guaspari. We will also continue our work outside of NYC by bringing free educational classical music programs and working with young music students throughout the Newark area.

Our 2018 – 2019 Season will kick off on Friday, September 28, 2018 at 7 PM at Broadway Presbyterian Church at 601 West 114th Street (on Broadway), featuring the beautiful Brahms *Sextet No. 1 in B-flat Major*, the Vaughan

Williams *Phantasy Quintet*, and the Mozart *Flute Quartet in C Major*. On October 28, 2018 at 3 PM, members of The Harlem Chamber Players will present an Afternoon Chamber Music Concert in the Upper West Side in partnership with Goddard Riverside Community Center. "The Harlem Bach Project" continues on November 16, 2018 at 7 PM with our Annual Bach Concert at Broadway Presbyterian Church.

The Black Composers Initiative continues at the Schomburg Center on February 28, 2019 at 6:30 PM. This free concert will feature two world premieres, one of which will commemorate the 400th anniversary of the importation of the first black slaves to America, by the noted African-American composer Adolphus Hailstork. Also on the program is the Dvořák "*American*" *String Quartet*. The Annual Joint Concert with Opus 118 Harlem School of Music will take place on March 23, 2019 at 4 PM. The date is still to be announced for the Season Finale Gala Orchestral Concert, which will feature a full orchestra and music by Sibelius, Barber, Adolphus Hailstork, and Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson.

On March 30, 2019 at 8 PM The Harlem Chamber Players will join Harlem's power couple, Jason Moran and Alicia Hall Moran in their multimedia production "Two Wings: The Music of Black America In Migration" at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage.

Top Photo: The violin students of Opus 118 Harlem School of Music in concert with The Harlem Chamber Players. Lower left photo: Members of The Harlem Chamber Players performed at St. Philip's Academy Charter School in Newark, NJ as part of an ongoing partnership with NJSO CHAMPS (Photographer unknown).

