


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



2016 – 2017 CONCERTS

SEPTEMBER 29, 2017 AT 7 PM
 Season Opening Concert
 Broadway Presbyterian at 114th Street and Broadway

OCTOBER 29, 2017 AT 3 PM
 An Afternoon of Chamber Music
 Goddard Riverside Community Center
 Bernie Wohl Center at 647 Columbus Avenue (at 91st Street)

NOVEMBER 17, 2017 AT 7 PM
 Annual Bach Concert
 Broadway Presbyterian at 114th Street and Broadway

FEBRUARY 15, 2018 AT 6:30 PM
 10th Annual Black History Month Celebration
 The Schomburg Center at 135th Street and Malcolm X Blvd.

MARCH 24, 2018 AT 4 PM
 Spring Concert with Opus 118 Harlem School of Music
 St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 521 West 126th Street

JUNE 1, 2018 AT 7 PM
 Harlem Songfest
 Miller Theatre at Columbia University
 2960 Broadway (at 116th Street)

Visit www.HarlemChamberPlayers.org for more info.

Staff: Liz Player, Executive and Artistic Director; Carl Jackson, Director of Development and Artistic Planning; Deryck Clarke, Educational and Community Outreach Director; Amy Fraser, Administrative Coordinator.

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

Board: Thomas Pellaton, President; William Hoch, Treasurer; Susan Macaluso, Secretary; James Davis Jr., Advisor; Liz Player, Advisor.

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 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. We also thank our community partners, Goddard Riverside Community Center, the Harlem School of the Arts, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and Opus 118 Harlem School of Music.



2016 – 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

We hope that we can say each and every year was better than the last, and we are excited to report that our previous season was yet another exciting year filled with new ventures and partnerships.

The highlight of our season was bringing Jeff Scott's momentous work *A Hug for Harlem* to the Schomburg Center for its local Harlem premiere in a concert featuring all African American composers in celebration of Harlem. John McLaughlin Williams, the first African-American conductor to win a Grammy Award, led the historic evening. Virtuoso harpist Dr. Ashley Jackson joined The Harlem Chamber Players again last season, this time as featured soloist in the performance of Harlem Renaissance composer William Grant Still's *Ennanga* for harp, piano and strings. Virtuoso pianist and renowned Broadway musical director Joseph Joubert performed as soloist in Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson's tone poem *Grass* for piano, strings and percussion. Before he died the composer Perkinson requested that Joseph Joubert record this work, and you can hear Joubert on the Cedille album *Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson: A Celebration* with the Chicago Sinfonietta, conducted by Paul Freeman.

Top photo: After the Harlem premiere of *A Hug for Harlem*. Bottom photo: Violinist Ashley Horne, pianist David Berry, executive director Liz Player, cellist Patrice Jackson-Tilghman and mezzo-soprano Lucia Bradford.

Violinist Ashley Horne, pianist David Berry, cellist Patrice Jackson-Tilghman and mezzo-soprano Lucia Bradford joined again in the Harlem School of the Arts' second annual Winter Music Festival. During Black History Month in February, members of The Harlem Chamber Players were invited to perform at the United Nations International School in two days of educational programs for over 870 students. Members of The Harlem Chamber Players continued its educational outreach programs, bringing concerts to Newark School of the Arts and in partnership with NJSO CHAMPS Program at University Heights Charter School in Newark.





Photo by Robyn Robinson

2016 – 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

Thanks to an unexpected Cultural Immigrant Initiative grant we received from our former City Council Member (now Assemblywoman) Inez E. Dickens, we were able to present a Concert for Unity at the end of our season in June. We presented an experimental version of our “Harlem Bach Project,” a modern take on music by the master J.S. Bach and other classical composers. Met Opera and New York City Opera soprano Brandie Sutton and mezzo-soprano Lucia Bradford joined members of The Harlem Chamber Players violinists Ashley Horne and Eddie Venegas, violist Audrey Mitchell and cellist Clay Ruede. This concert also

featured a cameo appearance by the Nigerian rapper-singer T-Kross, a.k.a. Mustapha Bello. Part of the proceeds from this concert were donated to African Services Committee, a local Harlem organization that provides support to immigrants and refugees.

We experienced another great loss last year, and we are sad to announce that our longtime cellist and close friend, Lawrence Zoernig (March 19, 1960 – February 3, 2017), died unexpectedly of complications from diabetes. Our

upcoming Season Opening Concert will be dedicated to Lawrence.

Part of our mission has always been to provide opportunities for professional classically-trained musicians of color, particularly Black and Latinx musicians, who are still so underrepresented in the classical music arena. The Harlem Chamber Players is just one of many vehicles to help boost careers. With this in mind, we are proud to announce that our pianist David Berry recently accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Music at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. This is a bittersweet announcement. We are happy for David but will miss him greatly. We are waiting anxiously for Professor Berry to get settled into his schedule so we may invite him back to New York to perform with The Harlem Chamber Players as time permits.

Top photo: From back to front, left to right are David Berry, Clay Ruede, Ashley Horne, Audrey Mitchell, Liz Player, Brandie Sutton, T-Kross, Lucia Bradford, and Eddie Venegas. Middle photo: Pianist David Berry. Bottom left photo: Cellist Lawrence Zoernig photo by Bob Curtis.



2017 – 2018 SEASON PREVIEW

We are excited to announce our 10th Anniversary Season kicks off on Friday, September 29, 2017! Joseph Joubert will return to join The Harlem Chamber Players in our Season Opening Concert, which will feature the Dvořák *Piano Quintet No. 2 in A Major*, the Tchaikovsky *String Quartet No. 1* and the Pulitzer Prize winning composer Jennifer Higdon’s *Pale Yellow* from the *Piano Trio*. Violinists Joyce Hammann and Belinda Whitney, violist Tia Allen and Clay Ruede will also be featured.

We continue our partnership with Goddard Riverside Community Center and will present an Afternoon of Chamber Music on Sunday, October 29, 2017. Violinists Joyce Hammann and Belinda Whitney, violists Amadi Azikiwe and Tia Allen, and cellist Robert Burkhart will perform music by Beethoven, Ysaÿe, Florence Price, and Gary Fagin.

The Annual Bach Concert this year is scheduled for Friday, November 17, 2017, and we have special guests.

New York Philharmonic’s harpsichordist Paolo Bordignon and Peruvian-born tenor Christopher Sierra will join as guest soloists. James Davis Jr. returns to conduct the chamber orchestra comprised of members of The Harlem Chamber Players. Violinist Belinda Whitney returns as soloist and concert master in a program featuring the *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3*, *Harpsichord Concerto No. 4 in A Major*, *Harpsichord Concerto No. 7*



in *G Minor*, *Violin Concerto in G Minor*, and selected arias!

Our 10th Annual Black History Month Celebration will take place on February 15, 2018 and will be co-presented by the Schomburg Center. This event will be free and open to the public. The program will feature the Afro-British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s *Nonet* for piano, winds and strings. Pianist Major Scurlock will make his debut with us. Also featured on the concert will be soprano Andréa Bradford and baritone Kenneth Overton in a selection of music by H. Leslie Adams and selected spirituals.

We continue our partnership with the sensational string students of Opus 118 Harlem School of Music led by the now legendary master teacher Roberta Guaspari (the inspiration behind the major motion film *Music of the Heart*, starring Meryl Streep). Members of The Harlem Chamber Players will join the students and perform music by Chevalier de Saint-George, Mozart and more.

Our finale concert of this season is a Harlem Songfest, which will feature some of Harlem’s favorite star vocalists—Met Opera sopranos Janinah Burnett and Brandie Sutton, mezzo-soprano Lucia Bradford and baritone Kenneth Overton. This concert will feature some of the most beloved arias from the operatic repertoire with James Davis Jr. conducting an orchestra consisting of members of The Harlem Chamber Players. Please visit www.harlemchamberplayers.org for more info and to purchase tickets.

We are also pleased to announce that Jo-Ann Graham, Ph.D., Joseph Joubert, Alicia Hall Moran and Jason Moran joined the Advisory Committee this year.

Photos from top to bottom, left to right: Pianist Joseph Joubert, harpsichordist Paolo Bordignon, conductor James Davis Jr., soprano Janinah Burnett, soprano Brandie Sutton, mezzo-soprano Lucia Bradford, baritone Kenneth Overton. Lower left photo: Tenor Christopher Sierra.