

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



2019 – 2020 EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 27, 2019 AT 7 PM

Season Opening Concert
Broadway Presbyterian at 114th Street and Broadway

OCTOBER 27, 2019 AT 3 PM

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

NOVEMBER 22, 2019 AT 7 PM

Annual Bach Concert
Broadway Presbyterian at 114th Street and Broadway

FEBRUARY 13, 2020 AT 6:30 PM

12th Annual Black History Month Celebration
The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
135th Street and Malcolm X Boulevard

MARCH 21, 2020 AT 4 PM

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

APRIL 18, 2020 AT 8 PM

Julius Eastman's *Femenine* with Talea Ensemble
Harlem Stage at 150 Convent Avenue on 135th Street

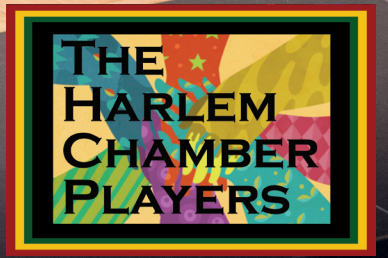
JUNE 4, 2020 AT 7:30 PM

Nathaniel Dett's *The Ordering of Moses*
The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine
1047 Amsterdam Avenue at 112th Street

Staff: Liz Player, Executive and Artistic Director; Carl Jackson, Associate Director; Amadi Azikiwe, Community Engagement Director; Hassan Anderson, Director of Educational Programming; Amy Fraser, Administrative Coordinator; Mary Dohnalek, Bookkeeper.

Board of Directors: Thomas Pellaton, President; Susan Macaluso, Secretary; Vera Mshana, Treasurer; Sandra Billingslea, Ieda Britton, Brenda Morgan, Liz Player, Advisors.

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



SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER

2018 – 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

After an incredible 10th Anniversary Season, we used the last year to step back a bit and plan for our next big season. We had a few memorable highlights. We were invited to join Harlem's power couple, jazz pianist Jason Moran and mezzo-soprano Alicia Hall Moran, in their Carnegie Hall production "Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration." An orchestra comprised of members of The Harlem Chamber Players, led by conductor Tania León, shared the stage with an amazing cast of artists of all genres, including jazz saxophonist James Carter, Harriet Tubman: The Band, Pastor Smokie Norful, the Grammy-nominated wind quintet Imani Winds, and tenor Lawrence Brownlee.

Another highlight was our 11th Annual Black History Month Celebration at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture for which we drew another at-capacity crowd. This concert featured two world premieres by the renowned African American composer Adolphus Hailstork, including the concert aria *Nobody Know* commissioned by The Harlem Chamber Players to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the importation of the first black slaves to America. We were also invited to join the Healing of the Nations Foundation in their sold-out 5th Annual Juneteenth Celebration at Carnegie Hall.

Top photo: After our Season Finale Concert with violin soloist Ashley Horne. Middle photo: A packed Langston Hughes Auditorium (Dr. Hailstork pictured lower left corner) at the Schomburg Center. Bottom photo: Baritone Kenneth Overton with violinists Ashley Horne and Jessica McJunkins, cellist Wayne Smith (behind Kenneth) and violist Amadi Azikiwe after the world premiere of Hailstork's "Nobody Know." All photos in this newsletter, unless otherwise noted, were taken by our photographer Bob Curtis.





2019 – 2020 PREVIEW

We are excited about the upcoming season, which will be our most ambitious one to date. We will continue to present some of the most beautiful classics known in chamber music literature, and this year we will join Harlem in celebrating the Harlem Renaissance 100, the Centennial of the birth of the Harlem Renaissance. The goal of this celebration, led by the Harlem Cultural Collaborative, is to celebrate and empower the Harlem community.

We will present the monumental oratorio, *The Ordering of Moses*, by composer R. Nathaniel Dett, in partnership with the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, as part of this celebration. We chose this masterpiece not only because of how great the music is but also because of its message of liberation, appropriate for the new awakening happening among many of



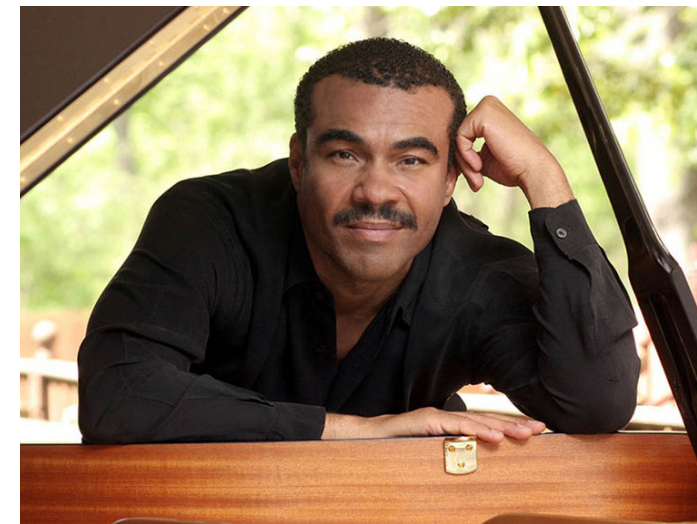
us during these politically fraught times. This season finale will feature the multi-genre IMG artist, conductor Damien Sneed; a 100-member choir, comprised of members of Le Chateau Chorale, as well as singers from other Harlem Arts organizations; a 50-piece orchestra comprised of members of The Harlem Chamber Players; organ; and four soloists. The confirmed soloists will be Met Opera soprano Brandie Sutton, alto Raehann Bryce-Davis, tenor Gregory Hopkins (of Harlem Opera Theater), and Met Opera baritone Justin Austin. Also on the program will be the world premiere arrangement of *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing* by Damien Sneed.

Top photo: Left to right are violinist Ashley Horne, cellist Wayne Smith, violinist Jessica McJunkins, violist Amadi Azikiwe, baritone Kenneth Overton, pianist David Berry, composer Dr Adolphus Hailstork, librettist Dr. Herbert Martin, Terrance McKnight of WQXR, and founder Liz Player. Middle photo: IMG artist, composer, conductor Damien Sneed. Photo taken from IMG's website. Lower left photo: Met Opera soprano Brandie Sutton.



We are also pleased to announce that for this upcoming 2019 – 2020 season, The Harlem Chamber Players will be Artists-in-Residence at the Harlem School of the Arts. Leading this residency will be oboist Hassan Anderson, whom we recently named Director of Educational Programming. Mr. Anderson will also work closely with Amadi Azikiwe, our Community Engagement Director, in expanding our Newark area outreach programs. We will soon announce popup concerts and master classes we will present as part of this residency. Also new for this year is that we will make our debut at Harlem Stage in a new collaboration with Talea Ensemble on April 18, 2020 in a performance of the late African-American minimalist composer Julius Eastman's *Feminine*.

Our season will begin on Friday, September 27, 2019 with our Opening Concert at Broadway Presbyterian Church.



This program will feature the Beethoven *Sextet* for two horns and strings, the Britten *Phantasy Quartet*, and the Tchaikovsky *Souvenir de Florence*. On Sunday, October 27, 2019 an Afternoon Chamber Music Concert at Goddard Riverside's Bernie Wohl Center will feature harpist Ashley Jackson, flutist Julietta Curenton, violist Amadi Azikiwe, and other members of The Harlem Chamber Players performing music by the Chevalier de Saint-Georges, Debussy, Miguel del Águila, and Schubert. The "Harlem Bach Project" continues on Friday, November 22, 2019 at Broadway Presbyterian Church with our Annual Bach Concert. This concert will feature Met Opera soprano Brandie Sutton and mezzo-soprano Lucia Bradford in selected arias. The program will also include the *Brandenburg Concerto No. 4* and the *Triple Violin Concerto*.

Virtuoso pianist Joseph Joubert and his wife soprano Renay Peters Joubert will be featured guest artists for our February 13, 2020 12th Annual Black History Month Celebration at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in a program celebrating the Harlem Renaissance Centennial. March 21, 2020 is the date of our next Annual Joint Concert with the sensational students of Opus 118 Harlem School of Music, and we are planning to also bring in an ensemble or two from the Harlem School of the Arts.

Visit our website www.harlemchamberplayers.org for details and also to sign up for our email list to get concert announcements and other news as the year progresses.

Top Photo: Left to right are oboist Hassan Anderson, violist Amadi Azikiwe, cellist Robert Burkhart, and violinist Tia Allen. Lower left photo: Pianist Joseph Joubert. (This photo not taken by Bob Curtis)