

*We Have  
Tomorrow Bright  
Before Us*

Presented by the MSM Black Student Union

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024 | 7:30 PM  
NEIDORFF-KARPATI HALL

# *We Have Tomorrow Bright Before Us*

Presented by the MSM Black Student Union

## PROGRAM

### *Welcome*

**Ja'hliil Pembleton**

J. ROSAMOND JOHNSON  
(1873–1954)

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*  
(Poem by James Weldon Johnson)

**Erika Johnson**, soprano

**Samara Bowden**, soprano

ESPERANZA SPALDING  
(b. 1984)

*I Can't Help It*

**Danyel Brewer**, alto

**Dexter Birkenbeuel**, piano

**Chet Carlson**, bass guitar

**Maxwell Barnes**, saxophone

**Daniel Petersen**, drums

TANIA LEÓN  
(b. 1943)

*Tumbao*

FLORENCE PRICE  
(1887–1953)

*Dances in the Canebrakes*  
III. *Silk Hat and Walking Cane*

**Jas Ogiste**, piano

UNDINE SMITH MOORE  
(1904–1989)

*Love let the wind cry; How I adore thee*

**Adaiah Ogletree**, Soprano

BILLIE HOLIDAY  
(1915–1959)

*Strange Fruit*  
**Nia Alsop**, mezzo-soprano

VALERIE COLEMAN  
(b. 1970)

*Fanmi Imén*  
(Poem by Maya Angelou)  
**Kyrese Washington**, flute and spoken word

NINA SIMONE  
(1933–2003)

*Four Women*  
**Adaiah Ogletree**, soprano  
**Danyel Brewer**, alto  
**Nia Alsop**, mezzo-soprano  
**Astrid Westberg**, alto  
**Amaree Sanchez**, bass

KENEDEA LEE  
(b. 1999)

*If Clouds Were Teal Blue*  
**Nicolaus Gelin**, trumpet  
**Simon Nyivana**, alto saxophone  
**Phillipe Clement**, guitar  
**Elisee Ngbo**, piano  
**Nolan Nwachukwu**, bass  
**Kabelo Mokhalta**, drums

MARVIN GAYE  
(1939–1984)

*What's Going On*

BOB MARLEY  
(1945–1981)

*Could You Be Loved*  
**Reaching for the Arts Choir**  
**Dexter Berkenbeuel**, piano  
**Kabelo Mokhatla**, drums  
**Erika Weiss**, guitar  
**Aiden Velazquez**, guitar  
**Joe Raposo Jr.**, bass guitar

*Intermission*

DANIEL PETERSEN

(b. 2002)

*Suli*

**Daniel Petersen**, drums

**Chris Ramirez**, double bass

**Elisee Ngbo**, piano

**Jack Huang**, percussion

RACHELLE FERRELL

(b. 1961)

*With Every Breath I Take*

**Motswedi Modiba**, soprano

**Elisee Ngbo**, piano

**Daniel Petersen**, drums

**Chris Ramirez**, double bass

JAZMINE SULLIVAN

(b. 1987)

*Masterpiece*

**Moira O'Connor**, soprano

**Dexter Berkenbeuel**, piano

LIFA AROSI

(b. 1989)

*Build On Love & For Hugh*

**Lifa Arosi**, rap and piano

**Motswedi Modiba**, voice

**Larissa Jones**, voice

**Daniela Hope**, voice

**Simon Nyivana**, saxophone

**Josh Green**, drums

**Chris Ramirez**, bass guitar

**Maxwell Barnes**, saxophone

**Philippe Clement**, guitar

**Dexter Berkenbeuel**, piano

TOM EYEN

(1940-1991)

& HENRY KRIEGER

(b. 1945)

*I Am Changing from Dreamgirls*

**Kianna Kelly-Futch**, soprano

CIVILLA DURFEE MARTIN  
(1866–1948)

*His Eye is on the Sparrow*

**Joshua Smith**, bass

OSCAR WILLIAMS  
AND THE BAND OF LIFE

*Safety*

**Samara Bowden**, soprano

**Patricia Williams**, soprano

**Isaiah Traylor**, tenor

**Jared Marshall**, countertenor

**Elisee Ngbo**, piano

**Danno Peterson**, drums

**Jack Huang**, percussion

**Chris Ramirez**, bass guitar

**Noah Myers**, guitar

JAMES P. JOHNSON  
(1894–1955)

*Carolina Shout*

**William Hill III**, piano

**Chet Carlson**, bass guitar

**Matthew Fu**, percussion

# TEXT & LYRICS

## *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Lift every voice and sing,  
'Til earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty; Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us, Sing a song full of the  
hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on 'til victory is won. Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died; Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, Out from  
the gloomy past,  
'Til now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast. God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way; Thou who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee, our hearts  
drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee; Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand, True to our God,  
True to our native land.

*—James Weldon Johnson*

## *Human Family*

I note the obvious differences  
in the human family.  
Some of us are serious,  
some thrive on comedy.  
Some declare their lives are lived  
as true profundity,

and others claim they really live  
the real reality.

The variety of our skin tones  
can confuse, bemuse, delight,  
brown and pink and beige and purple,  
tan and blue and white.

I've sailed upon the seven seas  
and stopped in every land,  
I've seen the wonders of the world  
not yet one common man.

I know ten thousand women  
called Jane and Mary Jane,  
but I've not seen any two  
who really were the same.

Mirror twins are different  
although their features jibe,  
and lovers think quite different thoughts  
while lying side by side.

We love and lose in China,  
we weep on England's moors,  
and laugh and moan in Guinea,  
and thrive on Spanish shores.

We seek success in Finland,  
are born and die in Maine.  
In minor ways we differ,  
in major we're the same.

I note the obvious differences  
between each sort and type,  
but we are more alike, my friends,  
than we are unlike.

We are more alike, my friends,  
than we are unlike.

We are more alike, my friends,  
than we are unlike.

*—Maya Angelou*

# ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its more than 1,000 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 50 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege Division is a professionally oriented Saturday music program dedicated to the musical and personal growth of talented young musicians ages 5 to 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

## Your gift helps a young artist reach for the stars!

To enable Manhattan School of Music to continue educating and inspiring generations of talented students and audiences alike, please consider making a charitable contribution today.

Contact the Advancement Office at 917-493-4434 or visit [giving.msmnyc.edu](https://giving.msmnyc.edu)

## Land Acknowledgment

We want to acknowledge that we gather as Manhattan School of Music on the traditional land of the Lenape and Wappinger past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.



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