

# ***Celebrating Black History Month***

Presented by the MSM Black Student Union

This year's performance season has been inspired by a unifying theme: ***Humanity in Harmony: Rituals, Resistance, and Resilience***. We hope during this election year, the biggest in human history with over half the world's population having the opportunity to vote in 72 countries, that this theme reflects the power of the arts to unite us even in moments of discord and differences. The collective experience of collaboration – creating together – reminds us that even in our differences we can find common ground, stand up to tyranny and oppression, and elevate our work as artists to fulfill the hope and promise of a better tomorrow.

**James Gandre**, President

**Joyce Griggs**, Executive Vice President and Provost

Faculty and Administration of the Artistic Planning Committee

*This project is supported in part by*



*To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).*



**Council on  
the Arts**

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*Funded in part by a grant from the New York City Tourism Foundation.*

## **Share Your Thoughts!**

Please take a moment to complete this post-concert survey, and you will receive a gift from the School.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025 | 7:30 PM  
NEIDORFF-KARPATI HALL

# *Celebrating Black History Month*

Presented by the MSM Black Student Union

Story and Script by **Ja'hliil Pembleton**

<i>Child</i>	<b>Sophia Stark</b>	<i>Grandparent</i>	<b>Sadiyah Babatunde</b>
<i>Mother</i>	<b>Nia Alsop</b>	<i>Father</i>	<b>Joshua Smith</b>
<i>Older Sibling</i>	<b>Moira O'Connor</b>		

## PROGRAM

SAMUEL FRANCIS SMITH  
(1808–1895)

*My Country, 'Tis of Thee*

*Celebrating Marian Anderson's Historic Performance*

**Laquita Mitchell** (MM '01), soprano

**Juan Lazaro** (MM '19), piano

LESLIE ADAMS  
(b. 1932)

Etude in G-sharp Minor from *Twenty-Six Etudes  
for Solo Piano, Part II*, No. 11

**Calder Failla**, piano

FLORENCE PRICE  
(1887–1953)

*At the Feet O' Jesus*

**Jayla Brenord**, voice

**Jas Ogiste**, piano

VALERIE COLEMAN  
(b. 1970)

*Portraits of Langston*

v. Jazz Band in a Parisian Cabaret

vi. Harlem's Summer Night

**Blue Shelton**, flute

**Kahlin Jordan**, clarinet

**Jas Ogiste**, piano

JOHN DANIELS CARTER  
(1932–1981)

*Toccata (Ride on King Jesus)*  
**Sadiyah Babatunde**, voice  
**Marissa Carlson** (PPD '23), piano

JOHN L. CORNELIUS II  
(b. 1996)

*Plenty Good Room*  
**André Ferguson**, voice  
**Marissa Carlson** (PPD '23), piano

UNDINE SMITH MOORE  
(1904–1989)

*I Want to Die While You Love Me*  
**Adaiah Ogletree**, voice  
**Erin Daniels**, piano

JOHN ROSAMOND JOHNSON  
(1873–1953)

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*  
Poem by James Weldon Johnson  
**Reaching for the Arts Choir**  
**Sharon Daley-Johnson** (BM '88, MM '89),  
Director

ERROLL GARNER  
(1921–1977)

*Misty*  
**Kayla Arthur**, voice  
**Jaleel Shaw** (MM '02, MSM Faculty), alto saxophone  
**William Hill III**, piano  
**Daniel Basilio-Fernández**, bass  
**Kabelo Mokhatla** (BM '24), drums

JALEEL SHAW  
(b. 1978)

*Tamir*  
**Jaleel Shaw** (MM '02, MSM Faculty), alto saxophone  
**William Hill III**, piano  
**Daniel Basilio-Fernández**, bass  
**Kabelo Mokhatla** (BM '24), drums

LEON RUSSELL  
(1942–2016)

*A Song for You*

*Celebrating Donny Hathaway's Definitive Recording*

**Samara Bowden**, voice

**Terence Dove**, piano

JIMMY FORREST  
(1920–1980)

*Night Train*

**William Hill III**, piano

**Matthew Fu**, drums

**Chet Carlson**, bass

SEKOU ITALO  
(b. 1999)  
(arr. M'Bemba Bangoura)

*Bunkono Suite*

Scene 1: Alone in a Crowded Room

Scene 2: Do You Do You?

Scene 3: Soli

Scene 4: Cania Soli

**Sekou Italo**, percussion

**Samuel Korn**, alto sax

**Zoe Molelekwa**, piano

**Chet Carlson**, bass

**Daniel Petersen** (BM '24), drums

**Jack Huang** (MM '24), vibraphone

**João Rosa**, vibraphone

**M'Bemba Bangoura**, djembe

**Fara Camara**, djembe

**Jordan Powell**, dancer

SAM COOKE  
(1931–1964)

*A Change is Gonna Come*

**Nia Alsop**, voice

**Dexter Birkenbeuel**, piano

*Intermission*

MICHAEL JACKSON  
(1958–2009)

*Sbe's Out of My Life*

**Aidan Olmo**, voice  
**Blue Shelton**, flute  
**Daniel Basilio-Fernández**, bass  
**Dexter Birkenbeuel**, piano

J. FRED COOTS  
(1897–1985)

*For All We Know*

*Celebrating Donny Hathaway's Definitive Recording*

**Jared Marshall** (MM '24), voice  
**Elisee Ngbo** (MM '24), piano

DEXTER BIRKENBEUEL  
(b. 2004)

*Moonbeams*

**Sarahfina Osei**, voice  
**Dexter Birkenbeuel**, piano

MOIRA O'CONNOR  
(b. 2003)

*Who Am I?*

**Moira O'Connor**, voice  
**Daniel Petersen** (BM '24), drums  
**Daniel Basilio-Fernández**, bass  
**Maxwell Barnes**, saxophone  
**Erin Daniels**, piano

BURT BACHARACH  
(1928–2023)

*Alfie*

**Twyla Nelson**, voice  
**Calder Failla**, piano

H.E.R./DANIEL CAESAR  
(b. 1997)/(b. 1995)

*Best Part*

**Kayla Arthur**, voice  
**Skyler La Nier**, voice  
**Elisee Ngbo** (MM '24), piano

DANYEL BREWER  
(b. 2003)

*Heavun*

**Danyel Brewer**, voice  
**Daniel Basilio-Fernández**, bass  
**Aki Eppstein**, drums  
**Dexter Birkenbeuel**, piano

J. R. BAILEY / KEN WILLIAMS *Love, Love, Love*  
(1937–1985) / (1939–2022)

*Celebrating Donny Hathaway's Definitive Recording*  
**Sophia Stark**, voice

CECE WINANS  
(b. 1964)

*Alabaster Box*

**Joshua Smith**, voice  
**Joshua Green** (BM '22), drums  
**Evan Laurence**, bass  
**Marc Payne**, organ  
**Isaiah Schmidt**, keyboard  
**Elisee Ngbo** (MM '24), piano

PERCY GRAY JR.  
(b. 1957)

*Everybody Clap Your Hands*

**Reaching for the Arts Choir**  
**Sharon Daley-Johnson** (BM '88, MM '89),  
Director

ARR. ELISEE NGBO  
(b. 1998)

*Praise Medley*

**Danyeale James**, vocals

**Elisee Ngbo** (MM '24), piano

**Joshua Green** (BM '22), drums

**Evan Laurence**, bass

**Marc Payne**, organ

**Isaiah Schmidt**, keyboard

**Adaiah Ogletree**, lead vocals

**Jared Marshall** (MM '24), vocals

**Samara Bowden**, vocals

**Larissa Jones** (MM '23), vocals

**Daniella Pruitt** (MM '23), vocals

**Dubois A'keen**, vocals

**Mwanzi Harriott**, guitar

*Please join us after the performance for a reception in  
the Baisley Powell Elebash Student Lounge.*

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

## **Laquita Mitchell** (MM '01), soprano

Soprano Laquita Mitchell consistently earns acclaim on eminent international opera and concert stages worldwide, including a Grammy nomination as the soprano soloist in the world premiere of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Paul Moravec's *Sanctuary Road* at Carnegie Hall with Oratorio Society of New York. This season, she makes her début as Aida with Dayton Opera. Ms. Mitchell also joins California Symphony for Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, Charleston Symphony for *Sanctuary Road*, the Bilkent Symphony in Turkey for a concert of American songs, Soprano Soloist for MLK: Tribute to Coretta Scott King with the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, and Austin Symphony to sing Bess in a concert production of *Porgy and Bess*.

Last season, Mitchell returned to the role of Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with New Orleans Opera and Portland Opera and reprised her lauded performance of *Sanctuary Road* with Virginia Opera, Princeton Pro Musica, and the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park. In addition, Mitchell appeared in concert with Saint Thomas Church, Chattanooga Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Waterbury Symphony for their performance, and Bard Summerscape.

Previously, Mitchell reprised "Julie" in *Omar* with UNC-Chapel Hill at Carolina Performing Arts – a role she premiered at the Spoleto Festival USA the previous season – and returned to the role of Josephine Baker in Cipullo's *Josephine* with Music of Remembrance. In concert, Ms. Mitchell performed Samuel Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with Detroit Symphony and Lima Symphony, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the Madison Symphony and Memphis Symphony, Mahler's Symphony No. 4 with Sarasota Orchestra, *Sanctuary Road* with the Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati and Chautauqua Symphony, Verdi's Requiem with Rhode Island Philharmonic and Buffalo Philharmonic, Tippet's *A Child of Our Time* with Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra, and Dett's *The Ordering of Moses* with the Cincinnati May Festival and the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park.

A native of New York City, Ms. Mitchell was a 2004 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Grand Prize Winner and was awarded a Sara Tucker Award. She was also the First Prize Winner of the Wiener Kammeroper's Hans Gabor Belvedere Competition, making her the first American to win the competition in more than twenty years. Additionally, Ms. Mitchell was the First Prize Winner of the Houston Grand Opera Eleanor McCollum Competition for Young Singers, and the Audience Choice award. Ms. Mitchell holds a Master of Music degree and a Professional Studies Certificate from Manhattan School of Music and completed undergraduate studies at Westminster Choir College.

Ms. Mitchell has been awarded the Distinguished Young Alumni Award from Manhattan School of Music and the Outstanding Alumni Award from Westminster Choir College. Ms. Mitchell serves on the voice faculty at the Mannes School of Music and Brooklyn College (CUNY).

## **Jaleel Shaw** (MM '02, MSM Faculty), saxophone

Alto and soprano saxophonist Jaleel Shaw is presently a member of the Roy Haynes Quartet, Tom Harrell's "Colors Of A Dream" and the Mingus Bing Band. He has also performed with Christian McBride, Jason Moran, Stefon Harris, Roy Hargrove, Chick Corea, Dave Holland and Jimmy Cobb among others.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, PA, Jaleel was constantly surrounded by music and picked up the alto saxophone at an early age. He immersed himself in the local jazz scene, studying and performing with many of the great musicians and educators that the city has historically produced.

After graduating from high school, he received a full tuition scholarship to attend the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA from which he received a dual degree in Music Education and Performance. While at Berklee, Jaleel received the Billboard Endowed Scholarship for Outstanding Academic and Musical Achievement (1998), Woodwind Department Chair Awards (1998, 2000), The Boston Jazz Society Award (1999) and The Outstanding Student Teacher Award (2000). He then received a scholarship to Manhattan School of Music in New York where he obtained his Masters in Jazz Performance.

Jaleel's debut album, *Perspective* (2005), received rave reviews from *The New York Times* and *Jazzwise Magazine*. *All About Jazz* named the album one of the top five debut albums of 2005. His composition "The Heavyweight Champion" received the ASCAP Young Jazz Composer Award. In 2006, Jaleel joined the Roy Haynes Quartet and was featured on the legendary drummer's Grammy-nominated album *Whereas*. In 2008 Jaleel founded his label Changu Records on which he released his second album, *Optimism*. This album received reviews from *The New York Times*, *Downbeat* and *All About Jazz* among other publications. That same year he received a second ASCAP Young Composer Award for the composition "The Flipside" and was nominated for the Jazz Journalist Association's Up & Coming Jazz Artist award. Jaleel was listed in *JazzTimes Magazine's* 2011 Readers Poll for Alto Saxophonist of the Year, along with Phil Woods, Lee Konitz, Bunky Green and Kenny Garrett.

In March of 2013, Jaleel released a new album of original compositions titled *The Soundtrack Of Things To Come* from his label Changu Records. The album features a working quartet and has been well received by *The New York Times*, *New York City Jazz Record*, and *All About Jazz*.

# ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its 1,025 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from 54 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 Philanthropy Office at 917-493-4434  
or to make an online gift, **scan this code**  
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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