

**THE ARCHIVES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN
MUSIC AND CULTURE**

PRESENTS

CELEBRATING HBCU MUSIC TRADITIONS

*A SYMPOSIUM FEATURING DISTINGUISHED CHORAL
AND INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES IN THE U.S.*



Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center ~ Grand Hall
Indiana University ~ Bloomington

Friday March 22, 2024 ~ 6 p.m.

Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

About the Project

Conceived as a collaboration between the *Archives of African American Music and Culture* at Indiana University (Dr. Tyron Cooper, Director/ Dr. Mellonee Burnim, past Director) and distinguished musical programs from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) across the nation, this project foregrounds the impact of those who harnessed the performance prowess of young men and women of African descent who generated audiences that provided the critical financial and moral support needed to build and sustain the institutions they represented.

While the story of the *Fisk Jubilee Singers*, the distinguished 19th century vocal ensemble that sang with distinction before crown heads of Europe, is well-documented, the full scope and continuing legacy of this historical tradition remains largely unheralded. For example, celebrated director of the Florida A&M Marching Band (founded in Tallahassee, 1946), William Foster, was elected to the National Band Association Hall of Fame, in recognition of his impact on the development of a distinct African American marching band performance style that showcased contemporary Black popular dance and repertoire in contrast to the military style formations and repertory typical of comparable non-Black ensembles.

Our objective tonight is to foreground this rich musical and cultural legacy through pursuit of ethnographic/historical projects of musical and cultural retrieval consistent with the field of ethnomusicology and in partnership with the disciplinary objectives of African American Studies. Presenters have been commissioned to produce articles slated for publication edited by Indiana University Professor Emerita, Dr. Mellonee Burnim, co-editor of *African American Music: An Introduction* (2006) which appears on the *Zora Canon of 100 Best Books Ever Written by African American Women* (2020), and five-time Emmy award winner, Dr. Tyron Cooper, Associate Professor, Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, and current director of the *Archives of African American Music and Culture* at Indiana University.

PROGRAMME

Introduction to the Project Dr. Mellonee Burnim

Introducing the Musical Experience
The HBCU Alumni Ensemble

We Shall Walk Through the Valley E. Curenton
There Is A Balm in Gilead William Dawson

Evelyn Simpson-Curenton & Dr. Lloyd Mallory, Directors

Fisk Jubilee Singers (1871) Dr. Mellonee Burnim
Indiana University

Hampton University
Concert Choir (1871) Dr. Joyce Jackson
Louisiana State University

Musical Interlude
The HBCU Alumni Ensemble

Elijah Rock Medley J. Hairston/H. Johnson/M. Hogan

Morgan State
University Choir (1919) Dr. Raynetta Wiggins-Jackson
Johns Hopkins University

Bethune-Cookman University
Concert Chorale (1904) Dr. Tyron Cooper
Indiana University

Spelman Glee Club (1924) Dr. Marva Carter
University of Georgia

Musical Interlude
The HBCU Alumni Ensemble

Psalm 1 Nathan Carter

*Southern University Jazz &
Marching Band Intersections* Dr. Cheryl L. Keyes
University of California—Los Angeles

*Florida A&M University
Marching 100 (1946)* Dr. Charles Sykes
Indiana University

Musical Finale
The HBCU Alumni Ensemble

Swing Low Medley
I Will Sing Praises/Total Praise Richard Smallwood



*Please join us for a reception featuring traditional African American foodways
immediately following the symposium.*

A Word of Thanks

We are tremendously grateful to each and every contributor to this event — the committed research scholars, the gifted composers and performers, and, of course, the dedicated staff of the Archives of African American Music and Culture and the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. This event was stronger and more powerful in every way because of you.

HBCU Alumni Chorale

Tamara Bodie (Oakwood University)
Robert Jerome Brown (Frostburg State University)
Ryane Cheatham (Delaware State University)
Angelo Johnson (Morgan State University)
Ravon Middlebrooks (Delaware State University)
Courtney Porter (Delaware State University)
Kathy Richburg (Howard University)
Jazmin Salaberrios (Delaware State University)
Daniel Smith (George Mason University)

Directors

Evelyn Simpson-Curenton (Temple University and George Mason University)
Dr. Lloyd Mallory (Morgan State University and Oakwood University)

Archives of African American Music and Culture

Dr. Tyrone Cooper, Director
Mia Watts, Head of Collections
William Vanden Dries, Digital Archivist
chloë fourte, Graduate Assistant
Spencer Schaefer, Graduate Assistant
Nia I'man Smith, Graduate Assistant

Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center

Dr. Gloria Howell, Director
Nancy Cross-Harris, General Administrator
Timothy Womock, Facilities Coordinator

Additional technical assistance provided by Milton Hinnant, II.

Front cover photo courtesy of the Bethune-Cookman University Archives.

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