



**WASHINGTON  
PERFORMING ARTS**  
We make it happen

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## **WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES DAVID G. POWELL AS DIRECTOR OF GOSPEL MUSIC PROGRAMS**

*Kathy Brewington is promoted to Senior Manager of Choir Operations and Tevin Price joins the team to support recruitment, alumni, production and partnerships*



**WASHINGTON**— Washington Performing Arts announced today the promotion of David G. Powell as Director of Gospel Music Programs. Powell will lead the department’s artistic, operational, and strategic planning efforts for its resident gospel choirs, the Children of the Gospel Choir and the Men and Women of the Gospel Choir, along with an alumni choir. Powell, who has been serving in an interim capacity for the past year, will continue to collaborate with the resident artistic and musical directors of the choirs, and lead an administrative staff. The Director ensures alignment between the gospel music program’s core tenets of excellence, learning, meaningful engagement, and joyful

experience, and the Washington Performing Arts mission, vision, and values.

As the only arts organization with resident gospel choirs, Washington Performing Arts plays a crucial role in facilitating the growth of gospel music and expanding access to music education. Over the past 30 years, Children of the Gospel Choir alone has provided free vocal training to thousands of students and made a significant impact on the D.C. community. The Men and Women of the Gospel Choir has celebrated the heritage of gospel music with a wide array of artists, including Richard Smallwood, Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, the late Edwin Hawkins, the late Walter Hawkins, Ramsey Lewis, and Sweet Honey In The Rock.

The choirs remain a core part of Washington Performing Arts’s commitment to bringing people together through music.

*“Washington Performing Arts and I share a deep love for storytelling and community building; particularly through our support of its resident gospel choir program,” Powell said. As an alum of the program, this role provides me with an exciting opportunity to return to and work with Washington Performing Arts with the vision of a more engaged DMV community and expanded artistic collaborations.”*

Washington Performing Arts also announced the promotion of longtime gospel programs staff member Kathryn Brewington to Senior Manager of Choir Operations and Tevin Price to Recruitment & Production Coordinator for Gospel Music Programs.

*“From David Powell’s early involvement as a member of our Children of the Gospel Choir, to his appointment and continued artistic imprint as Director, and Kathryn Brewington’s 41-tenure at Washington Performing Arts since the program’s earliest days, the accumulated expertise and personal dedication are a remarkable legacy to fuel the next chapter of our Gospel Music Programs,” said President and CEO Jenny Bilfield.*

#### **ABOUT WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS GOSPEL CHOIRS**

The resident gospel choirs of Washington Performing Arts– Men and Women of the Gospel (MWOTG) and Children of the Gospel (COTG)– have inspired audiences and nurtured both aspiring and experienced vocalists while bringing powerful messages of hope to the most prominent stages in the region for more than 30 years.

In addition to annual performances during the Washington Performing Arts presenting season, the choirs perform regularly throughout the community. Past events include the 10th anniversary celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, combined performances with the Choral Arts Chorus for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. tribute concert at the Kennedy Center, Gospel Brunches at the University of Maryland, Christmas concerts at the Washington National Cathedral, featured performances at the historic Howard Theatre, Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, Mayor’s Arts Awards, The White House, on NPR’s *From The Top*, *NBC Today Show*, Sirius XM Radio, and many more.

#### **ABOUT DAVID G. POWELL**

David G. Powell is a native of Washington, D.C. Educated in the D.C. public school system, David graduated from Duke Ellington School of the Arts with a concentration in vocal music. While in D.C., he’s participated in Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir, The

Heritage Signature Chorale under the Direction of Stanley Thurston, The Men of Color Chorale, The Sam Bonds Chorale, and Nolan Williams Jr.'s Voices of Inspiration. David matriculated his undergraduate education at The Ohio State University with a double major in Communications and Music. Through his college choir and Professor/mentor Raymond Wise, David has traveled the United States and several parts of Europe singing and performing. During his time in college, David worked in the Office of Undergraduate Admission. His love for music and his enjoyment of guiding prospective college-bound families through the college search process led him to work in the School of Music Admissions Office at the University of Maryland College Park and later as the Director of Admission for Westminster College of the Arts (to include Westminster Choir College) of Rider University. In 2022, David completed his Master of Arts Degree in Organizational Leadership from Trevecca University. Most recently, David was promoted as the inaugural Director of Gospel Music Programs for Washington Performing Arts. David also serves as the Gospel Choir Director at Georgetown University. When he's not working or encouraging youth to explore their gift and talents, you can find David singing, enjoying on the beach, and occasionally playing piano. David believes in and is fully vested in the power of God as seen through the arts, transforming lives, serving, and building strong communities.

### **ABOUT WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS**

One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, Washington Performing Arts champions the arts as a unifying force and has engaged for more than half a century with artists, audiences, students, and civic life. The city is truly our stage: for decades, in venues ranging from concert halls and clubs to public parks, we have presented a tremendous range of artists and art forms, from the most distinguished symphony orchestras to both renowned and emerging artists in classical music, jazz, international genres, and more. We also have an ever-expanding artistic and educational presence on the internet, envisioning ongoing opportunities for online connection and community.

Washington Performing Arts deeply values its partnerships with local organizations and other arts institutions. Through events online and in myriad performance venues and neighborhoods, we engage international visiting artists in community programs and introduce local artists to wider audiences. We place a premium on establishing artists as a continuing presence in the lives of both young people and adults through residencies and education programs.

Our achievements have been recognized with a National Medal of Arts and with three Mayor's Arts Awards from the DC Government. We have now embarked upon our second half-century, ever inspired by the motto of our founder, Patrick Hayes: "Everybody in, nobody out."

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