



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 16, 2025

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**CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON AND
WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS PRESENT
*LIVING THE DREAM...SINGING THE DREAM***

*A choral tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
returns to The Kennedy Center Concert Hall stage on Sunday, February 2*

WASHINGTON— The **Choral Arts Society of Washington** and **Washington Performing Arts** co-present the beloved 37th-annual choral tribute concert ***Living the Dream...Singing the Dream*** on **Sunday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. The performance pays tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through performances by the **Choral Arts Chorus** under the direction of **Marie Bucoy-Calavan**, the **Washington Performing Arts Men, Women, and Children of the Gospel Choirs** under the direction of **Theodore Thorpe, III** and **Michele Fowlin**, video and spoken words by Martin Luther King, Jr. with orator [David Anthony Johnson], and WUSA-9 "Get Up DC" anchor **Allison Seymour** as host.

During the performance, Choral Arts will present its **2025 Humanitarian Award** to **Damon Hewitt**, President and Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, for his extensive work in civil rights litigation and policy to better the lives of Black Americans for more than 20 years, with experience in the nonprofit, philanthropic, and public sectors. Hewitt's dedication to human rights and advocacy spans the most pressing and critical issues that plague society today - including affirmative action, race-conscious programs, diversity, equity, and inclusion; Election Protection and voter disinformation, redistricting, fair housing, algorithmic bias and artificial intelligence, and police accountability.

A treasured D.C. tradition for more than three decades, *Living the Dream...Singing the Dream* unites all who honor Dr. King's ideals with inspirational messages, music, and movement. The **Choral Arts Symphonic Chorus** and **Washington Performing Arts Gospel Choirs** will perform selections with a "call to action" including "Lift Every Voice and Sing," "We Shall Be Changed," "We Shall Overcome" – featuring David Anthony Johnson, "Hold On," "Say Her Name," and "If I Can Help Somebody." **Tickets start at \$25** and are available at www.washingtonperformingarts.org/event/living-the-dream-singing-the-dream.

"The music and narration of *Living the Dream Singing the Dream* express the trial and triumph of humanity's plight to live, love, and work together," said **David Powell, Washington Performing Arts, Director of Gospel Music Programs**. "An intergenerational movement inspired by Dr. King's message of equality and love for all humanity, *Living the Dream...Singing the Dream* is a timeless program of new and traditional Choral, Gospel, and Inspirational music for the entire family. Passionate Directors, energetic soloists, incredible instrumentalists, a singing aggregate of three ensembles, youth-adult, and audience participation – this is an experience not to be missed!"

"Choral Arts is a proud artistic participant and supporter of this important celebration that promotes storytelling and remembrance of one of the world's greatest nonviolent leaders in history," added **Marie Bucoy-Calavan, Artistic Director, The Choral Arts Society of Washington**. "Our role is to contribute to the amplification of Dr. King's message. In doing so, we're proud to perform 'Reach Down, Lord,' a song whose message surpasses time and pleads for us to unite in justice on what seems like a broken road. It is always our honor to partner with Washington Performing Arts in this celebration."

Featured Performers:

- **Ralph Alan Herndon**, pianist and vocalist
- **David Anthony Johnson**, Martin Luther King, Jr., orator
- **Choral Arts Symphonic Chorus**
- **Washington Performing Arts Gospel Choirs**

WHEN: Sunday, February 2, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Kennedy Center Concert Hall (2700 F St NW)

TICKETS: Tickets start at \$25 and are available for purchase on the [Washington Performing Arts website](#) and [Choral Arts' website](#).

ABOUT ALLISON SEYMOUR

Allison Seymour is an Emmy award-winning journalist and beloved news anchor at WUSA 9 in Washington DC. She has been a trusted voice in television news in the Nation's Capital since 1999. A proud Hampton University graduate, where she is enshrined in the University's Media Hall of Fame, Allison -also holds a master's degree from the University of South Carolina. She is a dedicated member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the historic St. Mary's Episcopal Church in D.C. Beyond the newsroom, she shares her life with her husband, radio and television host, Marc Clarke, and their three daughters, embracing life as an empty nester with their two cherished shelter pups.

ABOUT CHORAL ARTS

At Choral Arts, we sing the music we love as a balm to frenzied days, an antidote to solitude, a union in an often-fractured world. We sing for a city with little time and high expectations, which compels us to transform a night out into a lifelong memory. Founded in 1965 by Norman Scribner (1936-2015), Choral Arts has a rich history of bringing the power of the human voice to audiences large and small, advancing the story of choral music by partnering with a myriad of musicians, composers, and ensembles.

ABOUT WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS

One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, Washington Performing Arts 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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