

2026 Program: Hold Out for Joy:

Music of Hope and Resilience by African American
Composers

Composers include Regina Baiocchi, Margaret Bonds, Harry Burleigh, Valerie Capers, Duke Ellington, Arthur Herzog, Billie Holliday, Betty Jackson King, Joshua McGhee, Zenobia Powell Perry, Undine Smith Moore, William Grant Still, Earth Wind and Fire (Maurice White, Larry Dunn, Philip Bailey)

Video links are posted below.

Performers:

Soprano: Yolanda Rhodes

Tenor: Othello Jefferson

Piano/Vocals: LaDoris Cordell

Piano: Jodi Gandolfi, Jansen Verplank

Piano/Vocals/Percussion: Deanne Tucker

Viola: Paul Ehrlich

Cello: Victoria Ehrlich

Bass Clarinet: Carol Somersille

Tenor Saxophone: Tod Dickow

Alto Saxophone: Oscar Pangilinan

Trumpet: John Worley

Percussion: Jim Kassis

Bass: Charlie Channel, Jr.

Eastside College Preparatory School Choir, Jansen Verplank
director

[Click here for complete concert video and narration](#) or listen to
individual pieces – click on titles below.

FREEDOM AND EQUALITY

[Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel](#) (Spiritual)

Arranged by Harry Burleigh
Othello Jefferson, tenor, Jodi Gandolfi, piano

From "In Praise of Freedom" by Valerie Capers
[Introduction: The Preamble to the Constitution](#)
[Fanfare](#) (excerpt)

[Brotherhood Begins with You and Me](#)

Eastside Choir and AACI singers, Jansen Verplank and Jodi Gandolfi,
piano, John Worley, trumpet, Jim Kassis, percussion, Charlie Channel Jr.,
bass

[The Color of Love \(dedicated to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.\)](#) by Joshua
McGhee

Paul Ehrlich, viola, Victoria Ehrlich, cello, Jodi Gandolfi, piano

HISTORY AND TRUTH

From Tawawa House (Opera) by Zenobia Powell Perry

[Juba Dance and Let the Knowing Speak](#) (drums and vocal quartet)

[Orchestra Overture](#) (piano duet)

[Follow the Drinking Gourd](#)

[I Want Two Wings](#) (vocal duet)

[I Gotta Move When the Spirit Say Move](#)

Othello Jefferson, tenor, Yolanda Rhodes, soprano, Jodi Gandolfi, piano,
LaDoris Cordell, vocals, Deanne Tucker, vocals and drum, Jim Kassis,
drums

[Troubled Water from Spiritual Suite](#) by Margaret Bonds

Deanne Tucker, piano

PERSEVERANCE, STRENGTH, COURAGE - THREE SPIRITUALS

[Come Down Angels](#) by Undine Smith More

Yolanda Rhodes, soprano, Jodi Gandolfi, piano

[Way By and By](#) by Betty Jackson King

Yolanda Rhodes, soprano, LaDoris Cordell, piano

[It's Me O Lord](#) by Betty Jackson King

Yolanda Rhodes, soprano, Paul Ehrlich, viola, Jodi Gandolfi, piano, Paul
Ehrlich, viola, Victoria Ehrlich, cello, LaDoris Cordell and Deanne Tucker,
tambourines

DIVERSITY - CELEBRATING ALL PEOPLE

Folk chamber music by William Grant Still

[Winnebago Moccasin Game \(Native American, Wisconsin\)](#)

[Carmela \(Mexico\)](#)

[Inca Melody \(Peru\)](#)

[Jesus is a Rock in the Weary Land \(Spiritual USA\)](#)

Paul Ehrlich, viola, Victoria Ehrlich, cello, Jodi Gandolfi, piano

RESILIENCE AND JOY

[Scherzo from Afro-American Symphony](#) by William Grant Still

LaDoris Cordell and Jodi Gandolfi, piano

Deanne Tucker, synthesized banjo

Jim Kassis, percussion

[God Bless The Child](#), by Billie Holliday and Arthur Herzog Jr.

Yolanda Rhodes, soprano, Tod Dickow, tenor saxophone, Jansen

Verplank, piano, Charlie Channel, Jr., bass, Jim Kassis, drums

[Just Scratchin' the Surface](#) by Duke Ellington, arranged by Jansen

Verplank

John Worley, trumpet, Oscar Pangilinan, alto saxophone,

Tod Dickow, tenor saxophone, Carol Somersille, bass clarinet,

Jansen Verplank, piano, Charlie Channel, Jr., bass,

Jim Kassis, drums

[Hold Out for Joy](#) by Regina Baiocchi

LaDoris Cordell, vocal

Victoria Ehrlich, cello, Jodi Gandolfi, piano

[Shining Star](#) by Maurice White, Larry Dunn, and Philip Bailey (Earth

Wind & Fire)

arranged by Jansen Verplank

Lead vocalist: Lupita Ruiz

vocals: LaDoris Cordell, Yolanda Rhodes, Deanne Tucker,

Othello Jefferson, Jodi Gandolfi, Eastside Choir,

Carol Somersille, bass clarinet, John Worley, trumpet,

Oscar Pangilinan, alto saxophone, Tod Dickow, tenor saxophone,

Paul Ehrlich, viola, Victoria Ehrlich, cello, Jansen Verplank, piano,

Charlie Channel, Jr., bass, Jim Kassis, drums

