



Dear Esteemed Guests,

Welcome to "Coretta's Voice," the second concert of the Ritz Chamber Players' 2024-2025 season, "Lift Every Voice." This evening, we honor the enduring legacy of Coretta Scott King and her remarkable contributions as a musician and tireless advocate for peace and equality.

Mrs. King's "Freedom Concerts" masterfully wove together music, poetry, and narrative to boost awareness, inspire action and fundraise for the Civil Rights Movement. "Coretta's Voice" mirrors that dynamic spirit and eclectic repertoire, serving as a powerful testament to the enduring power of Art As Activism, reminding us that justice demands our unwavering commitment.

Your presence and support are invaluable to our mission. Thank you for being part of the Ritz Chamber Players family. We look forward to sharing more inspiring musical experiences with you this season.

With deepest gratitude,

Terrance L. Patterson

Ritz Chamber Players Artistic Director

OUR MISSION

To showcase diversity by spotlighting the extraordinary artistry of African American musicians, past and present. RCP seeks to transcend cultural boundaries and amplify the rich mosaic of our society through the universal language of music. Above all, we want to share the transformative power of classical music and ensure it is accessible to everyone.

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ABOUT THE RITZ CHAMBER PLAYERS

THE RITZ CHAMBER PLAYERS (RCP), is hailed by *The Baltimore Sun* as "one of the most interesting and dynamic ensembles to emerge in recent years." Boasting some of the world's preeminent musicians spanning the African diaspora, it brings a fresh, new energy to the classical music genre. Its members perform with prestigious organizations such as the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra and the London Symphony.

Founded in 2002 by clarinetist and Artistic Director Terrance Patterson, RCP present a landmark series at the Terry Concert Hall at Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, Florida, which combines exceptional artistry on stage with inspiring educational programs in schools and throughout the community. Through its concert series in Jacksonville and performances across the United States, RCP continues to build the participation of multicultural audiences that reflect our diverse society.

Called "a remarkable ensemble," the group's flexible make-up allows for many astonishing combinations of virtuoso players, leading to "riveting" performances of the standard classical music repertoire. RCP are also unique in their dedication to showcase the works of African-American composers with exceedingly artistic and informed interpretations.

RCP made its highly successful début concert at New York's Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall to a standing-room-only crowd, with critics proclaiming the group's performance "extraordinary" and "vital and fresh." Most recently, the ensemble's performances have been enthusiastically received in Miami, Atlanta, Baltimore, Los Angeles, Raleigh, the British Virgin Islands, Chicago, and Seattle, and in several New York venues, including Rockefeller University and Lincoln Center.

RCP, one of the country's most significant chamber ensembles, celebrated its international radio début on the BBC World Service and WYNC New York with a concert broadcast to more than 30 countries, and its first national television appearance on the 37th Annual NAACP Image Awards. RCP have been guests of the highly-praised National Public Radio shows *Performance Today* and the *Tavis Smiley Show* and are regular guests of the Madison and Amelia Island Chamber Music Festivals.

CONCERT PROGRAM

Lift Every Voice and Sing James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

Ave Maria from "Otello" Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Historical Reflection Rodney Hurst

Pleurez, Pleurez Mes Yeux Jules Massenet (1842-1912)

Spoken Word | Poetry | Reflection Taryn "LoveReigns" Wharwood

I Want Jesus To Walk With Me Edward Boatner (1898-1981)

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit H.T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

Spoken Word | Poetry | Reflection Rahman K. Johnson, Ph.D

Clarinet Trio In A Minor, Op. 114
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

1. Allegro 2. Adagio 3. Andantino grazioso 4. Allegro

INTERMISSION

Historical Reflection Rodney Hurst

Songs of Love and Justice with text by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

1. Justice 2. Difficulties 3. Decisions 4. Love

Spoken Word | Poetry | Reflection Rahman K. Johnson, Ph.D & Taryn "LoveReigns" Wharwood

> The Gospel Train H.T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

Steal Away
Edward Boatner (1898-1981)

Ride on King Jesus Hall Johnson (1888-1970)

RECEPTION

MEET THE RITZ CHAMBER PLAYERS

ALISON BUCHANAN - SOPRANO



Praised for her musical versatility, her luscious voice and her ability to communicate with an audience, British soprano Alison Buchanan is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music in London and the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. Alison is the winner of the Kathleen Ferrier, the Luciano Pavarotti, the Washington International and the Maggie Teyte competitions.

As a young artist with San Francisco Opera, Alison made her debut with the company as Mimi in *La Boheme* whilst an Adler she was invited to L.A Opera to sing Nedda in *I Pagliacci* working with Placido Domingo and Franco Zeffirelli. Alison has performed with New York City Opera as Bess in *Porgy & Bess* and Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Opera company of Philadelphia, Michigan Opera and Wexford Opera. She has performed under the batons of Sir. Simon Rattle, Sir. Colin Davis, Donald Runnicles and David Robertson to name but a few, with orchestra's such as the Royal Philharmonic, the Philippines Philharmonic, the London Symphony, the BBC Symphony Orchestra,

the Israel Kibbutz Orchestra and the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

More recently, Ms. Buchanan played an operatic soprano in the episode "Gardens in Bloom" on the hit Netflix series *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story*, joined Marin Alsop for performances in Brazil with the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra, returned to the Boston Symphony Orchestra to perform in *Porgy & Bess*, gave recitals in St. Louis, Washington DC and in Jacksonville, performed the role of Janthe in *Der Vampyr* with the American Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, performed concerts with the Detroit Symphony and gave a recital at National Sawdust in Brooklyn. Buchanan recently released a recording of the songs of Dr. George Walker accompanied by the composer for Albany records, sang Knoxville Summer 1915, Barber, at the Kennedy Center with the Apollo Orchestra and joined members of the Boston Symphony, the New York Philharmonic and the Atlanta Symphony for the Classical Pops Festival in Barbados.

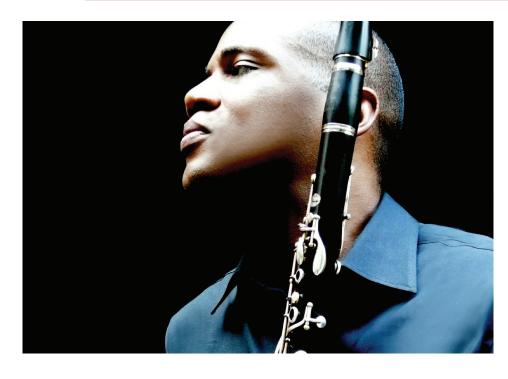
KHARI JOYNER - CELLO



TERRANCE L. PATTERSON - CLARINET

Described by *The New York Times* as "eloquently plangent, making a powerful impact," Khari Joyner has a following both nationally and abroad as a versatile concert cellist, chamber musician, and ambassador for the arts. He has made numerous guest appearances with orchestras and ensembles across the world, including a recent performance of Dvorak's *Cello Concerto in B Minor* with the Akron Symphony Orchestra and Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations* with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, which received rave reviews. In addition, he has given many cello masterclasses and lectures at notable institutions, including the University of Tennessee, University of Georgia, Furman University, Duke University, and the International Cello Institute among others. Furthermore, he serves on the faculty at Baldwin Wallace University as Assistant Professor of Cello and is the current head of the strings area.

In 2017, Joyner received a career grant from the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship Fund, which nominates and endows a select number of gifted artists with generous funding to further their careers. Joyner has also performed for Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, the latter for which he gave a private performance in the Oval Office. A passionate advocate for the music of the 21st century, Joyner has collaborated and given performances of works by major composers such as Tyshawn Sorey, Kaija Saariaho, Lowell Liebermann, Keith Fitch, Carman Moore, and Jessie Cox among several others. An active chamber musician and one of the founding members of the Altezza Piano Trio, Joyner has given performances as a quest at the Ritz Chamber Players, Chamber Music Society of Central Virginia, Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, Fontainbleau Music Festival, and recently as a guest with PinkNoise contemporary ensemble performing Gerard Grisey's monumental Vortex Temporum. Joyner also regularly performs as a substitute cellist with The Cleveland Orchestra. A graduate of Juilliard's prestigious Doctor of Musical Arts program, he has had other teaching affiliations with Columbia University, Sarah Lawrence College, and Mannes Prep. Joyner also pursued a mathematics concentration in an exchange program with Columbia University, while studying in Juilliard's Accelerated BM/MM program. Joyner enjoys interdisciplinary collaborations, especially with dance—in 2022 he performed his original composition, Intransigence, for solo cello, set to dance in a world premiere with the Atlanta Ballet.



Terrance L. Patterson is Founder and Artistic Director of the Ritz Chamber Players which is hailed by *The Baltimore Sun* as "one of the most interesting and dynamic ensembles to emerge in recent years." Jacksonville native, Clarinetist Terrance L. Patterson, has performed in Paris, London, Milan, Brussels, Belgrade, Munich, Amsterdam, Moscow, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Miami, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and New York. He has performed with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, the Sphinx Symphony of Detroit and the Nashville, Florida West Coast, Huntsville, Festival, and Las Vegas Symphonies. He attended the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University where he studied with clarinetist Lorin Kitt, principal clarinetist of the National Symphony Orchestra. As an educator, Terrance Patterson has taught at the Florida State College at Jacksonville and the University of North Florida.

Terrance L. Patterson was awarded the first Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures from The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida which recognizes an artist whose work brings distinction to Northeast Florida and is named for the late Ann McDonald Baker.

He also received one of the Boundless: 40 Years, 40 Icons Awards from the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville giving to individuals that demonstrated continuous significant support of arts and culture in our community and has also been the recipient of the first ONYX Awards for Distinction in Music, the Gateways Music Festival's Distinguish Achievements in Music and the Aspire Award from the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra!

DAVID BERRY - PIANO



David Berry is an active classical pianist whose performances have been featured in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, the UW World Series at the University of Washington, as well as live broadcasts of WQXR (New York City). He has been a featured soloist with the Hudson Symphony Orchestra and served as guest artist and adjudicator for the Zelpha Wells Piano Competition. As a performer of new music, he has worked with or premiered works by a number of noted composers, including James Lee III, Jeffery Scott (Imani Winds) and grammy-award winning composer Jennifer Higdon. David

was a featured soloist in the Juilliard School's Focus Festival, All About Elliott, celebrating the 100th birthday of Elliott Carter, and also featured in piano series' hosted by author David Dubal at the Kosciusko Foundation and the Cervantes Institute. David was the Grand Prize Winner of the Bradshaw and Buono International Piano Competition, as well as a prizewinner in the Thousand Islands International Piano Competition.

An avid chamber musician, David has collaborated with members of many of the nation's leading orchestras, including the New Jersey, Houston, St. Louis, Dallas, and Seattle symphonies. He has toured and regularly concertized as a resident member of the Jacksonville, Florida based Ritz Chamber Players, The Harlem Chamber Players, and the Innovative Chamber Music Theater Group, the Core Ensemble. As an arts administrator, David serves as Coordinator of Chamber Music and a member of the artistic planning committee for the Gateways Music Festival at the Eastman School of Music, a biennial festival which celebrates the contributions of musicians of African descent to classical music, and features over 120 players from major American orchestras and university faculties across the United States.

In addition to his accomplishments as a classical musician, David is an avid improviser of jazz, gospel, and popular contemporary piano styles, and also enjoys composing his own concert arrangements of hymns.

David received his Bachelor of Music with High Distinction from the Eastman School of Music, and Masters and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in piano performance from the Juilliard School where he was a recipient of the C.V. Starr Doctoral Fellowship and Susan W. Rose Piano Scholarship. David's piano teachers have included Martin Canin, Douglas Humpherys, and George Skafidas, with collaborative piano coachings under Russell Miller and chamber music studies under Seymour Lipkin, Jacob Lateiner, and Jonathan Feldman.



SPECIAL GUESTS

RODNEY HURST - CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, HISTORIAN



Rodney Lawrence Hurst, Sr., is a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather, a widower, a cancer survivor, a civil rights activist, a Black historian, a military veteran, and the award-winning author of four books.

His first book, *It Was Never About a Hot Dog and a Coke®!* is a personal account of the 1960 sit-in demonstrations in Jacksonville, Florida, and Ax Handle Saturday. It recounts the segregated civic, political, and educational climate of Jacksonville, Florida, in the 1950s and the 1960s, the 1960 Jacksonville Youth Council NAACP sit-ins, and the violent event, Ax Handle Saturday. Due to the black-out of local news about these important civil rights events in Jacksonville, Hurst's book is the only historically accurate description of those sit-ins and the violence of Ax Handle Saturday. *It was never about a hot dog and a Coke!* is the winner of over a dozen awards, including the 2008 USA National Best Books Awards national book competition First Place Gold Medal Award for Multicultural Nonfiction and the Florida Book Awards Bronze Medal for Nonfiction.

Unless WE Tell It...It Never Gets Told! Hurst's second book relates stories about Jacksonville's Black History and Civil Rights History. It was one of five finalists for the Multicultural Non-Fiction Award by the National Best Books Awards national book competition. It was also honored with the 2017 City of Jacksonville's Historic Preservation Commission Award.

His third book, *Never Forget Who You Are: Conversations about Racism and Identity Development*, which he co-authored with Dr. Rudy F. Jamison Jr., discusses Racism and identity development as seen through Mr. Hurst's and Dr. Jamison's eyes. The book review site *Readers View* awarded the book its 2021 Nonfiction "Book of the Year" and its 2021 Grand Prize Winner in its national book competition.

Hurst's fourth book, *Black and Brilliant*, written for 12-18-year-olds, reflects on the legacy of Black America with Hurst's remembrances as a pre-teen and a young teenager and the influences on his life to make him proud of his Blackness and piquing his interest in Black History. *Black and Brilliant* is the recipient of four awards in the "Reader Views National Literary Awards." - Gold medal regional winner, Young Adult Nonfiction, Teen Non-Fiction, and Regional Book of the Year. *Black and Brilliant* also receives the Gold Medal First Place for Multicultural Non-Fiction, Juvenile-Young Adult, ages 12-18 and Regional Book of the Year by the Independent Publishers Book Awards.

Hurst is a native of Jacksonville, Florida, and a 1960 high school graduate of segregated Northwestern Junior-Senior High School in Jacksonville. He was the sixteen-year-old President of the Jacksonville Youth Council NAACP and was one of the leaders of the 1960 sit-in demonstrations.

Hurst served two four-year terms on the Jacksonville City Council and is responsible for numerous "firsts" in the Jacksonville Community. Hurst was one of the thirteen original national recipients of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Television Fellowships.

He was the first Black to co-host a television talk show on PBS Channel WJCT and was the first Black male hired at the Prudential South Central Home Office in Jacksonville, Florida.

In addition, Hurst was the first Black to serve as the Executive Director of the State of Florida's Construction Industry Licensing Board.

He is a life member of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) and is a Silver Life Member of the National Association

for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Hurst is a veteran of the United States Air Force.

Hurst speaks extensively on Civil Rights, Black History, and Racism. Hurst was the keynote speaker at the Induction Ceremony of Harriette and Harry T. Moore in the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

Hurst nominated his mentor, civil rights icon Rutledge H. Pearson, and his longtime friend and civil rights icon Dr. Arnett Girardeau to the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Mr. Pearson was inducted posthumously in 2016, and Dr. Girardeau was inducted into the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame in June 2017. Unfortunately, Dr. Girardeau died four months later. Hurst is also the Historian of the Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches.

Hurst is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Visionary Award, presented by the National Alumni Association of Bethune-Cookman University; The Clanzel T. Brown Award, presented by the Jacksonville Urban League; the Outstanding Alumnus Award, presented by the National Alumni Association of Edward Waters College; and the "Living Legacy" award given by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Hurst's image appears on two public art murals in Jacksonville.

Hurst is the father of two sons, Rodney II (Vandlyn) and Todd. He is the grandfather of Marquiette, and Jasmine, Rodney II's daughters. Hurst's eldest granddaughter, Marquiette, and her husband, Kyle, are the parents of Everly Ann, Hurst's first great-grandchild. Hurst worships at the First Baptist Church of Oakland where Rev. Dr. Christopher McKee is the pastor.



TARYN "LOVEREIGNS" WHARWOOD - POET



Taryn "LoveReigns" Wharwood, Creative Director of ArtsRide Youth Collective and recipient of the Robert Arleigh White Award for Arts Advocacy, is a multifaceted creative force dedicated to empowering her community. As a poet, writer, emcee, and founder of initiatives like Artis(Tree) Live, The Closet Jax, and The Cypher Open Mic Poetry & Soul, she has left an indelible mark on the city's arts scene. With her inspiring presence and commitment to creating spaces for growth and self-expression, Love truly lives up to her name.

Through her words, her aura, and her indomitable spirit, Love exudes love in every facet of her being. Meeting her is an experience that underscores why Love truly does Reign. Her impact on the artistic community and beyond is a testament to her unwavering commitment to uplifting, inspiring, and creating spaces for self-expression and growth.

RAHMAN K. JOHNSON, PH.D - POET



Rahman K. Johnson, Ph.D., was born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida, and graduated from Jean Ribault Senior High School. He has earned degrees from Edward Waters, Seton Hall, and Jackson State Universities. He is currently in his first term as a member of the Jacksonville City Council.

Dr. Johnson was a Professor of Journalism and Communications at Edward Waters College, where he was named 2021 Professor of the Year. In 2020, Rahman chose to write a collection of poetry as a memorial to his late mother, Ida Ross-Johnson. *Living, Loving, Letting Go* (Nahmar Publishing) earned the esteemed 2021 Book of the Year Literary Award in the poetry category from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association.

Dr. Johnson is an award-winning actor with numerous stage and film credits, including the HBO Original Picture *First Time Felon*, off-Broadway in *Once on This Island*, and the ABC Fantasy series *Sheena*.

He was the host and producer of *SPLAT*, a game show on Nickelodeon, and has been a strategic communications consultant and TV news anchor.

Dr. Johnson has been featured in media worldwide. He was featured as an outstanding leader in *EBONY Magazine*, quoted in *USA Today*, and named One to Watch of the Decade by the *Florida Times-Union* Newspaper. Dr. Johnson has earned many awards and honors, including a Telly Award for hosting the Build Your Future series, the Reginald K. Brack Award of Excellence from the National Urban League, the United Negro College Fund Bettingen Award and he was named Achiever of the Century by the Thurgood Marshall Honors Society.

Dr. Johnson is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, the Society of Professional Journalists, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Screen Actors Guild/American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, The National Urban League, and the United Nations Association of the United States. His passion for creating a better sustainable community led him to serve in elected and appointed local, state, and federal positions.

When Dr. Johnson is not teaching students about the mass communications industry, he is hosting The Rahman Experience podcast. He attributes much of his success to the Urban League movement, and continues to spread a message of self-actualization and cultural understanding through performing and lecturing around the world.



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January 17 and January 18

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Who is it that can tell me who I am?

Philosophy Slam

Wednesday, January 29 at 7:30 PM

The Lost World: Scott Watkins, piano

Sunday, February 2 at 7:30 PM

Subscribe to the Linda Berry Stein College of Fine Arts & Humanities YouTube channel to experience our virtual Creative Arts Series events.

For the latest updates and news, follow us on social media and email steincollege@ju.edu to join the Linda Berry Stein College of Fine Arts & Humanities electronic mailing list.

View our event calendar at www.ju.edu/steincollege

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2024/2025 Remaining Season: Lift Every Voice

Lift Ev'ry Voice | Saturday, February 8, 2025

A powerful concert honoring Black History Month and the 125th anniversary of the Black National Anthem, Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing.

The Ties That Bind | Saturday, April 26, 2025

Illustrating the indomitable human spirit, this profound show commemorates the memory of Holocaust victims on Jewish Holocaust Memorial Day.

Juneteenth: Voices of Freedom | Saturday, June 21, 2025

A joyous concert observing the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States, celebrating a future of progress and equality for all.

Unlock the Power of Music with Your Support

RCP has been a beacon of cultural excellence and diversity in Jacksonville for over two decades. Supporting RCP isn't just philanthropy—it's a gateway to enriching cultural experiences and fostering diversity in the arts.

All shows begin at 7:30 pm and are held at Terry Concert Hall, Jacksonville University. Series concerts are FREE and open to the public.



