

2-18-2016

Concert: Robert G. Boehmler Community Foundation Concert: The Nathaniel Dett Chorale

The Nathaniel Dett Chorale

Brainerd Blyden-Taylor

Jeff McLeod

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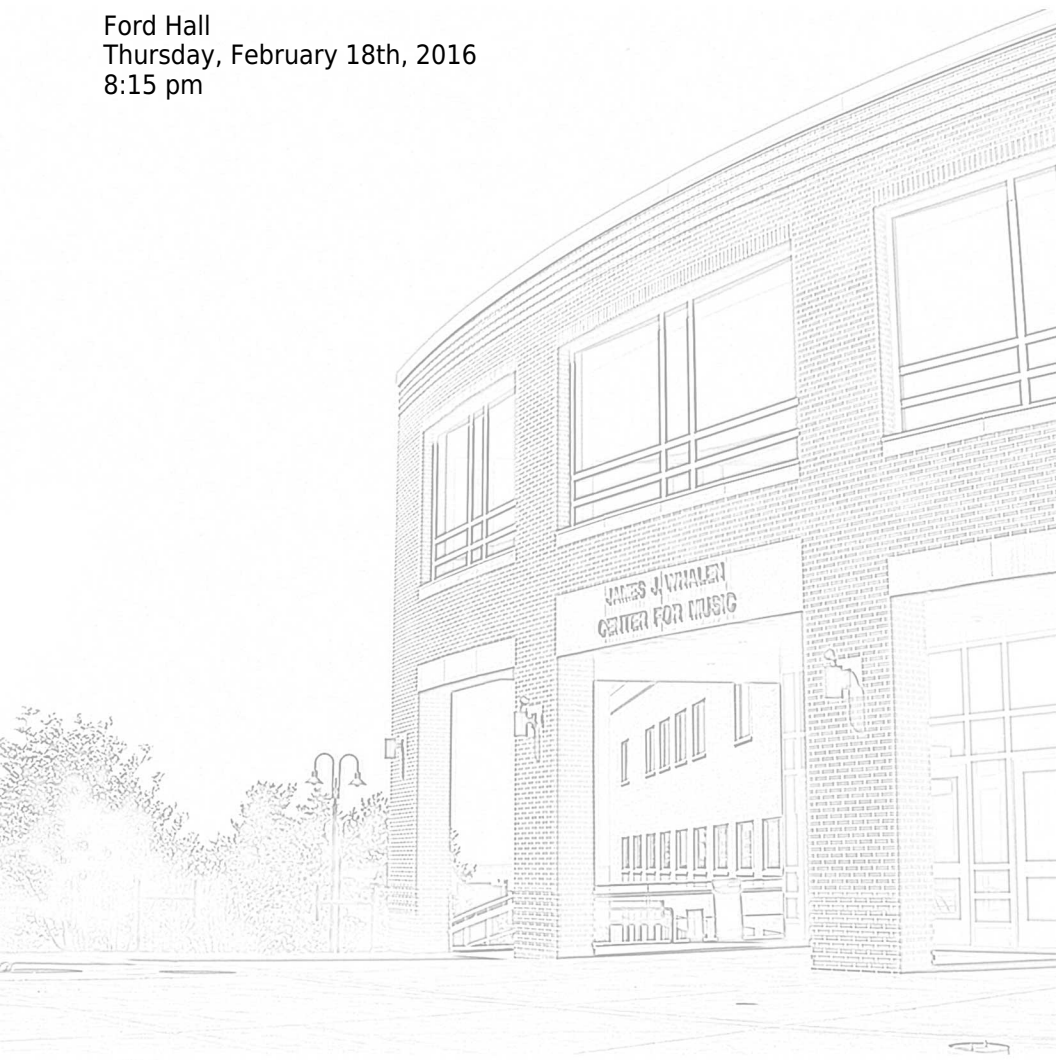
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Robert G. Boehmler Community Foundation Concert:

The Nathaniel Dett Chorale

Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, conductor
Jeff McLeod, collaborative pianist

Ford Hall
Thursday, February 18th, 2016
8:15 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Program

Live a Humble
The Battle of Jericho

The Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers
Baruch J. Whitehead, director

Stacey V. Gibbs
Moses Hogan

I Dream A World
Oh How Beautiful This Finely Woven Earth
Nguzo Saba Suite
 Kuumba

Rosephayne Powell
Greg Jasperse
Glenn Burleigh

And the Angel Spoke
Psalm Shout
Alleluia

Robert L. Morris

My Lord's Writin' All the Time
Trinity: Three Choral Meditations Based on
Gospel Songs
I Thank You Jesus

Robert L. Morris

Intermission

Glory to the Newborn King
Children, Go Where I Send Thee
Is a Light Shinin' in the Heavens?

Robert L. Morris

Steal Away
I Am the Rose of Sharon
Amazing Grace

Diedre Robinson
Ivo Antognini
arr. Len Ballantine

I Believe This is Jesus
Rockin' Jerusalem
Walk Together Children

Robert L. Morris
Robert L. Morris
Moses Hogan

Way Over in Beulah Lan'

Nathaniel Dett Chorale and the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers

Stacey V. Gibbs

The Nathaniel Dett Chorale

Sopranos

Dallas Chorley
Alison Muir
Patricia Nesci
Justine Owen
Karen Scovell

Tenors

Ryan Downey
Nick Gough
Chris Jääskeläinen
Will Reid
Paul Williamson

Altos

Faith Amour
Sarah Hicks
Ianjai Mounsey
Laurel Tubman

Basses

Andrew Adridge
Luc van der Leeden
Chris Petersen
Justin Welsh

The Nathaniel Dett Chorale

“A spirit of unity, rendered in song.”

~The Globe and Mail

“Magical and transformative...The Nathaniel Dett Chorale continues to blow minds with its exploration and presentation of various sounds and styles from the African Diaspora.”

~Toronto Sun Columnist, Errol Nazareth~

The Nathaniel Dett Chorale is Canada's first professional choral group dedicated to Afrocentric music of all styles, including classical, spiritual, gospel, jazz, folk, and blues. These 20+ classically trained, outstanding vocalists have shared the stage with internationally recognized artists such as Juno Award-winning jazz pianist Joe Sealy; and opera star Kathleen Battle and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. The Chorale had the unique privilege of being invited to Washington D. C. to perform as part of the celebrations surrounding the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama. The Chorale has also performed at events honouring world leaders Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and personalities Muhammad Ali and Oscar Peterson. The multi-faceted vocalists of The Nathaniel Dett Chorale, whose talent stretches beyond the traditional expectations of a classical chamber choir, perform all styles and genres of music as appropriate to the traditions of the African Diaspora.

The Nathaniel Dett Chorale's **vision** is to be a premier performer of Afrocentric composers, and a touchstone for the education of audiences regarding the full spectrum of Afrocentric choral music. The Chorale's **mission** is to build bridges of understanding,

appreciation, and acceptance between communities of people through the medium of music.

Founder Brainerd Blyden-Taylor named The Chorale after internationally-renowned African-Canadian composer R. Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943), who performed at prestigious concert halls such as Carnegie Hall and Boston Symphony Hall. Dett was dedicated to the cause of Black music, winning the Bowdoin and Frances Boott prizes in 1920 from Harvard University. Blyden-Taylor established The Chorale to draw attention not only to Dett's legacy but also to the wealth of Afrocentric choral music, and to be a professional choral group where persons of African heritage could see themselves represented in the majority.

Since its inception in 1998, the voices and community of The Nathaniel Dett Chorale has honoured the memory of its namesake, carrying audiences on a journey through the beauty and intricacies of Afrocentric music from around the world. One of Canada's "national treasures", The Chorale has performed a jubilant and uplifting repertoire extensively throughout Ontario and North America, delighting national audiences in critically-acclaimed extended tours to the Maritimes, Quebec, Western Canada, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and the United States. The Chorale has also garnered international attention, accepting invitations to perform at Polyfolia in France (2004), the 7thWorld Symposium on Choral Music in Japan (2005), and the prestigious chamber music series at the U.S. Library of Congress (2007), appearing there again at the National Symposium on American Choral Music (2012).

Currently in its 17thSeason, The Nathaniel Dett Chorale has recently become Artist in Residence at The Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on Africa and Its Diasporas; and will again be touring to the United States during Black History Month.

The Robert G. Boehmler Community Foundation Series

This concert series is made possible by a grant from the Robert G. Boehmler Community Foundation. Boehmler, who received a bachelor's degree from the Ithaca College School of Music in 1938 and a master's degree in 1961, was a musician and educator who established this foundation to support education in the communities in which he lived. A music teacher in the Palmyra-Macedon (New York) School District for many years, Boehmler died in 1998.