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## Concert: An Evening of Operatic and Spiritual Splendor

Opera Noire of New York City

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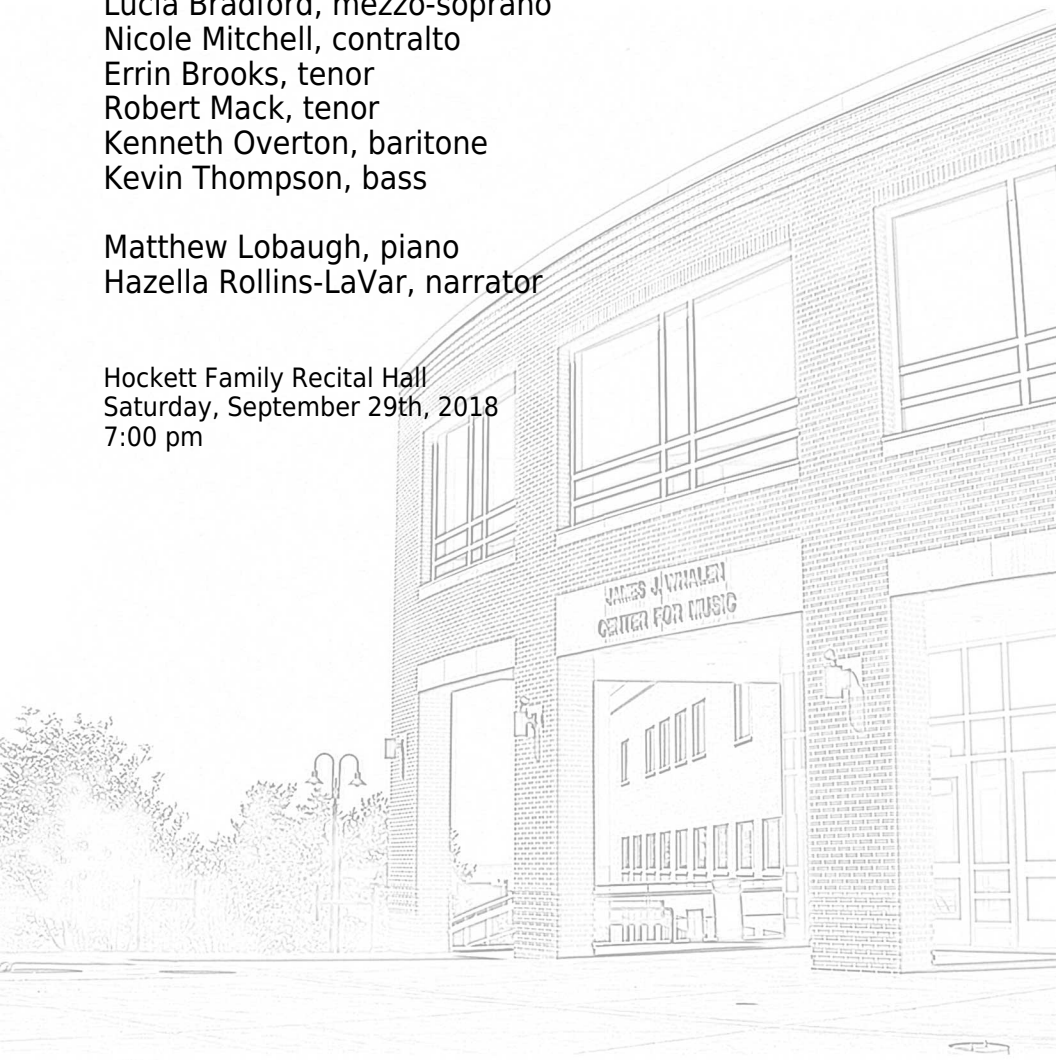
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Opera Noire of New York in Partnership with the  
Ithaca College School of Music Presents:  
**An Evening of Operatic and  
Spiritual Splendor**

Lisa Daltirus, soprano  
Jeryl Cunningham-Fleming, soprano  
Lucia Bradford, mezzo-soprano  
Nicole Mitchell, contralto  
Errin Brooks, tenor  
Robert Mack, tenor  
Kenneth Overton, baritone  
Kevin Thompson, bass

Matthew Lobaugh, piano  
Hazella Rollins-LaVar, narrator

Hockett Family Recital Hall  
Saturday, September 29th, 2018  
7:00 pm



**ITHACA COLLEGE**

School of Music

# Program

## Act I: At the Opera House

- "Au fond du temple saint"  
from *Les pêcheurs de perles*  
*Mr. Mack and Mr. Overton* G. Bizet  
(1838-1875)
- "Der Hölle Rache"  
from *Die Zauberflöte*  
*Ms. Cunningham-Fleming* W. A. Mozart  
(1756-1791)
- "Ecco il Mondo"  
from *Mefistofele*  
*Mr. Thompson* A. Boito  
(1842-1918)
- "Près de remparts de Séville"  
from *Carmen*  
*Ms. Bradford and Mr. Brooks* G. Bizet
- "Pace, pace mio dio"  
from *La Forza del Destino*  
*Ms. Daltirus* G. Verdi  
(1813-1901)
- "Alerte alerte"  
from *Faust*  
*Ms. Cunningham-Fleming, Mr. Mack, and Mr. Thompson* C. Gounod  
(1818-1893)
- "Nessun Dorma"  
from *Turandot*  
*Mr. Brooks* G. Puccini  
(1858-1924)
- "Vien Mallika...sous le dôme épais"  
from *Lakmé*  
*Ms. Cunningham-Fleming and Ms. Bradford* L. Delibes  
(1836-1891)
- "Stride la vampa"  
from *Il Trovatore*  
*Ms. Mitchell* G. Verdi
- "Tace la notte"  
from *Il Trovatore*  
*Ms. Daltirus, Mr. Brooks, and Mr. Overton* G. Verdi

## Intermission

### Act II: Our backs are straight because the **TIMBER** is strong

- "Hear My Prayer" *Opera Noire of New York* arr. Moses Hogan
- "Oh what a beautiful city" *Ms. Cunningham-Fleming and Ms. Daltirus* arr. Johnny Dean
- "Pity a po' boy" *Mr. Mack* arr. Roland Hayes
- "I want Jesus to walk with me" *Ms. Mitchell* arr. Edward Boatner
- "Ride on King Jesus" *Mr. Brooks* arr. Hall Johnson
- "Walk together Children" *Opera Noire of New York* arr. William H. Smith
- "Soon ah will be done" *Ms. Bradford* arr. Lucia Bradford
- "Witness" *Mr. Overton* arr. Hall Johnson
- "Guide my feet" *Ms. Daltirus* arr. Jacqueline Hairston
- "Hold on" *Mr. Thompson* arr. Hall Johnson
- "Stand the storm" *Ms. Cunningham-Fleming* arr. Timothy Anukele
- "He's got the whole world in his hands" *Opera Noire of New York* arr. Margaret Bonds

**Opera Noire of New York**, was co-founded in 2005 and operated by General Director tenor Robert Mack and Artistic Director, baritone Kenneth Overton. A supportive performing arts networking organization, ONNY is led by African-American singers who have performed in the world's leading opera houses from the Metropolitan Opera to Milan's La Scala. Their education and community outreach activities feature master classes and music programs designed for students from elementary to post graduate levels. Robert Mack and Kenneth Overton are the driving spirits and generative visionaries that allow ONNY to continue to transform the once monochromatic classical music world into a brilliant mosaic.

## **Biographies**

**Jeryl Cunningham-Fleming**, soprano, has been praised for her "gorgeous, full voice" (Lexington Herald-Leader). She received the B.M. in General Music from Oakwood University, the MM in Vocal Performance from Mannes School of Music, and the DMA in Vocal Performance from the University of Kentucky. An artist of great sensitivity, Ms. Cunningham-Fleming has concertized extensively throughout the United States, South America, Europe, and Japan. She has performed various operatic roles that include the Countess (Le Nozze di Figaro), the Queen of the Night (The Magic Flute), Cleopatra (Giulio Cesare), and Clara (Porgy and Bess). In 2016 Jeryl released her debut CD entitled, Stand the Storm: Anthems, Hymns and Spirituals of Faith and Hope. She is a regular soloist and Assistant Director of the American Spiritual Ensemble and can be heard on many of their recordings.

**Lisa Gwyn Daltirus**, soprano, has performed internationally for opera houses, symphonies and other arts organizations. Most recently she made her Metropolitan Opera debut in the Opera Elektra. Major opera houses include New York City Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, Seattle Opera, Washington National Opera and more. Noted roles are Aida, Tosca, Leonora in *Il Trovatore*, Bess and Serena in *Porgy*, and Bess and Santuzza in *Cavalleria Rusticana*. An active soloist with orchestra and in concert, Ms. Gwyn Daltirus recently performed the Verdi *Messa da Requiem* with the Springfield Symphony, Massachusetts. She is an active, participating member of Opera Noire New York and the American Spiritual Ensemble. Other major venues for symphonic works are Avery Fisher Hall, NY ; Carnegie Hall, NY and the Kimmel Center and Mann Music Center, Philadelphia. Major works include the Beethoven 9 and *Missa Solemnis*, Mahler 8th and 4th symphonies and Knoxville Summer of 1915 among others.

**Lucia Bradford**, mezzo-soprano, is a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. Ms. Bradford has performed a number of operatic roles including Carmen in Bizet's *La Tragedie de Carmen*, Zita in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, La Principessa in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, The Mother in Ravel's *L'Enfant des Sortileges*, Mercedes in Bizet's *Carmen*, Mrs. Quickly in Verdi's *Falstaff*, The Sorceress in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Gertrude in Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet*, Hippolyta in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Miss Todd in Menotti's *Old Maid and the Thief*, the Duchess of Plaza Toro in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*, Azelia Dessalines in the historic return of William Grant Still's opera *Troubled Island*, and Maria in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. Ms. Bradford has had the privilege of singing at Carnegie Hall, the Kimmel center, Merkin Hall and touring in Russia, Budapest, Spain, the Caribbean and throughout the United States.

**Nicole Joy Mitchell**, contralto, of Brooklyn, New York, performs regularly in the New York area with American Opera Projects (AOP), promoting works of new composers. Nicole has performed at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall, Lincoln Center Festival, New York City Opera, Sarasota Opera, Portland Opera (Oregon) and in Europe. This fall, Nicole will be one of 1,000 singers in a public art piece called *The Mile Long Opera* on The Highline featuring Anne Carson's poetry and the music of David Lang. In 2019, she is engaged to sing the *Qui Tollis* from John Knowles Paine's *Mass in D Minor* with the St. Cecilia Chorus at the Church of St. Francis Xavier in Manhattan. Nicole will head to Boston, MA to sing Julia Perry's *Stabat Mater* with the chamber orchestra *A Far Cry* at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Passionate about music education, Nicole just completed her sixth season as a Guest Teaching Artist at Ojai Youth Opera.

**Errin Duane Brooks**, tenor, is quickly gaining momentum as an American tenor from Detroit, Michigan. Most recently, he covered Dick Johnson in *La fanciulla del West* with New York City Opera, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* as well as the tenor soloist in Verdi's *Requiem*, both with Utah Festival Opera, and Don Alvaro in *La forza del destino* with New Amsterdam Opera. Brooks has performed with other companies in the United States including Toledo Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre and Lyric Opera of Chicago. Brooks has had success in several other competitions, most notably, the prestigious George London Foundation competition; receiving the George London-Kirsten Flagstad Award for a Wagnerian Singer. In spring 2016, he won the Grand Prize in The Bel Canto Competition and 2nd place in the Luminarts Cultural Foundation Competition. He was also a Regional Finalist in the 2014-15 Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions. Brooks currently lives in New York, NY.

**Kenneth Overton**, baritone, Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Opera Noire of New York. Kenneth Overton is a critically acclaimed baritone hailing from Philadelphia PA. Recently, Kenneth returned to New York City Opera in Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West* and will return to San Francisco Opera for the World Premier of John Adam's and Peter Sellars's Production of *The Girls of the Golden West*. Kenneth has also performed leading roles with L'Opera de Montreal, Palacio Bellas Artes, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Royal Danish Opera as well as many regional opera houses in the USA. Upcoming performances include a return to Lincoln Center with the National Chorale for the New York Premier of "Thy Will Be Done", a debut with the Oregon Bach Festival in a World Premier Work by Richard Danielpour. Upcoming engagements include Bach's Magnificat, at the Colour of Music Festival in Charleston, S.C., a debut with the Buffalo Philharmonic, and a return to San Francisco Opera. [www.kennethoverton.com](http://www.kennethoverton.com)

**Kevin Thompson**, bass, The excitement his performances generate has captured international attention: "thrilling, huge, voice with a full round register and profound sound. Mr Thompson engagements in 2016-17 included Basilio in *The Barber of Seville* with Opera Hong Kong, the Mozart *Requiem* with the St. Louis Symphony, Verdi's *Requiem* with Tallahassee Symphony, the Old Gypsy in *Aleko* and *The Captain in Florencia en el Amazonas* with the New York City Opera, and Angelotti in *Tosca* with Opera Tampa. In 2017-18 includes debuts with Odyssey Opera as Thibaut in Tchaikovsky's *Maid of Orleans*, with Boston Youth Symphony as Zuniga in *Carmen* and the Verdi *Requiem* with Chautauqua Institution. Return engagements include with Knoxville Opera as Ramfis in *Aida*, Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Bob Jones University and with the National Chorale for their 50th Anniversary season at Lincoln Center. More into at: [www.KevinThompsonBass.com](http://www.KevinThompsonBass.com)

**Matthew Lobaugh**, is a freelance vocal coach and collaborative pianist currently living in New York City where he maintains a private opera coaching studio and is Music Director of City-Wide Youth Opera. He has been the official audition accompanist for The Minnesota Opera, The Arizona Opera, Loft Opera New York, CCM in Spoleto, Carnegie Mellon Regional Auditions in Manhattan, Music Theatre Bavaria New York Regional, DC Public Opera, Verismo Opera of New Jersey, Crested Butte Music Festival and North Shore Music Festival. Matthew began training at Southern Methodist University (Dallas, TX) and graduated with B.M. degrees in both Piano and Vocal Performance. Matthew worked toward both the M.M. in collaborative piano from Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (Cincinnati, OH) and the Artist Diploma program in opera coaching. A graduate of the Domingo-Thorton Young Artist Program at the Los Angeles Opera, Matthew's professional operatic credits include Minnesota Opera where he served as Chorus Master.

**Hazella Rollins-LaVar**, narrator, A native of Houston, TX, Ms. Rollins-LaVar (lyric mezzo) has performed internationally in opera, oratorio and concerts. She founded and served as Executive Director and spokesperson for Stroke of Hope Foundation where she gained broad national media coverage leading to motivational speaking engagements for high profile organizations and companies. Her work with celebrities and others of prominence in the U.S. and Nigeria has garnered numerous awards and recognition. She has been involved with Opera Noire in many capacities including narration for a special performance of opera, jazz, musical theater, spirituals and gospel.