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Concert: Eighth Annual High School Gospel Invitational Music Festival

Janet Galván

Baruch Whitehead

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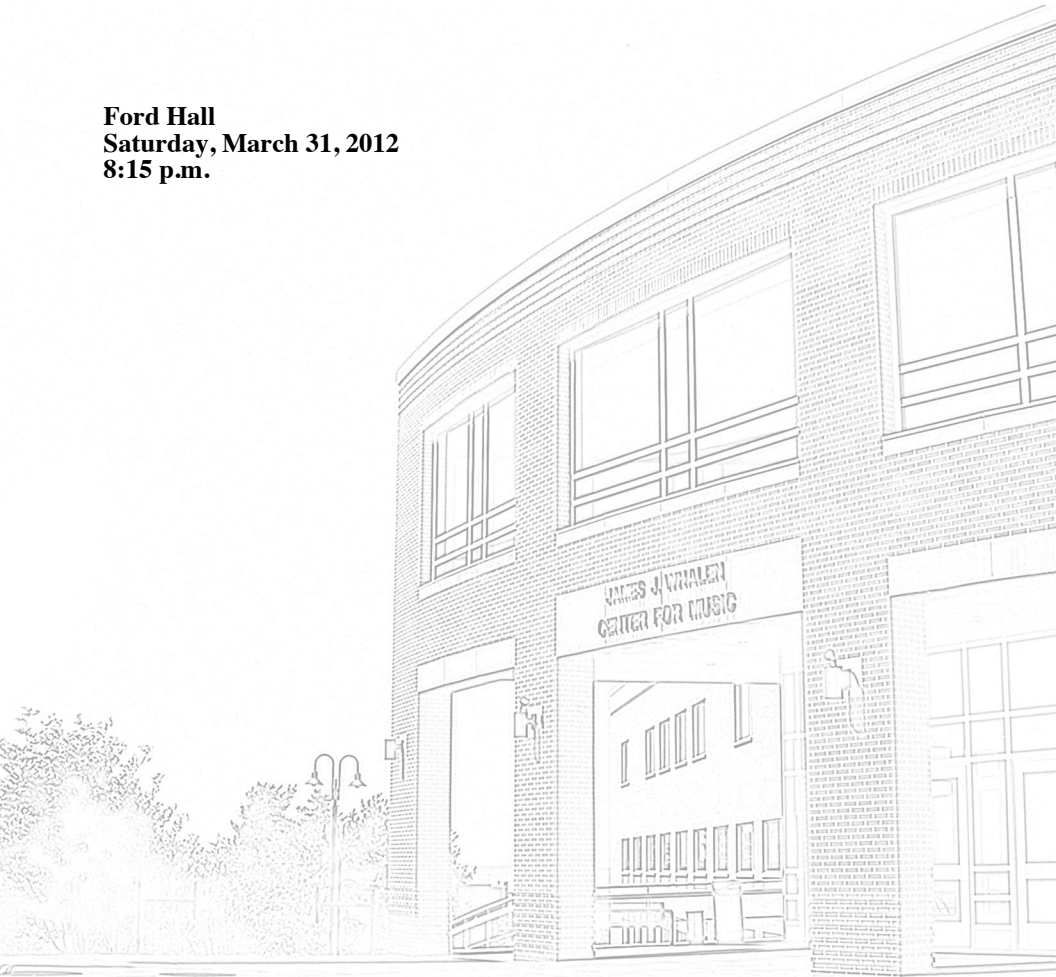
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Eighth Annual High School Gospel Invitational Music Festival

**Directed by
Janet Galván and
Baruch J. Whitehead**

**Ford Hall
Saturday, March 31, 2012
8:15 p.m.**



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Letter from the President

It is indeed a pleasure for Ithaca College to host tonight's musical festival of gospel music, with over ten high schools from around the eastern seaboard and over 150 voices of talented students. The concert is the culminating event of the gospel music weekend.

I extend a special welcome to our visiting student performers. I hope that you will take an opportunity to look around our campus. We have five academic schools, and two divisions, within our college community and we are very proud of each one. The School of music enjoys a national reputation for excellence in the arts, and we invite you to audition during our regular audition dates and by special arrangements. Each year the School of Music auditions over 1,000 students for consideration for entry into the music school.

At Ithaca College you will find the perfect blend of liberal arts education and professional preparation. Our challenging academic programs promote critical thinking and hands-on learning, and our students work closely with experienced and accomplished faculty. Located in one of America's top college towns, Ithaca College boasts a lively and sophisticated residential community that takes full advantage of its stunning backdrop-lake, waterfalls and gorges and a local community rich in culture and resources.

We are very proud of our Martin Luther King Jr. Scholar Program, an interdisciplinary learning community that emphasizes citizenship and service in the global community. The program is open to academically talented students from ethnic or racial backgrounds that have been historically underrepresented in American higher education. New MLK scholars for the 2012-2013 academic year may receive up to full tuition, with \$18,000 in merit based scholarships, and the remaining tuition paid through a need based grant. If you rank in the top ten percent of your high school class, have a highly competitive SAT score, and strive to exhibit the legacy of Dr. King in the area of intellectual curiosity and commitment to community service, you are eligible to be considered for the King Scholar Program. I would also like to welcome potential King scholars who are visiting the college this weekend.

I hope everyone enjoys this evening's celebration of gospel music, and please accept our invitation to visit the campus often.

— Thomas R. Rochon
President, Ithaca College

Letter from The Dean

Welcome to the School of Music at Ithaca College, and to our annual Gospel Festival.

It is a pleasure to have so many talented musicians for this important celebration of Gospel music. It is certainly a pleasure to be able to present this inspiring tradition to our audience this evening. The presence of our guest soloists and ensembles, as well as our concert goers, confirms our communal commitment to the advancement of the art of music in all styles and forms, through the study, performance, and shared musical experiences.

Our School of Music is home to almost 600 music students, with over fifty residential faculty members, teaching students in music education, performance, composition, jazz, theory, and sound recording technology. A rich conservatory tradition is as much a part of our heritage as the opportunity to undertake professional musical study within a comprehensive college setting. Ithaca's outstanding reputation as a major center of undergraduate musical study is built upon rich and varied performance opportunities for all music students in any major, our nationally recognized music education program, and the dedication of our fine faculty. Ithaca's music faculty are wonderful performers, composers, theorists, and recording technicians, well known in expertise in their fields, and all share one common trait; they are all outstanding teachers first. Our students enter Ithaca as excellent high school musicians and they graduate as world-class professional musicians, ready to share their talents and their art with the world.

We value the opportunity to engage so many kindred spirits in the beautiful music and performances we will share throughout the Gospel Festival, and especially in this final concert. Please enjoy what I'm sure will be a wonderful celebration and a welcome opportunity to replenish our musical selves through song.

— Gregory Woodward
Dean, Ithaca College School of Music

Program

He'll Make A Way	Byron J. Smith
Poor Man Lazrus	Jester Hairston
Oh Mary	Stanley Spottswood
Masterpiece	Stanley Spottswood
<i>Melody Jordon and Krista Mckenzie</i>	

I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes

A cantata for Tenor Solo, S.A.T.B. Chorus, and Orchestra

3. The Lord Is My Shepherd, Alleluia	Adolphus Hailstork
<i>Robert Aviles, soloist</i>	
Lord I Love You, Yes I Do	Raymond Wise
<i>*Marc Webster, Bass</i>	
<i>*Ivy Walz, Soprano</i>	
<i>Baruch J. Whitehead, Conductor</i>	

Total Praise	Richard Smallwood
<i>Janet Galvan, Conductor</i>	

Intermission

Peace Be Still	H.R. Palmer
<i>Krista McKenzie, Soloist</i>	
Somebody Go Tell It	Stanley Spottswood
<i>Melody Jordon, Soloist</i>	
On Time God	Dottie Peoples
<i>Tiffany Hendrix, soloist</i>	
Healing	Richard Smallwood
For Every Mountain	Kurt Carr
<i>Krista Mckenzie, Soloist</i>	
Call Him Up	Keith Pringle

Biographies

Pastor Chantel Wright

PROFESSOR CHANTEL RENEE WRIGHT: Is a native of Chicago, Illinois where she started her career as an award winning choral conductor. She received her formal education at VanderCook College of Music where she received her BA degree in Music Education. As part of her undergraduate studies, Chantel had the privilege to study in London, England with Ian Pleeth and travel throughout Europe as a soloist. Ms. Wright started her professional career in Atlanta, Georgia where she served as a music educator in the Dekalb County Public Schools and exposed her students to the highest level of artistry as they performed the Frostiana by Randall Thompson at Carnegie Hall. After seven years of service, the bright lights of the big city called her name and she responded.

In New York, Chantel hit the ground running as the new Director of the Girls Choir of Harlem, as well as Minister of Music at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon, New York. An honor celebrated by few women, Ms. Wright gave her gifts to the young people of Queens, New York as the Artistic Director of the Queens Symphony Orchestra Youth Gospel Choir. Not only did she gather valuable experience as an orchestral conductor, her work with the orchestra encouraged her to incorporate her own non-profit organization, **SONGS OF SOLOMON: An Inspirational Ensemble, Inc.**

Immediately the ministry bloomed and was found on the major television networks. **SONGS OF SOLOMON** was featured on the Early Show on CBS, winners of the 1st place prize in the McDonald's Gospelfest and Pathmark Gospel Choir Competitions, shared the stage with American Idol Kelly Clarkson on the NBC 4th of July celebration, and served for five years at the US Tennis Open. The Ensemble has toured the East Coast, Florida, Wisconsin, Chicago, Atlanta, Texas, Detroit, Utah, Vegas, and Canada and recently worked with the "Y.E.S." program in Bermuda. 2003 lead the organization from Queens to Harlem where the Ensemble held its debut concert at Aaron Davis Hall featuring recording artists, Twinkie Clark, Lorraine Stancil, and Melonie Daniels. The Ensemble has performed with Elton John at Radio City Music Hall, sang with opera's great, Jessye Norman at the Greenbrier Country Club and performed with American Idol, Fantasia Barrio for their second appearance on the NBC, Macy's 4th of July Celebration, but most of all, the choir is committed to spread the Good News.

Being totally committed to youth and their spiritual, intellectual and artistic growth, Chantel knew the only way to shape a generation of spirited, world class musicians would be to work in conjunction with the education system, thus implementing the **SONGS OF SOLOMON ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS** which directly serves New York City students in instrumental and vocal music. Students too far to number from the tri- state area have had performance opportunities that rival professional artist around the world. The Ensemble has worked tirelessly over the past nine years under Professor Wright's baton and has garnered national and international acclaim.

Today the Ensemble finds itself as a mainstay at the world famous Carnegie Hall since they were chosen to participate in the Honor Choral Music Festival conducted by Dr. Craig Jessop and curated by Jessye Norman. They have performed the opera “Dialogues of the Carmelites” to Verdi’s “Requiem” and yet finds a way to sing any audience into a place of peace. Committed to building a literate music community, Chantel lends her gifts to the vocal music department of the Steinhardt School of Music at the New York University.

Chantel Renee Wright is a licensed and ordained Pastor and the founder of Pneuma Ministries International. She is the recipient of the New York Times Teacher’s Who Matters Most Award, Who’s Who among American Teachers, The Ebony Ecumenical Ensemble Community Service Award and the Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Community Service Award. She loves God, Music and Children: her life is dedicated to the pursuit of all three.

Marc Webster

Marc Webster, Bass. D.M.A. in progress, Eastman School of Music; A.D., The Juilliard School; M.M., Eastman School of Music; B.M., Ithaca College. Recent operatic performances with The Juilliard Opera Center, Wolf Trap Opera, Seattle Opera Studio, Florida Grand Opera Studio, San Francisco Opera Merola Studio, Syracuse Opera, Mercury Opera and Eastman Opera Theater. Favorite recent opera roles include Sarastro in Die Zauberflöte, Tutor in Le Comte Ory, Rambaldo in La Rondine, Seneca in L’incoronazione di Poppea, Pistola in Falstaff, Sir Giorgio in I Puritani, and Osmin in Die Entführung aus dem Serail.

Mr. Webster, an active recitalist has also recently performed with The New York Festival of Song with Stephen Blier and the Marilyn Horne Foundation The Song Continues series in Weill Hall. He was a finalist with the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and holds First Place Awards from the Jessie Kneisel Lieder Competition, Eastman Concerto Competition, and The Eastman Opera Competition. Oratorio performances with Juilliard Symphony in Alice Tully Hall, Colonial Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony, Eastman Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Rochester Philharmonic, and Boston Chamber Orchestra at Trinity Cathedral. Studies with Carol Webber and Robert C. White. Marc Webster is currently an Assistant Professor of Voice at Ithaca College.

Krista McKenzie

Krista McKenzie started singing around the age of six following her dad to revivals. Things really got serious when she started voice lessons as a junior in high school under the instruction of Mrs. Wanda Saul. She was one of the few who believed in Krista's ability and has continued to support her over the years. After high school, Krista attended Jones County Junior College and got a degree in music education. She then transferred to the University of Southern Mississippi where she obtained a BA in vocal performance. Though Krista loves all types of Christian music, praise and worship is the style that fits her most. Krista currently serves as the Music Director/Worship Leader at Springhill M.B. Church where she has been for nine years.

Ivy Walz

Ivy Walz, mezzo soprano, began her professional performing career as a Resident Artist at Tri-Cities Opera where she performed numerous main stage roles including Mrs. Nolan in *The Medium*, Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Nicklausse in *Les Contes D'Hoffmann* and Dido in *Dido and Aeneas*. In 2004 she was awarded Artist of the Year from Syracuse Opera for her portrayal of Papagena in *The Magic Flute*. She has been featured in roles at Syracuse Opera including Mercedes in *Carmen*. She trained under Dr. Robert Larsen as an apprentice artist at Des Moines Metro Opera. She had the pleasure of performing at the Spoleto Festival, USA. She was featured in opera productions at the College Conservatory of Music including *Bradamante* in *Handel's Alcina* and *Idamante* in *Idomeneo*. She performed as a Corbett Foundation Young Artist with Cincinnati Opera for three seasons. Ms. Walz enjoys a blossoming concert artist career and has been featured with the Binghamton Philharmonic, the Orchestra of the Southern Fingerlakes, Cornell University Chorus and most recently the Akron Symphony, for which she was hailed a 'standout'. She was a featured alto soloist in numerous concerts under conductor Dr. Earl Rivers in Cincinnati, OH including *Israel in Egypt*, *Die Walpurgisnacht*, *Johannes Passion*, *B Minor Mass* and *Monteverdi's Vespro Della Beata Vergine*.

Ms. Walz will be featured on a collaborative recording of *Parlor Songs* from the 19th century with David Parks, tenor. She is featured on a recording of *Benoventan Chant* with Torculus Records and on "Deck the Falls: Favorite Christmas Carols from Ithaca, NY" with Steven Stull, baritone. Awards include a semi-finalist in the Joy in Singing competition, the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Award for The Great Lakes and New York Districts. Vocal studies have been with Barbara Honn, Mary Stucky, Patrice Pastore, and Deborah Montgomery-Cove. She has worked closely with coaches Donna Loewy and Kenneth Griffiths. She is a candidate for the DMA from the College Conservatory of Music and holds the Bachelor and Master of Music from Ithaca College. Ms. Walz is an assistant professor of voice at Ithaca College, School of Music. When not singing or teaching Ms. Walz enjoys the outdoors with husband Peter and terrier Watson.

Melody Jordan

Melody Jordan was born in Charleston, WV. She began singing at the tender age of two years. Being prodded by her father, Dubois Jordan, who was also an exquisite baritone singer and musician, she and her sister began singing as a duet. She sang at times, being accompanied by her father on the trombone, and many time a cappella, harmonically blending her unique contralto voice with her sister's first alto pitch. At this early age, her dad had instilled her the vocal technique of true pitch and harmony. From this meticulous beginning of training, even today she appreciates accurate vocal tone and pitch, and the beautiful blending of vocal harmony.

As Miss Jordan matured, at the age of seven, her mother, Naomi Jordan, also a singer, began taking an interest in her and her sister's singing abilities. From there, she formed the family group, The Gospel Family Affair, consisting of siblings and a cousin. The group's great anointing and tight family harmony was instrumental in them becoming well known in the Charleston area and they also traveled extensively throughout the state of West Virginia. They shared the stage and opened for well known artists such as Edwin Hawkins, Dr. Bobby Jones, The Five Blind Boys of Alabama, Shirley Caesar, The Voices of Nashville, John P. Kee, The Mighty Clouds of Joy, and Al Green, to name a few. Eventually, the mother of the group bowed out, allowing the Gospel Family Affair to further spread their wings, and their travels took them out of state. They sang in various cities and states such as, New York, Ohio, Alabama, and Pennsylvania. They sang for local festivals such as the Charleston Sternwheel Arigata, and the Multicultural Festival where nationally recognized musical acts were and are still featured today. The group has sung for federal governmental holiday celebrations, for Black History month and Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday at the West Virginia Cultural Center and there, shared the stage with nationally/internationally known artist, Dr. Ethel Caffie Austin. The group released three recordings, He's Real, Angels Watchin', and Go Ahead.

Eventually, the group separated and Miss Jordan reluctantly made the decision to continue singing solo and working with local artists. She worked with Mark Holmes, and released a CD project named Sacred: Passing of Hymns. She also worked with composer Stan Spottswood as a feature soloist of his Praise is a Plow CD. During her solo years, she has been given the chance to do vocal backup for other artists such as Twinkie Clark, Richard Smallwood, Beverly Crawford, Dorothy Norwood, Douglas Miller, and Rita Twiggs. She sang with choir formed to minister for Bishop T.D. Jakes during his reconciliation conference in Charleston, and was one of the praise & worship singers during Bishop Jakes' return to Charleston to present the "Birthing Place Conference". There she shared the stage with well known praise & worship artists, Israel Houghton and the Clark Sisters.

She is presently choir director and praise & worship leader in her home church, New Jerusalem Non-Denominational Church in Charleston, WV, where the Dr. Wanda Carter-Shelton resides as pastor.

The Music of Stan Spottswood

Stanley Spottswood has been associated with the Ithaca College High School Gospel Invitational Music Festival from the beginning. He is the chief composer and orchestrator for the festival, with more than a dozen compositions and orchestrations. We are proud to showcase his music tonight and congratulate him on his contributions to the field of gospel music.

Mr. Spottswood is the president and founder of StanSpottmusic, providing music education products for children, gospel music, jazz, workshops, and other music-related services. He is the composer of Kwanzaa Suite, which includes nine original songs and an accompanying CD, published by World Music Press. His book/CD Music Tools for Educators, which contains songs that teach math, reading, science, and social studies concepts through music, was released in 2002. His latest CD, Manners Songs for Children by Stan Spottswood, was released in 2005. Three of his compositions for children have been recently released as part of the McMillan McGraw-Hill textbook series, Spotlight On Music.

Stan was ordained as an elder by Bishop T.D. Jakes and has been preaching the gospel for over ten years. He is presently attending Hope Christian Church in Lanham MD. He is the husband to Savolia Ellis Spottswood and father of Stanley Jr., Stephen, Simeon, and Savolia.

Personnel

The Directors

Ausable Valley High School

Terry Saulsgiver

Boston Arts Academy

Tyrone Sutton

Good Counsel High School

Stanley Spottswood

Gwynn Park High School

Darrick King

Murrow High School

Cheryl Johnson

Northern Adirondack High School

Penny Weise

Oxon Hill High School

Emory Andrews

Peru Central School

Chris Urban

Rockville High School

Ronald Johnson

Songs of Solomon Arts Academy

Chantel Wright

Willsboro High School

Jennifer Moore

Ithaca College Chamber Orchestra
Jeff Meyer, conductor
Patrick Valentino, Orchestral Conducting Candidate

Flute

Corinne Shirk, principal
Elizabeth Hamilton

Clarinet

Emily Dobmeier, principal
Alyssa Barna

Horn

Emma Stoadacher, principal
Colin Speirs
Elizabeth Meade
Robert Oldroyd, assistant

Timpani

Julia Ross, principal

Violin II

Bryn Digney, principal
Jenna Trunk
Claire Wilcox
Samantha Spena
Elizabeth Benz
Kristin Bakkegard
Christopher Mattaliano
Jessica Chen

Viola

Maxwell Aleman, principal
Jacquelyn Timberlake
Kate Inie-Richards
Carly Rockenhauser
Daniel Martinez

Bass

Jordan Morton, principal
Samuel Shuhan
Kate Corcoran

Oboe

Alana Rosen, principal
Elizabeth Schmitt

Bassoon

Thomas Connors, principal
Ross Triner

Trumpet

Jenna Veverka, principal
Aaron Scoccia

Trombone

Jeff Dunn

Violin I

Natalie Brandt, concertmaster
Misako Sakurai
Amy Schumann
Derek Voigt
Jason Kim
Sarah Hoag
Margaret Dagon
Timna Mayer

Cello

Peter Volpert, principal
Katharine McShane
Thillman Benham
Madeline Docimo
Tristan Rais-Sherman

Harp

Myra Kovary

Gospel Musicians

James Etienne - Drums
William Heintz III - Drums
Malachi T. Wright - Percussion
Andrew Graham - Organ
Jeffrey Quinto - Piano
Dashay Glover, Piano
Andres Rotmistrovsky - Bass

Participating Schools

Ausable Valley High School

Amanda Hamilton
Emma Helfgott

Boston Arts Academy

Abel Alcorn-Harris
Jillian Briggs
David Brown
Kimberly Ganthier
Federice Isidore
Melissa Israel
Katy Lazar
Garcia Lei
Anthony Lewis
Jasiah Lewis
Darisel Riviera
Cassady Sullivan
Esther Valburn

Good Counsel High School

Rachel Ayodele
Myshelle Newkirk
Kela Seals
Savolia Spottswood

Gwynn Park High School

David Crowell
Devin Davis
Brianna Elias
Thandika Elias
Leanna Jackson
Lindsey McFadden
Maria Mitchell
Shakia Risby

Murrow High School

Daniel Alvarez
Eseosa Ayemere
Ashley Cissokho
Christy Bordes
Amanda Brown
Deshaun Childress
Anastasia Daphnis
Daphnie Denoi
Jane French
Giovanni Gallo
Dareen Generoso
Kendijah Grant Gilbert
Brandon Hernandez
Camile John
Camilia John

Murrow High School (continued)

Morgan Haywood Joy
Bianca Kroening
Nandee Mignon
Khario Robinson
Carlos Suarez
Rebecca Rosemond
Heather Tarazi
Malik Thomas
Chelsea Wepy
Cassidy Ye Ye Valade

Northern Adirondack High School

Izabelle Almodovar
Jon Baker
Nolan Fergusson
Daisy McCreless

Oxon Hill High School

Imani Adegbuyi
Krisden Cooper
Dion Byrd
Soraya Edwards
Allison Gaynor
Angela Gillispie
Jasmine Gillispie
Alexis Griffin
Breana Hill
Krystal Irick
De'aundre Johnson
Devin Lattermore
Allison Maraan
Tiara Miles
Erica Mimms
Nadjia Motley
Akhira Muhammad
Dorian Oliphant
Kelora Robinson
Baracka Rodriguez
Kendrett Smith
Simone Smith
Nefia Son
Elania Tait
Anthony Terry
Lorraine Thomas
Michael Turner
Tyler Turner
April Whitfield
Destiny Williams

Participating Schools (continued)

Peru Central School

Abbey Bourdrieau
Demi Delia
Reanna King
Saraya Lehman
Natasha Lindor
Breanna Martineau
Hannah Osbourne
Alec Pugh
Sherika Pulsifer
Jamie Roberts
Megan Sears
Typer Smith
Emily Sorrell
Alyssa Szycypien
Allison St. Louis
Devin Wood

Rockville High School

Kenithia Addison
Nicholas Brandon
Noelle Price
Malik Taylor

Songs of Solomon Music Academy

Nyaisa Anderson
Robert Aviles
Morenike Banjo
Adina Baptiste
Kalia Baptiste
Rhonda Baptiste
Kevin Berton
Jeffrey Bryant
Victor Bertin
Ayodele Campbell
Tylar Diggs
James Etienne

Songs of Solomon Music Academy

(continued)
Kristen Ferdinand
Nia Gaines
Andrew Graham
Tiffany Hendrix
Shaniqua Jeffries
Shenika Jordan-John
Paige Madison
Alicia McCants
Kristin McCloud
Zakiya Mills
Zhada Myrick
Paola Nieves-Rodriguez
Kisha Perez
Jeunee Roberts
Kieran Roberts
Andres Rotmis
Jayson Smart
Katherine Spark
Richard Sullivan
Jeffrey Quinto

Willsboro High School

Kaitlyn Arthur
Luke Barnes
Karin Buck
Anna Daly
Austin Ferris
Geordie Hearn
Katie Kirby
Deanna Mero
Emily Mero
Jessica Polak
Sam Politi
Sherika Pulsifer
Marshall Steeves

Now in its second century, the Ithaca College School of Music affirms its fundamental belief that music and the arts are essential components of the human experience. The School of Music prepares students to be world-class professionals and the music leaders of tomorrow - ready to transform individuals and communities by advancing the art of music.