

ARKANSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

7:30 p.m. Thursday, September 16, 2021

Robinson Center
Simultaneous Broadcast to Dunbar
Neighborhood

Celebrate Little Rock, Together

Geoffrey Robson, conductor

Karen Walwyn, piano

Genine LaTrice Perez, vocals

Tommy Mason, Jr., vocals

Celebrate Little Rock, Together is sponsored by



STEPHENSON, James (b. 1969)	Fanfare for Democracy (2020)	3'
DVOŘÁK, Antonin (1841 - 1904)	Symphony No. 9, Op. 95, 'From the New World' IV. Allegro con fuoco	12'
PRICE, Florence (1887 - 1953)	Piano Concerto in One Movement (1934) <i>Karen Walwyn, piano</i>	18'
BERNSTEIN, Leonard (1918 - 1990)	Overture to <i>Candide</i>	5'



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continued...

GERSHWIN/Holcomb e (1898 - 1937)	Someone to Watch Over Me <i>Genine LaTrice Perez, vocals</i>	4'
KING/GOFFIN/WEXLER Arr. Bachalis	(You Make Me Feel) Like a Natural Woman <i>Genine LaTrice Perez, vocals</i>	4'
ASHFORD/Simpson	Ain't No Mountain High Enough <i>Genine LaTrice Perez & Tommy Mason, Jr., vocals</i>	4'

Celebrate Little Rock, Together is presented in partnership with the Dunbar Historic Neighborhood Association

"In addition to the significance of the ASO being back in the Robinson Center in full force for this week's free community concert, the week will take on further importance the day after the concert, when the orchestra and soloist Karen Walwyn will return to the hall to make what the ASO plans will be its first commercial recording in many years.

Florence Price's Concerto in One Movement, previously performed and recorded from another composer's orchestration, has recently been republished in its 'original' finished state. Our performance this week is among the first handful of live performances of this version of the work. We hope that the studio recording we create this week will be the first commercially released recording of this work, making the sound of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra a reference and model as the world finally comes to understand the genius of Florence Price's work and as her compositions finally find their long-deserved place in the core repertory of American orchestras."

- Geoffrey Robson, conductor

~ ARTISTS ~

Geoffrey Robson, conductor

Geoffrey Robson currently serves as artistic director and associate conductor of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, music director of the Arkansas Symphony Youth Ensembles, and conductor of the Arkansas Symphony Youth Orchestra. During his tenure in Arkansas, he has conducted critically acclaimed and sold-out masterworks, pops, chamber, and educational concerts throughout the state. He also produces and writes *At the Symphony*, a concert preview radio series on KLRE Classical 90.5 in Little Rock.

Robson frequently collaborates with organizations in the community such as Ballet Arkansas, Arkansas Children's Theater, Opera in the Rock, the Chamber Music Society of Little Rock, and many local choral groups. He is currently on the faculty of Hendrix College and since 2017, has served as artistic director of the Faulkner Chamber Music Festival, a summer concert series and two-week intensive chamber music camp. In 2013-2014, he served as visiting assistant professor of music at the University of Central Arkansas, and conductor of the Conway Symphony Orchestra.



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He has worked with renowned artists Midori, Rachel Barton Pine, Vadym Kholodenko, Alexander Markov, Christiane Noll, Calvin Lee, and the Beach Boys. He regularly brings emerging world-class talent to Little Rock to entertain audiences and to educate and inspire young musicians.

A champion of new music, he collaborates with and explores the music of renowned living composers. In 2016, he conducted the premiere of James Stephenson's *Concerto for Hope* with celebrated trumpeter, Ryan Anthony and the San Juan (Colorado) Symphony. Recently, he conducted the premiere of *Into the Beautiful North*, by Joe Brent, performed by the trio, 9 Horses. He has promoted works by composers with Arkansas connections such as Jeremy Crosmer and Karen Griebing.

Robson is also an orchestral arranger and his works have been featured on the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra's Pops Live! series concerts on numerous occasions. Additionally, he writes string arrangements for recording artists to assist them in achieving their musical goals in the studio.

As a violinist, he performs frequently on the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra's popular *River Rhapsodies Chamber Music* series, often sharing the stage with principal members of the orchestra. Prior to his appointment in Arkansas, he served as concertmaster of the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, and assistant concertmaster of the Waterbury Symphony. Recognized for his skill and versatility, he is increasingly sought after as a studio musician.

Robson studied orchestral conducting at the Mannes College of Music in New York City under the tutelage of David Hayes and holds violin performance degrees from Yale University and the Michigan State University Honors College. Primary violin teachers include Erick Friedman, Dmitri Berlinsky, and I-fu Wang.

He studied conducting at Yale University with Lawrence Leighton Smith, Edward Cumming, and Shinik Hahm. Other notable teachers include Leon Gregorian, John Farrer, Neil Thomson, and Larry Rachleff.

Karen Walwyn, piano

Karen Walwyn, Concert Pianist, Composer and an Albany Recording Artist, is the first female African American pianist/ composer to receive the Steinway Artist Award.

A native of New York, Concert Pianist Karen Walwyn made her New York solo piano debut at Merkin Hall as a follow-up to her 2-CD series for Albany Records entitled *Dark Fires*, offering premiere recordings of works by American composers of African descent. Bill Faucett from *The American Record Guide* said "Walwyn's pianism is superb", and Peter Burwasser from *Fanfare Magazine* said "Walwyn gets through this technically demanding program with aplomb. Her rhythmic nimbleness is especially notable." She did the premiere performance of the Florence Price Piano Concerto in One Movement with the New Black Music Repertory Ensemble. Noted music critic, Bob McQuiston, wrote: "Walwyn provides a magnificent account of the concerto displaying her considerable technical skills" of the Albany Records album.

As a Composer, she received the Global Award: Gold Medal -Award of Excellence for her recording of her composition entitled *Reflections on 9/11*. Robert Schulslaper of *Fanfare Magazine* wrote: "Imaginatively conceived and executed, it both disturbingly transposes the catastrophe into appropriately cataclysmic sound and artistically suggests the aftermath's lingering sense of numbing devastation." The demand for concerts of this seven-movement 'tour de force' continuously carries her across the nation for command performances, which was first premiered in full at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

As a Mellon Faculty Fellow at the John Hope Franklin Institute, Duke University, Walwyn composed her debut choral work entitled *Of Dance & Struggle: A Musical Tribute on the Life of Nelson Mandela*, (Choir/Solo Piano/African Percussion) commissioned and performed by the Elon University Chorale under the direction



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of Dr. Gerald Knight. It has been heralded by the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C. as “a monumental work for our beloved president, Nelson Mandela.”

Dr. Walwyn, Area Coordinator of Keyboard Studies at Howard University, is in constant concert demand nationally and internationally for both her repertoire from Frédéric Chopin to Florence Price, as well as for performances of her own works for solo piano, choir and instrumental ensemble. Some recent concerts include appearances in Johannesburg, South Africa; Barcelona, Spain; Tenerife, Canary Islands; Salzburg, Austria; London, England; and Nice, France. Nationally, Walwyn has performed throughout the contiguous United States, Hawaii, West Indies and the Virgin Islands.

For more information, please visit www.karenwalwyn.com.

Genine LaTrice Perez, vocals

Genine LaTrice Perez grew up singing in the church choir with her cousins directed by her grandmother and her mother, who played piano. It was not until she was 12 that she started singing solo and eventually found Jazz! With heavy roots in gospel, Genine LaTrice Perez is a self-taught jazz & blues singer with a booming voice. With elegance, fun, and an oh so soulful vibe, Miss Perez will keep you entertained. Her timeless voice will take you back in time to the sounds of Billie Holiday, Nina Simone, Aretha Franklin, the Staple Singers, and Etta James.

"She captures the spirit of that live-sound era with her music." said Rex Bell, Infrared Records

Matters of the heart and soul are the essence of great music, with that Miss Perez and her band convey heartfelt soulfulness in every note.

She has two Jazz projects: A self-titled Jazz album, Genine LaTrice Perez on iTunes, and Cafe' Windsong a live CD project. She is also featured on two Rex Bell Trio albums: Two Faces: A Tribute to Frank Sinatra and Billie Holiday's 100th Birthday and Let me Sing it for You-A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald and was blessed to open for the smooth Jazz Great, Mr. Will Downing, and American Saxophonist Najee.

In addition to her musical endeavors, she devotes herself altruistically to serving her community as well as the state of Arkansas. She is an educator, motivational speaker, entrepreneur, leader, and visionary. Perez has committed her life to empowering people to thrive even if the environment dictates otherwise. Although she is dedicated to helping people from all walks of life, she is principally passionate about providing an excellent service to youth. As such with her musical craft, she has been listed on the Arkansas Arts Council Artist in Education (AIE) Roster since 2005. Her AIE residency workshop invites students into the world of Jazz through historical accounts using music, creative writing, and dramatizations, while sharing key messages on the importance of good decision-making, dreaming the impossible dream, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

She works as a full-time prevention specialist for the Family Service Agency. She is the Lead Literacy Teacher at Tendaji's Program IMPACT after school program, a proud matriculate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock where she received a Bachelor of Liberal Arts Degree and a Master of Arts Degree in Professional and Technical Writing. She is currently an adjunct composition and business-writing instructor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Genine LaTrice Perez is also the founding director of the Miss Teen Tours Program: A six-month community service, character building, education enrichment, and cultural awareness program for girls between the ages



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of 11-18, and co-founder of Olivia's Hope Todd's Promise: A program designed to assist youth and young adults under-the radar in their advancement of self-sufficiency, leadership skills training, pursuit of entrepreneurial endeavors and creative outlets.

She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and has delightfully served as a Commissioner on the National Arts and Letters Commission, and a past Arts and Letters Chair of the Little Rock Alumnae Chapter.

Not only is she an artist, educator, and community activist, she is a dream chaser and finds it comforting to help others fulfill their dreams. Thus, Purple Palace Productions has become her way of showing support to those who are breaking into entertainment, music, and the arts. Purple Palace Productions is where the love of people, support of the arts, and the uplifting of spirits is priority. She works hard to ensure that the venue, audience, and the artists have a royal experience from start to finish.

In September 2019, Genine LaTrice Perez released her hit single, and dropped her video, "Living My Best Life," through her publishing company and record company, Peezy's World Records, named after her late daughter, Olivia Perez aka Peezy. Her second single "It Takes Two, dropped, along with her full EP, Journey, Unlove You, and Send the Rain dropped in October 2020. Get ready because she ain't gon' hold back!

Her newest single, "Backbone" will hit the scene Summer 2021 and her full project Fall/Winter 21.

Last, but not least, Miss Perez is the proud mother of four beautiful and bright children: Emmanuel, Olivia (deceased), Sophia, and Isabella, and one grandchild: Ximena and a host of adopted young people that call her mama.

Above all, Miss Perez LOVES the Lord Jesus, and at any time you will catch her telling the world that #DADDYISDOPE!

Tommy Mason, Jr., vocals

Tommy Mason, Jr. is a native of Conway, Arkansas. He began his musical pursuits at a young age and later received his Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Central Arkansas.

Mr. Mason is the music director for UCA Gospel Choir and the True Holiness Saints Center church in Conway, AR. He has shared the stage with award-winning gospel artists and worked with the Conway Symphony Orchestra and Arkansas Symphony Orchestra.

Tommy is a recurring musical contributor for "The Vine" on Arkansas' CBS affiliate, KTHV11, where he presents a variety of music in the segments, affectionately known as "Tommy Tuesday".

A gifted musician and anointed vocalist, Tommy considers it a great privilege and honor to share his musical God-given talents with the world.



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Arkansas Symphony Orchestra

Celebrate Little Rock, Together

2021-2022

GEOFFREY ROBSON, conductor

Karen Walwyn, piano

Genine LaTrice Perez, vocals

Tommy Mason, Jr., vocals

VIOLIN

Kiril Laskarov

Concertmaster

Dora Paley Ronnel

Concertmaster's Chair

Andrew Irvin

Concertmaster

Katherine Williamson

Assistant Concertmaster

+Meredith Maddox Hicks

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Eric M. Hayward

Memorial Chair

Edward Barnes

⊕Linnaea Brophy

+Charlotte Crosmer

Leanne Day-Simpson

⊕Trisha McGovern Freeney

Albert Garcia

Yida Hu

Sandra McDonald

Tom McDonald

Lenore McIntyre

Geronimo Oyenard

Magdalena Ryszkowski

Dan Santelices

Chi Young Song

Algimantas Staskevicius

Leigh Wing

VIOLA

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Principal

Dr. Howard & Celia

Barnhard Chair

Joe Joyner

Tatiana Kotcherguina

Josquin Larsen

+Timothy MacDuff

Julian Pranata

Borys Smolaga

Amanda Wilton

CELLO

+David Gerstein

Principal

Linda Garner Riggs Chair

Micah Donar

Joanna Klett

Rafael León

Alisha Rufty

Alexander Seman

Kristin Smith

⊕Jacob Wunsch

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Barron Weir

Principal

Ozzie Backus

Andrew Chilcote

Jordan Coleman

Mike Williams

FLUTE

Carolyn Brown

Principal

Diane McVinney

Gabriel Vega

PICCOLO

Gabriel Vega

OBOE

Leanna Renfro

Principal

Rachel Fuller

Memorial Chair

Lorraine Duso Kitts

Beth Wheeler

ENGLISH HORN

Beth Wheeler

CLARINET

Karla Fournier

Jasper Hensley

Nicolas del Grazia

BASS CLARINET

Nicolas del Grazia

E-FLAT CLARINET

Jasper Hensley

BASSOON

Susan Bell León

Principal

Tom Dempster

Jake Fowler

CONTRABASSOON

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⊕Member, Rockefeller Quartet



ARKANSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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