

**The American Spiritual Ensemble**  
Everett McCorvey, Founder and Music Director  
www.americanspiritualensemble.com

*Wingate, NC*  
**Program**

**I**

- Walk Together Children** arr. William Henry Smith
- Listen to the Lambs** R. Nathaniel Dett  
Manna KnJoi, Soprano Soloist
- I Thank You, Jesus** arr. Robert L. Morris  
Alicia Helm McCorvey, Soprano Soloist
- Ride on King Jesus** Hall Johnson  
Errin Brooks, Tenor
- Lord, How Come Me Here** Traditional Negro Spiritual  
Angela M. Brown, Soprano
- I Don' Feel Noways Tired** Jacqueline Hairston  
Keith Dean, Baritone
- Fiyah!** Hall Johnson  
Lisa Gwynn Daltirus, Soprano
- No More Auction Block/  
Go Down Moses** Traditional Negro Spiritual  
arr. Johnie Dean  
Carl DuPont, Bass Soloist  
Nathaniel Thompson, Bass Soloist
- Great God Almighty** arr. Stacey Gibbs
- I Stood on the River of Jordan** arr. Moses Hogan
- Elijah Rock** arr. Moses Hogan
- You Must Have that True Religion** arr. Roland Carter  
Lisa Gwynn Daltirus, Soprano Soloist

**II**

- Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing** arr. Roland Carter
- Cert'nly Lawd** arr. Moses Hogan  
Hope Koehler, Soprano Soloist
- Fix Me, Jesus** arr. Jacqueline Hairston  
Jeryl Cunningham-Fleming, Soprano Soloist
- Wade in the Water** arr. Devin L. Davis/  
Charles M. Murrell, III  
Matthew Truss, Countertenor Soloist
- My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord** Florence Price  
Tesia Kwarteng, Mezzo-Soprano
- Dry Bones** Margaret Bonds  
Chauncey Packer, Tenor
- Sit Down Servant** arr. Philip B McIntyre/  
adapt. Tedrin Blair Lindsay  
Robert Mack, Taiwan Norris, John Wesley Wright,  
Carl DuPont, and Markel Reed
- Ellington Medley** arr. Linda Twine  
Jeryl Cunningham-Fleming, Angela Owens,  
Chauncey Packer, Everett McCorvey
- Ol' Man River** (*Show Boat*) Jerome Kern/  
Oscar Hammerstein  
Nathaniel Thompson, Bass
- Old Time Religion/  
When the Saints** arr. Everett McCorvey  
& Keith McCutchen  
Daveda Browne, Mezzo-Soprano Soloist
- Circle of Life** Elton John  
(from *The Lion King*) & Tim Rice  
Taiwan Norris, Tesia Kwarteng,  
and John Wesley Wright

*There will be a 15-minute intermission between Part I and II.*

*\*Program subject to change*

**The American Spiritual Ensemble** was founded by Everett McCorvey in 1995. The mission of the American Spiritual Ensemble is to keep the American Negro Spiritual alive. Its members have sung in theaters and opera houses around the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Houston Grand Opera, The Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and abroad in Italy, Germany, Britain, Scotland, Spain, China, and Japan. The repertoire of the American Spiritual Ensemble ranges from opera to spirituals to Broadway. The members of the American Spiritual Ensemble are soloists in their own right and have thrilled audiences around the world with their dynamic renditions of classic spirituals, jazz, and Broadway numbers highlighting the Black experience.

**Everett McCorvey** is a native of Montgomery, Alabama. He received his degrees from the University of Alabama, including a Doctorate of Musical Arts. As a tenor soloist, Dr. McCorvey has performed in major centers around the world including the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Metropolitan Opera in New York, Aspen Music Festival in Colorado, Radio City Music Hall in New York and in England, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, China, Hungary, Poland and the Czech and Slovak Republics. During the summers, Dr. McCorvey has served on the artist faculty of the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria and the Intermezzo Opera Program in Palm Beach, Florida. Currently he is on the Summer Artist Faculty of the Bay View Music Festival in Bay View, Michigan. Dr. McCorvey holds an Endowed Chair in Opera Studies and is Director of Opera at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. In September of 2010, Dr. McCorvey was the Executive Producer of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the Alltech 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games held in Lexington. The Alltech 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games remain to date, the largest equestrian event to ever be held in the United States. Dr. McCorvey was recently named the Artistic Director of the National Chorale of New York City. Follow Dr. McCorvey on [www.everettmccorvey.com](http://www.everettmccorvey.com).

**Founder and Music Director**

Everett McCorvey

**Assistant Conductor**

Jeryl Cunningham-Fleming

**Business/Company Manager**

Peggy Stamps, SquarePegGroup, Inc.

**Auditions Support**

Kenneth Overton

**Logistics Support**

Nathaniel Thompson

**Sales Support**

Amelia Groetsch

**Tour Members of the American Spiritual Ensemble**

**Sopranos**

Angela M. Brown  
Jeryl Cunningham-Fleming  
Lisa Gwynn Daltirus  
Alicia Helm McCorvey  
Manna KnJoi  
Angela Owens

**Altos**

Daveda Browne  
Hope Koehler  
Tesia Kwarteng  
Matthew Truss

**Tenors**

Errin Brooks  
Taiwan Norris  
Robert Mack  
Chauncey Packer  
John Wesley Wright

**Basses**

Keith Dean  
Carl DuPont  
Angelo Johnson  
Markel Reed  
Nathaniel Thompson

**Pianist**

Tedrin Blair Lindsay

**Percussion**

Ali Barr

**The American Spiritual Ensemble** is represented in the United States by Alkahest Artists & Attractions, Inc.

(888) 728-8989

[info@Alkahestartists.net](mailto:info@Alkahestartists.net) or [www.Alkahestartists.net](http://www.Alkahestartists.net)

or in Europe by

EUROMUSICA Producciones, Juan Martin-Montalvo,

Palma de Mallorca, Baleares. ESPAÑA

[euromusicaprod@gmail.com](mailto:euromusicaprod@gmail.com) [www.euromusicaprod.com](http://www.euromusicaprod.com)

VISIT THE AMERICAN SPIRITUAL ENSEMBLE WEBSITE AT:

[www.americanspiritualensemble.com](http://www.americanspiritualensemble.com)

## Biographies

**Ali Barr, Percussion**, was born in Philadelphia. He has been playing percussion instruments from childhood under the guidance of his father, master drummer, Bobby Crowder. A graduate of Temple University in Philadelphia, Ali has recorded and performed extensively with various artists, including Grammy nominated Russell Gunn, the legendary Roy Ayers, and Jamaleddeen Tacuma.

**Errin Brooks, Tenor**, currently based in New York, hails from Detroit, MI and received his Master of Music Degree from Bowling Green State University. Most recently, Mr. Brooks covered Dick Johnson in *Fanciulla del West* with New York City Opera after singing Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* and Verdi's *Requiem* with Utah Festival Opera. In April 2018, the George London Award-winning tenor will sing Canio in *I Pagliacci* with Boheme Opera of New Jersey.

**Angela M. Brown, Soprano**. Uniting opera, pops, and gospel in one sensational voice, soprano Angela Brown's vocal artistry has graced the stages of the world. Her well-documented career has been highlighted on the front page of The New York Times, CNN, CBS, in Oprah Magazine and Reader's Digest. A featured artist on the two-time Grammy Award® winning recording "Ask Your Mama," Angela's international reputation continues to grow. [www.angelambrown.com](http://www.angelambrown.com).

**Daveda Browne, Mezzo-Soprano**, a native of St. Kitts and Nevis, earned her Master of Arts from the John Cali School of Music and received a dual degree, Bachelor of Arts in music and Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry, at Lehigh University. Ms. Browne was most recently named a Harlem Opera Theater finalist, and debuted as the alto soloist for Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the National Chorale and Mozart's *Requiem* and *Vesperae Solemnis* with the Choral Arts Society of NJ.

**Jeryl Cunningham-Fleming, Soprano**, and Assistant Director of the American Spiritual Ensemble, has been heard in more than ten countries and on four continents. Her versatile and vibrant voice, paired with her fervent advocacy of African American music, makes her a favored soloist for leading ensembles, and prestigious venues, including the United Nations and Lincoln Center. Her debut recording, *Stand the Storm*, was released in July 2016. [www.jerylcunningham.com](http://www.jerylcunningham.com).

**Lisa Gwyn Daltirus, Soprano**, has performed at major venues in the United States and abroad. Noted operas include title roles in *Aida*, *Tosca*, Bess and Serena in *Porgy and Bess*. Lisa is also acclaimed in symphonic works such as the Verdi *Requiem*. Lisa is excited to make her Metropolitan Opera debut this season in *Elektra*.

**Keith Dean, Baritone**, is originally from Hardinsburg, KY and currently living in Frankfort, KY. Dean's roles include Rigoletto (*Rigoletto*), Blitch (*Susannah*), Don Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*), Germont (*La Traviata*), Pa Moss (*The Tenderland*), Crown, Jake, Lawyer Frazier, Jim (*Porgy and Bess*), and Muhammad Ali (*Muhammad Ali: Beyond the Ring*). He has made his debut with several opera companies around the world. He also is a featured soloist with the American Spiritual Ensemble and can be heard on two of their recordings, *The Spiritual* and *Ol' Time Religion*.

**Carl DuPont**, Bass-Baritone has performed with the Glimmerglass Festival, Opera Carolina, Rochester Oratorio Society, and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra among others. He is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Indiana University, and University of Miami, as well as an Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

**Alicia Helm McCorvey, Soprano**, has performed with the Metropolitan Opera, North Carolina Opera, Aspen Music Festival, Four Corners Opera-Colorado, Chautauqua Opera, Miami Opera, Bronx Opera (NY), Acadiana Symphony Orchestra/Opera Louisiana, Summerfest (Lexington, KY), Paragon Musical Theater (Lexington, KY) and given concerts in Spain, England, Brazil, the Czech Republic, and Japan, among others. Degrees: Bachelor's – Indiana University, Master's – New York University, studied at The Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music, and work towards a D.M.A. at the University of Kentucky.

**Angelo Johnson, Bass**, is a native of Cleveland Ohio and graduate of Wilberforce University and Morgan State University. He has been a featured soloist with the Moses Hogan Chorale and Singers, The Leigh-Morris Chorale and most recently the Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers. He has performed in various choruses and opera companies most notably the Opera Company of Philadelphia and the Dayton Opera. He currently serves as director of the Carter-Woods Chorale.

**Hope Koehler, Soprano**, has performed in opera, concerts, and recitals all over the world. She is a featured soloist on several CDs with the American Spiritual Ensemble, and her second solo recording, *Lost Melodies*, was released in the summer of 2013. She is Associate Professor of Voice at West Virginia University.

**Manna KnJoi, Soprano**, and American Prize opera award winner, made her international debut as Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* in Viterbo, Italy. She recently appeared at the 2017 Colour of Music Festival as the soprano soloist in Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass. With performances from Carnegie Hall to Europe, she considers her proudest moment to be when legendary Marilyn Horne pronounced her voice, "An incredible instrument."

**Tesia Kwarteng, Mezzo-Soprano**. Ghanaian-American Mezzo-Soprano Tesia Kwarteng's credits include: Lee in *Marie Begins* (Opera America), Abigail in *Sleepy Hollow* (New York New Works Theater Festival), Arnita Seward in *Blue Viola* and Thelma Yablonski in *Later the Same Evening* (Opera Memphis), Marian Anderson in *Deep River: Marian Anderson's Journey* (Virginia Opera). Tesia was a Young Artist at the Glimmerglass Festival last summer where she covered Maria in *Porgy and Bess* and Aunt Eller in *Oklahoma!*. [www.tesiakwarteng.com](http://www.tesiakwarteng.com).

**Tedrin Blair Lindsay, Pianist**, was raised in Rome, Italy and has been a professional accompanist since the age of ten. He performs well over one hundred recitals annually, boasting a huge repertoire of vocal and instrumental chamber works, with specialties in 20th century French and American music. Dr. Lindsay is presently on the opera faculty at the University of Kentucky, where he works as vocal coach and musical director.

**Robert Mack, Tenor**, has received glorious reviews for his powerful but sweet lyric tenor voice, throughout the US and Europe. He is on the roster of The Metropolitan Opera. He performs tenor solos with The Collegiate Chorale and The Alvin Ailey Dance Company in Revelations. Mr. Mack has performed on Broadway in Smokey Joe's Café and 3 Mo' Tenors. He can be heard on Decca Records, Paragon Records, and KSW Music. Mr. Mack co-founded and is the General Director of Opera Noire of New of New York.

**Taiwan Norris, Tenor**, has sung all over the world. He recently made his debut at New York's prestigious Carnegie Hall. Other venues include: Grand Theatre de Genève, Komische Oper Berlin, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, and Opera Philadelphia. Mr. Norris holds a B.A. in Vocal Performance degree from Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD.

**Angela Owens, Soprano**. Recent engagements for Angela L. Owens include performances with the West Village String Quartet, *Composers Now* and *Freize Arts Festivals* and a live adaptation of WQXR's Terrance McKnight's, *A Beautiful Symphony of Brotherhood*. Angela was also a guest lecturer and recitalist for the *Earl Hall Artist Series* at Columbia University. [www.angelalowens.com](http://www.angelalowens.com)

**Chauncey Packer, Tenor**, is an exciting American tenor in the world of opera, concert performance, and Broadway and musical theater. His future engagements include concerts with the Colour of Music Festival, National Philharmonic at Strathmore, and New Orleans Opera. He is also a featured vocalist on a recording with Paragon Ragtime Orchestra released November 2017.

**Markel Reed, Baritone**, is from Charlotte, NC. Mr. Reed has established himself as a wonderful interpreter of the works of Mozart and Bel Canto composers. He has performed with Utah Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Kentucky Opera and Bronx Opera. Markel is an alumnus of the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre.

**Peggy Stamps, Business Manager**, has toured with ASE for 20 years. Peggy is the owner of The SquarePeg Group, Inc., an artist management group. Her client list includes performers currently in Broadway, touring, and international opera productions. Peggy has produced, directed, and/or choreographed over 100 international and regional musical productions. Peggy is married to her best friend, Randall Vaughn and is a graduate of Purdue University.

**Nathaniel Thompson, Bass**, has toured the United States, South America and Europe with performances of opera, spirituals, gospel and jazz. Most recently, Nathaniel has been commissioned by the Royal Danish Opera and William Barkhymer's New York Harlem Productions to cover the role of Crown in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*.

**Matthew Truss, Countertenor**, whose "precocious" voice, "boasts both beauty and volume" on the concert and opera stage, is a New York City based teaching artist in the Metropolitan Opera Guild and the National Chorale education programs. Praised for his "mellifluous voice and ebullient manner," Matthew is making his mark as a professional singer.

**John Wesley Wright, Tenor**, is known for his artistic and soulful interpretations of music from baroque to Broadway. Holding degrees from Maryville College and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Wright has performed as a soloist throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan and is the winner of the American Traditions Competition 2000. A native of Rome, Georgia, Dr. Wright is coordinator of the voice and opera workshop programs at Salisbury University.