

The 40th annual

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. TRIBUTE

at the University of Minnesota

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021 • 3 PM
A Virtual Celebration

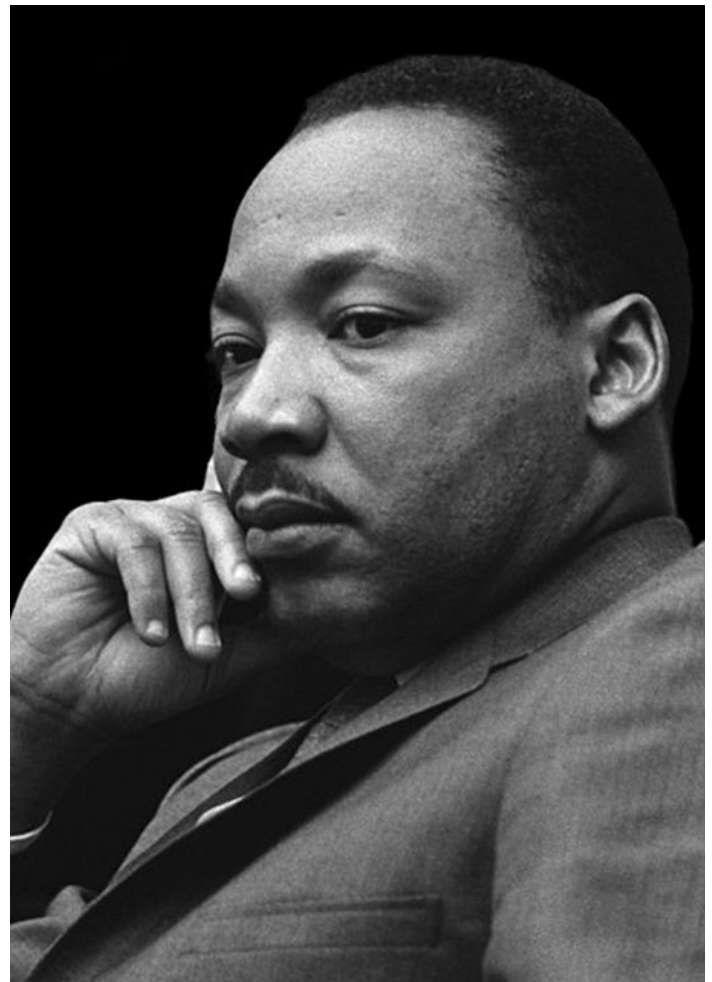
A MORE EXCELLENT WAY

Honoring the Legacy of John Lewis

Honoring the legacy of Congressman John Lewis, towering figure of the civil rights movement and member of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s inner circle. Remembering Dr. Reginald Buckner, Tribute founder.

Program hosted and curated by U of M alumnus G. Phillip Shultz, III and featuring Christopher Rochester and the MacPhail Center for Music Jazz Ensemble, Chadwick "Niles" Phillips, U of M Women's Chorus, Minnesota Chorale, Gauteng Choristers, and VocalEssence Singers Of this Age.

Co-sponsored by the Office for Equity and Diversity and the School of Music



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Program

**Greeting and
Walk Together Children**
Traditional, Negro Spiritual

Welcome

Everything is Everything
Lauryn Hill

What Happens When a Woman Gets Power?
Alexandra Olsavsky of Artemisia

**Greeting from the U of M
Office for Equity and Diversity**

U of M Faculty Voices

G. Phillip Shultz, III
University of Minnesota MLK Tribute Concert
Artistic Director and Host

President Joan T.A. Gabel
University of Minnesota

**Christopher Rochester and the MacPhail
Center for Music Jazz Ensemble**
Arthur "LA" Buckner, drums; Greg Byers, bass;
Jacob Dodd, keyboards; Omar Abdulkarim,
trumpet; PaviElle French, vocals

University of Minnesota Women's Chorus
Kathy Saltzman Romey, director
Jingqi Zhu, graduate assistant
with friends from Northeastern University
(Dr. Katherine Chan, director) & University of
Arizona (Shekela Wanyama, director)

Dr. Michael Goh
Vice President for Equity and Diversity
Office for Equity and Diversity,
University of Minnesota

Dr. Stefanie L. Marshall
Assistant Professor
College of Education and Human,
Development, University of Minnesota

Dr. Glenn Simmons, Jr
Assistant Professor
University of Minnesota Medical School

Dr. Catherine R. Squires
Associate Dean
Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs,
University of Minnesota

Lift Every Voice and Sing
James and J. Rosamund Johnson

Reassure My Soul
Niles

Ukuthula
Traditional South African prayer of peace

U of M Faculty Voices

Someday We'll All Be Free
Donny Hathaway

Rise Up and Lay Down Your Arms
Laura Caviani

I Have a Dream
*Choral adaptation, originally
proclaimed by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

G. Phillip Shoultz, III

Niles featuring DVP
Niles is Founder, Avant Garde Music
Entertainment Company

Minnesota Chorale and Gauteng Choristers
Kathy Saltzman Romey, director
Sidwell Mhlongo, director

Dr. Glenn Simmons, Jr
Assistant Professor
University of Minnesota Medical School

Dr. Catherine R. Squires
Associate Dean
Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs,
University of Minnesota

Dr. Stefanie L. Marshall
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G. Phillip Shoultz, III

**Members of VocalEssence Singers
Of This Age (VESOTA)**
Erin T, Isaiah B, Jade S, Jerilyn M-H, Stephon M,
readers from VESOTA
G. Phillip Shoultz, III, founding director and
conductor

Hope Lingers On

Lissa Schneckenburger, arr. Andrea Ramsey

Unity

Glorraine Moore

VocalEssence Singers Of This Age (VESOTA)

G. Phillip Shoultz, III, founding director and conductor

VocalEssence Singers Of This Age (VESOTA)

G. Phillip Shoultz, III, founding director and Conductor

About the Artists

Known for fostering community and inspiring action among people of all ages and abilities, **G. Phillip Shoultz, III**, enjoys a multifaceted career as artist, educator, consultant, speaker, and pastoral musician. Phillip serves as Associate Conductor and Director of Learning & Engagement of VocalEssence, where his most visible impact is seen through his visionary leadership as founding conductor of the [VocalEssence Singers Of This Age](#) and through his engaging [Take 5 with GPS](#) daily livestream and series of instructional videos.

Phillip is also Cantor for Worship, Music, and the Arts at Westwood Lutheran Church, a member of the Graduate Music Education faculty at the University of St. Thomas, serves as host for Minnesota Orchestra Young People's Concerts, and frequently appears throughout the U.S. as a guest clinician, adjudicator, and lecturer. Recently, he founded Table for More Consulting to address disparities related to access in the choral and vocal arts. The winner of the 2015 ACDA Conducting Competition and recipient of multiple Teacher of the Year honors, Phillip lives in Minnesota with his wife, Michelle, and their two children (Malachi and Lydia) .

Christopher Rochester is an African American musician, educator, and composer who has been working at the professional level for 15 years. He has studied and played with artists such as Greg Osby, George Garzone, Scotty Barnhart (of the Count Basie Band), and many other musicians at the forefront of the music industry. Chris was exposed to many Black American cultural practices during his youth and was fortunate enough to be able to quickly understand how much influence that culture plays in music. This has afforded him the ability to both perform and teach in a way that shines light on the cultural influences of Black American traditions. He has taught in Florida, Minnesota, Georgia, and Alabama, helping students receive scholarship offers from across the nation.

Chadwick "Niles" Phillips was born and raised in Lansing, MI. He is the CEO/Founder of The Avant Garde, LLC and is also a renaissance man within the world of the arts. Niles is a hip-hop artist, director, producer, actor, host, motivational speaker, and teacher of his own curriculum entitled Hip-Hop, History and The Arts. He graduated from Michigan State University in 2006 with a Bachelor's in Communications. After graduation, Niles moved to New York City to pursue a career in music, film, and education. He is the son of the legendary jazz/symphony orchestra bassist Sam Gill. In the Twin Cities, he hosted the legendary Poet's Groove open mic in Minneapolis along with many high profile events throughout the Twin Cities. He founded the Hip-Hop, History and The Arts curriculum and taught it at schools all around the Twin Cities. He

released two youth music recording projects through his curriculum – *The Next Move* album with the High School for Recording Arts and the *My Generation* EP with FAIR School Downtown. With The Avant Garde, he's presented successful events at the Bedlam Lowertown, Como Dockside, The Dakota Jazz Club, and The State Theater. He released his debut album *To Remain* in 2016.

Founded in 1972, the **Minnesota Chorale** is Principal Chorus of the Minnesota Orchestra and ranks among the foremost professional choruses in the United States. Led by artistic director Kathy Saltzman Romey since 1995, the Chorale is best known for its work with the Twin Cities' two major orchestras, but is equally dedicated to fostering and deepening relationships through its award-winning Bridges community engagement initiatives, educational activities, and independent presentations of choral works. A seasoned artistic partner, the Chorale continues to explore new artistic directions and collaborative opportunities, while earning the highest critical acclaim for its work on the concert stage.

Built on the foundation of being a centre of excellence in choral and operatic singing way back in 1999, **Gauteng Choristers**, a registered non-profit-making entity in terms of the Companies Act, 1973, continues to grow into a powerful brand in the choral music and related musical genre in South Africa. Conducted by Mr Sidwell Mhlongo, Gauteng Choristers has become a leading choir in South Africa, with extensive track record both locally and internationally. The choir is primarily in the business of choral singing at the highest level, as well as choral singing development.

VocalEssence Singers Of This Age is a dynamic group of 50 young people from Twin Cities high schools who sing, dance, write their own music, rap, and—most importantly—reflect the diversity of our community in its membership. Under the visionary leadership of G. Phillip Shoultz, III, the students sing a wide range of music—from classical to hip-hop and everything in between, perform in world-class venues, awaken their creativity by studying voice, dance, theatre, and spoken word, rehearse at Augsburg University to provide exposure to life in college, and belong to an accepting community of peers from all walks of life.

The **U of M Choirs**, under the artistic direction of Professors Kathy Romey and Matthew Mehaffey, are open to all students at the University of Minnesota and offer immersive opportunities to explore a variety of classical, traditional, and global choral repertoire. Concerts, both on and off-campus, include convention presentations, touring, and collaborations with ensembles including the Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, other college and community choruses, and U of M School of Music ensembles.

University of Minnesota Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert History

When the University of Minnesota's Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert began more than 30 years ago, it was the only tribute of its kind in Minnesota. The late Reginald Buckner, School of Music professor and an accomplished performer and composer, founded the concert and began the tradition of celebrating the life and accomplishments of Dr. King through the performing arts. After professor Buckner's death in 1989, the University continued to honor Buckner's memory and artistic genius by carrying on the inspiring legacy of this annual program. The Martin Luther King Tribute Concert is now a joint program of the University of Minnesota's Office for Equity and Diversity and the School of Music.

About the Office for Equity and Diversity

The **Office for Equity and Diversity (OED)** works to leverage the transformative power of equity and diversity to advance excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement. Seven offices are part of OED: the Office for Business and Community Economic Development, the Office for Conflict Resolution, the Disability Resource Center, the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, the Gender and Sexuality Center for Queer and Trans Life, the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence, and the Women's Center. Learn more at diversity.umn.edu.

About the School of Music

Established in 1902, the **University of Minnesota School of Music** offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 550 music students, 400 Marching Band students, and 4,500 non-majors in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of more than 80 artists. School of Music graduates and faculty continue to distinguish themselves as composers and scholars at leading international conferences and performance venues; as Grammy Award winners; as collaborators with the great musicians of our time including Yo-Yo Ma and Martin Frost; as jurors and top prize winners at the world's leading international music competitions; as top-ranked professors, music educators, and administrators of major American institutions such as New York's Metropolitan Opera and the San Francisco Symphony; and the list goes on and on. Learn more at music.umn.edu.

Thank You

The Family of Dr. Reginald Buckner

Sari Baker, U of M School of Music

Joan T.A. Gabel, President, University of Minnesota

Michael Goh, Vice President for Equity and Diversity, U of M Office for Equity and Diversity

Michael Kim, Director, U of M School of Music

KMOJ Radio

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Meagan Pierluissi, University Relations

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Clancy Theade, U of M School of Music

Keisha Varma, Associate Vice Provost, U of M Office for Equity and Diversity

Christie Wells, University Relations



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The University of Minnesota shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.
Contact the Office for Equity and Diversity at oed@umn.edu or 612-624-0594.

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