

resilience and jubilation

RISE FROM THE ROOTS

RITZ
CHAMBER
-PLAYERS-



In association with Jacksonville University

NOVEMBER 22, 2025 | 7:30 PM

Greetings Friends and Music Lovers,

Welcome to the Ritz Chamber Players' 24th Season: **Resilience & Jubilation!**

It is my joy to open this season with you as we celebrate the ways music strengthens, uplifts, and unites us.

Tonight's performance, *Rising from the Roots* – featuring the extraordinary pianists Terrence Wilson and Kevin Sharpe – marks the beginning of a year filled with artistry, creativity, and renewed energy. Each concert invites us to experience music not only as beauty, but as a testament to our shared resilience and our collective joy.

As we look ahead to our 25th Anniversary, your support is more vital than ever. Every gift helps us champion exceptional Black and diverse artists, inspire audiences of all ages, and continue enriching Jacksonville's cultural landscape.

Thank you for being part of this journey. May this season bring you depth, brilliance and jubilation.

With gratitude,


Terrance L. Patterson
Executive & Artistic Director



OUR MISSION

To showcase diversity by spotlighting the extraordinary artistry of African American musicians, past and present. RCP seeks to transcend cultural boundaries and amplify the rich mosaic of our society through the universal language of music. Above all, we want to share the transformative power of classical music and ensure it is accessible to everyone.

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ABOUT THE RITZ CHAMBER PLAYERS

THE RITZ CHAMBER PLAYERS (RCP), is hailed by *The Baltimore Sun* as “one of the most interesting and dynamic ensembles to emerge in recent years.” Boasting some of the world’s preeminent musicians spanning the African diaspora, it brings a fresh, new energy to the classical music genre. Its members perform with prestigious organizations such as the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra and the London Symphony.

Founded in 2002 by clarinetist and Artistic Director Terrance Patterson, RCP presents a landmark series at the Terry Concert Hall at Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, Florida, which combines exceptional artistry on stage with inspiring educational programs in schools and throughout the community. Through its concert series in Jacksonville and performances across the United States, RCP continues to build the participation of multicultural audiences that reflect our diverse society.

Called “a remarkable ensemble,” the group’s flexible make-up allows for many astonishing combinations of virtuoso players, leading to “riveting” performances of the standard classical music repertoire. RCP are also unique in their dedication to showcase the works of African-American composers with exceedingly artistic and informed interpretations.

RCP made its highly successful debut concert at New York’s Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall to a standing-room-only crowd, with critics proclaiming the group’s performance “extraordinary” and “vital and fresh.” Most recently, the ensemble’s performances have been enthusiastically received in Miami, Atlanta, Baltimore, Los Angeles, Raleigh, the British Virgin Islands, Chicago, and Seattle, and in several New York venues, including Rockefeller University and Lincoln Center.

RCP, one of the country’s most significant chamber ensembles, celebrated its international radio debut on the BBC World Service and WNYC New York with a concert broadcast to more than 30 countries, and its first national television appearance on the 37th Annual NAACP Image Awards. RCP have been guests of the highly-praised National Public Radio shows *Performance Today* and the *Tavis Smiley Show* and are regular guests of the Madison and Amelia Island Chamber Music Festivals.

CONCERT PROGRAM

RISING FROM THE ROOTS

SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR (1875-1912)

24 Negro Melodies, Op. 59 (1905)
(Selections)

No. 1 – At the Dawn of Day

No. 10 – Deep River

No. 11 – Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?

FRANZ LISZT (1811-1886)

Piano Sonata in B Minor, S.178 (1853)

Lento assai — *Allegro energico* — *Grandioso* — *Recitativo* — *Andante sostenuto* — *Quasi presto* — *Presto* — *Prestissimo* — *Stretta*

Terrence Wilson, Piano

INTERMISSION

GEORGES BIZET (1838-1875)

Jeux d'enfants (Children's Games), Op. 22 (Selections) (1871)

Arranged for Piano Four-Hands

No. 2 – Berceuse (Doll's Lullaby)

No. 4 – Petit Mari, Petite Femme
(Little Husband, Little Wife)

No. 11 – Le Bal (The Ball)

No. 13 – Galop (The Carousel)

Terrence Wilson and Kevin Sharpe, Piano Four-Hands

JULIUS EASTMAN (1940-1990)

Gay Guerilla (ca. 1979)

Terrence Wilson & Kevin Sharpe, Two Pianos

MEET THE RITZ CHAMBER PLAYERS

TERRENCE WILSON - PIANO



Acclaimed by the Baltimore Sun as “one of the biggest pianistic talents to have emerged in this country in the last 25 years” pianist Terrence Wilson has appeared as soloist with the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Washington, DC (National Symphony), San Francisco, St. Louis, and with the orchestras of Cleveland, Minnesota, and Philadelphia and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. Conductors with whom he has worked include Christoph Eschenbach, Alan Gilbert, Neeme Järvi, Jesús López-Cobos, Lawrence Renes, Robert Spano, Yuri Temirkanov, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Gunther Herbig and Michael Morgan.

An active recitalist, Terrence Wilson made his New York City recital debut at the 92nd Street Y, and his Washington, DC recital debut at the Kennedy Center. In Europe he has given recitals at the Verbier Festival in Switzerland, the Lourvre in Paris, and countless other major venues. In the US he has given recitals at Lincoln Center in New York City (both

6 Alice Tully Hall and Avery Fisher Hall), the Ravinia Festival in Chicago,

the Caramoor Festival in Katonah, NY, San Francisco's Herbst Theatre, and for the La Jolla Chamber Music Society. An avid chamber musician, he performs regularly with the Ritz Chamber Players. Festival appearances include Aspen, Blossom, Grant Park, Tanglewood and Wolf Trap.

Terrence Wilson is a graduate of The Juilliard School, where he studied with Yoheved Kaplinsky. He has also enjoyed the invaluable mentorship of the Romanian pianist and teacher Zitta Zohar, as well as that of Maria Clodes-Jaguaribe. A native of the Bronx, he resides in Montclair, New Jersey. In March 2021, Wilson was appointed to the piano faculty at Bard College Conservatory of Music.

KEVIN SHARPE - PIANO



Kevin Sharpe is regarded as one of the country's most accomplished concert pianists. After a "Triumphant" performance at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and a successful debut in Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall, he has been praised by critics and has enchanted audiences with his "precise touch" and "strong individual voice." In September 2005, Raoul Abdul of the New York Amsterdam News proclaimed his performance at Merkin Recital Hall to be "Magnificent."

In May of 2006, Sharpe was awarded the distinction of a Fulbright Scholarship Grant to travel to Dublin, Ireland where he is currently teaching and performing at the Dublin Institute of Technology.

Sharpe was educated at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and studied with pianist and teacher, Frances Walker. After receiving his Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin, Sharpe went on to study at Indiana University where he received his Master's Degree and Doctorate of Music with Menahem Pressler, distinguished pianist of the Beaux Arts Trio.

Sharpe is a member of the Ritz Chamber Players which is the premiere chamber ensemble showcasing Afro-American musicians from all over the world. Recently Sharpe joined the group for their New York Debut in Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall in performances of Prokofiev, Brahms and a World premiere by Composer Alvin Singleton.

Currently, Dr. Sharpe holds the position of Associate Professor of Piano and Chamber music at the University of Florida where he is active as a soloist and chamber musician. He was the recipient of the College of Fine Arts "Teacher of the Year Award 2000."



Ritz Chamber Players 2025-2026 Season

resilience
and
jubilation

Experience the Transformative Power of Music!

OPENING CONCERT:

RISING FROM THE ROOTS

Saturday, November 22, 2025

FREEDOM AND LIBERATION

Saturday, January 17, 2026

**FROM ASHES TO BEAUTY:
RENEWAL AND TRANSFORMATION**

Saturday, April 25, 2026

**JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION:
TRIUMPH & JUBILEE**

Saturday, June 20, 2026

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Help keep the music alive with a donation.



RITZ
CHAMBER
- PLAYERS -



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CONTACT

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