

resilience and jubilation

FREEDOM AND LIBERATION



RITZ
CHAMBER
- PLAYERS -

In association with Jacksonville University

JANUARY 17, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Greetings Friends and Music Lovers,

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

It is a profound honor to present today's performance, *Freedom & Liberation*. This program holds a special place in our season as it is directly inspired by the "Freedom Concerts" pioneered by Coretta Scott King. Just as she used the fusion of song and narrative to fuel the Civil Rights Movement, we gather today to explore how music remains a vital vessel for struggle, triumph and the ongoing pursuit of justice.

In the spirit of that legacy, today's concert is structured as a dialogue. We are joined by distinguished voices—Rodney Hurst, Sr., Carol J. Alexander, and Dr. Rahman Johnson—who provide a narrative thread connecting the masterworks of Perkinson, Hailstork, Moore, and Brahms to our modern experience. Together, we recognize that music is not merely an escape, but a testament to our shared resilience and a catalyst for collective change.

As we move toward our landmark 25th Anniversary, your presence and support are more vital than ever. Thank you for being part of this journey.

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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RITZ
CHAMBER
- P L A Y E R S -

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 L. 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

FREEDOM & LIBERATION INSPIRED BY CORETTA SCOTT KING'S FREEDOM CONCERTS

COLERIDGE-TAYLOR PERKINSON (1932-2004)

String Trio

Kyle Lombard, Violin | Kevonna Shuford, Viola | Christine Lamprea, Cello

RODNEY HURST, SR.

Civil Rights Activist & Historian

ADOLPHUS HAILSTORK (B. 1941)

Songs of Love and Justice

I. Justice ■ II. Difficulties ■ III. Decisions ■ IV. Love

Ann Marie McPhail, Soprano | Terrence Wilson, Piano

DR. RAHMAN JOHNSON

Poet, Artist, & Scholar

TRADITIONAL

I'm on My Way to the Freedom Land

UNDINE SMITH MOORE (1904-1989)

To Be Baptized

Ann Marie McPhail, Soprano

CAROL J. ALEXANDER

Internationally Acclaimed Storyteller

INTERMISSION

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897)

Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor, Op. 25

I. Allegro ■ II. Intermezzo: Allegro ma non troppo

III. Andante con moto ■ IV. Rondo alla Zingarese: Presto

Terrence Wilson, Piano | Kyle Lombard, Violin

Kevonna Shuford, Viola | Christine Lamprea, Cello

MEET THE RITZ CHAMBER PLAYERS

ANN MARIE MCPHAIL - LYRIC SOPRANO



Ms. McPhail, an Atlanta, Georgia native, has established herself as a versatile lyric soprano in the US and abroad. She completed her undergraduate degree at Clark Atlanta University and received a Master's in Voice Performance from Georgia State University. She made her career debut with the Houston Ebony Opera as the Countess in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. Her accolades include portraying the "Diva Goddess" in *Wings of Victory* at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games Closing Ceremonies, written by Michael Kamen and winning the Madame Rose, American Traditions, and Atlanta Pro-Mozart Voice Competitions.

Ms. McPhail's credits include opera chorus singer in Tyler Perry's movie, *For Colored Girls*, honorable mention in *Opera News* for her "Strawberry Woman" in the Atlanta Opera's production of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and guest artist at the MLK Project for the unveiling of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Statue at Constitution Hall in Washington, DC.

Recently Ms. McPhail has sung with members of the Montgomery Symphony in "A Night of Music Storytelling" as Sister Partridge in Nkeiru Okoye's micro opera, *Briar Patch*. Upcoming engagements include portraying Madame Mae in Sharon Willis' *LaRoche* with

Americolor Opera in Atlanta, Ga. and joining the Ritz Chamber Players at the St. Augustine Summer Music Festival.

Ms. McPhail has served as Director of Choral Activities at Tougaloo and Talladega Colleges. She has been lecturer/voice instructor at Clark Atlanta University and Spelman College, Agnes Scott College and the Boys and Girls Choir of Harlem. She has sung with the San Francisco Opera, Paris Comique Opera, Atlanta Opera, Houston Ebony Opera, Opera Ebony, Macon Symphony Orchestra, Savannah Symphony, and the Atlanta 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 Louvre in Paris, and countless other major venues. In the US he has given recitals at Lincoln Center in New York City (both 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.

KYLE LOMBARD – VIOLIN



Kyle Andre Lombard, violinist, is a native of Kansas City, Missouri. He graduated with honors from Indiana University, earning the prestigious Performer's Certificate, and received his Master's degree from Yale University. Mr. Lombard enjoys a variety of musical activities. As a chamber musician, Mr. Lombard has performed throughout Europe, the Middle East and the U.S. He has recently performed on chamber music programs at Carnegie Hall and at the Ravinia Festival's "Rising Stars" series. As part of the Ritz Chamber Players, he was featured in the University of Washington's esteemed "World Series of Chamber

Music," and is regularly featured in a residency at the esteemed Morehouse College. As a member of the Goffriller Piano Trio, Mr. Lombard's performances were broadcast on Israeli Public Radio during Isaac Stern's 3rd International Chamber Music Encounters in Jerusalem. He also performed, as a member of the Gateways Chamber Music Ensemble, in a weeklong residency with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

As a soloist, Mr. Lombard made his debut with the Kansas City Symphony. At age sixteen, he was the first area musician ever invited to perform with the ensemble. He has also concertized with the Savannah Symphony, the Sphinx Symphony, as well as recitals at the MOJA Festival in Charleston, S.C. and on the recital series at Southern Illinois University. Mr. Lombard was also featured in "Young Heroes of Music", a live radio broadcast for Classic 99 FM of Saint Louis. Mr. Lombard completed a two-year fellowship with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra in 2001. He has performed with the orchestra since the 1999 season, touring numerous times to Carnegie Hall. In addition to orchestral playing, Mr. Lombard performs with several area ensembles, including the Chamber Music Society of St. Louis, Chamber Project of St. Louis, and the Missouri Chamber Music Festival. He performs on a violin by Gennaro Vinaccia, Napoli, 1775.

KEVONNA SHUFORD – VIOLA



Kevonna Shuford is a vibrant violist who has a passion for collaborative

projects. Kevonna completed a bachelor's degree at the New England Conservatory under the tutelage of Martha Katz. She is currently a member of the Boston Philharmonic and also performs with numerous Boston-based ensembles. A native of Florida, she established a youth string program at Faith's Place Center for Arts Education. With a continued love for teaching, she is a current resident musician with Musiconnects. Kevonna served as principal viola under the baton of Valery Gergiev and has had the pleasure of working with esteemed artists such as Janine Jansen, Denis Matsuev, Emmanuel Ax, Jaime Laredo, and Christoph Eschenbach. Additionally, she has had the opportunity to play in masterclasses for distinguished artists such as Kim Kashkashian, Paul Katz, Dimitri Murrath, and Clive Greensmith. As a member of the National Youth Orchestra (2016), Kevonna greatly enjoyed traveling to new places through past performances at major concert halls across Europe and the US, such as the Concertgebouw and Carnegie Hall; now, she is an avid outdoor enthusiast and enjoys taking walks or rollerblading around Boston.

CHRISTINE LAMPREA - CELLO



Christine Lamprea, Cellist and 2018 Sphinx Medal of Excellence Winner, is an artist known for her emotionally committed and intense performances. Upon her Carnegie Hall debut as soloist in 2013, she has since returned to Carnegie, as well as performed with orchestras such as the Costa Rica National Symphony, Detroit Symphony,

Houston Symphony, National Symphony of Michoacan, New Jersey Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, Santa Fe Pro Musica, and toured with the Sphinx Virtuosi across the U.S. As a recitalist, Ms. Lamprea has appeared on prestigious series at Illinois' Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Florida's Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Pepperdine University, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Washington Performing Arts Society. In demand as a chamber musician, she performs regularly with the Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players, and has performed with such musicians as Shmuel Ashkenasi, Sarah Chang, Itzhak Perlman, Roger Tapping, and Carol Wincenc.

Ms. Lamprea strives to expand her musical boundaries by exploring many genres of music and non-traditional venues for performance and teaching. Her Songs of Colombia Suite includes arrangements of traditional South American tunes for cello and piano or guitar, and have been performed at the Colombian Embassy and Supreme Court of the United States for Justice Sonia Sotomayor. She has worked with members of Baroque ensemble Les Arts Florissants, and studied sonatas with fortepiano with Audrey Axinn. She has premiered several works by composers of today. In recent years, she commissioned cadenzas for the Haydn D Major Concerto by Jessie Montgomery, and premiered Jeffrey Mumford's cello concerto "of fields unfolding... echoing depths of resonant light" with the San Antonio Symphony.

Ms. Lamprea is on the cello faculty at the Longy School of Music of Bard College, serves as substitute faculty at the Juilliard School, and served as Lecturer of Cello at the Texas Christian University School of Music for the 2018-19 academic year. Ms. Lamprea has given masterclasses for the Vivac-e Festival, Idyllwild Arts Academy, Wintergreen Summer Music Festival, among others. She has worked with Ecuadorian youth in the cities of Quito and Guayaquil, as part of a residency between The Juilliard School and "Sinfonia Por La Vida," a social inclusion program modeled after Venezuela's El Sistema program. Christine Lamprea is the recipient of a Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, which supported her studies at the New England Conservatory, and a Sphinx MPower Artist Grant, which supported her study with acclaimed cellist Matt Haimovitz. She studied with Bonnie Hampton at The Juilliard School and holds a Master's degree from the New England Conservatory, where she studied with Natasha Brofsky. Additional influences were Lynn Harrell, Frans Helmerson, and Philippe Muller. Previous teachers include Ken Freudigman and Ken Ishii.

GUEST SPEAKERS

RODNEY HURST, SR.

Civil Rights Activist & Historian

A civil rights icon and author, Rodney Hurst, Sr. has spent his life at the forefront of the fight for social justice. As a student leader during the 1960s, he served as the President of the Jacksonville Youth Council NAACP and led the peaceful sit-in demonstrations that culminated in the historic “Ax Handle Saturday.” An esteemed historian and storyteller of the movement, Mr. Hurst is the author of several acclaimed books, including *It Was Never About a Hot Dog and a Cup of Coffee*. His life’s work serves as a foundational bridge between the struggles of the past and the ongoing pursuit of equity in the modern civil rights landscape.

CAROL J. ALEXANDER

Internationally Acclaimed Storyteller

Carol J. Alexander is a renowned cultural advocate and storyteller whose work has resonated on global stages. With a unique ability to weave ancestral wisdom with contemporary narratives, she has dedicated her career to preserving the oral traditions and cultural heritage of the African diaspora. As a former museum director and community leader, Ms. Alexander uses the power of the spoken word to foster healing, understanding, and mental well-being. Her contributions to the arts ensure that the stories of triumph and legacy remain a vibrant, living part of our collective consciousness.

DR. RAHMAN JOHNSON

Poet, Artist, & Scholar

Dr. Rahman Johnson is a multifaceted multimedia artist, poet, and scholar who explores the intersections of identity, culture, and justice. A Professor of Communications and a recognizable voice in journalism, Dr. Johnson’s work often reflects the urgent poetic pulse of the modern civil rights fight. His artistic contributions span television, stage, and the written word, always seeking to empower the next generation of leaders. As a scholar, he provides a critical and creative lens through which we can view the evolving journey toward liberation in the 21st century.

Ritz Chamber Players 2025-2026 Season



Experience the Transformative Power of Music!

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

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

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Unlock the Power of Music with Your Support

RCP has been a beacon of cultural excellence and diversity in Jacksonville for over two decades. Supporting RCP isn't just philanthropy—it's a gateway to enriching cultural experiences and fostering diversity in the arts.

Help keep the music alive with a donation.



RITZ
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- PLAYERS -



Thank you for your support of RCP.

New this year, we are offering a "Pay What You Can" option, giving you the opportunity to support our mission in any way that feels right. Every gift, no matter the size, helps us nurture world-class artists, inspire audiences, and uplift the spirit of our city through music.

CONTACT

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Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts

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RitzChamberPlayers.org