



*Songs for Hope*

HOLIDAY MUSIC SPECTACULAR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022

7PM

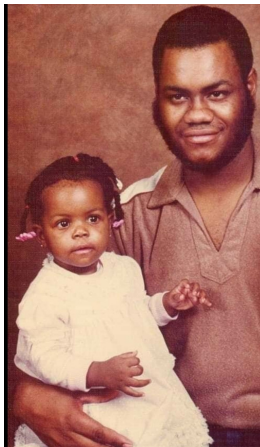
OVERTURE CENTER



# About Songs for Hope

The Songs for Hope Holiday Music Spectacular was started in 2012 by Prenicia Clifton, in honor of her father, Prentess Clifton, who lost his battle to cancer in 2011. Prentess, who was a beloved educator driven to changing the lives of youth, instilled in Prenicia her passion to have an impact on the educational and personal growth of young students.

Each year the concert is dedicated to supporting youth enrichment initiatives from backpacks and coats for low-income children to holiday gifts and after school programs. Prenicia is honored to dedicate this year's performances to a Free Youth Mental Health Retreat. Prenicia recently lost one of her students to death by suicide and did not want his life to be loss in vain. The "Day of Hope" Youth Mental Health Retreat will be held Saturday, December 17th as well as two additional times in 2023. Visit <https://seeinisbelievin.regfox.com/day-of-hope-youth-mental-health-retreat>



# Program

**Prenicia Clifton** “Oh Holy Night”  
**Christopher Jones** “Joy to the World”  
**Joshua Rubio Gonzalez** “Feliz Navidad”

## **Music Con Brio Ensemble**

Cripple Creek, Traditional  
Canon in D, Pachelbel  
Ode to Joy, Beethoven  
Mississippi Mud, Traditional  
See Saw, Greene/Zweig  
Rock & Roll, Greene/Zweig  
Ave Maria, Caccini arr. Peter Dominguez  
Feeling the Pulse (2014), Juwon Ogunbe

**Misheal Pierre** “Talking to the Moon”  
**Nae McNeail** “Song of the Wind”  
**Aubrey Martin** “Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer”  
**Scott Gendel** “Christmas Eve/ Sarajevo”

# Intermission

**Adrian Dunn Singers** “The Black Messiah”  
**Prenicia Clifton** “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”



**Prenicia Clifton**

Prenicia Clifton is native of Kansas City, Missouri and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has nearly 3 decades of performance experience under her belt. Prenicia Clifton started singing opera at age eight after she told her first voice teacher, Millicent Daugherty, that she wanted to sing like Whitney Houston; however her teacher told her that with her talent, she may not sing like Whitney Houston but would someday dine with kings and queens. Decades later, Clifton is an accomplished opera singer with credits in major opera houses around the world, including opening opera houses with Placido Domingo, sharing the stage with opera greats like Renee Fleming, Denyce Graves, Eric Owens and Grammy award winners Thomas Glenn, Adrienne Dandrich. On top of her annual concert, Prenicia invests her musical talents back into her community through teaching at UW-Madison's annual Summer Music Clinic, private vocal coachings, presentations throughout Dane County.



### **Adrian Dunn and The Adrian Dunn Singers**

The Adrian Dunn Singers is a group of 12 professional singers of diverse musical backgrounds based in Chicago. Members of group have trained at some of the top conservatories & Universities in America. They recently performed at the Thomas Dorsey National Convention of Gospel Choirs & Choruses in Dallas & were recently included in the Art Institute of Chicago's "Prayer" exhibit. In addition to recording the Revelations Album, they have performed for the Payne Theological Seminary presidential inauguration in 2017 & provided music for the 2018 commencement exercises. The group recently made their National Cathedral Debut and have toured to Orlando, Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Indianapolis. The Adrian Dunn Singers were most recently featured in the film "Honk for Jesus and Save Your Soul" on the Peacock Network.

Adrian Dunn is an accomplished singer, songwriter, and producer. Mr. Dunn holds a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degree in Voice from The Music Conservatory at Roosevelt University with additional musical studies in opera at The Sibelius Academy of Music in Finland. Mr. Dunn has sung with the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Grant Park Symphony Chorus, Blossom Festival Chorus, and as a soloist with the North Shore Choral Society. He has sung in the CCM Spoleto Opera Festival in Spoleto, Italy and is a frequent soloist in Handel's Messiah. He sang the lead role in the 2017 Chicago premiere of the Paul Laurence Dunbar opera *The Poet* and in 2016 served as the opera chorus master for the midwest premiere of the opera *Harriet Tubman – When I Crossed That Line to Freedom* with the South Shore Opera Company of Chicago.

As an active professional singer, producer, and songwriter, Mr. Dunn has had the privilege of working with gospel greats such as Tremaine Hawkins, Myron Butler, Melonie Daniels, Troy Bright, Lamar Campbell, Damien Sneed, Walt Whitman and the Soul Children of Chicago, Smokie Norful, Jonathan Nelson, and many more. He was awarded Album Producer of the Year for AME Live featuring the AME International Mass Choir from the Rhythm of Gospel Awards. He has served on music staff for the AME General Conference in Philadelphia (2016) and in Nashville (2012). He opened the 2014 Thomas Dorsey National Convention of Choirs and Choruses for the AME Mass Choir. He is the album producer for the 2015 release *AME 200: Celebrating 200 years of the AME church*.

Mr. Dunn is a MacArthur grant recipient for his original work *Hopera: A Hip Hop Opera*. He was nominated for Best Music Director from the Black Theater Alliance Awards for his work *Hopera: a Hip Hop Opera*. He has opened for international Hip Hop Recording Artist The Roots at Indiana University. He served as principle vocal coach for Kanye West's artist development program Donda's House. He was a featured artist and vocal coach for the live DVD recording of the Higher Ground Gospel Choir in Helsinki, Finland. He has toured throughout the US, South Africa, Italy, Germany, the UK, and Scandinavia.

Currently, Mr. Dunn released his most recent album and second book entitled *Redemption: A collection of spirituals & gospel songs in seeking justice for Black lives*. He recently wrote the opening music for WWE's *Wrestle Mania 35* and completed a national album & book tour of *Redemption*. He is the founder of the Black Music Matters advocacy movement organization & the founder of Black Music Experience TV, a streaming service dedicated to the contributions of Black Musicians in America. He is a voice faculty member at Roosevelt University & is the Advisor for Racial Equity & Minority Student Success. Mr. Dunn's private voice students can be seen in Broadway National tours of *LION KING*, *GHOST*, *KINKY BOOTS*, *RENT*, BET's show *Sunday Best*, Drury Lane Theater, The Paramount Theater, Black Ensemble Theater, and as background vocalists for major record label artists on tour throughout the US and abroad.



**Scott Gendell**

Scott Gendel is a composer, vocal coach, pianist, rock musician, singer, composition teacher, and musical generalist living in Monona, Wisconsin. His music has a wide scope, but Scott is particularly obsessed with the artistry of the human voice, and has been commissioned by many world-renowned singers including Karen Slack, Stephanie Blythe, and Julia Faulkner. His music has been recorded by cellist Yo-Yo Ma, the Santa Clara Chorale, San Jose Chamber Orchestra, and more. As a performer, Scott is the official pianist and principal vocal coach for Madison Opera. He also appears frequently in vocal and instrumental recitals, plays & co-writes in four different hard-to-categorize bands, coaches professional opera singers regularly, is Music Director for Opera For The Young, and has worked as coach & pianist for such companies as Atlanta Opera and Opera North. Please visit <http://www.scottgendel.com> for more information.

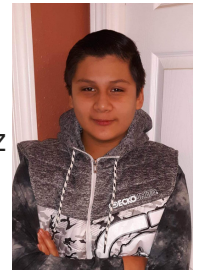
## JUNIOR ARTISTS



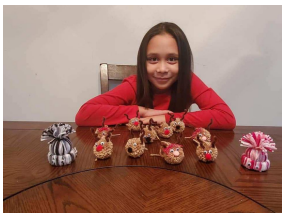
**Christopher Jones**

Hello, my name is Christopher Jones. I am a 4th grader at Stephens Elementary. I enjoy playing basketball and playing football. My favorite instruments I like to play is the piano and drums. What I want to be when I grow up is an engineer and business owner. I will be playing "Joy to the World" and this will be my debut performance at the Overture Center for the Arts.

Joshua is a Junior at Vel Phillips Memorial High School. He enjoys playing video games and swimming. He is a member of Ballet Folklórico de María Díaz a traditional Mexican folklorico dance group. He also loves to sing and plays the drums. He will be singing Feliz Navidad.



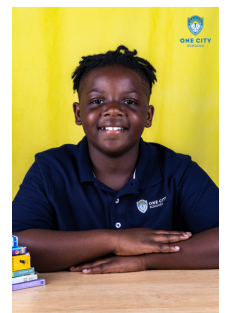
**Joshua Rubio-Gonzalez**



**Aubrey Martin**

Aubrey Martin is excited for her debut performance at the Overture. For fun, she enjoys cooking and doing arts and crafts. She wants to be a businesswoman when she grows up and open up her own cat cafe. Tonight she will be singing Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer.

Misheal is currently a 4th grade scholar who loves math at One City Schools. Misheal loves being apart of The Southside Raiders. Misheal's love and excitement for singing is growing daily. Misheal desires to become a Professional Football player or Famous Singer one day.



**Misheal Pierre**



**Nae McNeail**

Hi, my name is Nae McNeail. I'm 11 years old, and I play the violin. I've been playing for a year now. I go to One City Schools and I'm in the 6th grade. What I love about music is that your heart melts and your soul just falls in love with the beat and takes you away.



## ENSEMBLE

Music con Brio is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to offering high quality music lessons at an affordable graduated tuition schedule to a diverse mix of Madison area students, forming an inclusive, supportive community to build students' self-esteem and pride in their talents. Our annual Community Concert Series showcases a wide variety of musical styles through partnerships with diverse local professional artists, providing motivating performance opportunities for students and outreach to the wider Madison community. Our Music by Black Composers Project ensures the continual diversification of our repertoire and curriculum through the yearly addition of at least three pieces of music by Black composers. Our debut performance of Feeling the Pulse by Juwon Ogunbe was November 19, 2022 at our most recent Community Concert. For more info, see our website: [www.musicconbrio.org](http://www.musicconbrio.org)

Violinist Carol Carlson is an avid performer, a devoted teacher, and a successful creative arts entrepreneur. Carol is Executive Director/co-founder of Music con Brio, Inc., which provides affordable, accessible, high quality music lessons to culturally and socioeconomically diverse students from 1st through 12th grade. She also maintains private teaching studios in Madison and Dubuque. She regularly performs as a member of the Pecatonica String Quartet and the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, and teaches in both the DSO's Adopt-a-Musician program and its summer music camps. Carol holds Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees in violin performance from UW-Madison where she studied with Professor Felicia Moye, whom she also served as teaching assistant. Additionally, Carol holds Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Arts degrees from Truman State University and a Graduate Certificate from Park University's International Center for Music. Carol is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Pi Kappa Lambda, and Sigma Alpha Iota. She lives in Madison with her husband Matt, a trombonist, and their daughter Julianna, a first year Music con Brio violinist.



**Carol Carlson**

### **Ensemble Not Pictured**

**Adela Reyes**

**Tori Poulin**

**Reid DeThorne (student mentor)**



Truman is in 11th grade at East High School in Madison. In addition to violin, he enjoys tennis, drawing, and hiking.

**Truman Rafferty**



Charlotte Krein is in third grade at Emerson Elementary and this is her second year playing violin with Music con Brio. In addition to music, Charlotte also loves reading, playing soccer, and swimming.

**Charlotte Krein**



Leo Benish is a fourth grader in Madison. He loves music, video games, sports and reading. He is very excited for his Overture Center debut performance!

**Leo Benish**



Aislinn is an 8th grader in Madison and has been playing with Music con Brio since 2015. When not practicing violin, Aislinn can be found painting, reading, or playing video games.

**Aislinn Fowler**



Cicada Clark is a 2nd-grader at Emerson Elementary who plays violin and piano and loves handstands, cartwheels, and ice cream.

**Cicada Clark**



Frances is in 8th grade at O'Keeffe Middle School. She has been part of Music con Brio since 4th grade & is also a violinist with her school orchestra program. She also enjoys soccer, art & travel.

**Frances Schaller-Davis**



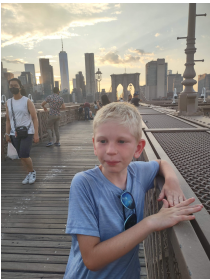
Deionte Shelto has played violin with Music Con Brio since he was in second grade. Now in eighth grade, Deionte also plays cello with the Madison Cello Ensemble. He is excited to be playing at the Overture Center for the first time.

**Deionte Shelto**



Ingrid is 7 years old and began playing violin at 6 years old. She loves music and playing duets with her brother. She is a 2nd grader at Henderson Elementary School in Madison, WI.

**Ingrid Drake-Lovelace**



Ian is in 3rd grade, loves the weather, math, and skiing.

**Ian McAuliffe**



Olivia is an eighth-grade student at Sherman Middle School in her sixth year of violin with Music con Brio. She is also a dancer who enjoys travel and reading in her free time.

**Olivia Erdman**



Oona started playing violin in first grade. She loves to play songs for her dog Timber. In addition to playing music, she enjoys birding, skiing, growing mosses, and creating class lessons plans for her future career as a teacher.

**Oona McGee**

# Holiday Mart Vendors

Table 1-Village Girl Boutique  
African Clothing and Jewelry

Table 2- Adrian Dunn Singers  
Black Music Matters Swag and Recordings  
Seein' is Believin' Information

Table 3-Blessed Divine Creations  
Custom gift baskets, mason jar gifts, hair accessories, tutu couture, fragrance body oils, candles, soaps, hand sanitizer lotion, clothing, incenses, and home decor.

Table 4-Custom Items by Mo  
Pillows, tumblers, journals

Table 5-Queen P's Throne  
Afrocentric earrings

Table 6- Monarch Ambition LLC  
Clothing and accessories for men women mad children. Also show casing hand sewn items.

Table 7-Dolce Desserts by Dominique LLC  
Homemade baked desserts & treats ,  
infused sea moss juices

Table 8-Heart Healing Art  
Variety of canvas art, totes, shirts, paint kits

Table 9-Sweet Street Treats by Maje  
Sweet Treats

Table 10-Seemore's De\$igns  
T-shirts, mugs, tumblers, clocks

Table 11- Restoration Soap & Body Care/  
Ruth Collins  
Soap & Lotion, Body Oils, Scrubs

Table 12- Blossom Candle  
Candles and self are goods to uplift the kind, body and spirit

Table 13- Fabulous Jems  
\$5 jewelry

Table 14-BlueNu  
Gift baskets

Table 15- Live 2 Bling  
Paintings, jewelry, small home decor to match paintings

Table 16 & 17- UJAAMA  
Variety of Goods

Table 18- QB's Magnetic Creations  
Magnetic Badge / Eyeglass Holders, Magnetic Brooches, and Magnetic Jewelry Strings.

Table 19-Summer Music Clinic  
Youth Program Sign Up

Table 20-Omega Talent Hunt Table  
Talent Hunt Sign Up

# A Special Thank You

Prenicia would like to thank her mother, Diane Gruber, for her continued support and mentorship. She would also like to thank all of the young artists for braving such a large stage tonight. A huge thank you also goes out to the Adrian Dunn Singers and Adrian Dunn for their amazing talents and traveling all the way from Chicago. Prenicia would also like to thank the Overture Center for providing the use of the facilities and staff at a reduced rate.

Prenicia could not let this night go by without thanking the many donors that provided unrestricted funds over the last year to support the work that Prenicia is doing with youth in the community. CUNA Mutual, AmFam DreamBank, UW Health, Summit Credit Union, United Way (Small Business Grant) and the City of Madison for funding Seein' is Believin's multiple Youth Life Readiness projects and the development of the city's first cohort of Seein' is Believin Community Impact Officers.

Prenicia would also like to thank the many youth that have participated in her programs and allowed her to carry on her dad's legacy.

Please visit  
[www.seein-is-believin.com](http://www.seein-is-believin.com)  
for more information about upcoming  
events and programs.

Please feel free to make a donation by scanning the  
QR code.



Donate Today!

