



COALITION FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE PERFORMING ARTS
"Bringing Color to the Classics!"

CAAPA

CRESCENDO NEWSLETTER

Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2020

CAAPA takes a stand with the Artist Relief Fund in response to coronavirus COVID-19

Many organizations and musicians have taken a stance in reaction to the national coronavirus pandemic. CAAPA has established the Artist Relief Fund spearheaded by the Co-Founder and Chair of the Board, Pamela T. Simonson. She states, "We

appreciate your past and present support in celebrating artists and look forward to providing more opportunities to showcase their fine skills and talents, but now we seek your assistance. Musicians and artists need your financial help due to the many concert, performance, recitals, and event cancellations."

Many contracts hold fast to the Force Majeure clause (French for "superior force"), which is a contract provision that allows a party to suspend or terminate the performance of its obligations when certain circumstances beyond their control arise, making performance inadvisable, commercially impracticable, illegal, or impossible. This means artists may not get paid for the duration of this virus.

CORONAVIRUS
Artist Relief Fund
COALITION FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE PERFORMING ARTS (CAAPA)

Dear Arts Supporter,

We appreciate your past and present support in celebrating our artists and look forward to providing more opportunities to showcase their fine skills and talents, but now we seek your assistance.

Our action to help the artists who are being affected by the multiple cancellations and postponements is priority. We encourage you to consider donating toward the CAAPA Artist's Relief Fund.

Your contribution will offer you a 100% tax deduction and a way to show our artists and musicians we thank them for sharing their talents on our stages. Your donation will go directly to CAAPA artists and musicians to assist them during this challenging time.

Thank you for your help and compassion.

Musically yours,
Pamela Simonson

Gifts to the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA) benefit Black musicians and other in the performing arts are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. CAAPA is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization (FEIN 26-0093440).

This is where the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA)'s Co-Founder Pamela Simonson has taken the initiative to institute the Coronavirus Artist Relief Fund. Artists and musicians directly affected will be able to apply to receive supplemental financial assistance. Artists may request a Coronavirus Artist Relief Fund check by sending their name and email to info@4caapa.org. They will receive instructions to receive money. However, we cannot facilitate the process without YOUR DONATION! As a concerned supporter of the Arts, please donate today and help spread the word! Thank you very much.

NOTE: Our action to help the artists and musicians who are being affected by the multiple cancellations and postponements is a priority. Your contribution will offer you a 100% tax deduction and a way to show our artists and musicians we thank them for sharing their talents on our stages. Your donation will go directly to CAAPA artists and musicians to assist them during this challenging time. Thank you for your help and compassion.

Gifts to the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA) benefits Black musicians, opera singers, youth and others in the performing arts and are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. CAAPA is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization (FEIN 26-0093440).

"The CAAPA programs and concerts are fabulous."

~~~ Courtney Pringle  
CAAPA Patron

...CAAPA provides funding to artists during this difficult time.

**The CAAPA Cause.**  
Community Outreach  
Arts Education  
Audience Development  
Performance Opportunities  
Arts Partnerships

CAAPA is supported in part by



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Visit [www.4caapa.org](http://www.4caapa.org) for the full CAAPA story and video

## Coronavirus impacts MasterClass Series™ sessions as CAAPA receives \$15K grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

When Chairman **Mary Anne Carter** announced that arts organizations in every state in the nation, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, would receive federal funding for arts projects from the NEA in this round of fiscal year 2020 funding, no one could have predicted that a pandemic would affect programs throughout the nation. Overall, 1,187 grants totaling \$27.3 million will provide



Americans opportunities for arts participation including Prince George's County, Maryland's **Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA)**, who is among the award recipients for the national **Master-Class Series**, which began in Black History

Month and extended thru April. The sessions, which target partnerships with **Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's)** have now been greatly impacted due to the coronavirus.



Rescheduling is taking place for the fall semester 2020.

The six-year old program brings excellence by partnering with HBCUs throughout the nation to help bring opera and classical music to a diverse group of college students, to gain exposure from renowned classically trained Black MusicMasters, including opera tenor **George Shirley**, bass/baritone **Morris Robinson**, soprano



**Angela M. Brown**, baritone **Robert Sims**, soprano **Lisa Gwyn**, mezzo soprano **J'Nai Bridges**, and tenor **Issachah Savage** all who have facilitated sessions in the past. CAAPA also collaborated with **Miss America 2019 Nia Franklin** to facilitate the High School series.

Program Coordinator and CAAPA Board Member



**Angela Reneé Simpson** also a soprano is taking steps to reschedule all of the sessions during the fall semester with Executive Director **Terri Allen** describing the sessions as "informances" (informational performances) enhancing classically trained voices, acting, diction, repertoire, presentation, and movement for aspiring singers, while supporting young and developing professional careers in opera, recitals, and the concert stage, as well as the audition process.



"Master Classes made a huge difference in my vocal development", Co-Founder **Pamela Simonson** stated while talking about her own experience as an aspiring soprano who attended master classes and as an undergraduate and graduate student. She understands the importance of how master classes

can positively influence a music student's career. In fact, coordinator Simpson also facilitated the very first Master Class Simonson participated in at her high school years ago. Simpson's efforts in collaborating with HBCU's have successfully partnered with Howard University, Morgan State Univ., Morehouse College, Clark-Atlanta Univ., Texas Southern Univ., Spelman College, Livingstone College, Winston-Salem Univ., Jackson State Univ., Hampton Univ., Norfolk State Univ., Virginia State Univ., Xavier College, Tougaloo College, Univ. of Kentucky, Fisk University, Lane College, and more.

## Scholarship Deadline Extended

*The Society, Incorporated Supporting the Arts, Harbor City Maryland Chapter partners with CAAPA to provide \$1000. scholarship!*

GOOD NEWS for graduating high school music students! CAAPA is concerned about our graduating high school music students of color and preparations to attend college in the fall.

It is for that reason, along with the unexpected challenges of the coronavirus, CAAPA is extending the DEADLINE for Scholarships to April 30, 2020.

**DEADLINE EXTENDED TO APRIL 30, 2020.**

CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION:

<https://4caapa.org/application.html>

\$1000.00 1st Place

\$750.00 2nd Place

\$500.00 3rd Place

\$1000.00 Special Recognition

Applicants of color must submit ONLINE completed application and resume and be prepared to perform via ZOOM platform on Saturday, May 16, 2020 at a pre-arranged scheduled 15 minute time slot.

Submit resume and essay "**Why is Music Important During Difficult Times?**" to [info@4caapa.org](mailto:info@4caapa.org) with heading **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION** for the Special Recognition Scholarship funded by CAAPA's ARTS Partner **The Society, Incorporated Supporting the Arts, Harbor City Maryland Chapter.**

Applicants of color must submit ONLINE completed application and resume and be prepared to perform via ZOOM platform on Saturday, May 16, 2020 at a pre-arranged scheduled 15 minute time slot.

# VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERS



**Needed: \*Virtual Interns**

**\*Volunteers\* Office**

**Workers\***

**Community Service Hours for Students!**

**Call 301-839-1444.**

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS AND SEASONED PROFESSIONALS FOR THE 2020-2021 SEASON!!!**

Contact email [info@4caapa.org](mailto:info@4caapa.org)



# Black History Month & Sopranos Slayed!

2020 began with an amazing concert featuring seven talented female singers and Miss America 2019 Nia Franklin and ended with an amazing Black History Month featuring a variety of programs, activities, and events.

Each season for the past four years, CAAPA has featured Black opera singers on the concert stage as an ensemble. Sopranos Slay 2020 featured singers shown below who sang a variety of selections from Puccini to Gershwin.

**Sopranos Slay** In light of the concert's popularity and women's empowerment message, CAAPA has also been granted trademark and copyright status with the hopes of taking the "show on the road". One of the goals is to educate the Black community and others about talented and passionate women of color performing classical music and opera, with the hopes of making the genre more relatable. Beautiful women who range from PhDs to Miss America, Sopranos Slay DC is just a beginning. To support Sopranos Slay please contact the office.



L to R: Britanni McNeil, Shonda Devine, Marquita Cooper, Miss America 2019 Nia Franklin, Kianna Kelly-Futch, Meroë Adeeb, and Elise Jenkins

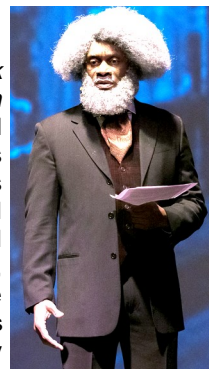
## CAAPA'S Kennedy Center concert brings Frederick Douglass to life

During Black History Month 2020, CAAPA presented concerts and recitals including *Music and the Black Vote*, *Landing: 1619 in Song and Dance*, *Voices from the Past: Chevalier St. George*, *Tribute to William Grant Still* and recitals in libraries throughout the region as well as in nursing homes.



L to R: Drummer, Doc Powell, Jo Nay Aiken, Jarrod Lee, Jordan Johnson, Lester Green, Neal Burke, Wayne Jennings, African Dancers,

One of the Black History Month concerts was held at the Kennedy Center and featured Neal Burks as Frederick Douglass and narrator, Jo Nay Aiken, dancer; Jarrod Lee and Wayne Jennings, baritone and tenor respectively, and the Malcolm X Drummers and Dancers. Dr. Lester Green, CAAPA's Artistic Director played the piano for the event. The concert juxtaposed the "what if" Douglass hearing Mozart's music, which inspired him, his son, and grandson to study the violin.



L to R: Neal Burke as Douglass

## Welcome CAAPA's New Board Members

It is an honor to welcome and congratulate our new CAAPA Board members:

**MARY HOPKINS NAVIES**, Businesswoman. Board Member

**DR. DEBRA MAHONE**, Retired Prince George's County Schools Administrator. Board Member.

**JOSEPH B. JENKINS**, Owner and President of J. B. Jenkins Funeral Homes. Board Member.

**J'NAI BRIDGES**, Mezzo Soprano. Honorary Board Member.



## We've Named our Newsletter



### WINNER ANNOUNCED!

We have a winner for the "Name our Newsletter Contest!" CAAPA's own **Norjay Wiggins, Jr.** came up with "**CAAPA Crescendo Newsletter**" which depicts a *continued increase and growth!* Perfect!...the new name ties into how CAAPA is growing. Wiggins' company **NorrisWORKS** serves as Video Production Supervisor and creates all the videos for CAAPA programs, social media, and marketing.... [norriswiggins@gmail.com](mailto:norriswiggins@gmail.com)

DONATE TODAY TO ANY OR ALL OF CAAPA'S PROGRAMS and to the ARTIST RELIEF FUND

Call today to make a donation 301-839-1444, visit [www.4caapa.org](http://www.4caapa.org), or send check to CAAPA, PO Box 44954 Fort Washington, MD 20744.

# 2020-2021 TENTATIVE CALENDAR

In light of the current health crisis throughout the world, some CAAPA programs and events listed below are presented only as tentative. A complete final listing will be made available as soon possible. Thank you for your understanding. Please continue to stay in prayer and good health.

## 2020

Jul-Aug CAAPA C.A.M.P. North  
 Jul-Aug CAAPA C.A.M.P. South  
 Sep 15 Tue Melody of Art  
 Sep 19 Sat Our Voice: Women's Concert  
 Sept 20 Sun World is My Home w/Stogie  
 Oct 11 Sun Brava, Bravo, Bravi Concert  
 Nov 8 Sun Emerging Artists Recital  
 Nov 8-20 250<sup>th</sup> Beethoven Celebration  
 Nov 22 Sun Harlem Renaissance 100 Ann  
 Dec 10 Thu Sammy at the CAAPA Club  
 Dec 13 Sun Upon a Star Holiday Concert  
 Dec 27 Sun New Year's Cheer: w/Meroe

Dodge Park Elementary  
 Fort Foote Elementary  
 Overdue Recognition  
 Howard Historical Society  
 Public Playhouse  
 Kennedy Center  
 St. Luke's Episcopal Ch  
 Varies PGPCS/Carnegie  
 Kennedy Center  
 Woodmore Country Club  
 Montpelier Arts Center  
 Kennedy Center

## 2021

Jan 23 Sat Sopranos Slay 2021  
 Jan 31 Sat Landing:1619 Song & Dance  
 Feb 6 Sat Generations: Black Family Panel  
 Feb 7 Sun Negro Spiritual Sing-A-Long  
 Feb 14 Sun Generations: Music & Black Family  
 Feb 16 Tue MLK Musical Tribute: King & Family  
 Feb 20 Sat Porgy & Pansori: AA/KA Opera  
 Feb 21 Sun Voices of the Past: Lola DuBois  
 Mar 6 Sat Opera Composer's Showcase  
 Mar 13 Sat London Orchestra Symph Concert  
 Apr 17 Sat Peter and the Wolf  
 Apr 10 Sat Generations: Family & Poetry Event  
 May 1 Sat Scholarship Student Showcase  
 May 19 Sat Caribbean & African Music Concert  
 May 17 Sat Tie That Binds Us: Jewish & Afri Amer  
 Jun 6 Sun Songs of the Civil Rights Sing-a-Long  
 Jun 26 Sat Men in Black: Mozart, Motown, & More  
 Jun 27 Sun Hardcastle: An American Saga

PGCC PAC  
 Kennedy Center  
 Montpelier Arts Center  
 Public Playhouse  
 Harmony Hall  
 Church of the Epiphany  
 Kennedy Center  
 Montpelier Arts Center  
 Clarice Center  
 St. John's College  
 Public Playhouse  
 Oxon Hill Library  
 Harmony Hall Arts Center  
 St. John's Episcopal Ch  
 Kennedy Center  
 Public Playhouse  
 PGCC Arts Center  
 Kennedy Center

## SUMMER PERFORMANCES IN THE PARK:

June Puccini in the Park  
 July Diva Nation  
 August Some Enchanted Evening



## Contact Us

### CAAPA

Post Office Box 44954  
 Fort Wash., MD 20744

301-839-1444  
 info@4caapa.org  
 Visit us on the web at  
 www.4caapa.org

## ASALH Partnership

For the past several years CAAPA has been a proud partner with the **Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)** to help highlight their mission of promoting researching, preserving, interpreting, and disseminating information about Black life, history, and culture to the global community. CAAPA has interpreted annual ASALH themes through musical concerts, panels, and events. The first year we presented Black & Brave: Music in Times of War Concert; followed by Music and the Great Migration events; and Music and the Black Vote Series. Next year's ASALH theme is the Black Family. CAAPA is focusing on "Generations: Music & The Black Family", which will touch on how music influenced, impacted and was passed down throughout the generations from 1619 to the present day. 2021 CAAPA events include panel, concerts, recital, poetry event, and family fair.

CAAPA is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) arts organization (FEIN 26-0093440).

"Bringing Color to the Classics!"



CAAPA - Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts

Post Office Box 44954  
 Fort Washington, MD 20744

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