

First Inversion



Presents

HOLDING ON THROUGH SONG: THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL IN STORY AND SONG

Kearstin Piper-Brown and Jazmine Saunders, soloists

Herb Smith, trumpet

Thomas Warfield, narrator and dance

and the choir of First Inversion, Lee Wright, conductor



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 4:00PM

Live and live-streamed

Downtown United Presbyterian Church

121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, 14614





Welcome!

It is with gratitude and joy that I welcome you into collaboration today for the third presentation of “Holding on Through Song: The African-American Spiritual in Story and in Song.” As in the past, the program features American Negro Spirituals woven together with texts from those formerly enslaved and historic African-American figures who have influenced the long road to freedom and equality that we continue to walk together today. Your presence not only supports the work and play of the people on stage, but creates part of this unique performance that will never happen again in the same way. When you commit to First Inversion with your presence, you give a gift with implications far beyond your own imagining.

Thank you to all of our donors who have helped to make this performance possible. Thank you for joining us today!

In gratitude,



Lee

Lee Wright
Founder and Artistic Director
First Inversion, Rochester, NY

Our Mission Statement

First Inversion seeks to empower Rochester's finest avocational singers, engage professional singers with fresh ideas, encourage and mentor choral and conducting scholars, and to inspire our audiences through honest connection with a rich and varied repertoire. First Inversion welcomes singers who love choral music and embrace every opportunity to improve their own musicianship and choral artistry.

Board of Directors

Lee Wright, president, Joan Sussman, secretary;
Barbara Consler, treasurer; Aaron Gallant, Vice President; Michael Wells, and Kelley Madden

Program

Lord, How Come Me Here? Arr. Evelyn Simpson-Curenton (b. 1953)
Kearstin Piper-Brown, soprano

Keep Yo' Lamps Arr. Rosephyanye Powell (b. 1962)
Gone Home Arr. John Wykoff (b. 1982)
Holden Turner, baritone, Jeffrey Thompson, piano

You Must Have That True Religion Arr. Roland M. Carter (b. 1942)
Jazmine Saunders, soprano

A City Called Heaven Arr. Leonard de Paur (1914-1998)
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot Wallace Willis (1828-1880), Arr. Tarik O'Regan (b. 1978)
Oh What a Beautiful City Arr. Johnie Dean
Kearstin Piper-Brown and Jazmine Saunders, sopranos

I Don' Feel No Ways Tired Arr. Stacey V. Gibbs (b. 1962)
Here's One Arr. William Grant Still (1895-1978)
Kearstin Piper-Brown, soprano, Jeffrey Thompson, piano

The Trumpet Sounds Within-a My Soul Arr. Ian David Coleman (b. 1968)
Herb Smith, trumpet

My Child is Gone Arr. Mae Nightingale (1898-1983)

I Got a Robe Arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)
Holden Turner, Jazmine Saunders, Jacob Hunter, Kearstin Piper-Brown, soloists

Rise, Shine! Marques L.A. Garrett (b. 1984)

The Choir

Sopranos

Anna Atwater, Marrlee Burgess*,
Paulette Gissendanner,
Nicole Kulakowski, Jessica James
Kearstin Piper-Brown,
Jazmine Saunders, Joan Sussman,
Shannon Yawman

Altos

Kath Borden, Becca Clarke
Carol Kerner, Kelley Madden,
Elizabeth Kinney, Brenda Tremblay
Catherine LaValle

Tenors

Vince Bissonette, Jason Cloen
Mark Darling, David Henkel,
Jacob Hunter, Ben Monacelli,
Jeffrey Thompson

Basses

Bob Cowles, Eric Logan, Rob Kerner
Brent Neeley, Tim Lambert, Jon Madden
Jason Perfetto, Daniel Reid,
Holden Turner

* Dancing with Thomas Warfield



Thank You to our Generous Donors

Anonymous, Joanne Anderson, Joseph Balconi, Kathryn Borden, Judith Boyd, Nancy Lauder Brown, Priscilla and Rob Brown, Marrlee Burgess, Linda and Harold Clark, Tansy Deutsch, Michael Jon Foft (in memory of Michael Gehl), Aaron Gallant, Carolyn Garman, Doug Hill, Joy Lynn Hill, Kinney Music Studio, Kelley Madden, Debra McCullough, Kathryn McGory, Dr. Lori Jeanne Peloquin, Pati and Steve Piper, The estate of the Rev. Glenda Prins, Joan Sussman

Acknowledgments

This project is made possible with an award from the Greater Rochester Choral Consortium

To the staff and congregation of Downtown Presbyterian Church for your generous support

To Carl Pultz and Alembic Productions, audio recording

To Jared Ponzetti and Ben Magruder, livestream production

To Aaron Gallant, volunteer organizer

To all of our other volunteers for your invaluable help

To all of the performers for your commitment and artistry

To you, our audience, without whom we would create into a vacuum.

First Inversion, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, is a member of the Arts and Cultural Council of Greater Rochester and the Greater Rochester Choral Consortium.

Interested in Singing or Volunteering with First Inversion?

Auditions are heard upon request.

Email info@firstinversion.org with any questions,
to schedule an individual audition, or to get on our volunteer mailing list.

