

# ***South African Freedom Music, a concert***

June 20, 2025, 6:30pm

presented by Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane University

Director, Maurita N. Poole, PhD

hosted by Historic St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Rector, Rev. Dr. Jane-Allison Wiggin

curated by Dr. Courtney Bryan

## **PROGRAM**

*Khumbaya* (arr. Soweto Gospel Choir)

featuring Historic St. Luke's Episcopal Church Choir & featured dancer

Brooklyn Skye London

*Anthem for the New Nation* (Abdullah Ibrahim)

featuring Victor Campbell Trio (w/ Samuel Sandoval & Jason Williams)

& Courtney Bryan

*Malaika* (Miriam Makeba)

featuring Joshua Stewart

*Modimo* (Soweto Gospel Choir)

featuring Joel Dyson

*Stimela* (Hugh Masekela)

*Ulo* (Tonya Boyd Cannon)

featuring Tonya Boyd Cannon

*Freedom is Coming Tomorrow* (Mbongeni Ngema, from *Serafina* movie soundtrack)

This program is in conversation with Newcomb Art Museum's exhibit, *If You Look Hard Enough, You Can See Our Future: Selections of Contemporary Art* from the Nando's Art Collection, curated by Laurie Ann Farrell. Sponsors for this evening's concert include WWNO 89.9 & The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation.

Welcome to Historic Saint Luke's Episcopal Church! High Church with Soul! All are welcome!  
Celebrating 175 years as the oldest African-American Episcopal congregation in Louisiana.  
[stlukesneworleans.org](http://stlukesneworleans.org)

### About the featured artists:

Global-recording, Mississippi-born, Louisiana-raised singer-songwriter and soul artist **Tonya Boyd-Cannon** is no stranger to the music scene. The daughter of a preacher, she has been singing since she was a child. Although most of her musical training came by way of high school and middle school band directors, auditory and observation, Boyd-Cannon is a classically trained vocalist studying vocal performance in college. Boyd-Cannon got her professional start as a background vocalist for Jean Knight, best known for her 1970's hit single, "Mr. Big Stuff". Boyd-Cannon's professional career also includes work as a music vocal coach, educator, creative arts teacher, and minister of music. Beyond her television appearances, Boyd-Cannon has continued to make waves in the music industry with her soul-stirring compositions and electrifying live performances. For her, music and performing have allowed her to heal herself and bring vitality and happiness to others. Tonya is the executive director for the "Rise My Child" Foundation and holds a Masters in Fine Arts from Tulane University's Newcomb Department of Music.

**Courtney Bryan**, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, is "a pianist and composer of panoramic interests" (New York Times). Bryan's compositions have been performed by the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (Creative Partner, 2020–2023), Jacksonville Symphony (Mary Carr Patton Composer-In-Residence, 2018–2020), London Sinfonietta, LA Phil, Orchestra of St. Luke's, and Chicago Sinfonietta in a wide range of renowned venues, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Walt Disney Concert Hall, and Blue Note Jazz Club. Recent accolades include the MacArthur Fellowship (2023), Herb Alpert Award in the Arts (2018), Samuel Barber Rome Prize in Music Composition (2019–2020), and a United States Artists Fellowship (2020). Bryan is the Albert and Linda Mintz Professor of Music at Newcomb College in the School of Liberal Arts at Tulane University and a proud member of Historic St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

**Victor Campbell** is a prodigious piano player hailing from Camagüey, Cuba. His compelling style combines virtuosity, whimsy, charisma and technical prowess. Victor began playing piano at 5 years old and went on to train at Cuba's National School of the Arts. He has played all over the globe. Victor first visited New Orleans in 2012 as part of an exchange program with the Louis Armstrong Summer Jazz Camp. That visit changed his life and in 2019 Victor decided to move to New Orleans. He has been feverishly studying all styles of New Orleans music ever since and incorporating it into his own musical language. He can effortlessly transition from a blues solo, to a Cuban timba montuno, and then right into a classical piano selection. In a 2019 interview the great Chucho Valdés predicted that Victor will revolutionize Cuban jazz piano. Campbell performs internationally and was recently featured in Ryan Coogler's film, *Sinners* (2025). On Sundays, Campbell is the church organist at Historic St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

A native New Orleanian, **Joel Dyson** is a force on and off the stage. She began singing in her father's church at just four years old. Dyson's love for music led her to the New Orleans mecca of art, The New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, paving the way to Rochester, New York, where she excelled academically, receiving numerous awards, scholarships and performance opportunities at the Eastman School of Music. Dyson has had the privilege of studying under high esteemed vocal gurus such as Germaine Bazzle, Phyllis Treigle and Dr. Robert McIver to whom she attributes her success. Dyson has appeared in a vast array of performances and venues, representing global cultures and prestige, such as Carnegie Hall, the New Orleans Opera Association, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and her role as Ti Moune in the Tony Award Broadway production, "Once on this Island". Dyson's devotion to performance work and community inspired her to become an arts education advocate and leader. She is the founder and CEO of Beyond the Stage LLC, offering private theatre, piano and vocal lessons to children; as well as differentiated creative arts programming for youth in New Orleans.

**Brooklyn Skye London** is a senior at NOCCA, class of 2026, and is currently dancing with NOBA/NORD Summer intensive program and the Giordano Dance Chicago, America's original jazz company.

A leading proponent of contemporary opera, American tenor **Joshua Stewart** enjoys a successful career singing standard and often rarely-heard works. Born and raised in New Orleans, Joshua attended the prestigious New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA). A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and a former member of Munich's Bavarian State Opera Studio, Stewart has appeared in productions of directors Christoph Loy, Richard Jones, Olivier Py, and conductors Kent Nagano, Dan Ettinger, and Maurizio Benini. He has performed for world leaders, including King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden, and U.S. Presidents George H. W. Bush, William J. Clinton, and Barack Obama. Joshua Stewart continues to thrill audiences worldwide with his extraordinary talent, which has cemented his place as one of the premier tenors of his generation.