

# THE PROGRAM

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## I. SPIRITUALS

Arranged by Hall Johnson (1888-1970)

My Good Lord Done Been Here  
Ain't Got Time to Die

David Jennings-Smith  
Juddson Poeske and Choir

## II. SHOW BOAT

Music by Jerome Kern (1885-1945)

Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960)

Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man  
Bill  
O' Man River

Mariko Reid  
Beth Bush  
Todd Farwell

## III. EUBIE

Music by Eubie Blake (1887-1983)

Lyrics from *Eubie!* by Andy Razaf (1895-1973)

Lyrics from *Shuffle Along* by Noble Sissle (1889-1975)

Memories of You (from *Eubie!*)  
Weary (from *Eubie!*)

Beth Bush  
Adrianna Cleveland

Just Wild About Harry (from *Shuffle Along*)

Ensemble

*Please join in singing when directed by the Ensemble:*

I'm just wild about Harry and Harry's wild about me;  
The heavenly blisses of his kisses fill me with ecstasy.  
He's sweet just like chocolate candy, and just like honey from a bee;  
Oh, I'm just wild about Harry and he's just wild about,  
Cannot do without, he's just wild about me.

## IV. DUKE ELLINGTON

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (1899-1974)

*Solitude* with Eddie DeLange (1904-1949) and Irving Mills (1894-1985)

*Satin Doll* with Billy Strayhorn (1915-1967) and Johnny Mercer (1909-1976)

Solitude (from *Sophisticated Ladies*)  
Satin Doll (from *Sophisticated Ladies*)  
Come Sunday

Gail Mosites  
Marcus Kim  
Carly Noel Black

## V. ART SONGS BY AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN

Set to poems by Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

sung by Denise Sheffey-Powell

Song to the Dark Virgin  
Dream Variation  
Love Let the Wind Cry...How I Adore Thee

Florence Price (1887-1953)  
Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)  
Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989)

## VI. KURT WEILL

Music by Kurt Weill (1900-1950)

Lyrics from *Lost in the Stars* by Maxwell Anderson (1888-1959)

Lyrics from *Street Scene* by Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

**Lost in the Stars** (from *Lost in the Stars*)

Todd Farwell and Choir

**Lonely House** (from *Street Scene*)

Marcus Kim

**Stay Well** (from *Lost in the Stars*)

Gail Mosites

## VII. AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'

Music by Fred E. Ahlert (1892-1953) and Lyrics by Roy Turk (1892-1934)

**Mean to Me**

Mariko Reid

Music by Thomas "Fats" Waller (1904-1943)

**Ain't Misbehavin'**

Gabriel D'Abruzzo

Music by Thomas "Fats" Waller (1904-1943) and by Harry Brooks (1895-1970)

Lyrics by Andy Razaf (1895-1973)

**Black and Blue**

Carly Noel Black (Nell), Adrianna Cleveland (Armelia)

Denise Sheffey-Powell (Charlaine)

David Jennings-Smith (Andre)

Juddson Poeske (Ken)

## VIII. THE GERSHWINS

Music by George Gershwin (1898-1937)

Lyrics by Ira Gershwin (1896-1983)

**Someone to Watch Over Me** (from *Oh, Kay!*)

Mary K. Randolph

**Our Love Is Here to Stay** (from *Goldwyn Follies*)

Carly Noel Black

**Summertime** (from *Porgy and Bess*)

Adrianna Cleveland

**There's A Boat Dat's Leavin'** (from *Porgy and Bess*)

Juddson Poeske

**Bess, Oh Where's My Bess** (from *Porgy and Bess*)

Adrianna Cleveland (Mariah)

Denise Sheffey-Powell (Serena)

David Jennings-Smith (Porgy)

**Oh Lord, I'm On My Way** (from *Porgy and Bess*)

David Jennings-Smith and Choir

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## PERFORMERS

Carly Noel Black, Beth Bush, Adrianna Cleveland, Todd Farwell  
David Jennings-Smith, Marcus Kim, Gail Mosites, Juddson Poeske  
Mary Randolph, Mariko Reid, Denise Sheffey-Powell

Gabriel D'Abruzzo, *Music Associate and Pianist*

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Music Director*

# Notes on the Music and Art

## Hall Johnson (1888-1970)

- ❖ Elevated African-American Spirituals to new prominence
- ❖ Taught himself to play violin and viola and played professionally in the orchestra for Eubie Blake's *Shuffle Along*
- ❖ Interest in choral music led him to form the *Hall Johnson Negro Choir (1925)*
- ❖ Choral works can be heard in such films as *Cabin in the Sky*, *Lost Horizon* and *The Green Pastures*
- ❖ Also composed music for solo voice and piano that was performed by Marian Anderson and Shirley Verrett

## Artist: Aaron Douglas (1899-1979)

- ❖ Born in Topeka, Kansas. Moved to New York City in 1925
- ❖ Major figure in the *Harlem Renaissance*
- ❖ Founded art department at Fisk University

## Jerome Kern (1885-1945)

- ❖ Collaborated with composers such as Ira Gershwin, Johnny Mercer, Dorothy Fields and many more
- ❖ Was a rehearsal pianist on Broadway and Tin Pan Alley music publishers
- ❖ Famous songs include: *A Fine Romance*, *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*, *The Way You Look Tonight*
- ❖ Inducted to the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1970
- ❖ Won 2 Academy Awards for *The Way You Look Tonight* in 1936 and *The Last Time I Saw Paris* in 1946

## Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960)

- ❖ Member of American Theater Hall of Fame
- ❖ Famous songs include *People Will Say We're In Love*, *Getting to Know You*, *Climb Ev'ry Mountain*, and *Indian Love Call*
- ❖ The last song he wrote was *Edelweiss*
- ❖ Most successful collaborations were with Richard Rogers and Jerome Kern
- ❖ Won many awards, including 2 Oscars, 2 Pulitzers, 8 Tony's, and The Hundred Year Association of New York's Gold Medal Award with Richard Rogers

## Artist: Palmer Hayden (1890-1973)

- ❖ Born *Peyton Cole Hedgeman* in Widewater, Virginia. Stripped of birth name by his commanding officer in World War I
- ❖ Moved to Greenwich Village following the war
- ❖ Studied at Columbia University

## Eubie Blake (1887-1983)

- ❖ Started playing music in a music store between 4-5 years old
- ❖ Played the Melodeon and piano
- ❖ Composed *Charleston Rag* when he was 12 years old
- ❖ Part of The Dixie Duo with Noble Sissle during the popularity of vaudeville
- ❖ Appeared in *Pie*, *Pie Blackbird* along with *the Nicholas Brother*, *Nina Mae McKinney*, and *Noble Sissle*
- ❖ Frequent guest on The Tonight Show
- ❖ Received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Ronald Reagan
- ❖ Degrees from Rutgers, Dartmouth, University of Maryland, Morgan State University, Howard University

**Noble Sissle (1889-1975)**

- ❖ Renowned jazz composer, lyricist, bandleader, singer and playwright
- ❖ Helped form the New York City 369<sup>th</sup> Regimental Band with Lt. James Reese Europe during his service with the U.S. Army during WWI
- ❖ Played violin and drums
- ❖ Performed alongside Lena Horne
- ❖ Helped establish and became President of the Negro Actors Guild
- ❖ Was an honorary mayor of Harlem in 1950
- ❖ Two popular musicals are *Shuffle Along* and *Chocolate Dandies*
- ❖ *Shuffle Along* starred Josephine Baker, Paul Robeson and Gertrude Saunders and was widely successful across the country and sold-out in multiple venues

**Artist: Selma Burke (1900-1995)**

- ❖ Born in Mooresville, North Carolina
- ❖ Founded two art schools in New York City and Pittsburgh, PA
- ❖ Best known for her sculpture of Franklin D. Roosevelt
- ❖ Last major work is statue of Martin Luther King, Jr. in Charlotte, NC

**Duke Ellington (1899-1974)**

- ❖ Full name - Edward Kennedy Ellington
- ❖ Started learning piano at age 7
- ❖ Childhood friend Edgar McEntree gave him the nickname "Duke" from the way his manner and elegance which was taught to him by his mother, Daisy Kennedy Ellington
- ❖ Only really had interest in playing piano after hearing players such as Cliff Jackson, Claude Hopkins, Eubie Blake, and many others
- ❖ Continued to be guided by amazing musicians such as Fats Waller, Sidney Bechet, and Will Marion Cook

- ❖ Working at the Cotton Club gave him International Exposure
- ❖ Won 12 Grammys, The Presidential Medal of Freedom, Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and 4 Honorary Degrees from Prestigious Colleges

**Florence Price (1887-1953)**

- ❖ Attended New England Conservatory of Music with a major in Piano and Organ
- ❖ Studied composition and counterpoint
- ❖ Graduated with an artist diploma in organ and teaching certificate with honors
- ❖ Head of the Music Department at Clark University
- ❖ Moved to Chicago with her husband during racial tragedies in Little Rock, Arkansas
- ❖ Enrolled at Chicago Musical College, Chicago Teacher's College, University of Chicago and American Conservatory where she studied languages and liberal arts
- ❖ Organist for silent movie films and radio ads
- ❖ Lived with student/ friend Margaret Bonds (who connected Price with Langston Hughes and Marian Anderson)
- ❖ Won First Prize in the Wanamaker Foundation Awards for Symphony in E minor and third Piano Sonata which was a prize of \$500
- ❖ Was inducted into the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in 1940

**Artist: Earl J. Hooks (1927-2005)**

- ❖ Born in Baltimore, MD
- ❖ Graduated from Howard University, Catholic University of America, Rochester Institute of Technology
- ❖ Chair of art department at Fisk University

**Artist: John Wilson (1922-2015)**

- ❖ Born in Roxbury, Massachusetts
- ❖ Bronze bust of Martin Luther King, Jr. in the United States Capitol Rotunda
- ❖ Graduated from Tufts University and studied in Paris
- ❖ Professor of art at Boston University

**Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)**

- ❖ Frequent collaborator with Langston Hughes
- ❖ Lived with many highly recognized African Americans such as Florence Price, Abbie Mitchell and Will Marion Cook
- ❖ Completed her first work at the age of 5 titled *Marquette Street Blues*
- ❖ Took piano lessons from her mother and composition lessons from Florence Price and William Dawson
- ❖ Part of the National Association of Negro Musicians
- ❖ One of a few African Americans to graduate from Northwestern University with both a B.M. and a M.M.
- ❖ Won the Wanamaker Award for her song *Sea-Ghost* in 1932
- ❖ Was a pianist with Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1933 in Florence Price's piano concerto with Women's Symphony Orchestra of Chicago
- ❖ Studied composition at the Julliard School
- ❖ Taught Nadia Boulanger *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*, set for voice and piano to a poem by Langston Hughes
- ❖ Formed the Margaret Bonds Chamber Society
- ❖ Wrote *Montgomery Variations* for orchestra in 1965 and dedicated it to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- ❖ Collaborated with Langston Hughes on several works

**Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989)**

- ❖ Studied piano at age 7
- ❖ Continued piano studies at Fisk University
- ❖ At age 20 received a scholarship to Julliard, the first Fisk graduate to do so, and graduated *cum laude*
- ❖ Graduated from Columbia University in 1931 and taught piano, organ and music theory at Virginia State University
- ❖ Received an Honorary Doctorate of Music from Virginia State and Indiana University and awarded the title Music Laureate of Virginia in 1977
- ❖ Composed a piece for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. titled *Scenes from the Life of a Martyr*, which premiered at Carnegie Hall
- ❖ Nominated for a Pulitzer Prize
- ❖ Received the National Association of Negro Musicians Distinguished Achievement Award, the Virginia Governor's Award in the Arts and a Candace Award from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women

**Langston Hughes (1902-1967)**

- ❖ Full Name - James Mercer Langston Hughes
- ❖ Very proud of his ancestry
- ❖ Started writing when he was young after his family moved to Cleveland
- ❖ Wrote for his High School newspaper
- ❖ Attended Columbia until 1922, but left because of racial complications
- ❖ Attended Lincoln University alongside Judge Thurgood Marshall and earned a B.A.
- ❖ Published his First work in 1921 in *The Crisis*, official magazine of the NAACP
- ❖ His style is seen as a depiction of the lives of the working-class African Americans such as the struggles, the music, etc.
- ❖ Received the Guggenheim Fellowship in 1935 (traveled to Russia and Spain)
- ❖ Awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Howard University and Western Reserve University

**Artist: Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller (1877-1968)**

- ❖ Born in Philadelphia, PA
- ❖ Protégé of August Rodin
- ❖ Forerunner of the Harlem Renaissance
- ❖ First African-American woman to receive a commission from the U.S. government

**Kurt Weill (1900-1950)**

- ❖ Studied composition under Engelbert Humperdinck
- ❖ Studied under Ferruccio Busoni from January 1921- December 1923 as one of five students in compositions
- ❖ Met his muse and wife Lotte Lenya
- ❖ Most famous works include *The Threepenny Opera*, *Lost in the Stars*, *Street Scene*, and *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*

**Artist: William H. Johnson (1901-1970)**

- ❖ Born in Florence, SC
- ❖ Studied in Paris
- ❖ Featured on U.S. Postal Service stamp in 2012 as part of *American Treasures* series

**Fats Waller (1904-1943)**

- ❖ Full Name - Thomas Wright Waller
- ❖ Best known for his stride piano, comedic style and singing
- ❖ Played piano and organ
- ❖ Learned stride piano from James P. Johnson
- ❖ Credited with several popular songs such as *Honeysuckle Rose*, *Squeeze Me*, *I Can't Give You Anything but Love, Baby*, *Tain't Nobody's Business If I Do* and many more
- ❖ Appeared in *Stormy Weather* alongside Lena Horne, Cab Calloway, the Nicholas Brothers and many more
- ❖ Performed Bach organ works and recorded pipe organ solo pieces

**Artist: Ellis Wilson (1899-1977)**

- ❖ Born in Mayfield, Kentucky
- ❖ Graduate of Chicago Art Institute
- ❖ Moved to Harlem in 1928
- ❖ Won many awards, but never became wealthy and was buried in a pauper's grave

**The Gershwins**

**George Gershwin (1898-1937)**

- ❖ Full Name - Jacob Gershowitz
- ❖ Grew up around the Yiddish Theater District and would occasionally perform as an extra
- ❖ Wasn't interested in music until he heard Maxie Rosenzweig's violin recital
- ❖ Spent a lot of time practicing on the piano that parents bought for Ira
- ❖ First job was in Tin Pan Alley earning \$15/ week
- ❖ *Porgy and Bess*, considered his most important and influential work, was not well received during its debut
- ❖ After the lack of success for *Porgy and Bess*, he moved to LA to work for RKO Pictures
- ❖ *The Goldwyn Follies* was his final composition

**Ira Gerswhin (1896-1983)**

- ❖ Full Name - Israel Gershowitz
- ❖ Shy, introvert, wrote for his school magazines and newspapers
- ❖ Loved Gilbert and Sullivan works
- ❖ Went under the name Arthur Francis so as not to seem as if he was using George's success
- ❖ With George, some of their most famous works include *Lady, Be Good*, *A Dangerous Maid*, etc.
- ❖ Retired from writing for 3 years after George's death
- ❖ Teamed up with Jerome Kern, Kurt Weill and Harold Arlen
- ❖ Final work was *A Star is Born*
- ❖ Received a Pulitzer Prize for *Of Thee I Sing*