

Mosaic Harmony
presents
COMMUNITY & UNITY IN SONG



WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
GENOUT & TEMA CHOIR USA



**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Fairfax**

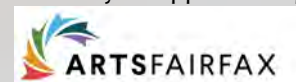
2709 Hunter Mill Road,
Oakton, VA 22024

Masks optional

Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 5:00pm

www.mosaicharmony.org

Mosaic Harmony is supported in part by



Welcome!

On behalf of Mosaic Harmony, Tema USA and GenOUT, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this year's Community & Unity in Song Concert. This is the second year in a row we are presenting this concert, and we sincerely hope you enjoy today's concert and appreciate your support. Mosaic Harmony's partnership with GenOUT and Tema USA has provided us the opportunity to reach our Vision 2025 goal of musical partnerships and excellence. Sit back and join us for an evening of great music and once again, thank you for joining us.



Crystal Jefferson

2023-2024 Mosaic Harmony Board President

Our heartfelt thanks to those who helped make tonight's concert possible.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Ben Mellott, A/V Technician
Sabine Creamer - Mosaic Harmony, Director of Programs and Administration

Kim Moss - Program Design

Our Concert Volunteers

Program

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW

MOSAIC HARMONY

Connected	By Brian Tate
Khumbayah	Arr. L. Bok
I Believe in the Humanity of Humanity	By David K. North

GENOUT

Always A Place for You	Words and music by Philip Silvey
Rainbow	<i>arr. by Mark Brymer</i> Words and music by Kacey Musgraves, Shane McNally, and Natalie Hemby
I Was Here	<i>arr. by Alan Billingsley</i> Words and music by Gary Burr, Hilary Scott, and Victoria Shaw

TEMA CHOIR USA

O God, Our Help in Ages Past	By Isaac Watts
Agya Nyame Na W'aye (It's God who has done it)	By Same Asare-Bediako
Israel Ani Begye (Joy will come to Israel)	Arr. Prof. J. Y. Sekyi-Baidoo

JOINT PERFORMANCE BY MOSAIC HARMONY, GENOUT AND TEMA CHOIR USA

Harmony	By David K. North
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CONCERT ANNOUNCING TEAM

Eddie Adkins

Sue Price

Nikki Barnett Harrell

Laura Schanes Romstedt

About the Musicians

CHRISTIAN DAVIS, PIANO



Christian is a native of Virginia and has been a musician for more than 25 years. She is a graduate of Northern Virginia Community College where she received her degree in music with a focus on jazz.

In addition to being a multi-instrumentalist, Christian is a songwriter and has produced songs for various Indie artists in the DC-Maryland-Virginia area, including herself and the group JSYPraise. She serves as a teacher for Fairfax County Public Schools and a musician for area churches.

RON SKINNER, BASS



Ron has been playing bass guitar for more than 25 years with a focus on contemporary gospel music, although he also enjoys playing traditional gospel.

He has been involved in several other music projects and has performed throughout the Washington metropolitan area at various venues, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Millennium Stage. In addition to working with Mosaic Harmony, Ron is a freelance bass guitarist/guitarist. Ron has been the bass guitarist for Mosaic Harmony since 1994. Ron is also the bassist for the BAC OUT Band in Herndon, Virginia.

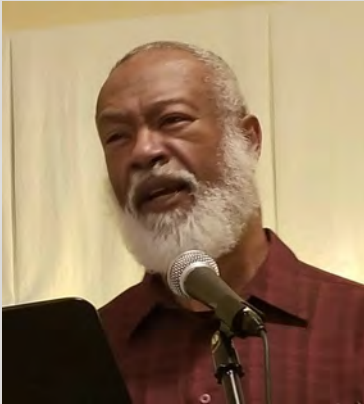
ALLEN CAESAR, DRUMS



Allen started playing musical instruments in the early '60s. He started with the piano, moved to the organ and eventually became interested in the drums. Allen's interest in the drums led him to play in the Drum Corp Jr. High School Band and play with local rock bands. In the '80s, Allen started a new musical venture when he played with Stan Ford and The Chosen. This led to the religious community approaching him to play for their choirs. At the same time, Allen started incorporating sound control and electronic drums into his repertoire which has considerably enhanced his musical style and abilities. Allen was adopted into the Mosaic Harmony family in 1997.

About the Directors

David K. North, *Director of Mosaic Harmony*



David has been sharing his ministry in word and song his entire life. He has been the director of many musical groups, including the Southern Illinois University Gospel Choir; the Youth for Christ Fellowship Mass Choir of Washington, DC; the Metropolitan Community Church of Washington Gospel Choir; and David North and the Gospel Celebration. David has been singing and performing professionally for more than 50 years. He has been the Music Director of Mosaic Harmony since 1996. David has produced and performed on multiple recordings and has been a soloist at the Kennedy Center with the Men and Women of the Gospel. In addition, he played the lead role of Oedipus in *The Gospel at Colonus* at the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop and at the H Street Playhouse of Washington, DC. David cares for all people, having worked as a social worker for 21 years and having served for over 29 years in ordained pastoral ministry. He feels a special calling to be a “bridge person” in interfaith opportunities, and he loves writing music that communicates peace, unity, and harmony. David is especially grateful that Mosaic Harmony provides a powerful witness to this cause.

Laura Weiss - *Assistant Director, Mosaic Harmony*



Laura Weiss (BA Music/MA Teaching) is currently the Director of Music and Arts and the Worship Coordinator for the UU Congregation of Fairfax in Oakton, VA. In addition to serving as UUCF program director, pianist and vocalist since 2016, she directs the worship bands, Joyful Noise Children's Choir, Voices of Hope Youth Choir, and the UUCF Community Choir that is traveling to London in June 2023 to perform under the baton of John Rutter. Laura serves as the National Director of relational advocacy for music professionals in the Association for UU Music Ministries in Unitarian Universalism and holds memberships for NAFME, ACDA, NVMTA, and VCDA. She has been invited as a choral director to attend the Oxford Choral Institute with the Westminster Choir in summer of 2024 and is working toward becoming a DMA Music Education candidate at Boston University. Laura maintains a busy private piano studio in Oakton and loves sharing life with her daughter Adia and four-year old golden retriever, Parker. 🎵

About the Directors

Ebenezer Allotey, Artistic Director of Tema Choir USA



Internationally recognized musician, conductor and educator, Ebenezer A. Allotey, is well-known for his work as organist and Founder/Director of the Presbyterian Senior Secondary School Choir in Tema - Ghana, founded in June 1997, as well as the Founder and Artistic Director of the Tema Youth Choir, also based in Ghana. Founded in November 2001, the Tema Youth Choir is currently known as one of the top choirs in Ghana, and has been a recipient of the Ceval Gospel Award.

In December 2008 Mr. Allotey relocated to the United States. Over the years, he has served as the Music Director/Organist for Ghana Calvary United Methodist Church, Verona, NJ, St. Catherine of Genoa Catholic Church, Brooklyn, NY, Ghana Wesley United Methodist Church, Woodbridge, VA, and Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Woodbridge, VA. Mr. Allotey continues to strengthen his reputation as a fine choral director and community leader as the Founder and Artistic Director of the Tema Choir USA, and sustains his commitment to developing young musicians as a music teacher at the Crème De La Crème, Early Childhood Education Center, Port Potomac Inc, Woodbridge, VA.

C. Paul Heins, Director of GenOUT Youth Chorus



C. Paul Heins joined the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC (GMCW) artistic team as associate conductor in the 2014 – 2015 season. Dr. Heins's principal role with GMCW is directing the GenOUT Youth Chorus, an outreach ensemble for LGBTQ+ and allied youth founded in 2015. Under Dr. Heins's leadership, GenOUT has grown from its inaugural class of nine singers to a current enrollment of 23 singers representing more than two dozen schools in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Over the past six years, more than 120 students from over 60 schools have participated in GenOUT Youth Chorus and camps, and notable performance venues have included the Kennedy Center, the Library of Congress, the Washington National Cathedral, and the White House for President Obama.

Dr. Heins's previous appointments include Georgetown University, the Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington, the Washington Master Chorale, Washington Men's Camerata, and the College of William & Mary. He was musical director for three GMCW musicals. Dr. Heins is a frequent guest pianist, flutist, and conductor in the DC area. He was trained in piano and flute at Bowling Green State University, flute at the University of Maryland, and choral conducting at the University of Maryland.

About the Artists

Mosaic Harmony is a community choir where people find love and acceptance regardless of color, religion, sexual orientation, or any other differences. We celebrate diversity and inclusiveness, sharing our message through the powerful medium of song, and inspiring our audiences to embrace ALL people.

Music performed by the choir includes traditional and contemporary gospel music and new music written by David K. North. Learn more and join us at mosaicharmony.org.



David K. North, Director
Laura Weiss, Assistant Director

Musicians
Christian Davis, Piano; Allen Caesar, Drums; Ron Skinner, Bass



Mosaic Harmony Performing Members

SOPRANO

Andra Baylus
Sabine Creamer
Shelley Gutstein
Faye Higdon
Kelly Miller

Edna Nalls[♫]
Laura Schanes Romstedt
Claudia Stallings
Karen Stern

ALTO

Menda Ahart
Teri Bertsch
Jan Callaway
Beverly Cosham
Karen Flann
Nikki Barnett Harrell
Midge Holmes
Roxane Hughes
Libby Jenkins
Hey-Jin Kong
Teresa McConnel[♫]
Kim Moss

Vivian Nixon
Lauren Ramenofsky
Raquel Silverman
Shana Spiegel
Janice Toney
Lenore Walsh
Janet Ward
Maggie Wrobel
Lisa Wysocki

TENOR

Bill Forster
Ann Herington
Kurt Jaeger
Crystal Jefferson
Peggy Kramer
Reggie Ott

Sue Price
Sharon Van Duizend
Bruce Wheeler
Sallie Williams[♫]

BASS

Dennis Bertsch
Tim Donovan
Al Polk
Doug Powell
Jim Ramenofsky[♫]

Ron Staley
Ken Toney
Dick Van Duizend

[♫] Section leaders
Sign language interpreter

About the Artists



The GenOUT Youth Chorus is the Washington, DC area’s only vocal ensemble for LGBTQ+ and allied youth. An outreach ensemble of the Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, DC, GenOUT operates under the two-fold mission: (1) to give LGBTQ+ and allied youth a voice through song, and (2) to connect that voice to community. The ensemble is open to all singers between the ages of 13 and 18. Since its debut in spring 2015, the GenOUT Chorus has performed at the Lincoln Theatre, the Kennedy Center, Washington National Cathedral, the White House, the Library of Congress, the GALA Choruses Festival, and ACDA’s National Conference. Nearly 140 singers from over 80 schools have participated in GenOUT. In Spring 2024, 24 singers from schools in and around the DC metro area are singing in GenOUT. More info here: www.gmcw.org/outreach/genout.

Director: C. Paul Heins 🎵 **Chorus Manager:** Javon Byam 🎵 **Accompanist Team:** Barbara Schelstrate, Jason Sherlock, Alex Tang - *(Barbara will be the accompanist for today’s performance)*

SOPRANOS	ALTOS	TENORS	BASSES
Maysen Bedsole	Cal Ausema	Victor Coleman	Lawrence Florio*
Ben Biggs	Mia Cary	Quinn Frankiewicz	Lucas Olivo
Maddy Dean*	Mia Garcia	Victor Kidwell*	Ezra Thomas
Iris Maas	Logan Lipshultz*	Mercury Major	Zach Briskin-Watson
Rian Russell	Anjali Murthy*	Kai Perley	
Asher Wise	Ailsa Ostovitz	Ziv Stuart*	
	Harry Rouse		
	Birch Shea		

**member of Youth Leadership Team*



GenOUT Class of Fall 2022

About the Artists



Tema Choir USA, Inc. takes its roots from famous Ghanaian choral music group, Tema Youth Choir. Following the relocation of the founder of Tema Youth Choir, Ebenezer A. Allotey, to the United States of America from Ghana, Tema Choir USA was founded to sustain and build upon its sister choir's praiseworthy feats. Founded in November 2019 under the direction of Ebenezer A. Allotey, Tema Choir USA is a diverse volunteer, non-auditioned choir with a mission to create community, foster unity and build a better world through music. Comprised of singers representing a wide range of age, religious beliefs and cultural backgrounds, Tema Choir USA uses choral music as a vehicle for bringing communities together in order to promote and create social change. The choir is based in Woodbridge, Virginia and will regularly hold at least four performances a year to raise funds for those less privileged both locally and nationally. To learn more about Tema, visit <https://www.temachoirusa.org/>.

SOPRANOS

Josephine A. Allotey
Joana Bartels
Hilda E. Azariah
Mercy Baisel
Matilda Quartey
Mary Anderson Oduro

ALTOS

Georgina Morgan
Nana Ama Kokumah

TENORS

Kelvin Prempeh
Ebenezer S. Allotey
Godfred Baisel

BASSES

George Abankwa
John Dadzie
Victor E. Azariah
Richard K. Otoo
Albert Owusu Asare
Gabriel Opare





30th ANNIVERSARY



30th Annual Fundraising Concert Sunday, June 23, 2024

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www.mosaicharmony.org



Mosaic Harmony is supported in part by

