

PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY MUSIC DEPARTMENT



3rd ANNUAL
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
TRIBUTE CONCERT
FEATURING
THE STRING QUEENS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026
4:00 PM • "THE BOWD"

This performance was made possible through the generous support of the Jane and
Clint Gilbert Music Fund

Program

There's a Man Goin' Round arr. Moses Hogan
Ryan Ramos, Albert Zhu, Shiloh Ffrench - *soloists*

Roll, Jordan, Roll arr. Stacey V. Gibbs

Concert Choir
Kristofer Johnson, *director*

Sopranos

Helena Brown
Elle Cohen
Lauren Lee
Anushka Noori
Ryan Ramos
Daphne Ryerson
Avika Shukla
Juliana Tavarez
Laurel Van De Water
Harini Venkatesh
Claire Xiao
Enya Yu

Altos

Chloe Bosma
Shiloh Ffrench
Rezi Ifowodo
Annika Nystedt
Olivia Ojukwu
Ally Rubin
Ava Salvator
Mathilde Senter
Emerson Seymour
Natalie Sherman
Emi Southgate
Arisa Yoshino
Christina Zheng

Tenors

Elizabeth Flynn
Teddy Hosmer
Ezequiel Martinez
Tobe Muoto
Mary Olasore
Alex Pena
Olivia Pierre
Ved Reddy
Andrew Su
Max Wittayavanichai

Basses

Bryan Cho
Gary Guo
Gabriel Kim
Amerson Liang
Alex Luo
Gavin Lyle
Anshul Noori
Andy Song
Simon Taylor
Karsten Vun
Max Webster
Henry Wise
Albert Zhu



The String Queens *selections to be announced*

The String Queens (founded in 2017) is a dynamic string trio that is committed to creating diverse musical experiences that inspire audiences to love, hope, think, and imagine. The trio has performed all over the world and has graced stages everywhere from Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center to name a few. Education is at the forefront of The String Queens' mission, and the group travels the world imparting teaching strategies, first-hand experience, curriculum design and pedagogy to arts teachers, schools and students all over the world.

Meet the Artists



ÉLISE SHARP

Élise Sharp, a native Washingtonian, began playing the cello in the DC Youth Orchestra Program (DCYOP) when she was eight years old. As a student at DCYOP, she was afforded the distinct honor of performing under the baton of the late, great cellist and conductor, Mstislav Rostropovich, and was selected to tour with the orchestra to China and Taiwan.

Inspired by the rigorous training and diverse experiences that she received as a student at DCYOP, Élise continued her musical studies at Howard University where she pursued a Bachelor's degree in Music Education.

She has graced some of the world's most renowned stages in performances alongside musical legends Whitney Houston, Tye Tribbett, Donnie McClurkin, Aretha Franklin, and Dionne Warwick, to name a few. In addition, Élise has performed for three former Presidents of the United States of America including, George H. W. Bush, William J. Clinton, and Barack Obama.

Élise went back to the DC Youth Orchestra Program, where it all started, and served as cello instructor and conductor of two ensembles for over twenty years. Currently, she is the director of the music program at a public charter school in the District of Columbia.



DAWN JOHNSON

Named as the recipient of the 31st Annual Mayor's Award for Excellence in Performing Arts Teaching in Washington, D.C., Dawn Michelle Johnson is a graduate (B.M, M.M) of The Juilliard School in New York City and has been recognized by her alma mater for her "Outstanding Achievement and Leadership in Music" as a recipient of the Jerome L. Greene Fellowship, the Irene Diamond Scholarship, and the Peter Mennin Award in Music.

A native of Miami, FL, Dawn is a violist and music educator who has given masterclasses around the world and has been featured as soloist with the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra, the New World Symphony, the Santa Fe Virtuosi, and the Ars Flores Chamber Orchestra. In addition, her contributions to the field of music education have earned her recognition as a quarter-finalist for the 1st Annual GRAMMY Music Educator Award, a recipient of KIPP DC's Executive Director's Award, and the title of one of GLAMOUR Magazine's "Top 10 College Women". She has previously served as a member of the viola faculty for The Killington Music Festival in Vermont and the DC Youth Orchestra Program in Washington, D.C.



KENDALL ISADORE

Kendall Nicole Isadore is an educator, violinist, vocalist, pianist and songwriter, originally from Houston, Texas and currently residing in the Washington, DC area. After finishing her Bachelor of Science degree (in Biology) at Howard University, she began teaching middle school science.

In 2014, she was invited to found one of KIPP DC's middle schools (Northeast Academy) as the inaugural Orchestra Director. There, she created a strings program that prioritized excellence, character building, creative expression, and commitment through the vehicle of music. She later became a vice principal at the school and was an instructional coach to the science, math and electives teachers.

Though she loved managing and coaching adults, Kendall longed for the classroom and later transitioned to another KIPP DC campus where she founded a second strings program. After 4 years, Kendall made the tough choice to transition out of the teaching profession to shift into a brand new role. She currently serves as the Director of Enrollment Management at Bishop McNamara High School, a private school in Prince George's County, Maryland. Kendall is also a graduate of The George Washington University where she earned a Master of Arts degree in Education Policy and Administration. Matriculating through GW's program was truly a highlight in her educational journey, and it solidified her passion for ensuring that every child everywhere receives the world class education they deserve - no matter what and by any means.

Kendall understands that with God, all things are possible, and above all, she seeks to bring Him glory in everything she does. She lives by her family's motto: "Keep trying, never give up, until you succeed."



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