



Emancipation to the Harlem Renaissance), and a production of **Adolphus Hailstork's *Done Made My Vow, A Ceremony*** (written to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Norfolk State University, a Historically Black College), narrated by **Simon Estes** and featuring soprano **Janinah Burnett**, tenor **Rodrick Dixon**, and treble **Ebony Spicer** (all in their NY Phil debuts) as well as the **New York Philharmonic Chorus**, directed by **Malcolm J. Merriweather. Thompson** directs the semi-staged production, which features video by **Rasean Davonté Johnson** and lighting design by **Robert Wierzel**; the three are making their NY Phil debuts.

- **The collaboration with Interlochen Arts Academy** ([March 3, 2023](#)) opens with the World Premiere of **मुक्ति : MUKTI**, an interdisciplinary work — conceived and performed by **Interlochen Arts Academy Students** — that focuses on liberation of all kinds, journeying through individuals and societies, culminating in the possibility of hope and new considerations. That is followed by a side-by-side orchestral performance by the **Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra** and **NY Phil musicians** — many of them Interlochen alumni — performing **Valerie Coleman's *Umoja***; **Jonathan Bailey Holland's *Equality***; **Mary Watkins's *Soul of Remembrance***; and **John Wineglass's *Unburied, Unmourned, Unmarked: Requiem for Rice***.

Two free activities round out *LIBERATION*:

- ***What Does It Mean To Be Free?*** ([March 1, 2023](#)) is a discussion with composer and musician **Courtney Bryan** centering on representations of liberation and self in music by Black composers. Taking place at Mother AME Zion Church in Harlem — one of the NY Phil's 2022–23 season Community Partners, which is co-presenting the event, along with Lincoln Center — it is part of [The Unanswered Questions](#).
- **Music and Meditation Project** ([March 4, 2023](#)), part of [Take a Breath](#) — the NY Phil's new series of free 90-minute workshops focused on mental health and wellness, presented in the Kenneth C. Griffin Sidewalk Studio, David Geffen Hall — is led by facilitator **Oneika Mays**, a yoga and meditation teacher, and features performances by saxophonist **Steven Banks** (2022 Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient) and **students from Interlochen Arts Academy**.

### **Biographies**

**Concerts:** [Leslie B. Dunner](#), [Tazewell Thompson](#), [Rasean Davonté Johnson](#), [Robert Wierzel](#), [Ryan Speedo Green](#), [Simon Estes](#), [Janinah Burnett](#), [Rodrick Dixon](#), [Ebony Spicer](#), [New York Philharmonic Chorus](#) directed by [Malcolm J. Merriweather](#), [New York Philharmonic](#), [Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra](#)

**The Unanswered Questions:** [Courtney Bryan](#)

**Take a Breath:** [Oneika Mays](#), [Steven Banks](#), [Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra](#)

### **Health and Safety Protocols**

For up-to-date information on our health and safety protocols, visit [nyphil.org/safety](https://nyphil.org/safety).

### **Tickets**

Tickets to New York Philharmonic performances — including *Take a Breath*, which is free but for which tickets are required — may be purchased or reserved online at [nyphil.org](http://nyphil.org) or by calling **(212) 875-5656**, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday; and noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets may also be purchased or reserved at the **Welcome Center at David Geffen Hall**. The Welcome Center opens at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and at noon on Sunday. On performance evenings, the Welcome Center closes one-half hour after performance time; other evenings it closes at 6:00 p.m. *The Unanswered Questions* event at Mother AME Zion Church is free; no advance reservations are required.

For press tickets, contact Lanore Carr at (212) 875-5714 or [carrl@nyphil.org](mailto:carrl@nyphil.org).

### **Event Listing for LIBERATION**

#### ***THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FREE?***

**Co-Presented with Mother AME Zion Church**

Mother AME Zion Church | 140 West 137th Street, Harlem

Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Courtney Bryan, *speaker*

*The Unanswered Questions: What Does It Mean To Be Free?*

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#### **LESLIE B. DUNNER CONDUCTS WORLD PREMIERE BY COURTNEY BRYAN & TAZEWELL THOMPSON AND WORKS BY STILL AND HAILSTORK**

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Thursday, March 2, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 4, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Leslie B. Dunner, conductor  
Tazewell Thompson\*, director  
Rasean Davonté Johnson\*, video artist  
Robert Wierzel\*, lighting designer  
Ryan Speedo Green\*, bass-baritone  
Simon Estes, narrator  
Janinah Burnett\*, soprano  
Rodrick Dixon\*, tenor  
Ebony Spicer\*, treble  
New York Philharmonic Chorus  
Malcolm J. Merriweather, director

Courtney BRYAN & Tazewell THOMPSON  
STILL  
Adolphus HAILSTORK

*Gathering Song* (World Premiere—New York  
Philharmonic Commission)  
*Symphony No. 2, Song of a New Race*  
*Done Made My Vow, A Ceremony*

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\* *New York Philharmonic debut*

**SIDE-BY-SIDE CONCERT WITH INTERLOCHEN ARTS ACADEMY ORCHESTRA**

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Friday, March 3, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Leslie B. Dunner, conductor  
Students from Interlochen Arts Academy  
Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra  
with New York Philharmonic Musicians

INTERLOCHEN ARTS  
ACADEMY STUDENTS  
Valerie COLEMAN  
Jonathan Bailey HOLLAND  
Mary WATKINS  
John WINEGLASS

*मुक्ति*: MUKTI  
(multimedia work, World Premiere)  
*Umoja*  
*Equality*  
*Soul of Remembrance*  
*Unburied, Unmourned, Unmarked:*  
*Requiem for Rice*

An original interdisciplinary work conceived and performed by Interlochen Arts Academy students that focuses on liberation of all kinds, journeying through individuals and societies, culminating in the possibility of hope and new considerations see above, followed by a side-by-side orchestral performance by the Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra joined by NY Phil musicians.

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**MUSIC AND MEDITATION PROJECT WITH ONEIKA MAYS AND STEVEN BANKS,  
PART OF *TAKE A BREATH***

Kenneth C. Griffin Sidewalk Studio, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Saturday, March 4, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

Oneika Mays, facilitator  
Steven Banks, saxophone  
Students from Interlochen Arts Academy

*Take a Breath*: Music and Meditation Project

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**ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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*LIBERATION* is presented by **Judith and Stewart Colton.**

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The March 2 and 4 concerts are part of the **Wu Tsai Series Inaugural Season.**

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These performances of *Gathering Song* are made possible with generous support from the **Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts.**

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Programs are made possible, in part, by the **New York State Council on the Arts** with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

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Photography and video are available in the New York Philharmonic's online press room, [nyphil.org/pressroom](http://nyphil.org/pressroom), or by contacting the Public Relations Department at (212) 875-5700 or [pr@nyphil.org](mailto:pr@nyphil.org)

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