

*“Singing the Lord’s Songs in a Strange Land and Times:  
A Black History and Lenten Commemoration”*



*(“Culture and Heritage” by Olaoluwa Smith)*

*with Nedelka F. Prescod*

*Friday, February 24th, 2023*

*7:30 pm*

*Yale Divinity School*

*Marquand Chapel*

*409 Prospect Street*

*New Haven CT 06511*

*sponsored by Yale Institute of Sacred Music*

*Singing the Lord's Songs in a Strange Land and Times: A Black History and Lenten Commemoration explores one of many musical journeys of a people stolen from their land, and who find themselves holding to their faith when seemingly all has been taken. More specifically, the history of Black Disaporic people in North America seems to be a perpetual Lenten season of penitence, abstaining and preparing for a hard won victory. All the while the power of their melodic expressions continues to carry their history, their humble long suffering, their hopes and their hallelujahs.*

## **PROGRAM**

*Nedelka F. Prescod, vocals & concert visionary*

*Anthony Goodwin, guitar*

*Deah Harriott, Hammond organ & vocals*

*Kadar Prescod-Echols, bass*

*Ryan Sands, drums*

*Kevin Sibley, piano*

*Rodrick Spence, vocals (YDS)*

### **WELCOME**

*Rev. Dr. Emmett G. Price, III*

### **DRUM INTRO**

*Kadar Prescod- Echols & Ryan Sands*

**ORIKI** (a West African Yoruba greeting; praise poem)

*Nedelka F. Prescod*

*Accompanied by Kadar Prescod- Echols & Ryan Sands*

## YORUBA ORISHA SONG to ELEGUÁ: “BARASUAYO”

*“The One Who Travels In Front”*

*Bara suayo Omonia lawana mama kenirawo e  
Obbara suayo eke eshu oddara  
Omonia lawana mama kenirawo eeee*

*Vital force that through length and breadth appears,  
child who separates fissures and divides our pathway,  
do not cut the flow of kindness from me.*

### PSALM 137: 1 - 4

*By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept  
when we remembered Zion.*

*There on the poplars  
we hung our harps,*

*for there our captors asked us for songs,  
our tormentors demanded songs of joy;  
they said, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”*

*How can we sing the songs of the Lord  
while in a foreign land*

### RIVERS of BABYLON

*Brent Dowe and Trevor McNaughton of The Melodians*

*Nedelka F. Prescod*

*Accompanied by Anthony Goodwin, Deah Harriott, Kadar Prescod-Echols,  
Ryan Sands, Kevin Sibley & Rodrick Spence*

### YALE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*Yale University acknowledges that indigenous peoples and nations, including Mohegan, Mashantucket Pequot, Eastern Pequot, Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugussett, Niantic, and the Quinnipiac and other Algonquian speaking peoples, have stewarded through generations the lands and waterways of what is now the state of Connecticut. We honor and respect the enduring relationship that exists between these peoples and nations and this land.*

**INTRODUCTION of Rev. Dr. Emmett G. Price, III, The Band &  
jalen ware-parks**

**SINGING THE LORD'S SONGS in a STRANGE LAND** (poem)

*jalen ware-parks, poet*

*Accompanied by Deah Harriott & Ryan Sands*

**CONTEMPLATIONS**

**A CITY CALLED HEAVEN** *traditional Af-Am Spiritual, as adapted by Amber Bullock*

*Nedelka F. Prescod*

*Accompanied by Anthony Goodwin, Deah Harriott, Kadar Prescod-Echols,  
Ryan Sands, Kevin Sibley & Rodrick Spence*

**UP ABOVE MY HEAD** *traditional Af-Am spiritual, as adapted by Kirk Franklin*

*Deah Harriott, Nedelka F. Prescod & Rodrick Spence*

*Accompanied by Anthony Goodwin, Kadar Prescod-Echols, Ryan Sands &  
Kevin Sibley*

**GOING UP A YONDER**

*Walter Hawkins*

*Nedelka F. Prescod*

*Accompanied by Anthony Goodwin, Deah Harriott, Kadar Prescod-Echols,  
Ryan Sands, Kevin Sibley & Rodrick Spence*

**PRECIOUS MEMORIES**

*J. B. F. Wright, as recorded by Aretha Franklin*

*Deah Harriott, Nedelka F. Prescod & Rodrick Spence*

*Accompanied by Anthony Goodwin, Kadar Prescod-Echols, Ryan Sands &  
Kevin Sibley*

**CONTEMPLATIONS**

**NEVER SAID A MUMBLIN' WORD**

*traditional Af-Am Spiritual*

*Nedelka F. Prescod*

*arranged by Franz Robert*

*Accompanied by Kevin Sibley*

*Ministry of dance by Kathleen S. Turner, PhD*

**THE QUESTION IS**

*Andrew Lawrence Caldwell, as recorded by The Winans*

*Rodrick Spence*

*Accompanied by Anthony Goodwin, Deah Harriott & Nedelka F. Prescod*

**IS MY LIVING IN VAIN**

*Elbernita "Twinkie" Clark, as recorded by The Clark Sisters*

*Deah Harriott*

*Accompanied by Anthony Goodwin, Nedelka F. Prescod, Kadar Prescod-Echols, Ryan Sands, Kevin Sibley & Rodrick Spence*

**CONTEMPLATIONS**

**PRECIOUS LORD**

*Thomas A. "Georgia Tom" Dorsey*

*Nedelka F. Prescod*

**A CHANGE IS GONNA COME**

*Sam Cooke*

*Nedelka F. Prescod*

*Accompanied by Anthony Goodwin, Deah Harriott, Kadar Prescod-Echols, Ryan Sands, Kevin Sibley & Rodrick Spence*

**HOW I GOT OVER**

*Clara Ward, as recorded by Aretha Franklin*

*& notable mention, Mahalia Jackson*

**GRATITUDES**

**INTRODUCTION of Mawunyo Kobla "M. K." Titiati**

**VOVOME** (Ghanaian Ewe Medley Praise)

*Joe Mettle, as recorded by Bethel Revival Choir*

*Nedelka F. Prescod*

*Accompanied by Anthony Goodwin, Deah Harriott, Kadar Prescod-Echols, Ryan Sands, Kevin Sibley & Rodrick Spence*

*Ministry of dance by Tamara Fore-Ravelo & Sarah Menard*

*Matso nye gbe adzi ha  
Matso nye dzi akafui  
Matso nye nuse awo do na mawu Yesiayi*

*Fofo Mawue, Ve Nunye  
Nye Xoname, Xonam dzro  
Matso nye nuse awo do na mawu Yesiayi*

*Fofo Mawue, Ve Nunye  
Gbo gbo kokoi, Xonam dzro  
Matso nye nuse awo do na mawu Yesiayi*

*Alevi si wo wu la  
Mi Kafui*

*Mi kafui, Halleluya  
Mi doe de dzi, Hosiana  
Mi kafui, Halleluya  
Mi Kafui*

*Alevi si wo wu la  
Mi Kafui*

*With my voice I will sing  
With my heart I will praise  
With my strength I will work for the Lord always*

*Father God, grant me grace  
My deliverer, please deliver me  
With my strength I will work for the Lord always*

*Father God, grant me grace  
Holy Spirit, please deliver me  
With my strength I will work for the Lord Always*

*The Lamb that was slain  
Praise Him*

*Praise Him, hallelulah  
Praise Him, hosanna  
Praise Him, hallelujah  
Praise Him*

## BIOS

### **Nedelka F. Prescod**

Nedelka F. Prescod is the daughter of proud Afro-Antillean Panamanians, and an inheritor of her father, Roy A. Prescod's, legacy of music, education and community activism. Nedelka is a seasoned multi-genre vocalist, a multi-expressive musician, a child of the Church, and one of its psalmists. A sought after teacher and coach, Nedelka has over 30 years of experience working in a wide range of educational settings, locally and internationally. She began her teaching career as a teenager volunteering for St. Edmund's Church's summer program (Brooklyn, NY) for alternately abled young people. For nearly two decades, Nedelka taught through the NYC Department of Education as a licensed and tenured K - 12 music educator eventually transitioning into becoming a freelance teaching artist, and then into higher education, serving on faculty at New England Conservatory and Berklee College of Music (Boston, MA), while maintaining a private studio in Brooklyn, NY.

Nedelka holds a BS and MA in Music and Music Education from New York University and CUNY Brooklyn College respectively, an MM in Contemporary Improvisation from New England Conservatory, and is currently an Andover Newton at Yale Divinity School student (New Haven, CT) pursuing an MDiv.

Nedelka's work and ministry fuses music with a desire to develop and edify community through collaborative music-making and creative practices with a heart for social justice and celebrating personal and cultural stories. Nedelka is the visionary of "*The Un-Silenced Voice*" project, an endeavor that seeks to uncover and/or empower feminine and silenced voices (actual, artistic and communal) retracted by trauma. Nedelka is also a co-visionary/producer of "*Black & Panamanian*", an episodic video-series that pays homage to her Caribbean-rooted, Central American heritage and culture, and is a joyful member of Abyssinian Baptist Church's Music & Fine Arts Ministry (Harlem, NY).

### **Anthony Goodwin**

Anthony Goodwin, II attended public schools in NYC and is a graduate of Laguardia Community College. He is currently a full time musician, fulfilling his dream and passion as a guitarist while being a devoted father. At age 30, Anthony has traveled internationally, working with numerous artists including Meli'sa Morgan, Victoria Monet, Lumidee, CKay, Kirby and many more. Anthony loves the Lord and gives all praise and thanks to his Lord and savior Jesus Christ for allowing him to be where he is today, and for his family's encouragement and belief in him.

### **Deah Harriott**

Deah Love Harriott is the daughter of, Oscar Harriott, the founder of the Lincoln Gospel Choir. A classically trained musician and pianist, Deah graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan with honors. She has been honored with numerous awards in teaching, singing, piano performance and directorship. and is frequently requested lead and background vocalist for various artists and serves as a vocal clinician, music director and accompanist. She currently lives in Harlem, N.Y. and is the minister of music at Bethany Baptist Church in Brooklyn and music director at Marble Collegiate Church. Deah was featured on Harry Connick Jr.'s daytime talk show and recently made her HBO debut on the hit series, *"Random Acts of Flyness."* Her extensive credits include Music Director (*The Wiz, Marie & Rosetta, For Colored Girls...*), Minister of Worship & Fine Arts (Bethany Baptist Church), Vocal Coach/Arranger, Music Producer, Songwriter/Composer (most genres), Classically-trained pianist/organist, emphasis in gospel, jazz, theater, classical.



### **Sarah Menard**

Sarah Menard is a Master of Divinity candidate at Yale Divinity School (YDS). She is from Bridgeport, CT and the proud daughter of Haitian parents. Her upbringing in the Haitian- American Baptist tradition has shaped her academic, professional, and ministerial pursuits. Sarah has over 10 years of experience as a clinical social worker and hopes to use her experience and her research in the Haitian Revolution as a social justice framework for both radical religious education and trauma informed ministry. She is pursuing ordination in the American Baptist Church and is a part of the Black Church Studies Certificate program and Andover Newton Seminary at YDS. Sarah enjoys worshiping with a tambourine and dance.

### **Kadar I. Prescod-Echols**

Kadar I. Prescod-Echols is a young electric bassist, producer and arranger. He maintains a legacy of music-making and playing as the son and grandson of classically trained, multi-genre musicians. Kadar's official music training began at Ifetayo Cultural Arts Academy (Brooklyn, NY). Through Ifetayo, Kadar received instruction on djembe and studied electric guitar with Clifford "Moonie" Pusey (former lead guitarist for the renown reggae band, Steel Pulse). As part of Ifetayo's holistic programming, Kadar performed at Brooklyn College and local Brooklyn schools on both instruments. Kadar was also a student of the Brooklyn Restoration Youth Arts Academy, additionally taking private lessons on drum kit with James Casey, and lessons in ear training and piano fundamentals from his mother, Nedelka F. Prescod. In 2013, Kadar continued his musical journey on guitar at Berklee College Prep Academy (Boston, MA), receiving training on electric guitar and production, and participating in their annual closing recitals. In his junior and senior years of high school at Boston Trinity Academy, Kadar would go on to participate in The Eclectics, the school's contemporary music ensemble, as well, with its chapel band on electric bass. After high school Kadar went on to Johnson & Wales University where he would ultimately rediscover his love for music and begin to pursue it professionally as a bassist. Since then Kadar has participated in

the *“Black & Panamanian”* project, which worked to paint a picture of Black Panamanian history through music and storytelling. Kadar also spends time producing and arranging, following in the footsteps of his father, Matthew “Matt-Keyz” Echols, a classically trained pianist and House Music producer.

### **Rev. Dr. Emmett G. Price, III**

Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, Dr. Price received a B.A. in music from the University of California, Berkeley and earned both his M.A. and Ph.D. in music (ethnomusicology) from the University of Pittsburgh. Currently, Dr. Price serves as Dean of Africana Studies at Berklee College of Music and Visiting Associate Professor of Music at Harvard University. Prior to his current post, Dr. Price served on the faculties of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (2016-2021) where he founded the Institute for the Study of the Black Christian Experience (ISBCE) and Northeastern University (2001-2016) where he served as chair of the Department of African American Studies (2008-2012). He has served as visiting professor at Boston University, Berklee College of Music, Andover Newton Theological School and Brandeis University.

Emmett G. Price III has served as a guest lecturer at over 50 universities worldwide and is an internationally-recognized expert on Black Music & Culture, Afro-Diasporic sacred & secular expressions, and Christian Worship. He has spent much of the past few decades writing, lecturing and conducting cutting edge research on bridging the generational divide. A well-regarded scholar and educator, Dr. Price has the unique ability to capture the hearts and minds of the most diverse and versatile audiences with his compassionate sense of humor, his amicable intellect and his quick wit. He is a noted print and broadcast media expert, as well as a widely sought-after keynote and motivational speaker.

Dr. Price is an ordained minister that serves as Founding Pastor of Community of Love Christian Fellowship (Allston, MA). Since 2011, he has served as the Director of the James Abbingdon Church Music Academy as part of the Hampton University Ministers' Conference & Choir Directors' and Organists' Guild. Dr. Price is a respected civic leader and arts advocate currently serving as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Emmanuel Gospel Center (EGC). He is the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Landmarks Orchestra and a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Contemporary Art/ Boston. He previously served as CEO & Board Chair of JazzBoston and former Board Chair of the MetroWest YMCA Association. Dr. Price is a Trustee of the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies and former Trustee of Massachusetts Bay Community College, and is an acclaimed scholar and author of *HIP HOP Culture* (ABC-CLIO, 2006), executive editor of the *Encyclopedia of African American Music* (ABC-CLIO, 2011), editor of *The Black Church and Hip Hop Culture: Toward Bridging the Generational Divide* (Scarecrow Press, 2012). Dr. Price is a trained musician that has performed throughout the United States, the Caribbean and Europe as both a solo artist and as a sideman, a celebrated keynote and motivational speaker in high demand.

### **Tamara Fore-Ravelo**

Tamara Ravelo emerges from the Quechan Indian Tribe (pronounced Kwuh-tsan), where she proudly represents her Indigenous culture. Her grandmother Denise Dugan was an Indigenous boarding school survivor. Hence, Tamara, family members, and her community constantly encounter its generational challenges. Tamara often says she is the hope of her ancestors prayers and also shares that her love for dance is what kept her heart postured in hope and turned towards God when she was a young girl trying make it in this world. In turn, she endeavors to impart that hope to others wherever she goes.

Tamara has an earned master's in business (MBA) and currently attends Yale University as a MDiv candidate to receive her degree in 2023'. At Yale she leads as president and also serves as a consultant to the oldest African American Congregational UCC church in the world which started in the 1820's by the enslaved. Additionally, Tamara is a faculty member at the Inner Visions Institute for Spiritual Development led in leadership by Rev. Dr. Iyana Vanzant, where she teaches a course on ancient wisdom and world religion.

Then, at Salem Covenant Church in Washington Depot, CT, she serves as Assistant Pastor, where she loves prayer and creating spaces for others to heal; however, that may come. In her other life, Tamar is a communications strate-genius, specializing in marketing, branding, graphic design, web, publications and other forms of media. Tamara doesn't do it alone, she is wonderfully loved and supported by her husband, the esquire Michael Ravelo.

### **Ryan Sands**

Hailing from Orange, CT, Ryan Sands is a passionate, energetic drummer on the rise. Ryan is a graduate of the New England Conservatory and Manhattan School of Music. His thunderous performance style has landed him work with Phil Markowitz, Zach Brock, John Escreet, Geoffrey Keezer, and a rotating member of the Christian Sands Trio. Ryan currently holds the drum seat for the New York-based Jazz collective Altus, featuring David Adewumi, Neta Ranaan, Nathan Reising, and Isaac Levien. They released their debut EP, *Riot Cycles*, in July 2021. As a bandleader, Ryan released his debut album, *Standing on the Edge of Tomorrow*.

## **Kevin Sibley**

Kevin Sibley is an actor and a musician, from Jacksonville Florida. He developed a love of music and arts while attending church. Kevin played drums and sang in the youth choir.

After graduating from the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering, Kevin became the Minister of Music at his Father's church in Jacksonville. Kevin also began acting in various films and plays around Florida during that time. Kevin was the Music Director for TheaterJax's production of *The Piano Lesson*. Eventually, Kevin decided to move to New York City to pursue his passion for the Arts.

Kevin is a member of the actor's union, SagAftra. His credits include *One Life to Live*, *The Blacklist*, *Law & Order*, and *Quantico*.

Presently, Kevin serves on the music staff at The Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem. He also serves as a musician and a minister at Pilgrim Cathedral of Harlem Church in New York City.

## **Rodrick Spence**

Yale Divinity School student, Rodrick Spence, is a class of 2023 MAR Comprehensive candidate. Though his expertise is in creating and cultivating community programs that uplift the youth of racial minorities, Rodrick also enjoys singing as a pastime. Hailing from Westmoreland, Jamaica, Rodrick's first introductions to music were in reggae and gospel traditions. He has also grown to love classical, rhythm & blues, and a capella music. In addition to his community work, Rodrick also serves as a soloist and a music minister for various local congregations.

### **Mawunyo Kobla “M. K.” Titiati**

Mawunyo Kobla (M.K.) TITIATI, currently a final year M.A. Music student at Tufts University, performer (drummer and multi-percussionist), composer and producer, is an aspiring professor of music sub-disciplined in ethnomusicology and music business consultant with research interests focused on music in relation to politics, religion, labor, media, copyright, and royalties. He is Ewe from Adidome in the Volta region of Ghana although he spent most of his life in Tema-Accra, Ghana. Through formal and informal training in Ghanaian traditional drumming, experiences in marching band, studying, teaching, and dexterous performing of the drum set, working as an active church musician, and serving in various leadership roles along his journey, he has been nurtured into a versatile musician, dynamic leader and an outstanding academic. M.K. Titiati is an integral member of the Borga’s Band, has performed with multi-award-winning musicians and ensembles including Joe Mettle, Diana Hamilton, Kofi Kinaata, Akwaboah, Fameye, Vicky Frimpong, Eugene Zuta, Gye Nyame Kete, Kiniwe, Nando Michelin’s Small Jazz Ensemble.

### **Kathleen S. Turner, PhD**

Kathleen S. Turner is Director of Christian Education/Discipleship at The Greater Allen AME Cathedral of New York (GAC). She is a lecturer at the Institute of Sacred Music/Yale Divinity School and a continuing contributor with the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship in Grand Rapids, Illinois in liturgical dance and theology. As a writer, Kathleen contributed a chapter in the book, *Readings in African American Church Music and Worship, Volume 2*, edited by James Abbington, published her first manuscript, *And We Shall Learn Through the Dance: Liturgical Dance as Religious Education*, through Wipf and Stock under their PICKWICK Publications, and has been commissioned to contribute a chapter on the relationship between sacred music and liturgical dance in the 2025 publication of *The New Oxford Handbook of Music and Theology* published by Oxford University Press.

Kathleen is the founding director of the Allen Liturgical Dance Ministry (ALDM) of the Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of New York, choreographing over seventy-five dances for ALDM and has coordinated several international conferences on liturgical dance and worship at GAC. Kathleen is married to Curtis Turner, and they travel both separately and jointly throughout the United States ministering and co-choreographing for dance ministries, marriage enrichment ministries, church congregations and liturgical dance conferences.

### **jalen ware-parks**

jalen is a PhD student in the department of Religious Studies at Yale where he studies the role of dignity at the confluence of theological and legal constructions of personhood. when not immersing in a book, jalen is likely somewhere writing poetry, eating with friends, or playing with his dog Kanaan. jalen is also a poet who meditates deeply on the nature of black life as revealed through experience, literature, and theory.



**For this concert I give thanks to/for...**

*The Most High... that orders my steps, provides, clears my path, and cares for and loves me more than my humble discernment can ever perceive.*

*To Dr. Martin Jean... you are a man true to your word.*

*The ISM Crew: Eben, Eric, Raymond & Sachin... life should always be as easy as working with you.*

*The Marquand Chapel Leadership: Dr. Dean Awet & Pastor Mike... it's the way you encourage.*

*Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs... for the abundant blessings that flow through you, and because of you, to me.*

*The Band... for saying "yes" and for your excellence in ministry.*

*Tamara Fore-Ravelo, Sarah Menard, Dr. Kathleen S. Turner & jalen ware-parks... each of you have blessed me (long) before this concert. Thank you for holding my hand when I needed it.*

*Rev. Joanne Jennings... for your support, wise counsel, and your example of excellence in hospitality and ministry.*

*Rev. Dr. Gabby Cudjoe-Wilkes... you are a visionary that inspires and edifies me.*

*Dean Lynn S. Sullivan... for the ways you allow me to see your beauty and graceful leadership.*

*Last, and certainly not least...*

*My Ancestors: Daddy, Dita (my grandmother), Tia Feli, Grandma Edith (my grandmother's mother), Tia Sarita, Tio Roger, Tio Carlos, Tio Clifton, Tio Carlton, Ms. Liburd, Cynthia Brown-Franklin & Temah Mollison... I stand here because of you.*

*Mommy... we have now. I give thanks.*



*To You, who came in support, may you always remember...*

*"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.  
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.  
It is our Light, not our Darkness, that most frightens us.  
We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?  
Actually, who are you not to be?  
You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the World.  
There is nothing enlightening about shrinking  
so that other people won't feel unsure around you.  
We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.  
It is not just in some of us; it is in Everyone.  
As we let our own Light shine,  
we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.  
As we are liberated from our own fear,  
our presence automatically liberates others."*

*-Marianne Williamson  
"Our Deepest Fear" from A Return to Love*

***Blessings,***

***Nedelka E. Prescod***

