

2024 Fall Concert Series

Joshua Conyers: A Miracle in Legacy

Joshua Conyers, baritone
Chelsea Whitaker, piano

November 13, 2024
12:10PM



LIVE *from*
HOCHSTEIN

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PROGRAM

Joshua Fit da Battle of Jericho	Traditional arr. Margaret Bonds
Two Black Churches I. Ballad of Birmingham	Shawn Okpebholo (b. 1981)
Ride on, King Jesus	Traditional arr. Hall Johnson
A Miracle in Legacy I. Never More Than Nothin' II. Finding Voice	Jasmine Arielle Barnes (b. 1991)
Ain't Got Time to Die	Traditional arr. Hall Johnson

PROGRAM NOTES

A Miracle in Legacy tells a story of my life as a black man in America. My journey from poverty and abuse to thriving as a father, husband, performer, and educator. *A Miracle in Legacy* is a celebration of black creators, musicians, and our excellence. African American spirituals are highlighted throughout the recital and are integral to my journey as a musician and black man in America. These spirituals are a calling to my ancestors who lived through the atrocity of 400 years of American enslavement and oppression. It is my duty to bring these incredible pieces to the forefront of the classical canon and perform the uplifting words of my ancestors that kept them living through the darkest times in American history.

The Hochstein School is grateful to Sidney & Barbara Sobel for generously providing continuous underwriting support for *Live from Hochstein* since 1993.

Today's *Live from Hochstein* performance is broadcast live and in stereo on  FM, 91.5 with host Mona Seghatoleslami.



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Hochstein programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. Hochstein programs are also made possible by the Monroe County Legislature; Adam Bello, Monroe County Executive.

PERFORMERS

Grammy-nominated Baritone **Joshua Conyers** has been praised by Opera News, The New York Times, and the Washington Post for his honeyed, sonorous baritone and show stealing performance quality during his performances of new and standard operatic works. A native of the Bronx, NY, he has performed on concert stages in North America and abroad. Conyers' dedication and vision as an artist, educator, and advocate strives to propel the performing arts industry forward. Mr. Conyers' collaboration highlights include performances with The Metropolitan Opera, Seattle Opera, Washington National Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, English National Opera, New York Philharmonic, and the National Symphony Orchestra. As a concert soloist, he has sung throughout the United States and Europe, including at Carnegie Hall. His discography includes his debut solo album, *A Miracle in Legacy*, the Grammy Nominated album *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X* by Anthony Davis, and as the baritone soloist in *Bernstein, Gershwin, & Copland: Works* with Naxos.

Mr. Conyers has a deep commitment to community engagement, giving masterclasses and seminars at universities and organizations around the world. Joshua is also a member of the Young Professionals Advisory Board of the Newark Boys Chorus School, mentoring underserved young men of color who find their paths through music. Previously, Mr. Conyers was a voice teacher at New England Conservatory Preparatory and Continuing Education School. Joshua received his BM in Vocal Performance and a Professional Artist Certificate from the UNC School of the Arts/A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute, and his MM in Vocal Performance from Indiana University.

Collaborative pianist and vocal coach **Dr. Chelsea Whitaker** is currently an Assistant Professor of Vocal Coaching at the Eastman School of Music. Passionate about American art song, particularly that of living composers, she has worked with composers including John Harbison, Jake Heggie, John Musto, Ben Moore, Paul Moravec, Alan Louis Smith, John Heiss, and Matthew Recio. Whitaker has performed in venues such as the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Merkin Hall in New York City, and Jordan Hall in Boston. Prior to her appointment at Eastman, Whitaker served on faculty at New England Conservatory in the voice and opera departments. Previous work has also included performances with Sparks and Wiry Cries, Cincinnati Song Initiative, Music for Food, Boston Art Song Society, Callithumpian Consort, and Calliope's Call; vocal coaching and staff pianist positions at Boston University, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and University of Massachusetts, Amherst; and music director positions with Boston Opera Collaborative.

Whitaker studied with Cameron Stowe, Jonathan Feldman, Alan Smith, and Robert Weirich. A native of Kansas, she graduated from the University of Missouri, Kansas City, with a BM in piano performance. She completed a MM in Keyboard Collaborative Arts at the University of Southern California, and holds a DMA in collaborative piano from New England Conservatory.

Hochstein would like to thank its donors and patrons for their support of our mission to provide people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities with access to excellent music and dance education in a community that nurtures and encourages personal achievement.

To learn more about The Hochstein School, visit our website at www.hochstein.org. For information on how to support Hochstein, please contact Gwen Green, Director of Development, at development@hochstein.org or 585.454.4403 x223.

ENJOY THESE PERFORMANCES?

If you wish to support future *Live from Hochstein* performances for the Rochester community, please consider making a donation in the baskets provided at the exits or at <https://hochstein.org/Support>. Any checks can be made out to The Hochstein School with *Live from Hochstein* in the memo. THANK YOU!

JOIN US NEXT WEEK

Then and Now: Preludes After Preludes
Yi-Wen Chang, piano

November 20, 2024 at 12:10PM

AUDIENCE REMINDERS

- Please enter and exit the hall only during applause.
- Food and beverages are not allowed in the Performance Hall.
- Please turn off cell phones and other devices that may sound or light up during the performance. The use of cameras/recording devices is strictly prohibited.
- Restrooms are located downstairs and can be accessed from the back of the Performance Hall. Wheelchair accessible/gender neutral restrooms are in the School; please ask an usher for directions.
- Fire exits are located along the sides and rear of the Performance Hall.