

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS BLACK CHORUS

Dr. Ollie Watts Davis, *artistic director & conductor*

presents

“LOVELY” the 2025 Mom’s Day Concert

Foellinger Great Hall

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts

Saturday, April 5, 2025

7:30 PM

Greetings

Land Acknowledgement (read silently)

TRADITIONAL

**Hold on
We shall not be moved**

STACEY V. GIBBS
(b. 1962)

Way over in Beulah Lan’

WILLIAM DAWSON
(1899-1990)

Ain’t-a that good news

ROLAND CARTER
(b. 1942)

Lift every voice and sing
(James Weldon Johnson)

Qingping Ye, piano

TRIBUTES

Before I let go
Frankie Beverly (1946-2024)

As
Stevie Wonder (b.1950)

The first time ever I saw your face

Where is the love
Roberta Flack (1937-2025)

Brotha
Angie Stone (1961-2025)

We are the World
Quincy Jones (1933-2024)

PAUSE

QUANDRA L. CLARK (b. 1984)	In His presence
K. EDWARD COPELAND (b. 1962)	Already Done
QUANDRA L. CLARK (b. 1962)	We are Healed

REFLECTIONS & RECOGNITIONS

OLLIE WATTS DAVIS (b. 1957)	Blessing
SONJA G. WHITMORE (b. 1957)	More Abundantly

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge our supporters, the School of Music, and welcome our friends and alumni.

Dr. Ollie Watts Davis Black Chorus Excellence Fund

We are delighted to announce the establishment of the Dr. Ollie Watts Davis Black Chorus Excellence Fund with a generous gift made by Dr. Eve Harwood, Professor Emerita and friend. The gift celebrates the legacy and helps to secure the future of Black Chorus at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign.

Since the founding in 1968, the Black Chorus has sustained a viable presence of musical excellence in the Urbana-Champaign community. In addition to annual concerts on campus, the Black Chorus tours across the nation, and has given performances in Central America and Europe. The Black Chorus Excellence Fund supports this legacy, funding events and activities consistent with the objective for the Black Chorus to remain a pre-eminent institution for exemplary training and transformational musical and life experiences.

If your life has been enriched by the Black Chorus, we encourage you to contribute to the Black Chorus Excellence Fund. To support the Black Chorus, give online at giving.Illinois.edu (Be sure to write Black Chorus Fund (UIF #776686) in the "Designate other Giving Options box."); or send a check made out to UIF/School of Music/Black Chorus. Mail your check to: School of Music Development Office 1114 West Nevada Street Urbana, IL 61801 Be sure to include Black Chorus in the memo section of your check or online payment! Thank you.

SPRING 2025 BLACK CHORUS ROSTER

The University of Illinois Black Chorus enjoys the participation of students, staff, and faculty from colleges and departments across the campus, and selected members from the community.

Soprano

Meg Ciko, Choral Music Education
Amber Cloud, Lyric Theatre
Ariana Diaz, Music
Ciobhan Dunn, Graduate, Community Engagement
Anita Gomez, Graduate, Community Engagement
Brianna Gray, Political Science/International Relations
Mikaylah Hueston, Undeclared
Doris King, Community Engagement
Jeanine Meyer, Community Engagement
Molly Moomaw, Classics and Political Science
Racheal Olusesan, Biology
Esmé Pelton, Choral Music Education
Demia Simon, Communication
Tiffany Soro, Architectural Studies
Meg Tucker, Community Engagement
Mo Vaitkus, Choral Music Education
Taniya Williams, Accounting
Taylor Wilson, Linguistics

Alto

Mabel Benig, Architecture
Nekaybaw Blunt, Choral Music Education
Quandra Clark, Graduate, Community Engagement
Rebecca Cohen, Integrative Biology
Aryana Collins, Communication
Geraldine Dagher, Graduate, Labor and Industrial Relations
Ashley M. Davis, Graduate, Community Engagement
Charity Davis, Community Engagement
Eghonghon Eromosele, Community Health (Pre-Med)
Anyia Flowers, Undeclared
Melinda Flores, Psychology
Abby Grace, Flute Performance
Chaniyah Hill, Undeclared
Morgan Lease, Choral Music Education
Ayanna Little, Animal Science
Maggie McGouch, Speech and Hearing Science
Rhema-Hope Mukuna, Communication
Kristin "Krissey" Payne, Vocal Performance
Olivia Ross, Psychology
Amabel Sebastian, Choral Music Education
Ivonne Vazquez, Linguistics and Vocal Performance
Qingping Ye, Mathematics and Piano Performance

Tenor

Graham Carlson, Choral Music Education
Matthew Clayton, Music Technology
Chauncey Delaney, Psychology
Wenbo (Peter) Zhang, Mathematics/Computer Science

Baritone/Bass

Reginald Armstrong Jr., African American Studies
Morgan Colvin, Music
Michael Deresz, Instrumental Performance
Stephen Ford, Vocal Performance

Nathaniel Luster, Community Engagement
Zach Mullins, Choral Music Education
Alexander Pasquini, Interdisciplinary Health Science
Rashaad Young, Graduate, Community Engagement

Artistic and Musical Staff

Ashley Michelle Davis, *Assistant Conductor*
Quandra Clark, *Piano & Music Director*
Charity Davis, *Vocal Coach & Choreographer*
Jonathan Davis, *bass*
Travis Brown, *drums*
Michael Deresz, *basoon*
Abby Grace, *flute*
Qingping Ye, *piano*

Executive Service Team

President

Demia Simon

Vice-President

Stephen Ford

Secretary

Molly Moomaw

Treasurer

Eghonghon Eromosele

Wardrobe Chairs

Nekaybaw Blunt
Chaniyah Hill

Mom's Day Tribute Company

Quandra Clark	Rhema-Hope Mukuna
Geraldine Dagher	Kristin "Krissey" Payne
Ashley M. Davis	Matthew Clayton
Charity Davis	Chauncey Delaney
Ciobhan Dunn	Reginald Armstrong, Jr.
Ariana Diaz	Morgan Colvin
Mikaylah Hueston	Stephen Ford
Rachel Olusean	Nathaniel Luster
Esme' Pelton	
Demia Simon	
Meg Tucker	
Taniya Williams	
Taylor Wilson	
Nekaybaw Blunt	
Aryana Collins	
Eghonghon Eromosele	
Chaniyah Hill	
Morgan Lease	

PROGRAM NOTES



Program notes and further information about the performers may be found in the digital program available by scanning the QR code above.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We begin today by acknowledging that these spaces stand on the traditional territories of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands carry the ongoing stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

The School of Music at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign acknowledges the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution. We share a responsibility to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them.

The School of Music is committed to moving beyond these acknowledgements, toward building deeper relationships and taking actions to promote equity for Indigenous peoples.

TO OUR PATRONS

The taking of photographs and the use of recording devices are strictly prohibited. Please turn off all cellular phones, pagers, and watch alarms. Restrict the use of cellphones to reading program notes and please be respectful of nearby patrons.

LATE SEATING

Latecomers will be seated only at intervals selected in advance by the artist.