

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS BLACK CHORUS
Dr. Ollie Watts Davis, *artistic director & conductor*
presents
"ESPECIALLY MOM"
2026 Annual Mom's Day Concert

Foellinger Great Hall
Krannert Center for the Performing Arts
Saturday, April 11, 2026
7:30 PM

Program*

Greetings

Chaniyah Hill, Vice-President
Stephen Michael Ford, President

Land Acknowledgment (read silently)

STACEY V. GIBBS
(b. 1962)

Rockin' Jerusalem

MARGARET BONDS
(1913-1972)

Especially do I Believe in the Negro Race
from *Credo* (Langston Hughes)

Sarah Elise Navy, *soprano*

ROLAND CARTER
(b. 1942)

Lift every voice and sing (James Weldon Johnson)

Qingping Ye, *piano*

PAUSE

Tributes

JOSHUAH BRIAN
CAMPBELL
(b. 1984)

Stand up

CYNTHIA ERIVO
(b.1987)

REV. WILLIAM HOLMES
BORDERS, SR.
(1905-1993)
REV. JESSE L. JACKSON, SR.
(1941-2026)

I am Somebody

CURTIS MAYFIELD
(1942-1999)

People get ready

BILL WITHERS
(1938-2020)

Lean on me

STEVIE WONDER
(b. 1950)

Higher Ground

PAUSE

OLLIE WATTS DAVIS
(b. 1957)

(Bring) Heaven Down

RICHARD SMALLWOOD
(1948-2025)

A Celebration Medley

Remarks Dr. Ollie Watts Davis

MALCOLM WILLIAMS
(b. 1969)

The Blood Still Works

**Program is subject to change.*



Program notes



Support the School of Music

The UI Black Chorus Spring 2026 Roster

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

Soprano

Amber Cloud, Lyric Theatre, Animal Science, minor, Chicago, IL
Ciobhan Dunn, Graduate, Community Engagement, Chicago, IL*
Lauren Faber, Food Science, Hawthorn Woods, IL
Jasmine Heard, Music Technology, St. Louis, MO
Mikaylah Hueston, Psychology, Calumet Park, IL*
Malaika Mburu, Communications, Joliet, IL
Jeanine Meyer, Community Engagement, Botkin, OH*
Sarah Elise Navy, Doctoral Student in Vocal Performance & Literature, Houston, TX*
Racheal Olusesan, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Gurnee, IL*
Genae Phillips, Political Science & African American Studies, Chicago, IL
Tiffany Soro, Architectural Studies, Bartlett, IL*
Meg Tucker, Community Engagement, Mahomet, IL*
Favour Ubaka, Biology, Gurnee, IL
Taniya Williams, Accounting, Chicago, IL*

Alto

Nekaybaw Blunt, Music Education: Technology, Chicago, IL*
Quandra Clark, Graduate, Community Engagement, Chicago, IL*
Geraldine Dagher, Graduate, Labor and Industrial Relations, Ghana; Hickory Hills, IL
Ashley M. Davis, Graduate, Community Engagement, Champaign, IL*
Charity Davis, Community Engagement, Champaign, IL*
T'ana Davis, Finance, Chicago, IL
Tiana Foreman, Aerospace Engineering, Computer Science, minor, Elgin, IL
Danielle Golden, Business & Marketing
Chaniyah Hill, Psychology, Chicago, IL*
Fatouma Hewitt, Crop Science, Evanston, IL
Rhema-Hope Mukuna, Communication, Peoria, IL*
Gabby Osho, Global Studies, Bolingbrook, IL
Kristin "Krissy" Payne, Community Health, Chicago, IL*
Allie Pina, Music Education, Lombard, IL
Zaria Rasper, LAS Undeclared, Decatur, IL
Z'Kiyah Richardson-Porter, Psychology, Peoria, IL
Amabel Sebastian, Choral Music Education, Skokie, IL*
A'zahadia Semien, Linguistics, Carol Stream, IL
Anna Sick, Social Work, Music minor, Chicago, IL
Cheyenne Smith, Dance, Joliet, IL
Kianna Truitt, English, Glenwood, IL*
Ivonne Vazquez, Linguistics and Vocal Performance, Bloomingdale, IL*
Qingping Ye, Mathematics and Piano Performance, Fremont, CA

Tenor

Gabby Mongwa, Psychology, Champaign, IL
 Zach Mullins, Music Education, Lombard, IL*
 Dr. C. Kemal Nance, Dance Faculty, Chester, PA*
 Philip Obazuaye, Chemical Engineering, Forest Park, IL
 Dee Walls, Community Engagement, Champaign, IL

Baritone

Morgan Colvin, English and Secondary Education, Matteson, IL*
 Tristan Gordon, Biochemistry, Chicago, IL*
 Alvin Shi, Computer Science + Music, Shanghai, China
 Keiton Westfall, Music Education, Sugar Grove, IL*

Bass

Stephen Michael Ford, Musical Arts, Richton Park, IL*
 Evan Fouts, Linguistics & Informatics, Edelstein, IL*
 Nathaniel Luster, Community Engagement, Cairo, IL
 Elijah Sain, Media and Cinematics, Matteson, IL
 *Mom's Day Tribute Company

Artistic and Musical Staff

Ashley Michelle Davis, *Assistant Conductor*
 Quandra Clark, *Piano & Music Director*
 Charity Davis, *Vocal Coach*
 Dr. C. Kemal Nance, *Choreographer*
 Jonathan Davis, *bass*
 Qingping Ye, *piano*

Executive Service Team**President**

Stephen Michael Ford

Vice-President

Chaniyah Hill

Secretary

Nekaybaw Blunt

Treasurer

Rhema-Hope Mukuna

Wardrobe Chairs

Morgan Colvin
 Mikaylah Hueston

Publicity Chairs

Morgan Colvin
 Zach Mullins
 Elijah Sain

Assistants to the Conductor

Geraldine Dagher
 Ciobhan Dunn
 Taniya Williams