

Northern Virginia Community College
Division of Liberal Arts

Black History Month Celebration
February 24, 2015

Across the Track Blues

Duke Ellington

NOVA Jazz Ensemble
John Kocur, Director

Welcome

Dr. Jim McClellan
Dean, Liberal Arts

Three Spirituals arranged by Adolphus Hailstork

Great Day

Lisa Edwards Burrs, soprano

Motherless Child

Lisa Edwards Burrs, soprano
DeMarcus Bolds, tenor

In that great gittin' up mornin'

Jesse Caldoza-Esponda, soprano
Lisa Edwards Burrs, soprano
NOVA Community Chorus
Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director
Christine Hagan, Pianist

Reading from *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Maya Angelou

Acting Students of Professor Kate Al-Shamma

Lift Every Voice

John R. Johnson, arr. A. Freeman

Aaron Freeman, piano

I Know I've Been Changed

Aaron Neville, arr. DEM

I Got Plenty O' Nuttin (Porgy and Bess)

George Gershwin

DEM Vocal Ensemble
DeMarcus Bolds, Eric Arceneaux, Michael Bryant

Intermission

Dance: Believe Anthony Russell
Metropolitan Youth Tap Ensemble

I'm Determined to Walk with Jesus arr. Raymond Wise
Rockin' Jerusalem Andre Thomas
Good Room Arr. Shelton Becton
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow Mark Butler
The Trinity Choir of Alfred Street Baptist Church
Joyce Garrett, Director
Melvin Bryant, Jr., Accompanist Stewart Bowers, Bassist
Lester Saucer, Percussionist

Told You So Bill Homan
Better Get Hit in Your Soul Charles Mingus
NOVA Jazz Ensemble
John Kocur, Director

A Litany (poem by Langston Hughes) John Musto
Dedicated to our Teacher and Friend Dr. Joseph Windham

Poem: A Brave and Startling Truth Maya Angelou
This Little Light of Mine Jacqueline Hairston
Lisa Edwards Burrs, soloist
Christine Hagan, Pianist
John Kocur, Sax

Wake up, my spirit Adolphus Hailstork
NOVA Chamber Singers
Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director
Christine Hagan, Pianist

Finale: Lift Every Voice arr. Craig Courtney
Combined Choirs, Jazz Band and Dancers

JOYCE GARRETT is one of the most recognized choral conductors in the region. She has conducted the nationally televised "Kennedy Center Honors" and the nationally televised "Christmas in Washington" since 1989. She also directed the United States Naval Academy Gospel Choir from 1990-2006. She received two Honorary Doctorate degrees from West Virginia Wesleyan College and her Alma Mater, Bennett College, as a result of her 33-year teaching career at Eastern High School in Washington, also receiving numerous honors including the President's Medal of The George Washington University; The Catholic University Alumni Achievement Award in Music; the Reader's Digest American Heroes in Education Award; and the Washingtonian Magazine's Washingtonian of the Year Award.

LISA EDWARDS-BURRS received her Doctorate of Musical Arts in vocal performance from The Catholic University of America. She is an associate professor of voice at Longwood University. Her performances in recital, oratorio and chamber music are extensive. She has received numerous awards including the National Second-Place Prizewinner of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Award Competition, the Carson Silver Medal and Prize at the American Traditions Competition of Savannah! Onstage and Outstanding Vocalist of the Year from Richmond Magazine. Internationally, she has performed recitals at the International Conference for Moral-Rearmament in Caux, Switzerland and with the Amalfi Music and Arts Festival. Her performances featuring the works of African-American composers and other contemporary works have also received critical acclaim.

JOHN KOCUR is a member of the music faculty at NOVA, where his duties include directing the NOVA Jazz program. John holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from George Mason University and a Master of Music Degree in Jazz Studies from Howard University. He has performed as a sideman with the Thad Wilson Jazz Orchestra, Capital Focus Jazz Band, and the Too Damn Big Orchestra. In addition, he frequently collaborates with musicians in other genres, playing with progressive hip-hop artist Christylez Bacon and bluegrass duo Herb and Hanson. John has proudly performed overseas at the Jazz Ascona Festival in Switzerland and the first annual Nagano Jazz Festival in Japan. Throughout his career, he has shared the stage with jazz artists such as Benny Golson, Fred Wesley, Jimmie Owens, Freddie Redd, and Buck Hill. As an educator, John has given workshops and lectures at universities and high schools.

DR. KATE AL-SHAMMA is a theatre director, actor, and choreographer. She has been teaching acting, voice, and movement for twenty years. She did her doctoral research in France, using the method of "Performance Ethnography" over several years, with members of the Roy Hart Theatre. She has trained actors in a conservatory setting at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and through extensive private coaching in the San Francisco Bay Area. She relocated to Alexandria last year to expand the theatre program at NOVA Alexandria where she currently teaches Acting, Voice, Directing, and Theatre Appreciation.

METROPOLITAN YOUTH TAP ENSEMBLE (MYTE) IS an electrifying, young repertory tap dance company that will explode your notions about tap. MYTE brings together dancers, young and old from near and far, who are joyfully excited about tap dance. This talented company creates a performance-tapestry of the diverse threads that comprise this American art form. Experience how the tap dance community, like no other, comes together to recite the rhythms of life that connect us to one another. Be surrounded by the simple and complex rhythms of tap, made with feet, that are sounds from the heart.

NOVA COMMUNITY CHORUS is eighty-voice ensemble that combines singers from the NVCC Music Program and the surrounding community. The chorus performs regularly with the Alexandria Band, the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic and the Alexandria Symphony. Special engagements in past years have included Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the National Theater. The chorus toured Spain and performed at the 1992 World's Fair in Seville. The chorus has sung in England (2006), at the Leipzig International Choral Festival in Germany (2008), France (2010), and Italy (2013).

DR. MARK WHITMIRE holds degrees from Abilene Christian University, the University of Texas, and the University of Maryland, where he received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree. Further studies include Dartmouth College and the Britten-Pears School in Aldeburgh, England, where he worked with Sir Peter Pears. He has received numerous grants and awards, including a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dr. Whitmire was named Outstanding Faculty of the Year by the college in 1990. In 2004 he was awarded the President's Sabbatical, and in 2010 received the NVCC Alumni Federation Award for Outstanding Service to the College.