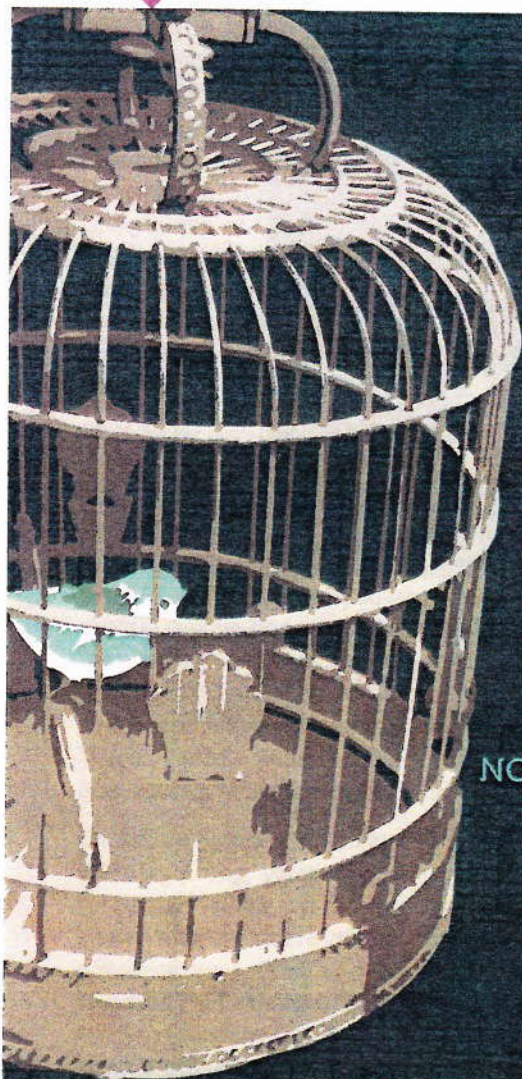




# Black History Month Celebration

Tuesday, February 24, 2015 | 7:30 pm



## A Tribute to Maya Angelou with

Choir of Alfred  
Street Baptist Church  
Joyce Garrett, Director

Dr. Lisa Edwards Burrs,  
Soprano

DEM Vocal Ensemble  
Metropolitan Youth  
Tap Ensemble

NOVA Jazz Ensemble  
John Kocur, Director

NOVA Community Chorus  
Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director

Poetry read  
by students of  
Dr. Kate Al-Shamma

Rachel M. Schlesinger  
Concert Hall and Arts Center

4915 East Campus Lane, Alexandria, VA 22311

No tickets required. Donations requested.





This concert is dedicated  
to our friend and teacher  
**Dr. Joseph Windham**

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.



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

Prose reading: 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

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.

