

EXPERIENCE
Choral Arts
THE CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

MEDIA ADVISORY
January 19, 2017

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THE CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON TO PRESENT 14TH ANNUAL HUMANITARIAN
AWARD TO RUBY BRIDGES AT *LIVING THE DREAM...SINGING THE DREAM*
THE 29TH ANNUAL CHORAL TRIBUTE TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., FEBRUARY 19, 2017

WHAT:

Ruby Bridges will receive the **Choral Arts Humanitarian Award** which is presented annually to an individual who embodies the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s message of nonviolent struggle for civil rights, equality and justice. Each year an extraordinary recipient is selected and honored by The Choral Arts Society of Washington at *Living the Dream...Singing the Dream*, the annual choral tribute to the legacy of Dr. King and co-presented by The Choral Arts Society of Washington and Washington Performing Arts. Led by Scott Tucker, Choral Arts Artistic Director, and Stanley J. Thurston, Artistic Director of the Washington Performing Arts Gospel Choirs, the annual choral tribute brings the combined force of more than 300 voices celebrating the power of music and the triumph of the human spirit in a concert that celebrates the past and embraces the hope of the future.

WHO:

Ruby Bridges—2017 Choral Arts Humanitarian Award recipient

A child of courage...a woman of determination, **Ruby Bridges** entered the history books when she entered first grade. On November 14, 1960, surrounded by armed U.S. Federal Marshals, Ruby Bridges became the very first black student to attend William Frantz Public School in New Orleans, and the youngest foot soldier of the Civil Rights Movement. Today, Ruby is an adult who encompasses that rare commodity known as "living history." She chairs the Ruby Bridges Foundation, which she formed in 1999 to promote "the values of tolerance, respect, and appreciation of all differences" and published her own memoir, *Through My Eyes*. Ruby continues to share candidly her seasoned perspective on a history that reflects the seismic changes in America during the last half century.

Established in 2004, previous recipients of the **Choral Arts Humanitarian Award** include:
Dr. Dorothy Height, John Lewis, Marian Wright Edelman, Harris Wofford, Julian Bond, John Doar, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Norman Scribner, Nelson Mandela (in absentia), Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell, Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian and Bryan Stevenson.

WHEN:

Sunday, February 19, 2016, 7:00 pm

WHERE:**Kennedy Center Concert Hall**

2700 F St NW, Washington, DC 20566

TICKETS: Tickets start at \$25 and are available through Washington Performing Arts (www.washingtonperformingarts.org or 202.785.9727), Choral Arts (www.choralarts.org or 202.244.3669) or through the Kennedy Center (www.kennedy-center.org or 202.467.4600).

ABOUT CHORAL ARTS

In its 50 years The Choral Arts Society of Washington (Choral Arts) established and maintains a dedication to excellence. Led by Artistic Director Scott Tucker, Choral Arts' commitment to artistic excellence is demonstrated by frequent invitations to perform regularly with the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) and other world-class orchestras including London Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, and the Mariinsky Orchestra, as well as alongside legendary conductors such as Christoph Eschenbach, Valery Gergiev, Marin Alsop and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Choral Arts is committed to connecting choral music to the country's growing diversity and partnering with global organizations to develop inspiring programs. Choral Arts also stands on a secure and stable financial and governance foundation.

Founded in 1965 by Artistic Director Emeritus Norman Scribner (1936 – 2015), Choral Arts stands out as a leader among its peers, earning awards, not only for its artistic excellence, but its administrative leadership and educational portfolio under the executive direction of Tad Czyzewski.

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