

EXPERIENCE
Choral Arts
THE CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON
SCOTT TUCKER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MEDIA ADVISORY
January 17, 2019

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THE CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON TO PRESENT 16TH ANNUAL
HUMANITARIAN AWARD TO THE REVEREND DOCTOR ELBERT RANSOM, JR. AT
LIVING THE DREAM...SINGING THE DREAM THE 31ST ANNUAL CHORAL TRIBUTE TO
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., FEBRUARY 17, 2019

WHAT:

The Reverend Doctor Elbert Ransom, Jr. 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, Theodore Thorpe III, Artistic Director of the Washington Performing Arts Men and Women of the Gospel Choirs, Michele Fowlin, Artistic Director of the Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir, and Stanley J. Thurston, Artistic Director Emeritus, the annual choral tribute brings the combined forces 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:

The Reverend Doctor Elbert Ransom, Jr. — 2019 Choral Arts Humanitarian Award recipient
As a civil rights activist and an aide to the late Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., he participated in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the March on Washington, DC in 1963, the Selma to Montgomery Voters Rights in March of 1965, and the Open Housing demonstrations in Chicago, Illinois in 1966. He was also the City Manager of Resurrection City (Poor People's Campaign) in 1968. He has authored and published inspirational books, including "I Shall Not Pass This Way Again" and "Bridging the Divide." He is currently an adjunct professor at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia.

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, Bryan Stevenson, Ruby Bridges, and Lonnie G. Bunch, III.

WHEN:

Sunday, February 17, 2019, 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) and through the Kennedy Center (www.kennedy-center.org or 202.467.4600).

ABOUT CHORAL ARTS

Established in 1965 by Norman Scribner (1936 – 2015), The Choral Arts Society of Washington (Choral Arts) maintains a dedication to excellence in choral repertoire and performance. Led by Artistic Director Scott Tucker since 2012, Choral Arts' commitment to artistic excellence is demonstrated by frequent invitations to perform with the National Symphony Orchestra and other world-class orchestras including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, London Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, and the Mariinsky Orchestra, as well as alongside legendary conductors such as Gianandrea Noseda, Gustavo Dudamel, Christoph Eschenbach, Valery Gergiev, Marin Alsop, and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Today Choral Arts is comprised of three performing groups: the symphonic Choral Arts Chorus, the Choral Arts Chamber Singers, established in 2014, and the Choral Arts Youth Choir, established in 2015. Choral Arts produces an annual concert season primarily at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts including fall and spring concerts, a Christmas series, a choral tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Concerts for Students, and a chamber series in intimate venues in addition to frequent artistic collaborations. Under the executive direction of Tad Czyzewski, 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.

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