

Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Performance History

In 1968, the year Dr. King was assassinated, many people struggled to give voice to the profound emotions of that moment in history. The Choral Arts Society of Washington sought to honor Dr. King in song, and on the first anniversary of his assassination, gave the premiere performance of a work it had commissioned in his honor, entitled *Once: In Memoriam Martin Luther King, Jr.* The following year, the Choral Arts Society joined with several church choirs to present a concert in memory of Dr. King, and these annual events continued through 1976. The following is a brief history of these performances.

1969 – 1st Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Tuesday, April 1, 1969 | The Church of the Epiphany
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - Diana Beveridge, soprano
- *Once: In Memoriam Martin Luther King, Jr.*, a world premiere by Thomas Beveridge, commissioned by The Choral Arts Society of Washington

1970 – 2nd Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Saturday, April 4, 1970 | Shiloh Baptist Church
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - First S.D.A. Church Senior Choir & Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Church Senior Choir | Wilmer S. Hunt, Jr., Director

1971 – 3rd Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Saturday, March 13, 1971 | Washington Cathedral
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Church Senior Choir | Wilmer S. Hunt, Jr., Director
 - First S.D.A. Church Senior Choir | Marcellus Breach, Director
 - Asbury Methodist Church Senior Choir | Marcellus Breach, Director
 - Diana Beveridge, soprano

1972 – 4th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Monday, January 31, 1972 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Church Senior Choir | Wilmer S. Hunt, Jr., Director
 - First S.D.A. Church Senior Choir | Marcellus Breach, Director
 - Asbury Methodist Church Choir | Marcellus Breach, Director
 - Dupont Park S.D.A. Church Choir | Esther Wroten, Director
 - DC Youth Chorale (DC Public Schools) | Edward Jackson, Director
 - Regina McConnell, soprano || Gloria Singleton, soprano || Alburtt Rhodes, tenor || Michael Ryan, baritone

Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Performance History

1973 – 5th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Saturday, January 13, 1973 | Washington Cathedral
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Church Senior Choir | Wilmer S. Hunt, Jr., Director
 - Asbury Methodist Church Senior Choir | Marcellus Breach, Director
 - Dupont Park S.D.A. Church Senior Choir | Esther Wroten, Director
 - Metropolitan Baptist Church Senior Choir | Drusilla Boddie, Director
 - Voices of Expression, Inc. | Taft Hylton, Director
 - Voices of Praise | Alma Blackmon, Director
 - Members of the Community Chorus of The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Wilmer S. Hunt, Jr., Director
 - Drew Minter, countertenor

1974 – 6th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Monday, January 14, 1974 | Martin Luther King Memorial Library
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director; Wilmer S. Hunt, conductor
 - Juanita Brown, soprano

1975 – 7th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Sunday, January 26, 1975 | St. Mark's Episcopal Church
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - Suzanne McAllister, guest conductor
 - Linda Ottsen, soprano
 - Ellen Lang, contralto
 - Theodore Morrison, tenor
 - John Vroom, bass

1976 – 8th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Monday, February 2, 1976 | Martin Luther King Memorial Library
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - Carla Ross, mezzo-soprano
 - Ronald Teigen, baritone

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At the onset of the national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1989, The Choral Arts Society of Washington reinstated its Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. King. The following is a brief history of these performances.

1989 – 1st Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Monday, January 9, 1989 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Norman Scribner and J. Weldon Norris, Co-Music Directors
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - The Howard University Choir | J. Weldon Norris, Music Director
 - Donald Vails' Salvation Corporation and The Voices of Victory | Donald Vails, Music Director
 - Sanctuary Choir of National City Christian Church | Lawrence Schreiber, Music Director
 - Combined Choruses of Duke Ellington Concert Choir and The D.C. Youth Chorale and Alumni | Edward Jackson, Music Director

1990 – 2nd Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Monday, January 8, 1990 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Norman Scribner and J. Weldon Norris, Co-Music Directors
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - The Howard University Choir | J. Weldon Norris, Music Director
 - Saint Augustine Gospel Choir | Leon C. Roberts, Music Director
 - James Madison Madrigal Singers | Kay Greene, Director

1991 – 3rd Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Monday, January 14, 1991 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Norman Scribner and J. Weldon Norris, Co-Music Directors
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - The Howard University Choir | J. Weldon Norris, Music Director
 - The Moyé Ensemble | Ulysses Moyé II, Music Director
 - The Eleanor Roosevelt High School Concert Choir | Barbara W. Baker, Music Director

1992 – 4th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Monday, January 13, 1992 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Norman Scribner and J. Weldon Norris, Co-Music Directors
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - The Howard University Choir | J. Weldon Norris, Music Director
 - Wesley A. Boyd and The Total Experience | Wesley A. Boyd, Music Director
 - The Woodrow Wilson High School Concert Choir | Luvenia George, Music Director

Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Performance History

1993 – 5th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Monday, January 11, 1993 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Norman Scribner and J. Weldon Norris, Co-Music Directors
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - The Howard University Choir | J. Weldon Norris, Music Director
 - Bethel Korean Presbyterian Church Choir | S. Ken Hong, Minister of Music
 - First Korean Baptist Church Choir | Hyong S. Sohn, Music Director
 - The William McKinley Senior High School Concert Choir | Arphelius Paul Gatling, Music Director

1994 – 6th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Monday, January 10, 1994 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Norman Scribner and J. Weldon Norris, Co-Music Directors
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - The Howard University Choir | J. Weldon Norris, Music Director
 - The Duke Ellington School of the Arts Concert Choir and The D.C. Youth Chorale and Alumni | Edward Jackson, Music Director
 - The Metropolitan Symphony Steel Orchestra | Gerri Caesar and Guno Emmanuelson, Music Directors

1995 – 7th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Monday, January 9, 1995 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Norman Scribner, Music Director
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - The Howard University Gospel Choir | Arphelius Paul Gatling, Music Director
 - Duke Ellington School of the Arts "Voices In Motion" | Samuel L. E. Bonds, Director
 - Walter Johnson High School Madrigal Singers | Polly Dawson Serpan, Director
 - Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Colonial Singers | Laura L. Clark, Director
 - The Levine/Arts Enterprise Zone Drum and Dance Ensemble | Barnett Williams and Aisha Kahlil, Directors

1996 – 8th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Monday, January 15, 1996 | Lincoln Theater || Wednesday, January 24, 1996 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Norman Scribner and Arphelius Paul Gatling, Co-Music Directors
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - The Ministers of Music | Patrick P. Lundy, Music Director
 - McKinley Senior High School Concert Choir | Arphelius Paul Gatling, Music Director
 - Chantilly Senior High School Jazz Ensemble | Keith Taylor, Music Director
 - Chevy Chase Elementary School Chorus | Joan Gregoryk, Music Director

Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Performance History

1997 – 9th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Monday, January 13, 1997 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Arphelius Paul Gatling, Music Director
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - The Young Adult Fellowship Ensemble of Metropolitan Baptist Church | Rev. Nolan Williams, Jr. and Richard Smallwood, Co-Music Directors
 - Eleanor Roosevelt Senior High School Chamber Choir and Women's Choir | Dr. Barbara W. Baker, Music Director
 - KanKouran West African Dance Company | Assane Konte, Artistic Director
- Outreach Performance: February 1997 | Eleanor Roosevelt High School

1998 – 10th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Sunday, January 11, 1998 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Arphelius Paul Gatling and Norman Scribner, Co-Music Directors
- *Stages*, a world premiere by Adolphus Hailstork, commissioned by the Choral Arts Society of Washington
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - The Howard University Choir | J. Weldon Norris, Music Director
 - The Shiloh Baptist Church Gospel Choir | Everett P. Williams, Jr., Minister of Music
 - Duke Ellington School of the Arts Show Choir | Samuel L. E. Bonds, Music Director
 - KanKouran West African Dance Company | Assane Konte, Artistic Director
 - Janice Chandler, soprano

1999 – 11th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Sunday, January 10, 1999 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Arphelius Paul Gatling and Norman Scribner, Co-Music Directors
- *His Light Still Shines*, a world premiere by Moses Hogan, commissioned by The Choral Arts Society of Washington
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - The Morgan State University Choir | Dr. Nathan Carter, Music Director
 - Performing Artists Under the Lord (P.A.U.L.) | Arphelius Paul Gatling, Music Director
 - The Eastern High School Choir | Joyce Garrett, Music Director

2000 – 12th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Sunday, January 9, 2000 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Arphelius Paul Gatling and Norman Scribner, Co-Music Directors
- *The Dreamer*, a world premiere by Glenn Burleigh, commissioned by The Choral Arts Society of Washington as part of the Society's 35th Anniversary Millennium Commission Series
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - The Urban Nation H.I.P H.O.P Choir and The Church of God in Christ Combined Choirs | Rickey Payton Sr., Music Director
 - The Children's Chorus of Washington | Joan Gregoryk, Music Director
 - Cartier Anthony Williams, ten year old tap-dancer

Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Performance History

2001 – 13th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Sunday, January 7, 2001 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Arphelius Paul Gatling and Dr. Barbara W. Baker, Co-Music Directors
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - The High Point High School Concert Choir | Ned L. Lewis, Director
 - The Ministers of Music | Patrick P. Lundy, Director
 - Step Afrika! Dance Exchange | C. Brian Williams, Director
 - B. J. Crosby, Tony-nominated singer and actress
- Outreach Performance: Tuesday, February 6, 2001 | High Point High School

2002 – 14th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Sunday, January 13, 2002 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Arphelius Paul Gatling and Dr. Barbara W. Baker, Co-Music Directors
- *Full Freedom*, a world premiere by Nicholas White, commissioned by The Choral Arts Society of Washington
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - The Heritage Signature Chorale | Stanley J. Thurston, Music Director
 - DC Boys Choir | Eleanor Stewart, Music Director
 - Coyaba Dance Theater | Sylvia Soumah, Artistic Director

2003 – 15th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Sunday, January 12, 2003 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Arphelius Paul Gatling and Dr. Barbara W. Baker, Co-Music Directors
- *Truth Pressed to Earth, Shall Rise*, a world premiere by Dr. Ysaye Maria Barnwell, commissioned by The Choral Arts Society of Washington
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - The Howard University Choir | Dr. J. Weldon Norris, Music Director
 - Performing Artists Under the Lord (P.A.U.L) | Arphelius Paul Gatling, Music Director
 - Eleanor Roosevelt High School Women's Choir | Dr. Barbara W. Baker, Director
 - Kankouran West African Dance Company | Assane Konte, Artistic Director
- Outreach Performance: Monday, January 13, 2003 | Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel – Howard University

2004 – 16th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Sunday, January 11, 2004 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Arphelius Paul Gatling and Norman Scribner, Co-Music Directors
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Music Director
 - The Mass Choir of Saint Paul's Baptist Church, Richmond, VA | Michelle Lightfoot, Director of Arts and Music
 - Sandtown Children of Praise, Baltimore, MD | Alvin E. Richardson Jr., Music Director
 - Odetta, beloved folk artist

Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Performance History

2005 – 17th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Sunday, January 9, 2005 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Arphelius Paul Gatling and Norman Scribner, Co-Music Directors
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Artistic Director
 - The Martin Luther King Tribute Choir – 2005 | Arphelius Paul Gatling, Music Director
 - The Maryland State Boychoir | Frank T. Cimino, Artistic Director
 - Glenn Edward Burleigh, guest conductor
 - Janice Chandler Eteme, soprano || James Shaffran, baritone

2006 – 18th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Sunday, January 8, 2006 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Norman Scribner and Linda Edge Gatling, Co-Music Directors
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Artistic Director
 - The Martin Luther King Tribute Choir – 2006 | Linda Edge Gatling, Music Director
 - The Suitland High School Visual and Performing Arts Chamber Choir | Kenneth Boucher, Music Director

2007 – 19th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Sunday, January 7, 2007 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Norman Scribner and Linda Edge Gatling, Co-Music Directors
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Artistic Director
 - The Martin Luther King Tribute Choir – 2007 | Linda Edge Gatling, Music Director
 - The Duke Ellington School of the Arts Show Choir | Samuel L. E. Bonds, Music Director

2008 – 20th Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Sunday, January 13, 2008 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Norman Scribner and Linda Edge Gatling, Co-Music Directors
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Artistic Director
 - The Martin Luther King Tribute Choir – 2008 | Linda Edge Gatling, Music Director
 - The Maryland State Boychoir | Frank T. Cimino, Artistic Director

2009 – 21st Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Sunday, January 11, 2009 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Artistic Director
 - The Heritage Signature Chorale | Stanley J. Thurston, Music Director
 - Performing Artists Under the Lord (P.A.U.L.) | Linda Edge Gatling, Music Director
 - Marina Aikawa, violin
- Student Performance: Thursday, January 15, 2009 | Lincoln Theatre

Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Performance History

2010 – 22nd Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Sunday, January 10, 2010 | Kennedy Center Concert Hall
- Participating Artists:
 - The Choral Arts Society of Washington | Norman Scribner, Artistic Director
 - The Heritage Signature Chorale | Stanley J. Thurston, Music Director
 - The Suitland High School for the Visual and Performing Arts Chamber Choir | Kenneth Boucher, Music Director
 - Ralph Alan Herndon and Friends
- Student Performance: Thursday, January 14, 2010 | Lincoln Theatre