

Kevin McBeth, conductor
Jermaine Smith, vocals
Denise Thimes, vocals
St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus
Kevin McBeth, director

Friday, February 22, 2019 at 7:30pm

JULIUS P. WILLIAMS	<i>The Legacy</i> , an Overture of African American Spirituals
ROLLO DILWORTH	<i>Freedom's Plow</i> , for Chorus and Orchestra Patricia Land, alto St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus
GERSHWIN	"It Ain't Necessarily So" from <i>Porgy and Bess</i> Jermaine Smith, vocals St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus
GERSHWIN	"There's a Boat That's Leavin' Soon" from <i>Porgy and Bess</i> Jermaine Smith, vocals
arr. Billups	"Every Time I Feel the Spirit" Harry Cecil, conductor St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus
STEPHEN C. FLAHERTY	"Make Them Hear You" Denise Thimes, vocals Adaron Jackson, piano St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus
TAYLOR Adaron Jackson	"I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free" Denise Thimes, vocals Adaron Jackson, piano
ISAAC CATES	"It's Working" <i>World Premiere</i> St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus

JOHNSON
arr. Carter

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus

INTERMISSION

ROBERT RAY
orch. Wilson

Gospel Mass

Kyrie - Lord Have Mercy

Gloria - Glory to God in the Highest

Credo - I Believe in God

Acclamation - Hallelujah Praise the Lord

Sanctus - Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts

Agnus Dei - Lamb of God

Jermaine Smith, vocals

Denise Thimes, vocals

St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This concert is supported by **Monsanto Fund.**

This concert is supported by **AARP.**



KEVIN MCBETH

Kevin McBeth was appointed Director of the IN UNISON Chorus in January 2011, and is also the founding Director of the St. Louis Symphony Holiday Festival Chorus. He serves as the Director of Music and Worship at Manchester United Methodist Church in suburban St. Louis. He was recently Adjunct Professor in Choral Music at Webster University.

He has conducted honor, festival, and touring choirs in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. Previous appointments include assistant conductor of the St. Louis Symphony Chorus and music director of the St. Louis Metro Singers.

With the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, he has conducted concerts with Oleta Adams, Jennifer Holliday, and Boyz II Men, as well as the July 4th Celebration under the Gateway Arch. McBeth recently led concerts at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and is a frequent presenter at regional and national conferences for the American Choral Directors Association. His orchestral conducting credits include performances with the Indianapolis Symphony, Houston Civic Symphony, the New England Symphonic Ensemble, and the Distinguished Concerts Orchestra of New York. Most recently, McBeth conducted a concert tour to Italy, with a performance at St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City.



JERMAINE SMITH

Tenor Jermaine Smith is closely associated with the role of Sportin' Life. He's performed at the Sydney Opera House in Australia; the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, New York; Teatro San Carlo in Naples, Italy; Seattle Opera; and Tanglewood Music Festival with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. He's also performed at the Hollywood Bowl's premiere performance of *Porgy and Bess* in concert, Lyric Opera of Chicago's production of *Porgy and Bess*, as well as in Cape Town Opera's guest engagement at the newly opened opera house in Oslo, Norway. He's performed the

role in Japan, Germany, Sweden, Austria, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Sicily, the Grand Canary Islands, and in the U.S. at Union Ave Opera, Opera Pacific, and in Francesca Zambello's production at both Washington National Opera and Los Angeles Opera. His portrayal of the character has graced Paris's Opera-Comique, the Theatre de Caen, the Granada Festival, the Opera de Luxembourg, and the Santa Fe Symphony. His other operatic repertoire includes the title role/*Joshua's Boots* (world premiere at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, revival at Kansas City Lyric Opera), *Henry Davis/Street Scene* and *Zodzetrick/Treemonisha* (both with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis). He has made numerous appearances with the SLSO. Smith is an alumnus of the New England Conservatory of Music and University of Missouri-St. Louis.



DENISE THIMES

After describing her brilliant voice as a perfect mix of "Ella, Sassy, Lady Day, Nancy, Dianne, and Carmen, to name a few," it came only naturally that legendary jazz trumpeter Clark Terry would, at New York's historic Flushing Town Hall, select Denise Thimes as that night's guest vocalist. Even sharing the stage with such jazz greats as Dr. Billy Taylor, Earl May, Benny Powell, Jimmy Heath, and Tootie Heath couldn't hinder the rising star, who dazzled the audience once more, bringing them to their feet for yet another series of standing ovations.

An accomplished performer, Denise Thimes has always been destined for stardom. While many artists "dabble" in theater, Denise Thimes is an undisputed class act. She has toured both America and Europe with several critically acclaimed productions and is an eight-time recipient of the St. Louis Black Repertory Woodie Award for both musicals and drama.

ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY IN UNISON CHORUS | 2018/2019

Kevin McBeth
Director

Harry Cecil
Assistant Director

Beth Enloe Fritz
Assistant Director

W. Christopher White
Accompanist

Michelle Byrd
Manager

Carlotta Algee-Stancil

Cassandra Allen

Damon N. Ambus

Carl L. Anderson

Brian Andrews

Gregory Bailey

Glenda Bastain

Tom Baynham

Laketia A. Beasley

Alison Bell

Sean Betts

Juanita Blackshear

Pamela L. Bolden

Amelia Boler

Daeryl Booker

Preston R. Bosley+

Candice R. Boyd

L. R. Bracy+

Jacquelyn Brown

Lynette G. Brunson+

Marvin C. Brunson+

Denise Brunson-Harris

Michelle Byrd

Rochelle Calhoun

Debra Cashimere

Harry Cecil

Beverly Charisse+

Denise Clothier

Jazmyn Cole*

Doris M. Coleman+

Vernetta P. Cox

Joyce L. Davis+

Reginald Davis

AJSR

Janet L. Dickerson

Charita A. Dones

Maggie Dorsey+

Elaine P. Dowdle

Darrius K. Duncan*

Kim Durr

Isaac Edwards

Glenn Ellis

Michael Engelhardt

Bridget Ford-Stegall

Vivian Fox

Beth Enloe Fritz

Grace Lee Fulford

Ruth A. Gilliam+

Cassandra Gilyard

Brittany Graham*

Gregory Green

Deborah Grupe

Leslie Hanlin

Ja'Quis Hardin*

Carol D. Henley

Jared Hennings

Dorothy T. Heyward

Natalie Hill

Veda Hill

Sarah Hoth

Vanessa Howard

Lawrence Hudson-Lewis

Carole Anne Hughes+

Don Hutcherson

Annie Mae Jackson+

Nathaniel Jackson

Pearline Jamison

Joyce Jefferson

Stanley R. Johnson, Jr.

Barrie C. Jones+

Jennifer Kelley

Patricia Land

Anton Lane

Brenda Lane

Julie Lynch

Margaret Ann McCabe

Wilberline Viola McCall

Tiffany McClenton

Randell McGee*

Samantha Minor

Vickie Minter

Montel Moore

Harry V. Moppins, Jr.

Mary Moorehead

Mary A. Morgan+

Calvin Parker

Susan D. Patterson

Diane J. Peal+

Harry Alexander Penelton III

Patricia Penelton+

Eric W. Pitts

John Reed+

Wilatrell B. Rice

Jackie W. Richardson+

Linda S. Richie+

Tiara Rooks

Mary Kathleen Schroeder

Christopher Scott

Teresia Simmons

Denise Sleet

Dwyane Smith

Diane Smoot

Bridget Stegall+

Wynton Stuart

Karen E. Stuart-Thomas

Althelia Powell Thomas+

Sharon Thurman

Lisha Tucker

Kwamina Walker-Williams+

Gracie Ward

Kelly Ward

Martyl Webster

Gwendolyn J. Wesley+

Elsa Whitfield

Edward Whittington

Glen E. Williams+

* Young Artist

+ Charter Member



The initial meeting to discuss the formation of the IN UNISON church program in the early 1990s. From left to right: SLSO Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin; Bishop Willie James Ellis, pastor of New NorthSide Baptist Church; and André Raphael, Assistant Conductor of the SLSO from 1991 to 1994.

My warmest congratulations on the 25th Anniversary of the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus. It is a notable landmark for the ensemble and partnership with the SLSO. As a choir which truly reflects the diversity of the community, this group is unique among musical organizations. The growth and scope of the choir's activities is a tribute to its leadership and all of you. What an honor it was for me to have conducted the Chorus in its maiden voyage performing Hannibal Lokumbe's *African Portraits* so many years ago. Over the years, the spirit of your work has helped infuse new energy into the musical landscape of St. Louis. Thanks for sharing the gift of music with so many audiences and best wishes for all the celebrations this season.

Cordially yours,
André Raphael

Kevin McBeth, conductor
Sutton Foster, vocals
Michael Rafter, piano

Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 7:30pm

Sutton Foster

Program to be announced from the stage.

There will be a 20-minute intermission.



SUTTON FOSTER

Sutton Foster can currently be seen starring as the lead of Darren Star's hit TV Land series, "Younger." Broadway: *Violet*, *Anything Goes* (Tony Award), *Shrek*, *Young Frankenstein*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Little Women*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Tony Award), *Les Misérables*, *Annie*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Grease*. Off-Broadway: *Sweet Charity* (The Pershing Square Signature Center) *The Wild Party* (City Center Encores!), *Trust* (Second Stage), *Anyone Can Whistle* (City Center Encores!). Albums: *Take Me to the World*, *Wish* and *An Evening with Sutton Foster: Live at the Café Carlyle*. Television: "Gilmore Girls: A Year in

the Life," "Bunheads," "Elementary," "Psych," "Royal Pains," "Law & Order: SVU," "Flight of the Conchords" and "Sesame Street." She holds an honorary doctorate from Ball State University, where she also teaches.



MICHAEL RAFTER

Michael Rafter is a composer, conductor, arranger, and musical director who has worked on numerous Broadway shows including *Swing!*, *Violet*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and recent revivals of *Sweet Charity*, *The King and I*, and *The Sound of Music*, among others. At Ball State University, Rafter has served for three years as the music director of the Senior Musical Theatre Capstone Cabaret, which performs each year in Indianapolis and in Joe's Pub at the Public Theatre in New York City. He served as musical director for the department's production of *Damn Yankees* in the Fall 2017.