



# The Promise of Living

## A Concert of Hope and Resilience

VOCES NOVAE

BLOOMINGTON CHAMBER SINGERS

IU AFRICAN AMERICAN CHORAL ENSEMBLE

WITH

SYLVIA McNAIR AND MARIETTA SIMPSON

SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 25TH, 2023

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA





# The Promise of Living: A Concert of Hope and Resilience

Voces Novae  
Susan Swaney, Artistic Director

Bloomington Chamber Singers  
Gerald Sousa, Artistic Director

Indiana University African American Choral Ensemble  
Dr. Raymond Wise, Artistic Director

Sylvia McNair and Marietta Simpson, hosts

## GATHERING MUSIC

Eric Bowling, flute  
Elias Medina, oboe  
Catherine Marchese, bassoon

## PRELUDE

from "The Tender Land" Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

*The Promise of Living*

Bloomington Chamber Singers and Voces Novae

Eric Bowling, flute  
Elias Medina, oboe  
Catherine Marchese, bassoon  
Nara Lee and Caio Lopes, piano

## PROMISE

*Dr. King's Garment of Destiny* Don Freund  
Bloomington Chamber Singers

*Walk A Mile* Pepper Choplin  
*Standing Beside You* Cindy Kallet

Voces Novae  
*We Shall Overcome* Traditional  
Audience and Performers Together  
Led by Dr. Raymond Wise

## HOPE

*Unclouded Day*

Rev. J.K. Alwood,  
arr. Shawn Kirchner

Voces Novae

*Tides*

Reginal Wright

You-Xin Li, violin    Wan-Zhen Xie, viola  
Nara Lee, piano

*A Chain is Broken*

Dominick DiOrio

You-Xin Li, violin  
Nara Lee, piano

Bloomington Chamber Singers

*Hope*

Ysaÿe Barnwell

Audience and Performers Together  
Led by Dr. Raymond Wise

## RESILIENCE

*Nearly Insane*

Ysaÿe Barnwell

Bloomington Chamber Singers

*Asante Sana*

originally by Safari Sound Band,  
arr. Wilson O. Shitandi

Voces Novae

*I've Been Buked*

arr. by Hall Johnson

*So Much to Live For*

Raymond Wise

*Walk On*

Raymond Wise

Sylvia McNair, Marietta Simpson, soloists  
Indiana University African American Choral Ensemble

*Shine the Light*

Raymond Wise

Audience and Performers Together  
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## MEET THE ARTISTS



**Raymond Wise, Ph. D.**, a native of Baltimore, Md., began his musical career at three, singing gospel music with his family singing group, “The Wise Singers.” Dr. Wise earned a B.F.A. in Music (Piano and Voice) from Denison University (Granville, Ohio). He did additional studies in Opera, Art, and German at the Institute for European Studies in Vienna, Austria, and African-American History, Music, and Dance at San Francisco State University in San Francisco, California. Dr. Wise earned his Master’s and Doctorate in Music Education from The Ohio State University. He currently serves on Indiana University’s faculty as a Professor of Practice in the African American African Diaspora Studies department. In addition, he serves as the Associate Director of the African American Arts Institute, an IU division devoted to African American music and dance performance. Dr. Wise conducts the African American Choral Ensemble, recently featured in the Emmy Award Winning PBS documentary “*Amen: Music of the Black Church.*”



**Susan Swaney** has been music director of Voces Novae since 1999 and artistic director since 2004. Swaney was music director for Cardinal Stage Company’s productions of *West Side Story*, *Les Miserables* and *My Fair Lady*, as well as Indiana University Ballet’s production of Twyla Tharp’s *Sweet Fields*, and Indiana University Theatre’s *Pirates of Penzance*. She is music director for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington and founder of the Sing for Joy! senior citizen choir. Swaney also teaches voice in the musical theatre program of the Indiana University Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance and taught for many years in the Choral Department at the IU Jacobs School of Music. She received her doctorate in Choral Conducting from Indiana University’s Jacobs School of Music. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Music History and Violin from the University of Michigan and a Master of Music degree in Voice Performance from Indiana University.



**Gerald Sousa** (Music Director) has held the position of BCS Artistic Director since 1989. Dr. Sousa received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his doctorate in Choral Conducting, summa cum laude, from Indiana University. He has held positions at the University of New Orleans, Dartmouth College, and the University of North Carolina, and has performed professionally at the Aspen Summer Music Festival. Dr. Sousa is currently Director of Music at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church in Bloomington, and is active as an arts advocate and technology consultant. He has served on the boards of local arts organizations, including the former Bloomington Area Arts Council, which he led as President for a number of years.



Two-time Grammy Award winner **Sylvia McNair** is as surprised as anyone that she survived more than 35 years in the music business singing opera, oratorio, musical theater and pops. Now retired from the Jacobs School of Music and almost all singing engagements, she devotes her time and energy to a retirement career in Bloomington, teaching English as a New Language through VITAL at the MCPL, working for the Area 10 Agency on Aging's Mobile Food Pantry, serving on the board for the Refugee Support Network, working closely with many RSN clients (and adopting a few), helping with The Violin Project at Fairview Elementary, hosting 'Sylvia & Friends', a classical music radio show on WFIU, and hanging out with her beloved cocker spaniel Pearl. Local passions include supporting New Hope for Families (especially Lainey and Bert), her yoga practice, and *of course* singing in Voces Novae.



**Marietta Simpson**, mezzosoprano, whose celebrated career includes performances with every major orchestra in the United States, as well as many prestigious international orchestras and opera companies, has sung with a long list of the world's greatest conductors, including the late Loren Maazel, and Robert Shaw, with whom she made her Carnegie Hall debut. Her extensive discography includes Grammy nominated and award-winning recordings, like William Bolcom's Songs of Innocence and Experience (Naxos). Her debut solo CD, Crooked Stick: Songs of My People (2019), a collection of spirituals, and WRTI's Crooked Stick: the live concert received a 2020 Telly Award. Marietta is currently Distinguished Rudy Professor of Music at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, a fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the American Academy of Teachers of Singing.

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# Spring Concerts - Mark Your Calendar

## African American Dance Company

Saturday, April 15, 2023  
7:30 p.m.

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## IU Soul Revue

Saturday, April 22, 2023  
7:30 p.m.

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## African American Choral Ensemble

Saturday, April 29, 2023  
7:30 p.m.

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## **Boys and Girls Club Art Exhibit**

In the room adjacent to the concert space, you saw a gloriously colorful exhibit of artwork by children of The Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington (Lincoln Street). Centered on the theme for this evening's celebration of hope and resilience, the exhibit, like our concert, is entitled "The Promise of Living," after the choral work of the same name by composer Aaron Copland.

A few weeks back, members of the BCS visited the Club, where they performed a program of choral pieces and talked with the children about what the music and poetry means to them. *The Promise of Living*, with its message of cooperation, hard work, and love of your neighbor to get through difficult times, was the central piece in this presentation. In the following days, inspired by the music they heard, the children created the imaginative works of art on display this evening.

We are grateful to the Boys & Girls Club, to Jack Laskey, and to each and every young artist who put their inspiration down on paper to share with us all. Let their inspiration be yours, as you experience the many works of promise, hope, and resilience in the music and words you will hear tonight.

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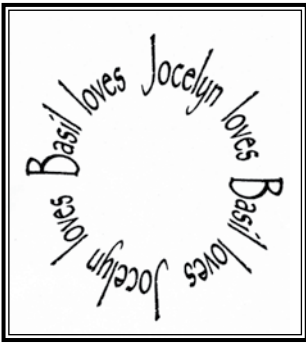


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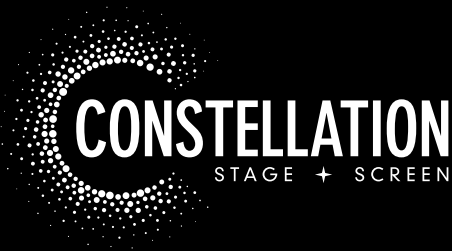
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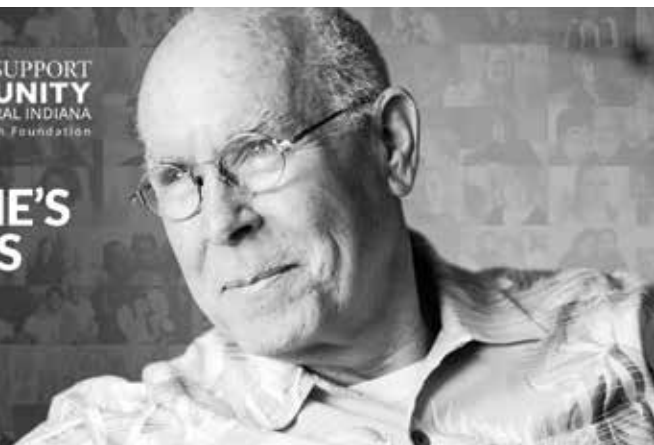
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**Gerald Sousa, Music Director**  
**Caio Lopes, Assistant Conductor**  
**Nara Lee, Accompanist**

### ***Sopranos***

Jan Allen  
Janice Bagwell  
Michele Bergonzi  
Linda Giedroc  
Liz Hebbard  
Abby Henkel  
Patty Ingham  
Carole MacKay  
Patti Parkes  
Kathy Powell  
Carolyn Sowinski  
Claire Tafoya  
Mia Watts

### ***Altos***

Andrea Bridges  
Dana Cattani  
Alisha DiBuduo  
Lisa Kurz  
Suzanne Ryan-  
Melamed  
Ruth Sanders  
Patricia Slabach  
Stephanie Tokarz  
Bernadette Zoss

### ***Tenors***

Justin Ahmann  
Patrick Conklin  
David Giedroc  
Nathan  
Krishnaswami  
Ian Pottmeyer  
James Ryan  
Jason Wadsworth

### ***Basses***

Jay Adams  
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Phylip Gardner  
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**Raymond Wise, Conductor**  
**Darren Collins, Drums**  
**James Douglas, Piano**  
**Wayne Allen, Auxiliary Keys**

### ***Sopranos***

Nia Boyd  
Shenika John  
Jordan  
Kayla Conley  
Kathiana  
Dargenson  
Deniyah Hubbard  
McKenzie Jones  
Shannon Master  
Amaiya Morris  
Jewels Nelson  
Autumn Stevens

### ***Altos***

Tsehai Bean  
Myah Clayborn  
Faye Coy  
Briana Flores  
Marlexis Wilson  
Cashmere Booker  
Desiree Cousin  
Luna DeCastro  
Esra Ibil  
Chyan Pace  
Miracle Stewart  
Allison Wadsworth

### ***Tenors***

Curtis Blair  
Joshua Flowers  
William Robison  
Marcus Blackmon  
Cortez Thomas

### ***Basses***

Marvin Allen  
Eddie Malooley  
Baki Adisa  
Giovani Malcolm  
Nicholas Philbeck  
Keshuann  
Tompkins-Barnes

## VOCES NOVAE CHAMBER CHOIR

Susan Swaney, Director

Kim Carballo, Pianist

### **Sopranos**

Molly Burke León  
Alison Calhoun  
Mary Craig  
Abby Henkel  
Maria Walker

### **Altos**

Kit Boulding  
Karen Gahl-Mills  
Sally Gaskill  
Sylvia McNair  
Amy Osajima  
Susie Sullivan

### **Tenors**

Michael Grubb  
Cindy Kallet  
Nathan  
Krishnaswami  
Steven Lawrie  
Regan Starr

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*Continued on page 20*



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