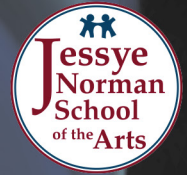


A performance benefiting the students of the Jessye Norman School of the Arts



A 20th Anniversary Celebration Concert

RISING STARS

Operatic Favorites and More

Featuring:

Diana Thompson-Brewer
Courtney Ankerfelt

Johnnie Felder
Richard Hodges

OCT 2

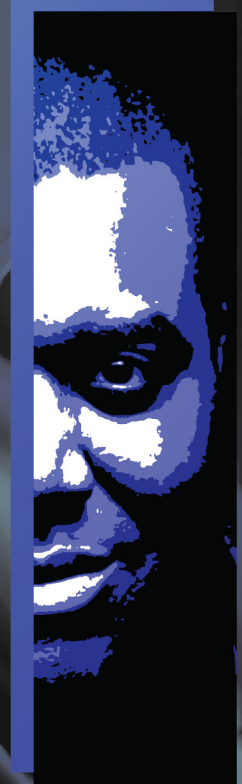
4:00PM

The Maxwell Performing Arts Theatre

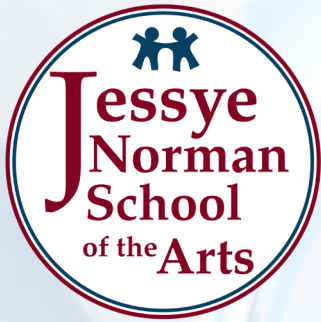
2500 Walton Way

Augusta University

Summerville Campus



ADVANCING THE ARTS.
ENRICHING LIVES.



A Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

“How lucky are we?”

Nearly every time I’ve heard Ms. Norman speak, these words were a part of her message. To me, her entire life seemed to be one of gratitude. For all of the gifts she shared with the world, she was always amongst the first to recognize how much she, and those around her had to be grateful for.

How lucky are we . . .

. . .to be here tonight, to witness these amazing talents, to be a part of these young people’s lives?

. . .that Ms. Norman shared her gifts, her time, and her name with our school and her home town?

. . .that we live in a community that values art?

. . .that over the last 19 years the school has grown to to serve more students and families each year?

. . .for all of the amazing people that toil in the trenches, year in and year out to make this community and this life a little more enjoyable; a little better.

. . .for the relentless work of dozens of organizations and thousands of individuals, to bring Augusta to a place where rather than hoping for something we might find in another town, we expect it here.

Next Fall, JNSA will mark 20 years since its inception in 2003. We are fortunate to have enjoyed our community’s support for all of that time. We ask you to make plans to join us next year for our 20th Anniversary Celebration Concert. Stay tuned for details!

With our enduring gratitude,



JESSYE NORMAN

(September 15, 1945 – September 30, 2019)

Jessye Norman, one of the world's most celebrated performing artists, was acclaimed for her performances in wide range of leading roles with the world's premier opera companies, in solo recitals and in concerts of her cherished classical repertoire with preeminent orchestras all over the globe, as well as her latest artistic expansion with her jazz ensemble and the extensive programming of music from the American musical theater, which she entitled: **AMERICAN MASTERS**. She was the recipient of many awards and accolades, including forty honorary doctorate degrees from colleges, universities, and conservatories around the world, five Grammy awards including the 'Lifetime Achievement Award', the National Medal of the Arts received at the White House from President Obama in 2010, and was a Kennedy Center Honors recipient. In France, an orchid was named for her by the National Museum of Natural History. She was a Commandeur de L'Orde des Arts et des Lettres and was an Officier of the Legion Francaise. Her community service included trustee board memberships at The New York Public Library, Carnegie Hall, The Dance Theatre of Harlem, the Lupus Foundation, Paine College, and the New York Botanical Garden. She was called upon often to speak to her passionate involvement and advocacy of arts education. The school for the arts in her hometown of Augusta, Georgia which bears her name, enabled her to support and see first-hand the extraordinary work of an equally dedicated staff of teachers and auxiliary personnel. Students who would otherwise not be able to avail themselves of private tutelage in the arts grew into the fullness of their talents and gifts as they developed their own sense of community and citizenship. She absolutely glowed at any mention of The Jessye Norman School for the Arts and was grateful indeed for this tangible, living opportunity to address the need for education in the arts in the town where her own studies and training began. Her memoir, **STAND UP STRAIGHT AND SING!**, released in May of 2014 and in France in the summer of 2015, chronicles her childhood in Augusta, Georgia and man experiences of her professional life as it unfolded all over the world over a period of four decades!

“WHY BE MEDIOCRE? EXCELLENCE HAS TO ALWAYS BE THE GOAL. THERE’S NO POINT IN BOTHERING IF YOU’RE NOT GOING TO GIVE IT YOUR ALL.”

- JESSYE NORMAN 2014, (INTERVIEW FOR THE AFUWI BOB MARLEY AWARD)

PERFORMERS



Lyric coloratura soprano, **Dána Thompson-Brewer**, is lauded for her “aplomb and sparkling” vocal pyrotechnics and her nuanced character portrayals. Dána made her professional operatic debut in the role of Adele in Strauss II’s *Die Fledermaus* and has since amassed an array of soprano roles that range from the pinnacle of coloratura sopranos – Lucia in *Lucia di Lammermoor* – to the fiercest queen of all opera – Queen of the Night in Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte*. Other operatic credits include Eden in the world premiere of *Galaxies in Her Eyes*, Zerbinetta from Richard Strauss’ *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Susanna in Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro*, Musetta in Puccini’s *La bohème*, Miss Silverpeal in Mozart’s *Die Schauspieldirektor*, Sister Genevieve in Puccini’s *Suor Angelica*, Beth & Amy in Mark Adamo’s *Little Women*, Millie in *Libby Larsen’s Picnic*, Belinda in Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*, Vi in Gershwin’s *Blue Monday*, and Mrs. McDowell in Hailstork’s *Rise for Freedom*. Dána made her international debut in Geneva, Switzerland with L’Orchestre de Chambre de Genève and has also sung in New York City, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Vermont, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. She has been a soprano soloist in Haydn’s *The Creation*, Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, Handel’s *Messiah*, Bach’s *Cantata 4*, Haydn’s *Mass in Time of War*, Vivaldi’s *Magnificat*, excerpts from Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess*, and Beethoven’s Choral Fantasy. Dána also made her Musical Theatre debut as Sarah in Flaherty’s iconic Ragtime, and

she recently debuted a song cycle written and composed for her by poet Ashley Lumpkin and composer Christopher Cooley titled *At First Sight*. A few of Dána’s upcoming engagements include appearing as Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte* with Opera Wilmington (July 2022), Musetta in *La bohème* with Greensboro Opera (November 2022), Magda in *La rondine* with Mobile Opera (March 2023), and Soprano Soloist in *Carmina Burana* with Georgia Symphony Orchestra (May 2023). Dána, an alumna of Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School, holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Georgia (Presidential Fellow), a Master of Music degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a Bachelor of Music degree from Augusta State University, all in Vocal Performance. Dána lives in Augusta, GA with her husband, James who is a professional tubist and the Director of Bands at Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School, as well as their 2-year-old daughter, Lillian.

Courtney Ankerfelt is a mezzo-soprano originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Miss Ankerfelt is a former student of the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music in Southern California, where she performed works such as Wagner’s *Wesendoncklieder* and Mahler’s 2nd symphony as the mezzo-soprano soloist. While attending conservatory, Miss Ankerfelt received a grant from Opera Buffs Organization. Courtney’s recent roles include Madame des Croissy from Poulenc’s *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Zita from Puccini’s *Gianni Schicchi* and Mercedes in Bizet’s *Carmen*, Flosshilde/Waltraute in Vegas City Opera’s *The Ring*, Las Vegas. She is also a regular performer in VCO’s Voice of Women concert series. Miss Ankerfelt is currently enrolled in the Institute for Young Dramatic Voices where she studies in the American Wagner Project.



Dr. Rosalyn Floyd is a Professor in the Department of Music at Augusta University. A graduate of Talladega College in Alabama, Dr. Floyd holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of South Carolina. Best known as a collaborative artist, Rosalyn Floyd has accompanied world-renowned performers including Miss Jessye Norman, Laquita Mitchell, Indra Thomas, Nicholas Phan, and Kevin Short. For her work in the Augusta community, especially with the Augusta Choral Society, Dr. Floyd was named the Greater Augusta Arts Council Artist of the Year (2005). Her collaborative endeavors include travel to many areas throughout the United States, the Bahamas, and the Peoples’ Republic of China. Dr. Floyd performs as the accompanist on the recordings *Oral Moses Sings Songs of America (2008)*, *Come Down Angels (2014)* and *Steal Away (2016)*. With her colleagues Dr. Martin D. Jones and Dr. Clara Park, Dr. Floyd has done several regional and national conference presentations of piano ensemble music for six hands. Her most recent alliance with the Drs. Minnita Daniel-Cox, Alexis Davis-Hazell, and Marcia Porter is *My Sister’s Keeper*, dedicated to the research, performance, and promotion of compositions by African American women. This partnership has presented at the national conferences for the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) and the National Opera Association (NOA).

Johnnie J. Felder, tenor, is a native of Vance, South Carolina and holds DMA University of South Carolina with a bachelor and graduate music degrees

from Benedict College and the University of South Carolina respectively. Mr. Felder has additional vocal training in the AIMS opera studio in Graz, Austria, and in the soloist program of the 20th Annual Varna International Music Academy Festival. An expressive opera singer known for his impressive range, lyricism, and captivating vocal power, Felder made his 2019 European debut in Varna, Bulgaria as Rinuccio in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*. Felder's leading roles include Beppe in Donizetti's *Rita*, Don Ottavio in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Nemorino in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*, and Tamino in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*.



Concert repertoire includes, Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, Mozart's *Requiem*, *Coronation Mass*, and *Vesperae solennes de confessore*, and Dubois's *Seven Last Words of Christ*.

Felder was the tenor soloist in the North American premiere of Carl Friedrich Zelter's lost work, "*Kantate auf den Tod von Friedrichs*", featured in the ensemble of Spoleto USA's production of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and the world premiere of Edmund Thornton Jenkins' *Afram ou la belle Swita*. He was also featured as Collin in the Colour of Music Festival's concert production of Joseph de Bologne's *L'amant Anonyme*. Felder sang the rarely performed, Count Belfiore, in Mozart's *La finta Giardiniera*, and was the Preacher in Opera at USC's 2018 Centenary presentation of Leonard Bernstein's *Mass*.

Mr. Felder has sung Schubert's *Mass in G*, Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass*, and has recently been featured as a collaborative soloist in concert performances of Howard Goodall's *Eternal Light* and *The King James Bible Oratorio* with the Augusta Choral Society and Shandon Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC. Mr. Felder has also sung the role of the Watchman in William Schuman's *Casey at the Bat: A Baseball Cantata* with the University of South Carolina Summer Chorus, Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* (Colour of Music Festival), and Camille Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio*. A recipient of countless regional and international academic and competitive accolades include first round finalist in the AIMS

Meistersinger Competition in Graz, Austria, and award recipient in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Competition. He has served on the music faculties of Benedict College, South Carolina State University, Paine College, and as Director of Choirs and Professor of Voice at Augusta University in Augusta, GA. Presently, Professor Felder is Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at Allen University in Columbia, SC.

Recent performances include: 2022 Spoleto Festival USA Chorus and Vocal Fellowship inaugural performance.

Richard L. Hodges, is a native of Greensboro, N.C. Richard is a 2019 nominee for Best Lead in a Musical with the Las Vegas Valley Awards for his role in *Gianni Schicchi* with Vegas City Opera. His other recent roles include the Preacher in *Sweet Land with The Industry L.A.*, Michele in *Il Tabarro*, and Hamlet in the opera *Hamlet* to name a few. Some of his other roles include Frank in *Die Fledermaus*, Porgy from *Porgy and Bess* and Peter in *Hansel and Gretel*. He is an Emerging Artist in the Institute for Young Dramatic Voices program and has received several awards. Most notable he was a finalist in the American Institute of Musical Studies, Meistersinger Competition. He was also one of the 2018 UNLV Concerto Competition Winners. He has been featured in numerous orchestral and chamber concerts which include performances of various operatic arias and scenes as well as master works such as *Here and Now* by Christopher Theofanidis with the UNCG Orchestra and combined choirs and the *Messiah* by Handel. Mr. Hodges has been a featured soloist and recitalist performing with Angels Vocal Arts, The Industry LA, Vegas City Opera, Opera Las Vegas, Henderson Symphony Orchestra, the UNLV String Orchestra, the famed UNLV Wind Orchestras, Greensboro Opera Company, North Carolina Opera Company and other organizations throughout his career. Mr. Hodges continues to give masterclasses and performs with other local and regional organizations. His upcoming performances include the show *Harriet Tubman* with Vegas City Opera and a *Recital of Black Composers* sponsored by St. John's in the Village, NYC. Although best known as a performer, Mr. Hodges has been writing, directing and composing for quite some time. His most recent work, *Women of the Black Panthers* was premiered with Vegas City Opera and featured his new composition "*Be Proud*" in which he wrote the poem and music. This work will also be featured as part of Vegas City Opera's 2020 *Song Cycle Project*. In collaboration with Vegas City Opera, Mr. Hodges has also created the playwright book for 2 other shows, *Coretta Scott King* and *Sojourner Truth*. A new work about the life of Harriet Tubman will be premiered this summer in Las Vegas as well as other collaborative projects happening in the upcoming seasons. Richard received his Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Master of Music at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Bachelor of Music from North Carolina Central University. He currently serves as the Assistant Professor of Voice at South Carolina State University.



Rising Stars: Operatic Favorites and More

A Benefit Concert for the Jessye Norman School of the Arts

Diana Thompson-Brewer, Soprano • Courtney Ankerfelt, Mezzo Soprano • Johnnie Felder, Tenor • Richard Hodges, Baritone
Dr. Rosalynd Floyd, Collaborative Pianist • The Jessye Norman School of the Arts Student Chorus

Introductions.....William Mills, Gary Dennis

Habanera.....Courtney Ankerfelt
From *Carmen* by Georges Bizet

Perfidi! Pieta Rispetto Amore.....Richard Hodges
From *Macbeth* by Giuseppe Verdi

Flower Duet.....Diana Thompson-Brewer, Courtney Ankerfelt
From *Lakmé* by Léo Délibes

Nessun Dorma.....Johnnie Felder
From *Turandot* by Giacomo Puccini

Chi il bel sogno.....Diana Thompson-Brewer
From *La Rondine* by Giacomo Puccini

Largo al factotum.....Richard Hodges
From *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, by Gioachino Rossini

Entweihete Götter.....Courtney Ankerfelt
From *Lohengrin* by Richard Wagner

O Soave Fanciulla.....Diana Thompson-Brewer and Johnnie Felder
From *La Boheme* by Giacomo Puccini

Dagli immortali vertici.....Richard Hodges
From *Atilla* by Giuseppe Verdi

Rigoletto Quartet.....Thompson-Brewer, Ankerfelt, Felder, Hodges
From *Rigoletto* by Giuseppe Verdi, Conducted by Dr. Keely Rhodes

Intermission

Some Enchanted Evening.....Richard Hodges
From *South Pacific* by Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein II

Sit, Down You're Rocking The Boat.....Johnnie Felder
From *Guys and Dolls* by Frank Loesser

Summertime.....Richard Hodges
From *Porgy and Bess* by George and Ira Gershwin

A Woman is a Sometime Thing.....Richard Hodges
From *Porgy and Bess* by George and Ira Gershwin

Climb Every Mountain.....Courtney Ankerfelt
From *The Sound of Music* by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

Make Them Hear You.....Johnnie Felder
From *Ragtime* by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens

Ten Minutes Ago.....Courtney Ankerfelt and Richard Hodges
From *Cinderella* by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

The JNSA Creed Song.....The JNSA Student Choir
Written By Russel Joel Brown, Arranged by Edwin G Hamilton, ASCAP

He's Got The Whole World In His Hands.....All Performers
Arranged by Margaret Bonds, In Honor of Ms. Norman

JNSA Faculty and Staff

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Vivian Clanton.....Assistant Director, After School Program
Carmen Moses.....Peforming Arts Director
Stephanie Willingham.....Visual Arts Director
Delia Collins.....Homeschool Arts Director
Tony Aaron Hambrick.....Choral Director, Afterschool Program
Taylor D'Antignac.....Dance Teacher, Afterschool Program
Rex Cooper-Bryan.....Music Teaching Assistant
Collin Segura.....Development Manager
Khalia Crawford.....Community Class Coordinator
Jacob Boland.....Photography Instructor, After School Program
Graham Gooden.....Art Instruction, Afterschool Program
Michael Kane.....Visual Arts Instructor, Afterschool Program
Elisa Arrambide Barquet.....Teaching Assistant
Jacob Zimmerman.....Teaching Assistant



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Latrina Brown.....Dance Instructor, Walton Oaks
Roger Evans.....Art Instructor, Walton Oaks
Laurie Orth.....Music Instructor, Challenge Prep Academy
Kari Grover.....Community Classes, Tap
Florence Hechtel.....Private Lessons, Voice and Piano
Diana Thompson-Brewer.....Private Lessons, Voice
Juan Jacobo Duque.....Private Lessons, Guitar
Angela Shaw.....Private Lessons, String and Piano

Benefit Concert Committee

Tony Aaron Hambrick • Sophia Tian • Tonya Currier • Diana Thompson-Brewer • Melanie Wade Larsen
Dr. Keely Rhodes • Shawna Lloyd • Laurie Orth

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Mission

The Mission of The Jessye Norman School of the Arts is to improve the quality of life for the communities we serve through the transformative power of the arts.

The broad-ranged fine arts program challenges students academically, integrates technology and lays the foundation for extraordinary life experiences.

The Jessye Norman School of the Arts is an after school program designed to develop and nurture the artistic and creative talents of students. The School of the Arts serves the cultural and educational needs of these youth by providing:

Tuition-free Fine Arts instruction

Academic Tutoring

An opportunity for advanced level study in dance, drama, music, art, and creative writing and more

Exposure to professionals working within the arts fields

Information on possible careers in the arts

Knowledge of technical aspects of presentation and performance

Thank you to all of our sponsors!

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Mary Ann Bigger • Garland Gooden • Joya Jimenez DiStefano • Alice Bennett

To all who have donated at any level, volunteered their time, or have contributed to the growth of our school: It is because of you that we are able to serve our community through the transformative power of the arts. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

How can You Help?

Visit Jessyennormanschool.org to make monetary donations, volunteer, and see our calendar of events!

Donate materials, instruments, supplies, or vehicles

Mail a check to 739 Greene Street, Augusta Ga, 30901- Payable to JNSA

Volunteer your time

Say something nice about us on social media:

IG: @thejnsa FB: @jessyennormanschool

Visit thejnsa.org for more ways to help!

THE JNSA CREED

**I represent
Something larger than myself
In everything I do, and
In everything I say.**

**I represent myself,
My family
My School
And the Jessye Norman School of the Arts.**

**I will strive to bring honor
To all that I represent
By doing only my best
Saying only my best
And being only my best.**

**I am a student of
The Jessye Norman School of the Arts!**

**Join us for our 20th Anniversary Celebration Concert Next Year
Stay tuned for details!**

www.thejnsa.org