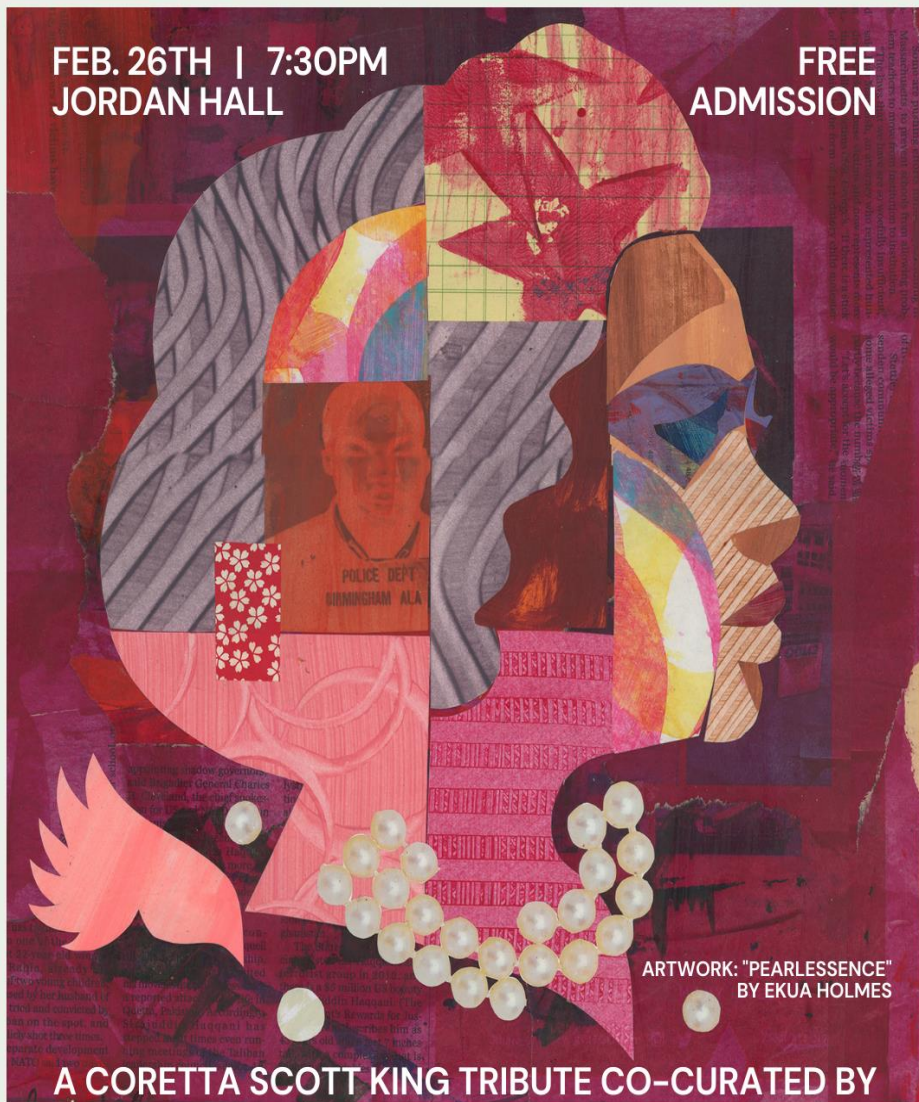


LIFE. LOVE. LEGACY.

FEB. 26TH | 7:30PM
JORDAN HALL

FREE
ADMISSION



ARTWORK: "PEARLESSENCE"
BY EKUA HOLMES

A CORETTA SCOTT KING TRIBUTE CO-CURATED BY
NEC'S BLACK STUDENT UNION & CASTLE OF OUR SKINS

Life. Love. Legacy.

Coretta Scott King's unwavering commitment to peace, dedication to family, and incredible sense of purpose are remarkable, but amidst these hallmarks is an incredible artist. With a life dedicated to the Civil Rights cause, she used the power of music as a vehicle for social change.

In this spirit, "Life. Love. Legacy," celebrates the principles of Coretta Scott King.

The music of Life juxtaposes her faith in peace and God against the violent racial hatred of the South of the early-mid 20th century.

Love explores King's deep love for humanity, peace, her husband and her family.

Finally, in Legacy, the concert honors King's perseverance, faith-driven activism, and global impact in shaping justice and human rights.

*Alongside New England Conservatory students,
we are grateful to feature performers from,
and collaboratively curate this program with, Castle of our Skins.*

– Emma Boyd '25, violin

PROGRAM

Monique Van Willingham +, narrator

LIFE

Maxwell Fairman

String Quartet No. 1

Maxwell Fairman, Grant Houston, violin
Emma Boyd, viola
Patrice Jackson *, cello

Forbes Graham §

More Cornbread

Jalen Seapker ‡, flute
Chasity Thompson, clarinet
Emma Boyd, violin

Lemuel Marc

Bend the Sky

Lemuel Marc, trumpet
Jason Moran +, piano
Aidan Devine ‡, bass
Maliq Wynn ‡, drums

Frederick C. Tillis

from *Spiritual Fantasy No. 12*

II. Wade in the Water

Castle of our Skins String Quartet
Matthew Vera '20, Grant Houston,
violin
Ashleigh Gordon '08 MM, viola
Patrice Jackson *, cello

LOVE

Frédéric Chopin

Polonaise in A-flat Major, op. 53 “Heroic”

Ellen Annor-Adjei §, piano

Mason Bynes

Songs for the People

Daniela Pyne, soprano

Ellen Annor-Adjei §, piano

Jessie Montgomery

Rhapsody No. 1

Maxwell Fairman, violin

Regina Harris Baiocchi

Karibu

Chasity Thompson, clarinet

Roberta Flack/Donny Hathaway

Where is the love?

Kayden Carter, voice

Pitiki Aliakai, voice, piano

Ben Walker, bass

Paul July Joseph, drums

LEGACY

Franz Joseph Haydn

from **Quartet in B-flat Major, op. 76 no. 4**
“Sunrise”

I. Allegro con spirito

Sydney Scarlett, Sofia Skoldberg, violin
Jessi Kaufman, viola
Angela Sun, cello

Jonathan Bailey Holland

“Coretta Scott King” from *American Voices*

Jaehan Kim, Noah Korenfeld,
Alexander Russell, Allie-Klaire Ledbetter,
Ethan Lehman, Rebecca Bertekap, trombone
David Paligora, Jason Sato, bass trombone
Alexander Knutrud, conductor

Frederick C. Tillis

from *Spiritual Fantasy No. 12*
IV. I’m a rollin’

Castle of our Skins String Quartet
Matthew Vera ’20, Grant Houston, violin
Ashleigh Gordon ’08 MM, viola
Patrice Jackson *, cello

+, NEC faculty, staff

*, Berklee College of Music faculty

‡, Berklee College of Music/Boston Conservatory of Music at Berklee student, alum

§, guest artist

Biographies

NEC Black Student Union

The purpose of the New England Conservatory Black Student Union is to provide an open forum for Black and non-Black students who want to be more involved in the discussion about the Black experience. We desire to create a safe space in which we are able to unify and educate not only ourselves, but the greater NEC community, about our rich, unique history and culture. Our focus is to find new ways to use our gifts to spread love, combat hate, and implement positive change in our community. We share our experiences, express our ideas, and cultivate our dreams through various forms of discussion, performances and outreach.

Castle of our Skins

Castle of our Skins is a Black arts institution dedicated to fostering cultural curiosity and celebrating Black artistry through music. In classrooms, concert halls, and beyond, Castle of our Skins invites Black heritage and culture exploration, spotlighting both unsung and celebrated figures of past and present.

Ellen Annor-Adjei

Ellen Annor-Adjei studied piano from the age of five and subsequently attended the Musical College of Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory. She has appeared in numerous recitals at the Arts & Letters Club, the Toronto Centre for the Arts, Glenn Gould Studio, and the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. Ms. Annor-Adjei has extensive teaching experience in Europe and North America. She was on the faculty of University Settlement Music and Arts School from 1996 to 2011 as well as continuing teaching privately and coaching chamber groups. She is the Director and Founder of the Musical Arts Academy.

Forbes Graham

Forbes Graham is a composer, musician, sound artist, and visual artist whose work explores themes of simultaneity, perceptibility, transformation and collage. He attended American University, studying music composition, in the mid to late 90s and was involved in the DC and Maryland hardcore scenes, playing in a number of bands and releasing music on his label RiceControl. In the early 2000s, he moved to New England, where he got involved with Boston's free jazz and improvised music scenes. Graham has appeared on over 40 albums, primarily on trumpet, but also on electronics. He is a member of Mobius Artists Group, a collective of experimenting artists.

Ekua Holmes

Ekua Holmes' work is collage based and her subjects, made from cut and torn papers, investigate family histories, relationship dynamics, childhood impressions, the power of hope, faith, and self-determination. For her work in illustrating children's

literature, Holmes is the recipient of a Caldecott Honor, Coretta Scott King's John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award, Robert Siebert and Horn Book awards for her illustrations in *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement* by Carole Boston Weatherford, her first illustration project. In 2018, she won the coveted Coretta Scott King Award for Illustration for the book, *Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets*. In 2019 she won the 2019 Coretta Scott King Award again for her illustrations in *Stuff of Stars*, written by Marion Dane Bauer.

Monique Van Willingham

Originally from South Africa, Monique Van Willingham is an educator, musician and advocate for social and racial justice with cultural humility and centering student and community voice as her central approach. As the Director of Cultural Equity and Belonging at the New England Conservatory of Music, Monique is committed to creating and sustaining spaces of belonging.

Monique serves as the Vice Chair of the El Sistema USA national board. In this capacity, she co-leads the ESUSA Equity-centered Pedagogy Working Group, recently co-led ESUSA's 5-year strategic planning process and co-leads the Governance Committee.

Jason Moran

Jazz pianist, composer, and performance artist Jason Moran was born in Houston, TX in 1975 and earned a degree from the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Jaki Byard. He was named a MacArthur Fellow in 2010 and is the Artistic Director for Jazz at The Kennedy Center. Moran currently teaches at the New England Conservatory. Moran is deeply invested in reassessing and complicating the relationship between music and language, and his extensive efforts in composition, improvisation, and performance are all geared towards challenging the status quo while respecting the accomplishments of his predecessors. His activity stretches beyond the many recordings and performances with masters of the form including Charles Lloyd, Bill Frisell, and the late Sam Rivers, and his work with his trio The Bandwagon (with drummer Nasheet Waits and bassist Tarus Mateen) has resulted in a profound discography for Blue Note Records.

Support the future of music at NEC!

Your gift to The NEC Fund has a direct and immediate impact on student scholarships, NEC's world-class faculty, and a collaborative and innovative learning environment rooted in the highest level of musical excellence.

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and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.
Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts;
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Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

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