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 Willingh +, 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

**Monique Van Willingh**

Originally from South Africa, Monique Van Willingh 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.
Please consider making a gift to support NEC at necmusic.edu/give.

Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall, and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.
Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts; contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room.
Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

Stay connected

necmusic.edu/tonight