Greetings from the Artistic Director...

Happy New Year! The Morgan State University Opera Workshop is delighted that you are taking the time to read this newsletter and stay abreast of the progress, events, and development of our students.

We have come a long way in the past seven years. When I first arrived at Morgan there was a small class run by the late Dr. Marilyn Thompson. The students were very enthusiastic and Dr. Thompson was very creative and committed to providing performance opportunities for the students. Our first class was made up of ten very enthusiastic students. Our first event was an evening of opera scenes by Mozart, Purell and Douglas Moore in fall 2004. We mounted our first fully-staged opera in spring 2005 with a production of Gian Carlo Menotti’s *The Medium*. This was the beginning of a new era of operatic performances here at Morgan. It was also the beginning of a great journey for our students.

In this spring edition of *Bravi Tutti*... you will read about our events for the semester which include master classes with Washington, DC born international opera singer Denyce Graves and Broadway singer/dancer and the title role of “The Wiz” on Broadway, Kenneth Kamal Scott; “Wisdom from the Journey” guest retired opera singer, Junetta Jones; our program for the spring 2011 Opera Gala with the MSU Opera Workshop and MSU Choir in collaboration once again with Maestro Julien Benichou and the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra, and updates on some of the Alumni of the Opera Workshop.

We hope after reading this edition, you will consider joining us for several of our events, share it with your friends, get involved with “Friends of Opera at Morgan” our community-based support group or even make a financial donation to our cause.

Thanks for tuning in to *Bravi Tutti!*

Peace and Blessings,

Vincent
Table of Content

Spring 2011

Schedule of Events 4

Wisdom from the Journey Series 5
Junetta Jones, soprano

Master Class Series Artists 6
Denyce Graves, mezzo-soprano
Kamal Scott, tenor

Spring 2011 Opera Gala and Artists 10
Julien Benichou, conductor
Chester Burke, pianist

One Night Only: A Broadway Review 11
Dayna Quincy and Ricardo Blagrove, Student Co-Directors
Charles T. Hayes, Music Director

In the Spotlight: 12
Derrick Thompson, MA ’10

Alumni News 13

2011 Baltimore Summer Opera Workshop 14
Schedule and Dates

Friends of Opera at Morgan 16
Fall 2010 Highlights 17

Bravi Tutti! Spring Issue 3
Department of Fine and Performing Arts
Dr. Eric Conway, Chairperson

Morgan State University Opera Workshop
Vincent Dion Stringer, Artistic Director
Dr. Samuel Springer, Music Director
Charles T. Hayes, Chorus Master

SPRING 2011 EVENT SCHEDULE

PERFORMANCE
Spring 2011 Opera Gala
Featuring
Morgan State University Opera Workshop
Morgan State University Choir
Chester Burke, pianist
With the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra
Julien Benichou, conductor

Program
Rachmaninoff Piano Concert No. 2
And selections from operatic works of
Leoncavallo, Puccini, Tchaikovsky and Verdi

Saturday, March 12, 2011 at 7:00 PM
Francis Scott Key Auditorium at St. John’s College,
Annapolis, Maryland

Sunday, March 13, 2011 at 5:00 PM
Gilliam Concert Hall, Murphy Fine Arts Center, Morgan
State University, Baltimore, Maryland

Tickets: $15-General Admission $5-Students with Bear
Card ID. Tickets are available through the Murphy Fine
Arts Center, Ticket Office (443) 885-4440 or through
Ticketmaster at tickemaster.com or 410-547-SEAT.

“One Night Only”
A Broadway Review
With Selections from Avenue Q, Chicago,
Hairspray and Rent
Dayna Quincy and Ricardo Blagrove, Co-Directors
Charles T. Hayes, Music Director

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 5:00 PM
Recital Hall at Murphy Fine Arts Center
Morgan State University
Baltimore, Maryland
Admission: Free

MASTER CLASS SERIES
A Master Class on Solo Vocal Literature and Operatic Repertoire
Denyce Graves, Mezzo-Soprano
International Opera Singer
Thursday, February 24, 2011 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM
Recital Hall at Murphy Fine Arts Center
Morgan State University
Baltimore, Maryland
Admission: Free

“Wisdom from the Journey” Series
An Interview with soprano, Junetta Jones
Conducted by Vincent Dion Stringer
Tuesday, March 15, 2011 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM
Admission: Free

A Master Class on Musical Theater Repertoire and Style
Kenneth Kamal Scott, tenor
Thursday, April 7, 2011 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM
Recital Hall at Murphy Fine Arts Center
Morgan State University
Baltimore, Maryland
Admission: Free

Performance
Spring 2011 Opera Gala
Featuring
Morgan State University Opera Workshop
Morgan State University Choir
Chester Burke, pianist
With the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra
Julien Benichou, conductor

Program
Rachmaninoff Piano Concert No. 2
And selections from operatic works of
Leoncavallo, Puccini, Tchaikovsky and Verdi

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“One Night Only”
A Broadway Review
With Selections from Avenue Q, Chicago,
Hairspray and Rent
Dayna Quincy and Ricardo Blagrove, Co-Directors
Charles T. Hayes, Music Director

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 5:00 PM
Recital Hall at Murphy Fine Arts Center
Morgan State University
Baltimore, Maryland
Admission: Free

All events are funded by the Morgan State University
Opera Workshop Fund, Friends of Opera at Morgan
and ticket sales.
Wisdom from the Journey Series

“Wisdom from the Journey” is a series of interviews with seasoned performing artists and educators conducted before a live public audience by Vincent Dion Stringer. This concept grows out of our first summer opera experience during the 2010 Baltimore Summer Opera Workshop at Morgan State University. This is an opportunity for performing artists and educators who have made significant contributions to the field of the performing arts to come and share their stories with our students and community passing on words of wisdom in a multi-generational exchange.

Some of our past guests have been, baritone and economists and Morgan alum, Daniel Comegys, soprano and educator from Howard University, Mrs. Charlotte Wesley Holloman, baritone and educator, William Ray and Professor Emeritus of voice and past Dean of the School of Music at University of Michigan, Dr. Willis Patterson stories with our students and community passing on words of wisdom in a multi-generational exchange.

Featured Guest Artist...

**Junetta Jones** born 1937 is an American operatic soprano. A Baltimore native, she is a graduate of Frederick Douglass Senior High School. After earning a Bachelor of Music from Morgan State College, she was awarded a three year scholarship to the Peabody Conservatory where she earned a diploma in 1961 and studied singing with Joseph Laderoute. She then pursued further studies at the New England Conservatory where she earned a Master of Music in 1963 and was a pupil of Gladys Miller. She studied at the Tanglewood Music Center in the summer of 1961. In 1963 she won the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera on Halloween of 1963 as the Celestial Voice in Giuseppe Verdi’s Don Carlos with Richard Tucker in the title roles. She sang two seasons at the Met, with other roles including the 1st Genie in The Magic Flute, the Page in Rigoletto, and Barbarina in The Marriage of Figaro. From 1965-1969 she performed with major opera houses in Europe. She worked for 20 years on the advisory committee for art and culture for the city of Baltimore.

See her on Youtube [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfNF9X3qRM8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfNF9X3qRM8)
Denyce Graves, mezzo soprano is a native of Washington, DC and first emerged into the international limelight in the early 1990’s. She began her journey into opera during her high school years at the Duke Ellington School for the Arts in DC.

Recognized worldwide as one of today’s most exciting vocal stars, Denyce Graves continues to gather unparalleled popular and critical acclaim in performances on four continents. USA Today identifies her as “an operatic superstar of the 21st Century,” and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution exhails, “If the human voice has the power to move you, you will be touched by Denyce Graves.” Her career has taken her to the world’s great opera houses and concert halls. The combination of her expressive, rich vocalism, elegant stage presence, and exciting theatrical abilities allows her to pursue a wide breadth of operatic portrayals and to delight audiences in concert and recital appearances. Denyce Graves has become particularly well-known to operatic audiences for her portrayals of the title roles in Carmen and Samson et Dalila. These signature roles have brought Ms. Graves to the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna Staatsoper, Royal Opera, Covent Garden, San Francisco Opera, Opéra National de Paris, Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Washington Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper, Arena di Verona, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Opernhaus Zürich, Teatro Real in Madrid, Houston Grand Opera, Dallas Opera, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, Los Angeles Opera, and the Festival Maggio Musicale in Florence. Ms. Graves opens the 2010-11 Seattle Symphony season in a gala performance with Music Director Gerard Schwarz and returns to the Dallas Opera as Giovanna Seymour in the company’s presentation of Anna Bolena under the baton of Music Director Graeme Jenkins. In conjunction with the Kennedy Center’s festival, The Presidency of John F. Kennedy: A 50th Anniversary Celebration, the artist delivers a tribute recital to Kennedy Center Honoree Grace Bumbry commemorating Ms. Bumbry’s recital at the Kennedy White House in 1962. Additional appearances of the season take Ms. Graves throughout North America in recital and concert. Last season, Ms. Graves celebrated the opening of the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts in a gala concert with Thomas Hampson, reprised her acclaimed portrayal of Judith in Bluebeard’s Castle in concert performances of the opera with Giancarlo Guerrero and the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, and bowed in the title role of Carmen in Poland. A prolific recital artist, she toured North America and Europe with concert highlights in Germany, the British Virgin Islands, in Maryland at the Strathmore Hall, and in Boston under the auspices of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Denyce Graves made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in the 1995-96 season in the title role of Carmen. She returned the following season to lead the new Franco Zeffirelli production of this work, conducted by James Levine, and she sang the opening night performance of the Metropolitan Opera’s 1997-98 season as Carmen opposite Plácido Domingo. She was seen again that season as Bizet’s gypsy on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera for Domingo’s 30th Anniversary Gala, and she made her debut in Japan as Carmen, opposite the Don José of Roberto Alagna. Ms. Graves appeared in a new production of Samson et Dalila opposite Plácido Domingo at the Metropolitan Opera, and she performed Act III of this work opposite Mr. Domingo to open the Met’s season in 2005. She was partnered again with Mr. Domingo in the 1999 season-opening performances of this work for Los Angeles Opera. She was seen as Saint-Saëns’ seductress with Royal Opera, Covent Garden and the Washington Opera, both opposite José Cura – the latter under the baton of Maestro Domingo, as well as with Houston Grand Opera. Her debut in this signature role came in 1992 with the Chicago Symphony at the Ravinia Festival under the direction of James Levine and opposite Mr. Domingo and Sherrill Milnes, and she made a return engagement to the Festival in this same role in 1997. Ms. Graves appears continually in a broad range of repertoire with leading theaters in North America, Europe, and Asia. Highlights have included a Robert Lepage production of The Rake’s Progress at San Francisco Opera, the title role in Richard Danielpour’s Margaret Garner in the world premiere performances at Michigan Opera Theater with further performances at Cincinnati Opera, Opera Carolina, and the Opera Company of Philadelphia, the role of Charlotte in Werther for Michigan Opera Theater opposite the Werther of Andrea Bocelli in his first staged operatic performances, and Judith in a William Friedkin
production of Bartok’s Bluebeard’s Castle in her return to Los Angeles Opera: she also has sung Judith at the Washington National Opera and for the Dallas Opera. Highlights of the mezzo-soprano’s other recent appearances include Azucena in Il trovatore, Nicklausse in Les contes d’Hoffmann, and Dulcinea in Massenet’s Don Quichotte with The Washington Opera; the title role in La Périchole with the Opera Company of Philadelphia; a rare double-bill of El amor brujo and La vida breve specifically mounted for her by Dallas Opera; Federica in the Metropolitan Opera’s new production of Luisa Miller, led by James Levine; and Amneris in Aida with Cincinnati Opera. Ms. Graves’s debut with the Théâtre Musical de Paris – Chatlet was as Baba the Turk in a Peter Sellars/Esa-Pekka Salonen production of The Rake’s Progress, and she returned to Covent Garden as Cuniza in Verdi’s Oberto after her debut performances as Carmen. Her debut at Teatro alla Scala was as the High Priestess in La vestale led by Riccardo Muti, and she soon returned as Giulietta in a new production of Les contes d’Hoffmann and as Mère Marie in the Robert Carsen production of Les dialogues des Carmélites. She appeared at Teatro Bellini in Catania in the title role of La favorita, and audiences in Genoa saw her first performances of Charlotte soon after her debut there as Carmen. Her debut in Austria came as Carmen with the Vienna Staatsoper, and she has also been seen in this role with Grand Théâtre de Genève, Genoa’s Teatro Carlo Felice, the Bregenz Festival, and festivals in Macerata, Italy and San Sebastian, Spain. Ms. Graves gave her first performances of Adalgisa in Norma for Opernhaus Zürich. Denyce Graves has worked with leading symphony orchestras and conductors throughout the world in a wide range of repertoire. She has performed with Riccardo Chailly, Myung-Whun Chung, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, James Levine, Zubin Mehta, Lorin Maazel, Kurt Masur, Riccardo Muti, and Mstislav Rostropovich. Ms. Graves has appeared with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, and National Symphony Orchestra among a host of others. One of the music world’s most sought-after recitalists, Ms. Graves combines her expressive vocalism and exceptional gifts for communication with her dynamic stage presence, enriching audiences around the world. Her programs include classical repertoire of German Lieder, French mélodie, and English art song, as well as the popular music of Broadway musicals, crossover and jazz together with American spirituals. For her New York recital debut, the New York Times wrote, “Her voice is dusky and earthy. She is a strikingly attractive stage presence and a communicative artist who had the audience with her through four encores.” In 2001 Ms. Graves gave a series of appearances in response to the tragic events in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001. Ms. Graves was invited by President Bush to participate in the National Prayer Service in Washington’s National Cathedral in which she sang “America, the Beautiful” and “The Lord’s Prayer.” This event was televised worldwide and was followed by Ms. Graves’s appearance on The Oprah Winfrey Show in a live musical program of “Healing through Gospel Music.” Ms. Graves has since participated in numerous other benefit concerts, and RCA Records released a recording of patriotic songs by Denyce Graves, the proceeds of which benefit various groups who have been affected by the events of September 11. Ms. Graves recently continued her patriotic activities when she sang for President and Mrs. Bush, among other dignitaries, at “An American Celebration at Ford’s Theatre” to benefit U.S. soldiers in Iraq. This concert was taped for television and aired on the ABC network on July 4, 2005. In 2003 Denyce Graves was appointed as a Cultural Ambassador for the United States, and she now travels around the world under the auspices of the State Department appearing in good-will missions of musical performances, lectures, and seminars. Her first trips in 2003 brought her to Poland, Romania, and Venezuela. Ms. Graves appears regularly on radio and television as a musical performer, celebrity guest, and as the subject of documentaries and other special programming. In 1997 PBS Productions released a video and audio recording titled, Denyce Graves: A Cathedral Christmas, featuring Ms. Graves in a program of Christmas music from Washington’s National Cathedral. This celebration of music including chorus and orchestra is shown each year on PBS during the Christmas season. She was seen on the Emmy-award winning BBC special “The Royal Opera House,” highlighting Ms. Graves’s debut performances there, and in a program of crossover repertoire with the Boston
Pops, which was taped for national television broadcast. In December 1999 Ms. Graves participated in a concert given at the Nobel Peace Prize Awards in Oslo, Norway which was televised throughout Europe. As the only classical music artist to be invited for this event, she performed selections from her RCA Red Seal release alongside performances by Sting, Paul Simon, Tina Turner and others. She has been a frequent guest on television shows including Sesame Street, The Charlie Rose Show, and Larry King Live. In 1996 she was the subject of an Emmy-award winning profile on CBS’s 60 Minutes. In 1999 Denyce Graves began a relationship with BMG Classics/RCA Red Seal. That same year Voce di Donna, a solo recording of opera arias, was released on RCA Red Seal. The Lost Days, a recording with jazz musicians of Latin songs in the Spanish and Portuguese languages, was released in January 2003. In June 2003 Church was released — this recording, developed by Denyce Graves, brings together African-American divas from various forms of music, all of whom were first exposed to music through their upbringing in church. Participants recorded music of their choice and include Dr. Maya Angelou, Dionne Warwick, En Vogue, Patti LaBelle, and others. Other recordings of Ms. Graves include NPR Classics’ release of a recording of spirituals, Angels watching over me, featuring the mezzo-soprano in performance with her frequent partner, Warren Jones and an album of French arias, Héroïnes de l’Opéra romantique Français, with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo under Marc Soustrot. Her full opera recordings include Gran Vestale in La vestale, recorded live from La Scala with Riccardo Muti for Sony Classical; Queen Gertrude in Thomas’s Hamlet for EMI Classics; Maddalena in Rigoletto with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra under James Levine; and Emilia in Otello with Plácido Domingo and the Opéra de Paris, Bastille Orchestra under Myung-Whun Chung, both for Deutsche Grammophon. Denyce Graves is a native of Washington, D.C., where she attended the Duke Ellington School for the Performing Arts. She continued her education at Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and the New England Conservatory. In 1998, Ms. Graves received an honorary doctorate from Oberlin College Conservatory of Music. She was named one of the “50 Leaders of Tomorrow” by Ebony Magazine and was one of Glamour Magazine’s 1997 “Women of the Year.” In 1999 WQXR Radio in New York named her as one of classical music’s “Standard Bearers for the 21st Century.” Denyce Graves has been invited on several occasions to perform in recital at the White House, and she provides many benefit performances for various causes special to her throughout each season. Denyce Graves has been the recipient of many awards, including the Grand Prix du Concours International de Chant de Paris, the Eleanor Steber Music Award in the Opera Columbus Vocal Competition, and a Jacobson Study Grant from the Richard Tucker Music Foundation. In 1991, she received the Grand Prix Lyrique, awarded once every three years by the Association des amis de l’opéra de Monte-Carlo, and the Marian Anderson Award, presented to her by Miss Anderson. Please visit the artist’s website at www.denycegraves.com.
Kenneth Kamal Scott is a singer, dancer and actor whose sixty-five year career has included numerous achievements in a diverse array of genres and settings, including Broadway, jazz, pop, opera, ballet and modern dance.

Scott began his performance career as a singer at age seven and by the age of eleven began performing at the Apollo Theater as the featured vocalist for legends such as Earl “Fatha” Hines. Other notable accomplishments include dancing as a member of the Alvin Ailey company in 1959, rising to the starring role of The Wiz in the Broadway company from 1975 to 1979, scoring a hit with the song “Bolinas” as featured vocalist with Billy Cobham in 1978, and appearances with the Boston Pops under John Williams. In his later career, Scott began exploring and teaching the art of Bel canto singing, including a recital at Merkin Hall at Lincoln Center in October 2004.

Mr. Scott comes from a musical family. His uncle, Irving Ashby, was a legendary jazz guitarist who performed with the Nat King Cole trio. His mother, Phyllis Ashby, performed as a big band vocalist, and his father, Leslie Scott, was a highly successful baritone who played Porgy in the national and international production of Porgy and Bess in 1953 and later played Jake in the 1959 film version. Mr. Scott has two sons by his first wife, Myrna White: Kenneth Scott, and Jonathan Scott, who was a noted hip-hop artist under the name Dred Scott. Mr. Scott is also father-in-law to Jonathan Scott’s wife, jazz singer Adriana Evans.

Mr. Scott has performed in numerous Broadway shows including The Wiz, Her First Roman; I’m Solomon, Hallelujah, Baby!, Golden Boy and Hello, Dolly!. Of his lead role in the Wiz, the Los Angeles Times wrote, “Kamal shines. Kamal is a phenomenon…He could star in anything.” Kamal Mr. Scott portrayed Joseph in the debut of the play Black Nativity at Avery Fisher Hall in New York City in 1961 and later performed as the Griot in the Penumbra Theatre Company production of the same play in St. Paul Minnesota in 1999. During the 1990’s Mr. Scott was a member of the critically acclaimed vocal ensemble New England Spiritual Ensemble founded by Vincent Dion Stringer in Boston, Massachusetts.

Scott is currently on faculty as a vocal instructor at the Mannes College of Music and the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music. Learn more about Kamal at http://kennethkamalscott.webs.com/
Program

Rachmaninoff Piano Concert No. 2
Chester Burke, pianist

Operatic selections from Leoncavallo, Puccini, Tchaikovsky and Verdi

Sunday, March 13, 2011 at 5:00 pm
Gilliam Concert Hall
Murphy Fine Arts Center
2201 Argonne Drive, Baltimore, MD

Tickets: $15-General $5-Students with a Bear Card
Tickets available through Murphy Fine Arts Center Ticket Office (443) 885-4440 or Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com or 410-547-SEAT
One Night Only
A Broadway Review
Dayna Quincy and Ricardo Blagrove, Student Co-Directors
Charles T. Hayes, Music Director

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 5:00 PM
The Recital Hall
at Murphy Fine Arts Center
2201 Argonne Drive
Baltimore, Maryland

Admission Free
Derrick L. Thompson, baritone – Class of 2010, is a native of Lynchburg, Virginia. He completed his Bachelor degree in Music Education with honors from Lynchburg College in 2008 where he studied voice and choral conducting with Dr. Jong Hyun Kim. He made his operatic debut in November 2007 as the Prince (Duke) with the Opera on the James production of Romeo et Juliette with soprano, Talise Travigne and tenor, David Ossenfort. The following year Mr. Thompson was seen on the opera stage again with Opera on the James’ production of La Boheme as the Guard/Servant. Besides performing in the operatic and classical field, Derrick is known for his gospel performances at local churches in the Amherst County area where he resides. Derrick completed his Master of Art in Music here at Morgan State University in 2010 where he studied in the applied voice studio of Vincent Dion Stringer, served as graduate assistant to Dr. Eric Conway and the Morgan State University Choir, and was a regular member of the Morgan State University Opera Workshop. He performed lead roles in several productions including The Telephone by Menotti as Ben and in Dream Lovers Samuel Coleridge-Taylor as Prince Torado. Mr. Thompson made his Maryland debut in November 2008 as the baritone soloist for the world premiere of the oratorio The Chartered Course celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the City of Annapolis. Derrick is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America. He is now gainfully employed in Tianjin, China as the Artistic Director of the Tianjin Concert Halls Mulan's Children's Choir for their 2010-2011 Season.
Kenneth Alston, counter-tenor – Class of 2006, appeared in several of our productions including *The Medium* as Madame Flora and served as choreographer for our Broadway Review in 2005. Mr. Alston is a member of the renowned singing sensations *Three Mo’ Tenors* and is currently pursuing his Master of Art in Theology at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Leah Brown, mezzo-soprano – Class of 2006, Mrs. Brown at native of Trinidad completed her M.A. in voice through our program and appeared in several of our productions including *The Medium* as Madame Flora and *Treemonisha* as Monisha. Leah is pursuing her Doctoral degree in voice and world music at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

Jay DeVaughn, baritone – Class of 2006 appeared in Highway One, USA as Bob and in Gianni Schicchi in the title role. Mr. DeVaughn has appeared as Amateur performer and winner of the Showtime at the Apollo on tour at the Mid-Eastern Atlantic Conference in the Landmark Theater in Richmond Virginia and was Amateur performer at the Apollo Theater in Harlem, NY. Jay served as Minister of Music for Payne Memorial Baptist Church in Baltimore for four years and is now Minister of Music for Second Baptist Church in San Antonio, TX.

Joanna Ford, soprano – Class of 2008, appeared in our production of Scott Joplin’s *Treemonisha* in the title role and Menotti’s *The Telephone*. Ms. Ford was a 2008 recipient of the Fulbright Scholarship and studied German in Berlin for one year and also performed the role of Despina in Mozart’s *Cosi fan tutte* with the Weimar Opera in 2009. She is currently pursuing her master’s degree in voice at University of Michigan and being mentored there by renowned tenor Mr. George Shirley.

Garrett P. Jackson, baritone – Class of 2006, Mr. Jackson appeared in our production of Douglas Moore’s one-act soap opera *Gallantry*. He is now living in Chicago, IL where he is been employed with GIA Publishing in the Black Church Music Division since graduation from Morgan. He has been an active performer in the Greater Chicago area and producer of concerts and events for GIA.

Ronald S. McFadden, baritone – Class of 2009 is a candidate for the Master of Art in teaching here at Morgan, is the Founder and Director of the Saturday School for the Arts in Baltimore. Mr. McFadden made his solo debut with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra last season in Gershwin’s *Blue Monday* as Mike.

Shana Powell-Oshiro, soprano – Class of 2008, Mrs. Oshiro was the 2007 Miss Maryland and competed in the Miss America Pageant appeared in several of our opera productions in leading roles including; *The Medium* and *The Telephone* by Menotti, *Gallantry* by Douglas Moore and a soloist in the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra’s “Holiday Spectacular”. She studied abroad in Florence, Italy and performed the role of Dorabella in Mozart’s *Cosi fan tutte* with the Weimer Oper in 2009. She is currently pursuing her master’s degree in music therapy and voice at Shenandoah University is married and living in Frederick, Maryland.

Shannon Ramsey, mezzo-soprano – Class of 2006 appeared in *Gianni Schicchi* as Gherardino. Ms. Ramsey, singer/song writer is an emerging young artist in the R & B industry and winner of several awards. She hit single “Emotional” on the Twist of Fate Soundtrack and a new single “Memory” featuring Jazz of Dru Hill.
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Baltimore Summer Opera Program is to provide operatic and technical training with onstage performance experience in an intensive four-week summer program focused on One-Act Operas and orchestra performance experience in a student-centered learning environment which provides a holistic approach of Mind, Body and Spirit.

The Mind is addressed through participation in daily private instructions in vocal technique, musical coaching, and acting technique. The Body is addressed through participation in Yoga, and movement classes which also emphasize the importance of good nutrition. One must be fit, flexible and should know how to make appropriate choices for food intake in order to sustain the body for the rigorous demands of a career in music. The Spirit is addressed through participation in Meditation and Performance.

ARTISTIC TEAM
Vincent Dion Stringer, Artistic Director
Samuel Springer, Music Director
Julien Benichou, Orchestra Conductor
Charles T. Hayes, Chorus Master

VOICE FACULTY
Dr. Louise Toppin, soprano – UNC/Chapel Hill
Donna Roll, dramatic soprano – Longy School of Music
Kenneth Kamal Scott, tenor – Mannes School of Music

STAGE DIRECTORS
Dr. Louise Toppin, UNC/Chapel Hill
Donna Roll, Longy School of Music
Carleen Graham, S.U.N.Y/Potsdam

CLASS SESSIONS

Individual Voice Instruction – Participants will be assigned a private instructor and receive a one hour lesson each week. The focus of these individual sessions will be technical addressing healthy singing and good lyric diction.

Individual Music Coaching – Participants will be assigned a private coach who will assist with musical style and interpretation. Each student will receive two half-hour sessions per week.

Musical Rehearsals – There will be daily musical rehearsals in preparation for our intensive offering of public performances. Participants are expected to arrive at the workshop with all music memorized and ready for coaching, rehearsals and staging.

Acting
Diction
Master Classes

Yoga & Fitness
Stage Craft
Stage Production

A complete listing of all of our faculty and staff will be published in the BSOW2011 brochure will be available on our website.
PROGRAM COSTS

Our program is an affordable and a great value for what you receive for your money. Below is an outline of our fees.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Registration &amp; Fees</th>
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*Optional – Arrangements made through the University Housing Office.

All registration and fees will be due no later than June 19, 2011.

Morgan State University Opera Workshop
Murphy Fine Arts Center
Room 329 D
1700 East Cold Spring Lane
Baltimore, MD 21251
Phone (443)-885-4316
Fax (443) 885-8312

www.msuopera.org

DAILY SCHEDULE

**Monday**
10:00 AM - 12:30PM
Master Class Series
1:00 - 6:00PM
Lessons/Coaching/Rehearsals

**Tuesday**
9:00 - 9:50 AM
Hatha Yoga/Fitness
10:00 AM - 1:00PM
Acting: Mind, Body, Text Integration
1:30 - 6:00PM
Lessons/Coaching/Rehearsals

**Wednesday**
10:00 AM - 12:30PM
Master Class Series
1:00 - 6:00PM
Lessons/Coaching/Rehearsals

**Thursday**
9:00 - 9:50 AM
Hatha Yoga/Fitness
10:00 AM - 12:00PM
Acting: Mind, Body, Text Integration
12:30 - 6:00PM
Lessons/Coaching/Rehearsals

**Friday**
10:00 AM - 12:30PM
Master Class Series
1:00 - 6:00PM
Lessons/Coaching/Rehearsals

**Saturday**
10:00AM – 12:00PM
Acting: Mind, Body, Text Integration
1:00 – 4:00 PM
Production Management

AUDITION DATES and LOCATIONS

March 5 – Morgan State University, Baltimore, MA
March 20 – University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill, NC
March 26 – Longy School of Music, Cambridge, MA

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

The program is open to full-time students in college degree program and in good academic standing and aspiring young professional singers. Age eligibility for application is as follows: women age 16 to 33; and men age 17-35. Applicants will prepare 4 selection total; 3 Arias, 1 must be in English, and 1 musical theater selection.

APPLICATION INFO:

With the completed application

**You must include:**

-$25 application fee – Please make check or money orders payable to the Morgan Foundation with Opera Workshop Fund included on the memo line.
Friends of Opera Workshop

The Director’s Circle ($500 and above)
Mrs. Audrey McCallum
Mr. & Mrs. William & Carrie Ray

Lyric Circle ($250 and above)
Mr. Saunders Allen
Ms. Kelli Young

Artists Circle ($100 and above)
Mrs. Loretta Byers
Mr. & Mrs. Donald and Ilah Frazier
Mrs. Elizabeth Lambert Martin
Mr. Donald Tynes

Donors ($75 and above)
Mr. Brandon Keith Brown
Mr. Daniel Comegys
Mrs. Leah Inger-Murphy
Mrs. Betty Malkus Ridgeway
Mr. Julius Tilghman

Friends ($50 and above)
Supporters ($25 and above)

Professor Robert Jordan
Friends of Opera Workshop

2011-2012

Morgan State University Opera Workshop
Department of Fine and Performing Arts
Morgan State University

Name__________________________________________
Address___________________ City/State________________
Zip Code__________ Telephone________________________
Email_______________________
Name as it should appear on the program
____________________________________

We have developed these levels of support for your consideration. All Donations are tax-deductable.

□ THE DIRECTORS CIRCLE ($500 and above)  □ LYRIC CIRCLE ($250)  □ ARTIST’S CIRCLE ($100)

□ DONOR ($75)  □ FRIEND ($50)  □ SUPPORTER ($25)

□ PATRON ($10)

PLEASE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Morgan State University Opera Workshop Fund
Include memo Opera Workshop

MAIL TO:
ATT: Vincent Dion Stringer
Morgan State University
Department of Fine and Performing Arts
1700 East Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, MD 21251
MASTER CLASSES

Dr. Willis Patterson
University of Michigan Ann Arbor
Professor Emeritus and past Dean of the School of Music

Tuesday, November 2nd at 4:00pm, MSUOW presented Dr. Willis Patterson in a master class on Art Songs and Spirituals from his Anthologies of Art Songs by Black American Composers. Six students from the opera workshop were selected to participate in this public master class; counter-tenor, Thomas Allen; sopranos, Taylor Milton and Ashley Perry; mezzo-soprano, Tia Harris; and baritones, Teron Prioleau and James Sweetney. The students were coached on interpretation and style. These students were representatives from several applied voice studios in the music area.

“Wisdom from the Journey” Series

On Wednesday, November 3rd at 11:00am in the Recital Hall at Murphy Fine Arts Center Vincent Dion Stringer conducted an interview with Dr. Willis Patterson in our series “Wisdom from the Journey” which was filmed by Essence Morgan a senior in the School of Communications. Through this collaboration we will begin developing an archive of the interviews from this series and will make them available on YouTube and the Opera Workshop website.

This series is done in the fashion of “Inside the Actor’s Studio”. The guests are asked a series of ten questions about their family life, education and career.

Mr. William Ray
Baritone, former voice professor of Howard University and Peabody Institute

On Thursday, November 4th at 4:00pm, MSUOW presented Mr. William Ray in a master class on operatic and oratorio arias. This event was well attended. Four of our students were selected to participate; sopranos, Shakyla Johnson and Angel Strong-Archer, mezzo-soprano, Brittni McNeill and tenor, Imhotep McClean. Mr. Ray share words of wisdom from his journey, anecdotes of his career and recordings of his illustrious past performances on the great stages of Europe.

PERFORMANCES

Amahl and the Night Visitors

MSUOW presented its first production of Menotti’s Amahl and the Night Visitors on November 18th - 20th in the Recital Hall at Murphy Fine Arts Center. The opera was double cast with graduate and undergraduate students performing lead roles. In addition to our Morgan students we were joined by two boy sopranos each performing the title role of Amahl, Cameron Potts and Malachi White.

Cameron Potts, age 12 is a boy soprano and is the younger brother of Morgan voice student Candace Potts who is a member of the Morgan State University Choir and has been cast in past productions of the MSUOW. This was his first opera performance. Currently in 7th grade at Montebello Elementary/Jr. Academy, began singing at age 6. He was quoted as saying: “I like to sing, but not in front of people”. However, that quickly changed because his passion for singing grew. His parents noticed that there was something special about the quality of his voice, and always encouraged him to keep on singing. He is a member of the New St. Mark Baptist Church youth choir. He also sings on Montebello Elementary/Jr. Academy school choir for summer and winter concerts. Although he has never had any formal training Cameron has been invited to do several solo projects. Just to name a few are: New St. Mark Youth Explosion, June, 2010, Baptist Youth Ministry of United Baptist Missionary Convention Youth Award Banquet, April, 2010, and Commencement exercises for Montebello Elementary/Jr. Academy, June, 2010. He was also the youngest member to sing in the Richardson Family Gospel Concert in the summer of 2007. Cameron has won several academic awards in school and strives for excellent achievement in all subjects. He is a member of the Montebello Elementary/Jr. Academy Tennis club. He has been a member of the Baltimore City Swim Club since September, 2007, swimming in numerous swim meets. In March, 2010 he won first place for middle schools, for the Laws of Life essay contest, Baltimore, Maryland.

We Are The Future…

Cameron Potts
Malachi R. S. White, boy soprano, is 12 years old and attends MacArthur Middle School in Fort Meade, Md., where he is a student in the International Baccalaureate Program. He is a senior choirboy in the Maryland State Boy choir, which has allowed him to sing renaissance and sacred music in Canada, Bermuda, and throughout the U.S. Last year, he played the role of Boy I in Lyrics of Sunshine and Shadow: An opera based on the Lives and Love of Paul Laurence Dunbar and Alice Ruth Moore (Steven M. Allen). He has won solo awards from the Association of Christian Schools Regional Music Competition. He is involved in the Metropolitan Baptist Church Holliman Choir and Children’s Church Ministry. Malachi has been nominated for People to People World Leadership Conference and the National Youth Leadership Program. Last year, he received President Obama’s Award for Academic Excellence.

A Musical Soiree: A Random Act of Songs
Sunday November 21, 2010
Concord and St. Andrews United Methodist Church
Bethesda, Maryland

This impromptu concert took place on a Sunday afternoon for a nice intimate crowd of music lovers at Concord and St. Andrews in Bethesda. Dr. Samuel Springer and Vincent Dion Stringer were joined by fellow Sinfonian, bass-baritone, Charles Parris of the United States Army Soldiers Chorus and tenor Antonio Chase and baritone, Benjamin Taylor of the MSU Opera Workshop and University Choir. This was a concert of songs and arias from opera and oratorio.

As a result of this concert the opera workshop has received several invitations to perform concerts in the DC and Maryland area and to perform a concert in the northwest in Eugene, Oregon with possible concerts up and down the west coast. These performances will help to raise money to support our continued efforts to bring opera to Morgan on a grand scale and provide scholarships and opportunities to our students.

You can hear a clip from this concert at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYVQTOEvJss of the final selection on the program, “Glory, glory Hallelujah” arranged by Lena McLin.

We are very excited about the progress our students made this past semester and look forward to sharing more highlights with you in the future.

Friends of Opera Workshop Luncheon
On Tuesday, November 2 at 12:30 pm in the Lewis Museum at Murphy Arts Center the Friends of Opera at Morgan held its first luncheon with 30 guests who were friends and associates of Dr. Willis Patterson and Mr. William Ray our two guest clinicians for the week of master classes. Among the guest were 1955 Alumnus of Morgan, Mr. Daniel Comegys, Baritone and Economist; his wife Daphne Duvall Harrison, ethnomusicologist; retired soprano and former arts advisor to the city of Baltimore, Junetta Jones, Dr. Cheri Phillips and Mr. Romanieo Golphi, founders of the Robeson Group; Maestro Julien Benichou, music director of the Mid-Atlantic and the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestrass, Retired Professor Emeritus of piano, Mr. Robert Jordan; and international opera singers Junetta Jones and Marquita Lister.

MFAC Staff
Monica McKinney Lupton Director
Dale P. Alston Marketing Manager
Dwight R.B. Cook Production Manager
Vander E. Harris, Jr. Operations Manager

Phone Numbers
Event Information 443-885-4440
Administrative Office 443-885-4336
Marketing 443-885-3168
Production 443-885-3451
Facility & Maintenance 443-885-4354
MFAC Security Desk 443-885-3181

Street Address
Morgan State University
Carl J. Murphy Fine Arts Center
2201 Argonne Drive
Baltimore, MD 21251

Mailing Address
Morgan State University
Murphy Fine Arts Center
1700 E. Cold Spring Lane
Baltimore, MD 21251

Web Address
www.murphyfineartscenter.org
The Department of Fine and Performing Arts at Morgan State University is a vibrant and exciting part of the College of Liberal Arts. Located in the Carl J. Murphy Center Fine Arts Center, classes and performances take place in this state-of-the-art facility. Performance spaces include the Gilliam Concert Hall, Turpin-Lamb Theater, Recital Hall and the Outdoor Amphitheater. This facility also houses the James E. Lewis Museum of Art in which faculty and student, as well as guest artists, works are displayed. Please take a closer look at what the Fine and Performing Arts Department at Morgan State University has to offer you!

The Music Program offers Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in Music. Music majors may concentrate in performance or earn a teaching certification. In addition to music courses, the curriculum includes classes in liberal arts and humanities in order to broaden the general knowledge of each music major. Students benefit from taking applied music lessons from a nationally known faculty. Programs are structured to allow for plenty of individual attention between student and instructor. Graduates of the Department of Fine Arts find careers in a multitude of professions including teaching, performing, composing, marketing, arts management, publishing, church music directing, and sound recording. Our music program is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.

The Theatre Arts Program of the Fine Arts Department produces graduates with a well-rounded liberal arts education with a general Theatre Arts concentration. Graduates from this program are prepared for the work force, graduate schools, or pre-professional intensive training programs. The diversity of this field lends itself to careers not only in the obvious theatre realm but also in law, education, publishing, human resources, marketing and finance. A production involves studying language and literature, visual art, light and sound, costume, movement and voice, electronics and engineering. Among our graduates are alumni who have founded their own theatre companies; write for television and the stage; perform and direct; practice law; counsel; and much more.

The Visual Arts Program strives to provide the opportunity for the student to develop historical and philosophical perspectives on the visual arts by providing the opportunity for the student to develop a competitive portfolio of work or experiences in one or more areas of the visual arts; and, by developing the student’s capacity for diligent and persistent inquiry about his work and environment. The program offers two minors: Art History and Studio. Morgan State University’s Visual Arts program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art.