



Thursday, February 20, 2020, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

We Shall Overcome

A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., featuring Damien Sneed

With the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir

Damien Sneed, *bandleader, piano, keyboards, vocals*

Chenee Campbell, *vocals*

Matia Washington, *vocals*

Anitra McKinney, *vocals*

Alicia Peters-Jordan, *vocals*

Linnny Smith, *vocals*

Marqu ez Cassidy, *organ*

Arthur Sutton, *bass*

Joel Tate, *drums*

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir

Terrance Kelly, *artistic director*

Tonight's concert will be performed without intermission and last approximately 90 minutes.

Cal Performances' 2019–20 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Inspired by the words and actions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., *We Shall Overcome* showcases repertoire from across African-American music traditions that electrified generations of civil rights activists and defenders, interweaving that music with spoken-word excerpts from Dr. King's recorded speeches.

Producer and music director Damien Sneed's career covers an incredible breadth of genres. He has conducted and collaborated on major original works by Wynton Marsalis, accompanied the late Jessye Norman, collaborated with Lawrence Brownlee, and toured extensively with Diana Ross, Aretha Franklin, and the Clark Sisters.

This production ties together a living lineage of music and culture that includes traditional and modern gospel tunes, spirituals, classical music, jazz, and Broadway. Sneed employs selections that range from traditional favorites and Aretha Franklin hits to music by Wynton Marsalis, Duke Ellington, Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, and songs from *The Wiz*, his unique understanding of each genre allowing him to cover an amazing range of musical ground in a single performance.



Multi-genre recording artist and instrumentalist **Damien Sneed** is a pianist, organist, composer, conductor, arranger, producer, and arts educator. A recipient of the prestigious Sphinx Medal of Excellence, he has worked with jazz, classical, pop, and R&B legends including the late Aretha Franklin and Jessye Norman (Sneed is featured on Norman's final recording, *Bound For The Promised Land*). He has also worked with artists including Wynton Marsalis, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Ashford & Simpson, J'Nai Bridges, and Lawrence Brownlee.

A graduate of John S. Davidson Fine Arts School in his hometown of Augusta (GA), Sneed has studied at some of the finest American conservatories and universities,

including Howard University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in music performance (piano); the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University; New York University, where he earned a master's degree in music technology: film scoring and multimedia; and the Manhattan School of Music. This year, Sneed will also graduate with his doctorate in orchestral conducting from USC. He was a member of the faculty at the Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and Nyack College. Sneed's other professional affiliations have included the Juilliard School as a staff accompanist, Jazz at Lincoln Center as an artistic consultant, and the City University of New York (CUNY) as a professor of music. In 2015, Sneed established the Damien Sneed Performing Arts Institute, a division of the Damien Sneed Foundation. He recently joined the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music.

Under the direction of the Emmy-winning Terrance Kelly, the **Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir (OIGC)** brings together singers and instrumentalists who embody a community of diverse races, cultures, and faiths. The group's mission is to inspire joy and unity among all people through black gospel and spiritual music. Founded in 1986, the OIGC was born out of a gospel music workshop led by the exuberant Terrance Kelly at Living Jazz's Jazz Camp West. It became an independent nonprofit organization in 1991, and since then, the award-winning choir's exquisite harmonies and stirring gospel repertoire have led to performances with a wide variety of esteemed groups, such as the Five Blind Boys of Alabama, the Duke Ellington Orchestra, and, more recently, Edwin Hawkins, Cece Winans, Vanessa Williams, and Lenny Kravitz. The choir also appears on Grammy-winning albums by Linda Rondstadt, MC Hammer, and Tramine Hawkins, among others, and was invited to perform at the Chase Center's ribbon-cutting ceremony this past fall. Find out more about OIGC and its current season at www.oigc.org.

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir

Terrance Kelly, *artistic director*

Soprano

Nicolia Bagby Gooding
Brenda Bailey Powell
Meliney E. Brooks
Amy Clark
Leola Clark
Mary Ford
Jennifer W. Grace
Lynne Gurewitz
Asha Howard
Grace Kamau
Ani Lee
Heather Figueroa
Maria Long
Linda Mack
Teresa Mack
Frances Messano
Kellie Morlock
Valeria Scott
Alexa Shelley
Jennifer G. Shelton
Sophie Speer
Cathy Warren

Alto

Ashley Anderson
Isa S. Chu
Annette Coffey
Madeline Cohen

Elizabeth Colt
Lindsay K. Elam
Cheryl Espinosa-Jones
Danielle Furman
Cheryl Garner
Katherina Guido-Respicio
Katherine Harry
Sharon Hymes-Offord
Jennifer Little
Stephanie Miller
Emily Neigel
Julianne Pearson
Becky Watson
Danielle Y. White

Tenor

Jeff Bellaire
Don Bonner
Michael Callahan
Cyril Drame
Aaron Draper
Renee EB-Walton
Don Gossette
Joseph Hawkins Sr.
Lara Hermanson
Gene Ho
Gracie Jones
Ryoko Kobayashi
Tessa Loehwing

Marcel McClain
Manuel Mendoza
Jae Phoenix
Kai Pierce
Daniel Pinkham
Carl Resnikoff
Jeff Stange
Daniel Strauss

Bass

Arthur Barker
Jeff Benson
Paul Daniels
Jim Fisher
Jim Hooper
Jason Horlador
Jeff Landau
Jack Mahan
Bernadette McDonald
David Page
James Powell
Benjamin Schleifer

OIGC Band

David Belove, *bass*
Tina Bryant, *keyboard*
Louis Burrell, *keyboard*
Miles Lathan, *drums*
Jae Phoenix, *tambourine*