

URBAN HARPIST



Volume VI, Issue II

Spring Concert 2019



Greetings,

Spring Concert is here! It's difficult to know who's more excited about an upcoming concert - the students and teachers or me. I anticipate seeing the artistic growth of the students from one concert to the next. Their transformation is amazing; their poise and stage presence is outstanding!

Long standing supporters of the program know that you are always in for a treat. However, if you are new to this unique program that offers harp instruction to youth who may never have been exposed to this challenging but beautiful instrument, you won't be disappointed.

Any student who looks to receive instruction is welcome as long as they realize and embrace that the payment is commitment. They must trade the hours of playing video games for hours of practice; discipline and determination must become their friend.

The Urban Youth Harp Ensemble is unique. Out of the hundreds of shows that have been featured over the years, we were honored to be featured on the CBS Morning Show's anniversary edition. Please access our feature by visiting our website. We were also featured in the harp trade magazine, Harp Column.

I feel blessed to be a part of watching young musicians blossom under the teachings of Artistic Director Angelica Hairston and Harp Instructor Molly O'Roark, both extraordinarily talented professional harpists responsible for developing the budding talent of our future harpists. Congratulations to Ms. Hairston who was recently selected to participate in the Sphinx Organization's inaugural program, SphinxLEAD. SphinxLEAD was created to empower arts leaders of color. More about her selection can be found at HarpColumn.com.

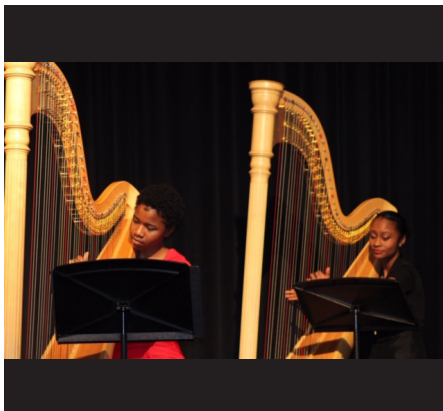
I have spoken often of the magnitude of support we have received at Charles R. Drew Charter School. That has been because of the vision of the headmaster, Mr. Don Doran. Our gratitude must be extended to Mr. Doran who has given us much needed space for practice and has provided the use of Drew's beautiful auditorium for our concerts. It is Mr. Doran's final year at Drew. The Board of Directors and I wish him success in whatever the next chapter of his life happens to be.

Last, if you are new to the Urban Youth Harp Ensemble, I hope you will become a supporter of our program. We are dependent on grants and donations from people like you to pay our teachers and to buy and maintain our harps. If you are already a supporter, thank you and we look to you for continued assistance in keeping this unique and important program viable.

Sincerest wishes for a wonderful summer,

Roselyn Lewis

Executive Director, Co-Founder



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SENIOR CORNER - In Their Own Words

Trinity Mosley

Being able to play the harp has been more than just a conversational point. Since the 8th grade, I've been able to experience a plethora of opportunities. Meeting with amazing harpists that have been able to travel the world and share their story has been absolutely memorable. Along with these opportunities, the harp has become an amazing outlet. Every bit of progress I made has allowed me to further express myself.

Thanks to my amazing teachers Mrs. Carolyn Munford, Mrs. Elisabeth Remy Johnson, and Ms. Angelica Hairston the skills I gained from the harp will travel with me wherever I go. In the future, I plan to major in International Affairs and then go on to law school. However, I'll make sure that the harp is right there beside me.



Peyton Rogers

I have been playing the harp since the 6th grade. The harp is a very fascinating and beautiful instrument, and I was immediately drawn to it. My most memorable moment was the performance with Full Radius Dance in the amazing presentation of "Three Stages" which was a unique collaboration between dancers and harpist. Also, playing at the Atlanta Mayor's "Forever Young" Senior Citizen's Ball.

The most valuable lessons I have learned from being involved in the Urban Youth Harp Ensemble (UYHE) is how to work with others to create beautiful music. After graduation, I plan to attend Howard University in Washington, DC, and major in Business Marketing, with a career goal of becoming a business owner/entrepreneur.



I would like to thank the UYHE, Executive Director and Co-Founder Ms. Roselyn Lewis, Charles R. Drew Charter School, anyone who have ever donated or raised money for the harps and teachers' salaries, all my former instructors and last but not least, my current harp teachers, Ms. Angelica Hairston and Ms. Molly O'Roark. Also, a big thanks to both Ms. Hairston and Ms. O'Roark for helping to calm my nerves and keep

me from panicking the day my harp string broke a few hours before a gig. I really appreciate you both, and I am going to miss you guys. I would also like to thank my family for their continual love and support.

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MASTER CLASS

Patricia Terry-Ross

On March 14th, the skill of harpist Patricia Terry-Ross was extraordinary and clearly evident as she presented a master class to the young harpist of UYHE. Their awe at her presence was matched only by their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn the techniques and the artistry needed to master the harp.

Ms Terry-Ross is Adjunct Professor of Harp and Choral at Wayne State University and Principal Harpist of the Michigan Opera Theatre.



Tracie Greene - Main Street Academy Director of Before/Afterschool Program

Tracie Greene is the Director of the Before/Afterschool Program at Main Street Academy, the site of the new expansion program for the Urban Youth Harp Ensemble. Ms Greene said the program was in the works for two years, after the previous Main Street Academy librarian introduced the idea because her daughter was enjoying the advantages of the harp program at Charles R. Drew Charter School.

Ms Green is a native Atlantan who is not unfamiliar with nonprofits in the arts. She is not only the Before/After School Director of Main Street Academy, she is a founding board member of the Academy. She has also worked as the Program Director at the Fulton County Arts Center. Ms Greene has been the Director of the Main Street Academy Before/Afterschool Program for nine years and has approximately 200 students attending the afterschool program.



Main Street Academy serves students in kindergarten through the 8th grade and currently has an enrollment of 800 students. When asked about how she sees the Urban Youth Harp Ensemble as a fit for Main Street Academy, she explained that the principal, Ms. Cheryl Parker, traditionally welcomes additional experiences for the students. In fact, Ms. Parker has recently added a fencing program to the extracurricular activities. The previous librarian introduced the Urban Youth Harp Ensemble to Main Street Academy because her daughter benefitted from the harp at Charles R. Drew Charter School.

"I like the idea that children of color are learning to play the harp. Harps are expensive and, therefore not something you will find in your average school band. I enjoy hearing them practice. The harps are stored in my office and it's exciting to walk in and see them there." Visit tmsa.org to learn about the Run/Walk program to help purchase additional harps for the program.

Expanding Reach, Expanding Impact:

UYHE brings harps to College Park It's been an eventful 2019 start of the new year, UYHE launched its first expansion program at South Fulton's Main Street Charter Academy in College Park, GA. The program is a replica of its existing – and successful - program at East Atlanta's Drew Charter School.

“Through this program, we hope to instill a love of music and a generation of arts advocates,” said Roselyn Lewis, executive director of UYHE.

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In addition to learning to read music, proper harp technique and performance skills, the students learn soft skills, such as time management and self-confidence, that will help them succeed in other areas of life.

UYHE provides the program, which is free to students, with harps and strings, music, performance attire and, of course, the instructors.

Monica Hargrave, a professional harpist and an UYHE board member, delivers harp instruction every Monday. The students then receive additional support every Friday from UYHE alum Julia Blackwell, who interns while completing her studies at Agnes Scott College.

Four students are currently enrolled in the program, but UYHE plans to add one additional harp and two more students by next school year.



CHECK PRESENTATION

The Urban Youth Harp Ensemble depends on the generosity of donors like the Pierians, Inc. Here the UYHE Executive Director Roselyn Lewis and Board President, William Stanley accept a check from members of the Pierians.

Our Mission

The mission of the Urban Youth Harp Ensemble is to deliver quality musical instruction on the harp, develop music reading skills and musicianship to at-risk urban youth.



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