

VOCES NOVAE

A CHORAL RENAISSANCE

A STOP ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Second Baptist Church

300 East Main Street
New Albany, IN

Saturday, May 31 at 3pm

Sunday, June 1 at 7 pm

Angela Vaughn Hampton, Artistic Director

Deborah Dierks, Collaborative Artist

Frank A. Heller, III, Founding Director

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VOCES NOVAE

A CHORAL RENAISSANCE

A STOP ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Down in the River to Pray	<i>arr. Eric Nelson</i>
Saints Bound for Heaven	<i>arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw</i>
Soon-ah Will Be Done	<i>arr. William Dawson</i>
Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?	<i>arr. Moses Hogan</i>
Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho	<i>arr. Mark Hayes</i>
Were You There?	<i>arr. Moses Hogan</i>
Wayfaring Stranger	<i>arr. Craig Courtney</i>
If I Got My Ticket, Can I Ride?	<i>arr. Robert Shaw</i>
Wade in the Water	<i>arr. Stacey V. Gibbs</i>
Follow the Drinking Gourd	<i>arr. Allen Koepke</i>
Ride the Chariot	<i>arr. William Henry Smith</i>
Freedom's Plow	<i>Rollo Dilworth</i>

Edward Caruthers, baritone, guest soloist

Wayne Krigger, cello

Chris King, percussion

Camron Gooden, electric bass

Safety & Courtesy

If you need special assistance, please see an usher.

Please silence all electronic devices before the performance. This includes watches, cell phones, pagers, and texting devices.

Latecomers are asked to wait to be seated until an appropriate time during the performance.

The use of any recording devices is strictly prohibited.

In the unlikely event of an emergency please walk, not run, to the nearest exit.



All programs, activities, and services will be provided equally without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.



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About the Music

This concert was born out of a desire to bring you to this historic location, the Town Clock Church. Important work was done here as church and community members operated a gateway for enslaved people who were willing to risk everything in their search for freedom. Through folk songs, hymns and African-American spirituals, we aim to honor all those who courageously passed through here on their journey as well as those who assisted them to connect to the Underground Railroad.

Down in the River to Pray invites us to contemplate the role of the Ohio River, a natural boundary dividing free and slave states. References to the Jordan River and the Promised Land are the first of several comparisons made to the ancient Israelites' escape from their bondage in Egypt. This and other Biblical stories were sources of encouragement and hope for deliverance. The early American hymn, *Saints Bound for Heaven*, celebrates the parting of the Red Sea allowing the Israelites to cross on dry ground and escape Pharaoh's army.

Faith in God was strong for many slaves. Knowing that they would one day go to Heaven and be free gave them hope. In Heaven, not only would they be free from slavery, but they would see family members from whom they had been separated. *Soon-ah Will Be Done* and *Wayfaring Stranger* both lament the loneliness of earthly life and rejoice in the reunion that will one day occur. Securing one's place in Heaven is the theme of *If I Got My Ticket*, *Can I Ride?* and *Ride the Chariot*.

Stories of Biblical characters who experienced God's deliverance were preached, sung and taught to children in slave communities. In *Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel*, we hear not only of Daniel being rescued from the lion's den, but also of Jonah being saved after being swallowed by a whale, and three Hebrew exiles who were not harmed in a fiery furnace.

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho tells of another challenge the Israelites faced on their journey to the Promised Land and how their obedience to to God's commands resulted in victory. One of the most beloved African-American spirituals, *Were You There?*, provides comfort in remembering that Jesus understands the suffering and pain of His people.

Songs were sometimes used to help a freedom-seeker escape. These navigation songs would contain hidden meanings, coded directions and travel guidance. *Wade in the Water*, for example, advises the escapee to get into water when possible to avoid leaving a scent that could be detected by the dogs of slave catchers. The most detailed surviving map song is *Follow the Drinking Gourd*. Listen carefully as members of the choir explain the encoded instructions before we perform this piece.

Closing out the concert, *Freedom's Plow* calls us to action. Featuring words by Langston Hughes, the music infuses elements of gospel, jazz, blues and the spiritual – musical genres created by African-Americans that have come to define American music. The inspiring text refers to freedom as a seed

planted long ago that became a tree that continues to grow and spread across the world. Hughes' lengthy poem concludes with this charge –

***May its branches spread and shelter grow
Until all races and all peoples know its shade.
KEEP YOUR HAND ON THE PLOW! HOLD ON!***



The Frazier Museum offers a free, audio-guided tour of significant locations and landmarks along both sides of the Ohio River that reveal local connections to the Underground Railroad.



Kentuckiana played a central role in the Underground Railroad and served as a major corridor for enslaved men, women, and children fleeing bondage. Join us for an immersive storytelling experience to uncover the hidden stories of people and places in our community with close ties to this resistance story.

During this walkable, drivable audio tour you will visit significant locations and landmarks along both sides of the Ohio River that reveal local connections to the Underground Railroad. Your experience begins at the "Kentucky Fugitives to Canada" historic marker at 4th and Main Street in downtown Louisville. The first four stops are walkable and cover approximately two miles. For stops 5 and 6 you will make a short drive to New Albany, Indiana to complete the tour.

You will take a similar route to that of Lucie and Thornton Blackburn who fled Louisville to avoid sale and separation in the 1830s, traveling around downtown Louisville and then over the Ohio River to Indiana. The Blackburn story will serve as a central thread for discovering this important history, with significant locations, historical details, and additional voices woven into the narrative.



For more information, visit
fraziermuseum.org/the-journey.

A black and white portrait of Edward Caruthers, a man with a beard and mustache, smiling. He is wearing a checkered button-down shirt. The background is a dark, out-of-focus pattern.

Edward Caruthers

Baritone Edward Caruthers is an active performer, teacher, and clinician.

As a performer, Mr. Caruthers has been a featured soloist in major works, including *The Messiah*, *Magnificat* (Bach), and *Christmas Oratorio* (Bach), *The Creation* (Haydn), *Elijah* (Mendelssohn), *Ein Deutsches Requiem* (Brahms), and *Five Mystical Songs* (Vaughn Williams). Mr. Caruthers was a featured soloist for *Requiem* (Mozart) at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, Austria.

As a recital artist, Mr. Caruthers has presented the works of Tosti, Donaudy, Bellini, Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Faure, Hahn, Duparc, Barber, Quilter, Niles, and many other composers. In addition, Mr. Caruthers has performed concerts featuring the music of female, African/Hispanic, Jewish and LGBTQI composers.

Mr. Caruthers' private voice students have attended music programs at Julliard, Manhattan School of Music, Oberlin Conservatory, University of Michigan, and Florida State University. As a clinician, Mr. Caruthers has adjudicated festivals in Kentucky, Ohio, and Washington. Mr. Caruthers is also the vocal coach for The Youth Performing Arts High School and Western School for the Arts in Louisville, Kentucky.

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Michelle Harbison
Shabnam Mockon
Sandra Vaughn
Elizabeth Weaver
Jennifer Weber

Soprano II

Courtney Bennet
Anne Campbell
Cynthia Christensen
Catherine Cleveland
Stacey Herp
Katie Kennedy
Anissa Marshall
Danielle Revert
Kathy Van Ryzin
Beth Wade

Alto I

Sara Alvey
Tamara Becker
Patricia FitzGerald
Taylor Hannon
Lisa Holm
Lori Perkins
Hannay Shafer
Christie Tompkins

Alto II

Jeanie Grosz
Kim Hoover
Karen Jones
Dawn Knapp
Carrie Li
Kristina Morgan
Julie Nicholson
Amy Shir

Tenor I

Brand Austin
Alex Elslager
Zach Hebert
Craig Pedigo

Tenor II

Scott Burress
Jesse Johnson
Brian Shaw

Bass I

Chad Burks
Bill Byrne
Noah Hankins
Kyle Mankin
Kenney Snell
Paul Stiller

Bass II

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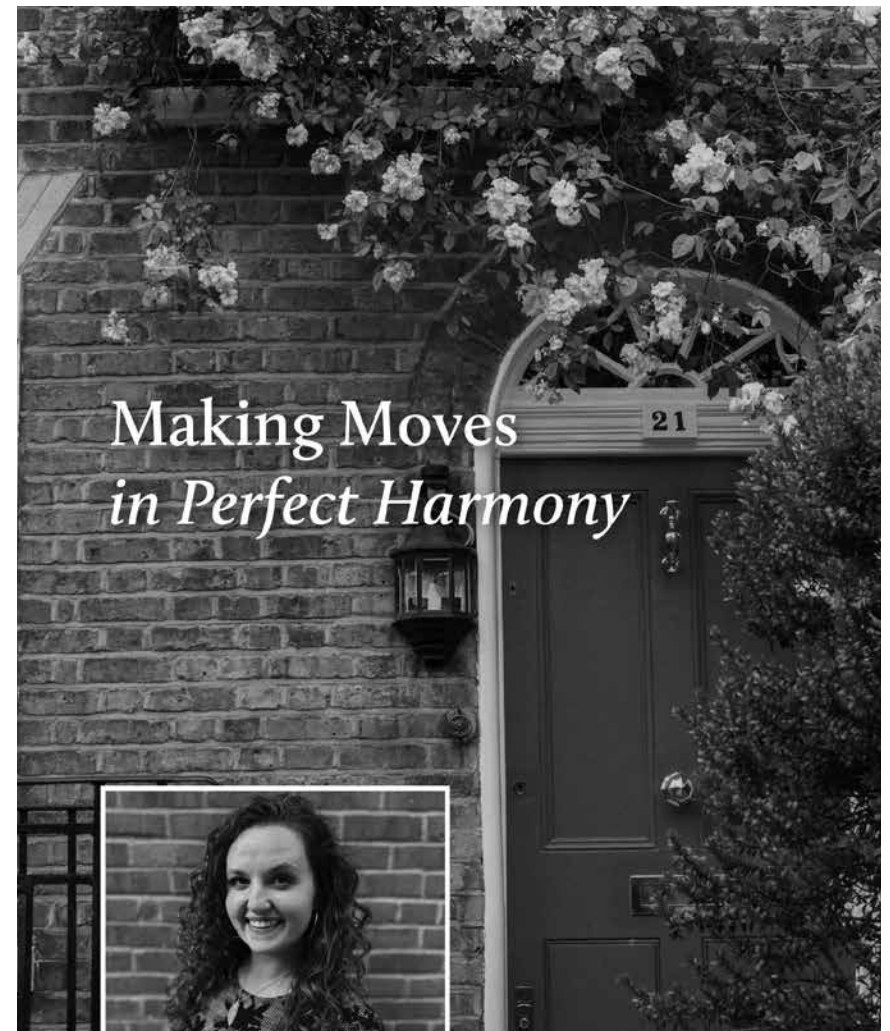


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