

STREET STAGE



Tanyaradzwa Tawengwa-Nzou
Mambano, Composer

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28 | 4PM
deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum

Presented by Boston Lyric Opera and Castle of our Skins

Misodzi YaMarimba

Featuring performances by composer Tanyaradzwa Tawengwa-Nzou Mambano and artists from Boston Lyric Opera and musicians from Castle of our Skins, experience *Misodzi YaMarimba*, an original musical narrative.

This performance is free with admission and pre-registration.

BOSTONLYRICOPERA

deCordova  trustees
Sculpture Park and Museum



Zakiyyah Sutton, Soprano



Lovely Hoffman, Alto



Fred C. VanNess, Jr., Tenor



RaShaun Campbell, Bass

See next pages for texts and artists' bios ►



BLO's programs are funded, in part, by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

ChiVanhu

ChiNgezi

PENYA PENYA

Wamuka sei Zuva?
 Penya Penya
 Neniwo nhasi ndichapenya- penya
 Penya Penya hwo
 Penya Penya
 Neniwo nhasi ndichapenya-penya
 Hesi imi makore imi
 Muchanaya here-wo nhasi?
 Muchahwandisa here-wo zuva?
 Kwete! Kwete!
 Ndichapenya-penya

Good morning Sun
 Shine Shine
 I too, will shine shine
 Shine Shine
 Shine Shine
 I too, will shine shine
 Hello to you too clouds
 Will you rain today?
 Will you hide the sun?
 No! No!
 I will shine shine

MWOYO MUTI

Mwoyo muti
 Unomera paunoda
 Chokwadi vakuru vanoti zviuya hazviwanane
 Chokwadi vakuru vanoti
 Kandiro kanoenda kunobva kamwe
 Ini handingakupe rudo
 Iwe usingandide

Love is like a tree
 It grows wherever it please
 The Wise Ones tell us that it is hard for soul mates to
 find one another
 The Wise Ones tell us that one plate should go where
 another plate has come from. I cannot give you love,
 If you do not offer me love in return

GUNGWA NDITAKURE

Gungwa nditakurewo
 Kuna Amai vangu
 Gungwa nditakure

Ocean please carry me
 To my Mother
 Ocean carry me

TORA HUTA HWAKO

Tora huta hwako
 Ndoda kuenda!
 Dzinoruma nyuchi!
 Dzandiruma!
 Dzinoruma nyuchi!

Take your bow and arrow
 I want to go!
 The bees sting!
 They stung me!
 The bees sting!

HUROMBO GARA WEGA

Ndiwudzeiwo kwakaenda vamwe?
 Hurombo gara wega.
 Ndiwudzeiwo kwakaenda vamwe shuwa?
 Hurombo gara wega
 Ndiwudzeiwo kwakaenda ambuya vangu?
 Hurombo gara wega.
 Ndiwudzeiwo kwakaenda sekuru vangu?
 Hurombo gara wega.

Tell me where the others went?
 Poverty, pain and suffering leave me alone.
 Tell me where the other went, honestly?
 Poverty, pain and suffering leave me alone.
 Tell me where my grandmother went?
 Poverty, pain and suffering leave me alone.
 Tell me where my grandfather went?
 Poverty, pain and suffering leave me alone.

Artists

Tanyaradzwa Tawengwa-Nzou Mambano | Composer, Narrator, and Soprano

Tanyaradzwa Tawengwa-Nzou Mambano is a Zimbabwean gwenyambira, scholar, composer, and singer whose creative practice centers African healing and self-liberation. Tanyaradzwa's music is grounded in the ancestral, Chivanhu canon taught to her by the generations of Svikiro (spirit mediums) and N'anga (healers) in her bloodline. Her internationally performed opera *The Dawn of the Rooster* tells of the stories of her family during Zimbabwe's Liberation Struggle of 1965-1980 and features Mbira dzaVadzimu, a sacred Zimbabwean instrument used in mapira ceremonies to commune with the ancestors. Tanyaradzwa is currently a Hodder Fellow at Princeton University and has held residencies as a Toulmin Creator with National Sawdust and as the inaugural Creative-in-Residence with Castle of Our Skins.

Zakiyyah Sutton | Soprano

Zakiyyah is an artist-activist who utilizes music and visual media to explore themes that centralize marginalized communities. As an actress and classically-trained singer who is well-versed in Opera, Hip-Hop, Jazz, and R&B, she utilizes her extremely versatile sound to reach a broad range of audiences and listeners, and craft a sound that is uniquely her own—including her most well-known, "Hip-Hopera." She's had the pleasure of bringing these sounds to numerous audiences from the House of Blues to, more recently, the United Nations. In addition to her work as an artist, she currently works as a racial equity consultant with Arts Connect International, helping arts organizations reassess their practices and address issues of inequity that affect people of color. These experiences, coupled with her artistic versatility, make her uniquely qualified to use her art as a catalyst for social change.

Lovely Hoffman | Alto

Lovely Hoffman is an Award-Winning musical theatre performer, singer, songwriter, and educator. In 2017, Lovely released her single, *My Black Is Beautiful*, a song about self-love, which went viral and reached #45 on the Adult Contemporary Radio Charts. Lovely has been featured on CNN, BET, Aspire TV, *Teen Vogue*, and *Essence Magazine*. Lovely is a proud member of the Actors' Equity Association

and won the IRNE Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of Celie in the New England Premier of *The Color Purple*. Lovely's theatre credits include: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Doubt: A Parable*, *Hairspray*, *Ain't Misbehavin* and *Caroline, or Change*. Lovely has a passion for social justice and her songs often focus on the African-American historical and cultural experience. For more information, visit: LovelyHoffman.com.

Fred C. VanNess, Jr. | Tenor

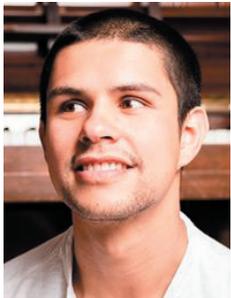
Fred C. VanNess, Jr. performs a wide variety of repertoire on stages across New England. An avid concert performer, Mr. VanNess is a member of Castle of our Skins, an organization dedicated to celebrating Black artistry through music. With Castle of our Skins, he has performed the tenor solos in the world premiere of Samuel Beebe's *Remember the Sea* alongside various solos in their Night Songs concert. Recently, he appeared as the tenor quartet soloist in the world premiere of Geoffrey Gibbs' *Tide Flowers* with University of Rhode Island Artist Series, and was featured in a number of solo recitals with Lake Charles Symphony, Salem Philharmonic, and in an invite-only VIP performance at Coushatta Casino Resort. Mr. VanNess has also delighted audiences for the past several seasons as featured soloist in Reagle Music Theatre's *Christmas Time* program.

RaShaun Campbell | Bass

RaShaun Campbell is a Texas native, born and raised in Fort Worth. RaShaun has also won a number of awards with the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS-Texoma Region). Highlights include the titles roles in *Don Giovanni*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and *Falstaff* (Verdi). Other roles include Dr. Falke in *Die Fledermaus*, Dr. Dulcamara in *L'elisir D'amore*, Olin Blich in *Susannah*, Don Inigo Gomez in *L'heure Espagnole*, and Peter in *Hänsel und Gretel*. On the concert stage, Mr. Campbell has participated as the Bass/Baritone soloist for the Fauré Requiem and Schubert Mass in G with the Boston Boy Choir, Duruflé Requiem with TCCC Concert Choir, Mozart's Mass in D and Vespers with St. Patrick's Cathedral of Fort Worth, TX, the Beethoven Mass in C with the Riverside Methodist Church in Fort Worth, TX, and Stravinsky's Les Noces, Freisinger Chamber Orchestra in J.S. Bach's Mattheus-Passion and Bruckner's Mass No. 3, Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass and Mozart's Missa Brevis No. 10, and Israel in Egypt. Mr. Campbell is very excited to join this collaboration with Castles of our Skins and BLO.

For more information & future performances, please visit blo.org/streetstage and castleskins.org.

Castle of our Skins | Musicians



Jose Arturo Soto Gamboa | Pianist

Artist, educator, and cultural agent José Soto is cofounder of the Fundación Armonía Colectiva and the FIJAZZ Costa Rica international jazz festival. With a goal of creating socially aware music that betters society, he experiments with Latin American, classical music, and jazz. His music

studies took him to the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, New England Conservatory, and the Berklee College of Music, the Global Jazz Institute Master's program. Soto helped to found the Danilo Perez Foundation's Children's Program in Panama, where he taught for two years. In Costa Rica, he worked as a teacher at several respected institutions. In Boston, Jose Soto is faculty at Curry College, and has taught at Berklee College of Music Keyboard Workshop, the Berklee Global Jazz Institute Summer Workshop at the Newport Jazz Festival, among other institutions. As a performer and pianist, Soto explores a variety of sounds and aims to promote new musical experiences for audiences and has performed in many national and international jazz festivals in Latin America, the USA, and Europe.



Kera Washington | Percussion

Kera M. Washington is an applied ethnomusicologist and the founder of Zili-fy/Zili Misik, formerly Zili Roots (www.zilimisik.com), founded in 2000: an all female, multi-ethnic, Boston-based world music ensemble that retraces routes of forced exile and cultural resistance through

diasporic rhythm and song. Zili performs roots music of the African Diaspora, or self-described "New World Soul." Washington is also Senior Music Performance Faculty in the Music Department of Wellesley College, MA; and is a Music Teacher at the Mather Elementary School, a Boston Public School in Dorchester, a neighborhood of Boston, MA.



Gerson Lazo-Quiroga | Electric Bass

Gerson Lazo-Quiroga was born in Concepcion, Chile. At the age of five he began learning to play guitar from his father. A few years later, his interest switched to electric bass, deciding to make of it his life-long career. In 2014, he was awarded the Presidential Scholarship at Berklee

College of Music where he currently studies Music Production & Engineering, Performance and Jazz Composition. Gerson has had the opportunity to partake in several notable festivals, among them the Montreal Jazz Festival, Monterey Jazz Festival, Beantown Jazz Festival with Al Jarreau, Panama Jazz Festival next to Michelle Coltrane, The National Folk Festival and several others. He also had the honor of playing in the "Pablo Ziegler Meets Berklee" concert featuring the Latin Grammy-winning pianist and composer Pablo Ziegler. In 2017, Gerson and his group Mixcla, were awarded the "40th *Downbeat Magazine* Student Music Award" being recognized as one of the most promising rising latin bands.

Boston Lyric Opera & Castle of our Skins

Boston Lyric Opera

Both locally and beyond, Boston Lyric Opera leads the way in celebrating the art of the voice through innovative programming and community engagement initiatives that redefine the opera-going experience. Now in its 45th Season, BLO is the largest and longest-lived opera company in New England. Since its founding in 1976, the company has staged world premieres, U.S. premieres, co-productions and co-commissions of note with organizations such as The Royal Opera, Covent Garden, Scottish Opera and San Francisco Opera and continues to be a destination for some of the leading artists, conductors, directors and designers from around the world.

Castle of our Skins | Mission

Castle of our Skins is a Black arts institution that centers Black arts, culture, and history through people, programming, and partnerships. Cultural curiosity is at the center of our mission, with diversity and representation integral factors in each curated event, choice of music performed, and artistic collaborator. We are a leading organization dedicated to programming works by Black composers from the African diaspora in collaboration with other artistic disciplines — spoken word, visual arts, dance, multimedia, crafts, fashion design, and more. Our aim is to correct the lack of equity in composer representation in concert halls and the omission of important stories and figures in Black history. Founded in 2013 by two African American musicians who met while attending the New England Conservatory, Castle of our Skins has presented eight seasons of concerts and educational programs in Boston and beyond.