

VOCAL ESSENCE WITNESS

Underground Railroad Series

Wilder Community Services for Aging presents the VocalEssence WITNESS Program, one of the nation's premier annual initiatives celebrating the contributions of African Americans to our shared cultural heritage. Join VocalEssence artists as they highlight Saint Paul's historic role as a sanctuary provider both during the time of the Underground Railroad and today.

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

Wilder Community Center for Aging
(650 Marshall Avenue, Saint Paul)
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

- JAN 21: Creating a Freedom Song
- JAN 28: Longing for Home: Songs & Stories of Sanctuary
- FEB 4: Dancing to Freedom
- FEB 11: Building Rhythms & Body Percussion
- FEB 18: Singing Freedom Songs from the Underground Railroad

Reserve your space to any or all workshops at 651-280-CARE [2273]

Read more about the workshops on the second side of this flyer.

Workshops are free, but donations are welcome.

SPECIAL CONCERT EVENT

VocalEssence WITNESS: Underground Railroad

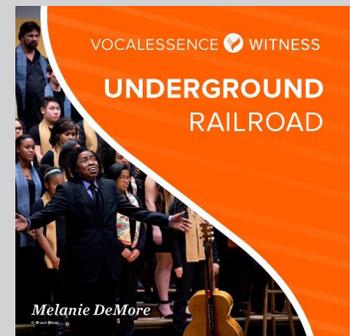
Sunday, February 19, 2017

4:00–6:00 p.m.

Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis

Wilder has limited complimentary tickets and transit available for the VocalEssence WITNESS: Underground Railroad concert.

Email Barb Zeis at barb.zeis@wilder.org for eligibility.
For more information, visit vocalessence.org.



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

www.wilder.org



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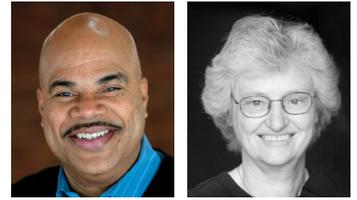
Here for good.

VOCAL ESSENCE WITNESS

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

JAN 21: CREATING A FREEDOM SONG

T. Mychael Rambo: *Actor, Vocalist, Arts Educator and Community Organizer*
Anita Ruth: *Musician*



For many of us, finding freedom is a never-ending search. Today, at any age, we are still faced with issues of finding freedom and sanctuary in our lives. Just as the enslaved Africans sang about the freedom they were searching for, so shall we create songs that tell of the freedom that people seek today. Please come and tell of your search for freedom, and together we will create songs.

JAN 28: LONGING FOR HOME: SONGS & STORIES OF SANCTUARY

Ginger Commodore: *Singer, Songwriter, Actress*
G. Phillip Shoultz, III: *Conductor, Educator, Singer and Associate Conductor of VocalEssence*



“Home” can be a metaphor for the town in which we grew up, the people we love and who love us (friends and relatives), a special place, and things that anchor us and makes us feel safe and sheltered. Home can also be a song. In this workshop, participants will explore stories and songs that remind us of home, anchoring us to a time, person, place, or feeling.

FEB 4: DANCING TO FREEDOM

Patricia Brown: *Dance Instructor, Choreographer, Performer*

Whether you are an experienced dancer, or simply like to bob your head or tap your toes, this workshop is for you! Utilizing movement, music, and various forms of artistic expression, participants will have an interdisciplinary experience in connection to the ideals of the Underground Railroad: freedom, liberty and sanctuary. No previous dance or movement experience required – all are welcome and encouraged to participate!



FEB 11: BUILDING RHYTHMS & BODY PERCUSSION

Brandon Commodore: *Drummer, Musician, Music Producer*

In this workshop, we will explore the integral role that song & rhythm played in the development of unique communication styles during the Abolitionist Movement. Participants will learn about the intricate dynamics of these communications, hidden meanings therein, and will be given a chance to create their own rhythms and develop their own system of communication based on influential movements during their lifetime. No previous artistic experience required – all are welcome and encouraged to participate!



FEB 18: SINGING FREEDOM SONGS FROM THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Melanie DeMore: *Vocal Activist, Singer, Songwriter*

Freedom must be sung about and fought for. These freedom songs are our nourishment, our food, our life blood. In this workshop, VocalEssence WITNESS guest artist Melanie DeMore will lead us in raising our voices together to honor our ancestors and celebrate the songs that got us to where we are today. No previous singing or musical experience required – all are welcome and encouraged to participate!

