

Rothko Chapel presents

# Songs for Justice

A Series Exploring the Power of Music  
In Social Justice Movements

2022 Annual MLK Birthday Celebration

Featuring Community Music Center of Houston, with Dr. Anne Lundy,  
Conductor, and Shana Redmond, PhD, scholar of music, race and politics

Saturday, January 15  
3pm Central



# Songs for Justice

The Rothko Chapel presents *Songs for Justice*, a series of concerts and conversations exploring the role that music plays to further social justice movements, addressing today's inequities and injustices.

Coinciding with the Chapel's annual observance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on January 15, the series opens with a performance of and discussion about music central to the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. The Community Music Center of Houston Scott Joplin Chamber Orchestra conducted by Dr. Anne Lundy shares a selection of music central to Dr. King's transformative leadership and Black Americans' historic and contemporary struggles for equity. Shana Redmond, PhD, scholar of music, race and politics, will discuss the broader history surrounding the relationship between music and activism in the U.S., the importance of music in Rev. King's life, and the strategic use of music within the Civil Rights Movement.

The Rothko Chapel started the annual MLK Birthday Celebration in 1979 to connect the contemporary implications of Dr. King's legacy to the ongoing struggle for civil and human rights, captured by artist Barnett Newman's *Broken Obelisk* (pictured with Chapel founder Dominique de Menil to the left). This sculpture, located on the plaza adjacent to the Chapel, is dedicated to Dr. King.



# 2022 Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration

## Welcome & Introduction

Ashley Clemmer

*Director of Programs & Community Engagement,  
Rothko Chapel*

## Opening Remarks

Shana Redmond, PhD

*Professor of English & Comparative Literature,  
Center for the Study of Ethnicity & Race (CSER),  
Columbia University*

## “Soon I Will Be Done”

Performed by Community Music Center of Houston  
Scott Joplin Chamber Orchestra  
*Conducted by Dr. Anne Lundy*

## Introduction to Music Selections

Dr. Anne Lundy

*Community Music Center of Houston Music Director,  
Conductor, Violinist, Educator & Ethno-musicologist*

## “Free At Last (A Portrait of Martin Luther King, Jr.)” by Lena McLin

Featuring Mahogane Medlock, soprano; Dorceal Duckens, baritone; Durmerrick Ross, reader

Oh, Freedom! Oh, Freedom! Oh, Freedom!  
A long ways from home, a long ways from home.  
Shackled blacks in a stench hold,  
Torn from their native land.  
Robbed of the honor of ages old.  
Cast in dire misery's role.  
Sister taken from brother,  
Father from his son,  
Mother from her daughter,  
A long ways from home, a long ways from home.  
Slaves were taken and stood on blocks in most parts of  
the new land,  
Sister from her brother, father from his son,  
Mother from her daughter, a long ways from home  
Through plaintive cries and gritted teeth,  
Loved ones to the auction block crying!  
Families asunder the deep felt wreath,  
deep felt wreath, grief.

Slaves were taken and stood on blocks in most parts of  
the new land,  
Sister from her brother, father from his son,  
Mother from her daughter, a long ways from home.  
Through plaintive cries and gritted teeth,  
Loved ones to the auction block crying!  
Families asunder the deep felt wreath,  
deep felt wreath, grief.

Sister asking brother, brother asking sister,  
Family asking father, Family asking mother.  
Mama, is Massa gonna sell us tomorrow?  
Mama, is Massa gonna sell us tomorrow?  
Mama, is Massa gonna sell us tomorrow?  
Watch, hope, and pray.  
Mama, is Massa gonna sell us tomorrow?  
Watch, hope, and pray.

Slaves were taken and stood on blocks in most parts of  
the land  
Sister from her brother, father from his son,  
Mother from her daughter  
A long ways from home, a long ways from home.

Don't think! Don't read! Brother, you'll get the lash.  
Work harder, Sing louder, Heal the soul's deepened  
gash.  
Don't think! Don't read! Brother, you'll get the lash,  
Cry out, Oh freedom! Cry out, Oh freedom!  
Grant us through soothing bosom  
Can't you hear? Can't you hear those freedom bells  
ringing?

Can't you hear? Can't you hear those freedom bells  
ringing?  
Can't you hear? Can't you hear those freedom bells  
ringing?  
Saying I want my freedom? Want my freedom right  
now!

Lincoln signed the paper, unlocked the chain and said  
freedom was for every man.  
Oh freedom, oh freedom, oh freedom  
Then came the hooded men.

Standing in silence, we fear no violence.  
We shall not be moved.  
He came to Alabama one strong to right a wrong.  
He led from Alabama the nation strong to right a  
wrong.  
Marching and hoping for freedom and justice for all,  
He led from Alabama the nation strong to right its  
wrong.

He had to move when the spirit say move,  
He had to move when the spirit say move.  
And when the spirit say move, he had to move, oh Lord,  
He had to move when the spirit say move,  
He had to go where the spirit say go,  
He had to go where the spirit say go,  
And when the spirit say go, he had to go, oh Lord,  
He had to go where the spirit say go.  
He had to do what the spirit say do  
He had to march where the spirit say march.  
He had to move when the spirit say move.

Saying I want my freedom, want my freedom right now.  
He had a dream, He had a dream and passed it on for  
those of us in earnest meditation  
To follow along up the highways, through the avenue,  
Into the hearts and souls of all who will.

Because they will that all mankind be free.  
He ascended into heaven, into heaven, into heaven,  
Yet his spirit abides with us.

Free at last, free at last!  
Thank God Almighty, he's free at last!  
Free at last, free at last!  
Thank God Almighty, he's free at last!  
Alleluia Alleluia,  
Thank God Almighty, he's free at last.  
Free at last, Free at last!

**“Glory” by John Legend, Common & Rhymefest**  
Featuring Craig Washington

### **Conversation**

With Shana Redmond, PhD & Dr. Anne Lundy  
Moderated by David Leslie  
*Executive Director, Rothko Chapel*

**“We Shall Overcome”**

### **Scott Joplin Chamber Orchestra**

Sponsored by the Community Music Center of Houston  
Dr. Anne Lundy, Music Director

**Violin** | Delia Aigbedion, Concert Mistress

Tiffany Goins, Marcia Sadberry, Alberta Rencher

**Viola** | Gregory Lewis, Sheridan Richard

**Cello** | Cymphoni Pringle, Kim Hatton, Zyann Richard

**Bass** | Gracie Ibemere, Luke Wallace

**Flute** | Elfrida Brown

**Clarinet** | Maurice Ross

**Bassoon** | Val Gentry

**Trumpet** | Al Alexander Jr., James Williams

**Trombone** | Reginald Berry

**Tuba** | Robert Jackson

**Percussion** | Joshua Berry, Jesse Holloway

**Piano** | Cheryl Clancy

### **Scott Joplin Chorus**

**Sopranos** | Christine Crespo, Brittany Taylor, Frieda  
Malone, Kamilah Sage

**Altos** | Joan Gilbert, Martha Elliott, Antonia Bates

**Tenors** | Byron Cobbin, Eric Caldwell

**Basses** | Gary Navy, Ralph Jones, Patrick Moss

# About Presenters & Acknowledgements

**Community Music Center of Houston (CMCH)**, formerly the Society for the Preservation of Spirituals, was founded in 1979. In 1983 CMCH formed the Scott Joplin Chamber Orchestra (SJCO), a 40 member predominantly Black community orchestra in response to the lack of opportunity for Black classically trained musicians in the world of symphony orchestras. Today SJCO is the nation's second oldest predominantly Black chamber orchestra actively performing.

**Dr. Anne Lundy**, CMCH Music Director, Conductor, Violinist, Educator and Ethno-musicologist, began her musical studies on the violin. She received a Bachelor of Music Education in 1977 from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Master of Music in Conducting from the University of Houston in 1979. Dr. Lundy received her Doctor of Musical Arts from University of Houston's Moores School of Music in 2015. She has lectured extensively throughout the United States and has published articles on finding and performing music written by African American composers. In 1989, she was the first African American woman to conduct the Houston Symphony at Miller Outdoor Theater in Houston, TX. She founded and currently conducts the CMCH Scott Joplin Chamber Orchestra, the William Grant Still String Quartet, and teaches violin and viola.

**Shana L. Redmond, Ph.D.** (she/her) is a scholar and author of *Anthem: Social Movements and the Sound of Solidarity in the African Diaspora* (NYU, 2014) and *Everything Man: The Form and Function of Paul Robeson* (Duke, 2020), which received a 2021 American Book Award. She has written widely for public audiences, including the critical liner essay for the vinyl soundtrack release of Jordan Peele's film, *Get Out* (Waxwork Records, 2019). She is President-Elect of the American Studies Association and Professor of English and Comparative Literature and the Center for the Study of Ethnicity & Race at Columbia University.

**Underwriting Support** for the Rothko Chapel's 2021-2022 Program Season and Songs for Justice series is provided by Cristy and Michael Jadick, C.C. Lee, Sonja Earthman Novo, Christina and Troy Porter, Elsa Ross, Robin and Andrew Schirrmeister, and Sarita Tennant. This program is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Livestream by BEND Productions LLC.

# Songs for Justice

## Upcoming Events



**February 19, 7pm & February 20, 3pm**  
**WORLD PREMIERE of Monochromatic Light**  
**(Afterlife) by Tyshawn Sorey**  
**Rothko Chapel 50th Anniversary Commission**

Inspired by the Chapel and by Morton Feldman's 20th-century masterpiece, *Rothko Chapel*, composed for the opening celebration. Co-presented with DACAMERA.



**March 8, 7pm**  
**International Women's Day**  
**Songs for Murdered Sisters**

Song cycle with music by composer and pianist Jake Heggie, conceived and performed by baritone Joshua Hopkins, and featuring original poems by celebrated Canadian novelist and poet Margaret Atwood. Concert and conversation presented in partnership with HGOco.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit [rothkochapel.org/experience](https://rothkochapel.org/experience).

# About the Rothko Chapel

The Rothko Chapel is a contemplative space that connects art, spirituality and compassionate action through a broad array of public programs and community initiatives. It is open to the public Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-6pm at no charge. Founded by Houston philanthropists Dominique and John de Menil, the Chapel was dedicated in 1971 as an interfaith, nonsectarian sanctuary, and invites visitors from around the world to experience the power and sanctity of Mark Rothko's monumental paintings.

The Rothko Chapel's mission is to create opportunities for spiritual growth and dialogue that illuminate our shared humanity and inspire action leading to a world in which all are treated with dignity and respect.

The Rothko Chapel is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your tax-deductible donation enables the Chapel to welcome people from all over the world every day of the year to experience the transformative power of art, to engage in courageous conversations, and to connect with their innermost thoughts.

To learn more and donate, visit:  
[rothkochapel.org/give/donate](http://rothkochapel.org/give/donate)

The Rothko Chapel is funded in part by the The Brown Foundation, Inc., the Dudley T. Dougherty Foundation, The George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation, Houston Endowment Inc., the John P. McGovern Foundation, Texas Commission on the Arts, a grant from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance, and many generous individuals.

