

LIVE *from* HOCHSTEIN

A Miracle in Legacy

Joshua Conyers, baritone
Dr. Chelsea Whitaker, piano

Wednesday, December 3 2025

Hochstein Performance Hall

50 N. Plymouth Ave. • 585.454.4596 • hochstein.org

PROGRAM

Joshua Fit da Battle of Jericho

Traditional
arr. Margaret Bonds
(1913 - 1972)

Two Black Churches

I. Ballad of Birmingham

Shawn Okpebholo
(b. 1981)

Ride on, King Jesus

Traditional
arr. Hall Johnson
(1888 - 1970)

American Sonnets

Inside Me

Carlos Simon
(b. 1986)

Witness

Spiritual
arr. Hall Johnson

A Miracle in Legacy

I. Never More Than Nothin'

Jasmine Arielle Barnes
(b. 1991)

Ain't Got Time to Die

Traditional
arr. Hall Johnson



The Hochstein School is grateful to Sidney & Barbara Sobel for generously providing continuous underwriting support for *Live from Hochstein* since 1993.

Today's *Live from Hochstein* performance is broadcast live and in stereo on **wxxl Classical** FM, 91.5 with host Mona Seghatoleslami.

PERFORMERS

Grammy-nominated Baritone **Joshua Conyers** has been heralded by the New York Times and Washington Post for his deliciously honeyed, sonorous baritone and show stealing performance quality in both new and standard operatic works, as well as on concert stages. Mr. Conyers has performed with The Metropolitan Opera, Seattle Opera, Washington National Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, English National Opera, New York Philharmonic, and National Symphony Orchestra. As a concert soloist and recitalist, he has sung at Carnegie Hall and other venues internationally. His recordings include his debut solo album, *A Miracle Legacy* with Lexicon Classics, as well as features on the Grammy Nominated album *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X* by Anthony Davis, and in *Bernstein, Gershwin, & Copland: Works* with Naxos.

A native of Bronx, NY, Conyers' dedication and vision as an artist, educator, and advocate strives to propel the performing arts industry forward. In addition to giving masterclasses and seminars at universities and organizations around the world, Joshua is active in the community as a member of the Young Professionals Advisory Board of the Newark Boys Chorus School, mentoring underserved young men of color who find their paths through music. Previously, Mr. Conyers taught voice at the New England Conservatory Preparatory School and Continuing Education. Joshua received his BM in Vocal Performance and Professional Artist Certificate from the UNC School of the Arts/A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute, and his MM in Vocal Performance from Indiana University

Collaborative pianist and vocal coach **Dr. Chelsea Whitaker** enjoys a diverse career in the vocal arts, currently serving as Assistant Professor of Vocal Coaching at the Eastman School of Music. Passionate about American art song, particularly that of living composers, she has worked with composers including John Harbison, Jake Heggie, John Musto, Ben Moore, and Paul Moravec. Whitaker has performed in venues including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Merkin Hall, and Jordan Hall. Dr. Whitaker holds degrees from the University of Missouri, Kansas City, University of Southern California, and New England Conservatory. Her primary instructors have been Cameron Stowe, Jonathan Feldman, Alan Smith, and Robert Weirich.

Prior to her appointment at Eastman, Whitaker served on faculty at New England Conservatory, where she taught and coached in the voice and opera departments. Previous work has included performances with Sparks and Wiry Cries, Cincinnati Song Initiative, and Boston Art Song Society; vocal coaching and staff pianist positions at Boston University Tanglewood Institute, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and Boston University; and music director positions with Boston Opera Collaborative.

Hochstein would like to thank its donors and patrons for their support of our mission to provide people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities with access to excellent music and dance education in a community that nurtures and encourages personal achievement.

To learn more about The Hochstein School, visit our website at www.hochstein.org.
For information on how to support Hochstein, please contact Gwen Green,
Director of Development, at development@hochstein.org or 585.454.4403 x225.



**Council on
the Arts**



*Hochstein programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.
Hochstein programs are also made possible by the Monroe County Legislature;
Adam Bello, Monroe County Executive.*

ENJOY THESE PERFORMANCES?

If you wish to support future *Live from Hochstein* performances for the Rochester community, please consider making a donation in the baskets provided at the exits or at <https://hochstein.org/Support>. Any checks can be made out to The Hochstein School with *Live from Hochstein* in the memo. THANK YOU!

JOIN US NEXT WEEK

Holiday Horns

Featuring the Eastman Horn Choir directed by W. Peter Kurau

December 10, 2025 at 12:10PM

AUDIENCE REMINDERS

- Please enter and exit the hall only during applause.
- Food and beverages are not allowed in the Performance Hall.
- Please turn off cell phones and other devices that may sound or light up during the performance. The use of cameras/recording devices is strictly prohibited.
- Restrooms are located downstairs and can be accessed from the back of the Performance Hall. Wheelchair accessible/gender neutral restrooms are in the School; please ask an usher for directions.
- Fire exits are located along the sides and rear of the Performance Hall.