

VOICES OF CHANGE II: *We Must Have a Dream*
University of California Alumni Chorus Spring Concert
Commemorating the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
7 pm Wednesday, April 4 at Hertz Hall

Featured Work – *Scenes From the Life of a Martyr*
by Undine Smith Moore, narrated by Noah Griffin

March 19, 2018, BERKELEY, CA – The **University of California Alumni Chorus** presents **VOICES OF CHANGE II: *We Must Have a Dream*** on **Wednesday, April 4, at 7 pm**, in **Hertz Hall on the UC Berkeley campus**. The program commemorates the life and leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the 50th anniversary of his assassination. Featured works will be ***Scenes From the Life of a Martyr*** by Undine Smith Moore narrated by **special guest Noah Griffin**, and a U2 piece arranged by Bob Chilcott, entitled **MLK**. The evening will begin with a special commemorative observance featuring **Noah Griffin, Carl Anthony, and James Peterson**, three Bay Area civil rights leaders and activists who will share personal reflections on the life and influence of Dr. King. The program will also include other songs dedicated to the memory of this great civil rights leader, with pieces by Patty Griffin, Ben Allaway and Moses Hogan. The concert, under the direction of Dr. Mark Sumner, will include four choruses and a full orchestra, with guest soloists **Michele Kennedy, Crystal Philippi, and Alex Taite**.

Noah Griffin, a highly regarded Bay Area singer who will narrate the Undine Smith Moore work, has also had an illustrious career as a public policy advisor, syndicated newspaper columnist, radio talk show host (on KGO), and songwriter. A graduate of Harvard Law School, he has served as press secretary to former San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan, legislative aide to Dianne Feinstein, Statewide Deputy Campaign Director for President Clinton and Public Affairs Director for Charles Schwab. As a singer, he has been enchanting audiences since the age of seven when he performed with the San Francisco Boy's Chorus. He later performed with Duke Ellington, and Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Philharmonic, among other luminaries. He is especially known for his *Tribute to Cole Porter* and *Tribute to Nat King Cole*.

James Peterson has spent his life in the pursuit of civil rights, particularly with respect to racial equality in urban housing. As a young man 50 years ago, he worked under the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ralph David Abernathy as an associate director of the Poor People's Campaign in Washington, D.C. Mr. Peterson was a founder of the Foundation for Economic Enterprises Development, honoring Dr. Abernathy, which concentrated on youth job development and transportation issues. A resident of Berkeley for many years, he has served on the Alameda

County Human Relations Commission, the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, and as a Commissioner on the Berkeley Zoning Adjustment Board. He presently consults with several government and private enterprises. Mr. Peterson graduated from Cal with a degree in Philosophy and holds a master's degree in Urban Studies and Planning from Antioch University.

Carl Anthony, architect, author and urban/suburban/regional design strategist, is co-founder of the Breakthrough Communities Project. He has served as Acting Director of the Community and Resource Development Unit at the Ford Foundation, responsible for the Foundation's worldwide programs in fields of Environment and Development, and Community Development. He directed the Foundation's Sustainable Metropolitan Communities Initiative and the Regional Equity Demonstration in the United States. Carl funded the national Conversation on Regional Equity (CORE), a dialogue of national policy analysts and advocates for new metropolitan racial justice strategies. He was Founder and, for 12 years Executive Director, of the Urban Habitat Program in the San Francisco Bay Area. With his colleague Luke Cole at the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, he founded and published the Race, Poverty and the Environment Journal, the only environmental justice periodical in the United States. He has a professional degree in architecture from Columbia University. In 1996, he was appointed Fellow at the Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Soprano soloist **Michele Kennedy**, an Oakland native, is a specialist in early classical and contemporary music who has sung at such venues as Bard Summer Festival, Carnegie Hall, Davies Symphony Hall, Folger Shakespeare Library, Library of Congress, and Washington National Cathedral. She is currently an associate member of the voice faculty at Rutgers University.

Mezzo soprano **Crystal Philippi** has appeared in both traditional and contemporary opera, as well as crossover repertoire such as Broadway and Gilbert & Sullivan for companies in the U.S. An actor, ethnic ballroom dancer, swimmer, and clown, as well as singer, she is a graduate of the University of New Orleans and the San Francisco Conservatory.

Tenor **Alexander Taite**, an Oakland native and graduate of Pepperdine University, has taught at Oakland School for the Arts, currently teaches private piano and voice lessons, and conducts the graduate level chorus at the San Francisco Boys Chorus. In 2014, he placed third in the inaugural James Toland Vocal Arts competition and in 2016 was audience favorite. A finalist in the 2015 East Bay Opera League scholarship competition, he is a member of the San Francisco Opera chorus.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$15 for seniors (62+) and \$10 for students. They can be purchased at [Brown Paper Tickets](http://brownpapertickets.com) (brownpapertickets.com) or at the door. For further information go to the [UC Alumni Chorus](http://www.ucac.net) website (www.ucac.net).

About the University of California Alumni Chorus

Founded in 1985, the UC Alumni Chorus is a thriving 120-member ensemble, composed of Cal alumni, alumni of other UC campuses, and UC Berkeley faculty, staff, and graduate students. Led by Director Dr. Mark Sumner, the chorus performs a wide variety of music, ranging from 16th-century chamber choral works to traditional folk music and 20th-century musical theater. Touring has become a chorus tradition, giving members the chance to sing for and meet with other music lovers around the globe. Members will travel to South Africa this spring, performing some of this concert's repertoire. In summer 2017, members participated in the Coralua choral festival in Trondheim, Norway. Other travel has included a tour of colonial Mexico with music from the California Missions; a trip to Cuba, featuring cultural exchanges with choirs from Havana, Matanzas, Cienfuegos, and Santiago de Cuba. Previous tours were to Australia, England, the Czech Republic and Hungary, China, the Baltics (Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Russia), and South America (Uruguay and Argentina). The chorus participated in the 2009 International Choral Festival in Missoula, Montana, and the ensemble has collaborated both with the Claremont Chorale and the Santa Barbara Choral Society, joining the latter in 2016 for a tour of Italy.

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FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

University of California Alumni Chorus

Dr. Mark Sumner, conductor,

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Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley campus

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