Sounds of Blackness
The Night Before Christmas: In Concert
dec 19–31
Thank you so much for tuning in to The Sounds of Blackness *The Night Before Christmas: In Concert!* The Ordway Center for the Performing Arts is honored to be able to bring this wonderful holiday tradition to the community in a new way this year. It is our pleasure to present the world-renowned Sounds of Blackness once again — it's been awhile! This three-time Grammy Award-winning ensemble performed at our Concert Hall opening back in 2015, and while the world looks quite different these days than it did back then, one thing has not changed: the amazing artistry of these Minnesota favorites is sure to bring a “sleigh-full” of holiday joy to you and your family.

While our stages may be quieter than they usually are this time of year, rest assured that we are still hard at work. We remain committed to our mission to create transformative, shared experiences for audiences and artists alike. That’s why we are so excited to continue with Meet the Artists, a series of online conversations curated to take you inside the Ordway’s flagship series, Broadway at the Ordway. Join Producing Artistic Director Rod Kaats as he hosts live discussions with performers, directors, designers, and more. Stay tuned for new Meet the Artists events — and more — in the New Year!

We can’t wait until we are able to safely gather again in person – but until then you can sit, relax, and enjoy Sounds of Blackness *The Night Before Christmas: In Concert* from the comfort of your own home.

Happy holidays from all of us at the Ordway!

**Dayna Martinez**  
Senior Programming Director | Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

It is with great and sincere appreciation that Sounds of Blackness thanks you for being with us for this virtual version performance of *The Night Before Christmas: In Concert.*

Your participation greatly assists Sounds of Blackness in our primary goal of bringing together people of all backgrounds through the music of the African-American experience. Combining our collective resources directly supports the continuing enrichment and enhancement of the quality of life for the people of Minnesota and beyond.

Once again, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks to you on behalf of Minnesota’s own Grammy Award-winning Sounds of Blackness!

**Gary Hines**  
Music Director | Sounds of Blackness
The Music

Joy Of Christmas ................................................................. Carrie Harrington
Children Go ............................................................................... Ronnie Allen
Born In A Manger .............................................................. Ayenna Joyce Davis
Go Tell It .......................................................... Bridget Dawkins, Ayenna Joyce Davis
Silent Night ................................................................. Steve Dinkins, Layce Dreamz
O Come All Ye Faithful ...................................................... Carrie Harrington
Away In A Manger ............................................................... Jamecia Bennett
Santa’s Comin’ To Town ....................................................... Len Jones
Santa We’ve Been Waiting ............................ Layce Dreamz, Steve Dinkins, Len Jones
Dance Chitlins Dance! ......................................................... Chitlins
The Jolly One ................................................................. Rodney Fair
Dash Away All ................................................................. Reindeer
For Christmas Sake ......................... Micah Cherina Eubanks, Jamecia Bennett
Enough Is Enough! .............................................................. David Hurst
Merry Christmas To The World ........................................... Ensemble
Soul Holidays ............................................................... David Hurst, Jamecia Bennett
Sounds of Blackness has performed for kings, queens, presidents, and ambassadors at concert halls, colleges, schools, corporations, and festivals all over the world. Appearances include the Olympics, the World Cup, Ryder’s Cup, the NFL, NBA, MLB, Grammy Awards, Denver Summit of 8, the NAACP National Convention, and the Super Bowl. They have performed with Quincy Jones, Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jackson, Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Kirk Franklin, Shirley Caesar, Yolanda Adams, Sting, Prince, Elton John, Maya Angelou, Usher, Harry Belafonte, Aloe Blacc, Common, John Legend, and many more.

Sounds of Blackness has won Image, Soul Train, International Time For Peace, Stellar, and three Grammy Awards. Their life-changing Top 10 single and video “Royalty” was also nominated for two Image and two Stellar Awards. Their new single “Sick & Tired” is the anthem for today’s movement for justice and equality.

The Sounds of Blackness glorify God by uplifting all people through Black music!
The Cast & Band

Cast:

Jamecia Bennett, soprano ................................................................. Mrs. Claus
Layce Dreamz, soprano .................................................................... Stocking
Kadejsha Kibble, soprano ............................................................... Child/Reindeer (Prancer)
Micah Cherina Eubanks, alto .......................................................... Mouse
Bridget Dawkins, alto .................................................................... Reindeer (Vixen)
Ayenna Joyce Davis, alto ............................................................... Stocking
Carrie Harrington, alto .................................................................. Reindeer (Dancer)
Artisha Knight-Milon, alto .............................................................. Reindeer (Dasher)
Quintin Brown, tenor .................................................................... Chitlin
Steve Dinkins, tenor ..................................................................... Stocking
Graydon Francis, tenor .................................................................. Stocking
Len Jones, tenor ............................................................................ Stocking
David Hurst, baritone ................................................................... Santa
Ronnie Allen, bass ....................................................................... Chitlin/Papa
Rodney Fair, bass ......................................................................... Chitlin/Papa

Band:

Gary Hines, music director ................................................................ Piano
Billy Steele, assistant director ......................................................... Organ/Keyboard
Daryl Boudreaux ............................................................................ Percussion
Larry Robinson ................................................................................ Drums
Darrold McCray ............................................................................ Guitar
Solomon Parham ............................................................................ Trumpet
Larry Sims ....................................................................................... Trumpet
Juan Navarro ................................................................................... Trombone
Yohannes Tona ............................................................................. Bass
The Crew & Company

Creative Team:
Gary Hines .......................................................... Writer/Director
Carrie M. Harrington ........................................... Assistant Director/Choreographer
Otis Montgomery .................................................. Costumes
Pam Pryor
Stephanie Hartigan
Terryann Nash (Seamstress)

Sounds of Blackness Staff:
Brent Harris .......................................................... Manager
Louis Wilson .......................................................... Business Manager

Audio equipment provided by Audio Logic Systems
John and Pam Markiewicz
www.audiologicsystems.com

Ed Coutu .......................................................... Monitor Mix Engineer
Nicholas Pettigrew ............................................. Multi-Track and Wireless Technician
John Simshauer .................................................. Live Audio Services Coordinator

Lighting equipment provided by Legacy Productions
Tony Mahmood .................................................. Operations Director
Duane Goldberg .................................................. Lighting Technician
Jesse Cogswell .................................................... Lighting Designer
Meghan Winters .................................................. Head Electrician

Camera equipment provided by Atomic K Productions
Karl Demer .......................................................... Director of Photography
Edwin Irwin ........................................................ Camera Operators
Gus Wiltse
Justin Dezurik
Michele Pollard
Kaden Demer .................................................... Production Assistant

Filmed at:
Elim Church — Minneapolis, MN

Rehearsals were held at:
Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church — Minneapolis, MN
With gratitude to Robin Hickman-Winfield, of SoulTouch Productions and Director of Taking Our Place Centerstage for her continued support.

Thanks to:

The staff of the Ordway for making this film possible

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To learn more about and support Sounds of Blackness, please visit soundsofblackness.org.

Special Thanks

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