

**ORDWAY**

# Sounds of Blackness

## The Night Before Christmas: In Concert



**dec 19-31**

Presented by

**BREMER BANK**

**SPIRE**

## From the Ordway

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



## From Sounds of Blackness

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*.

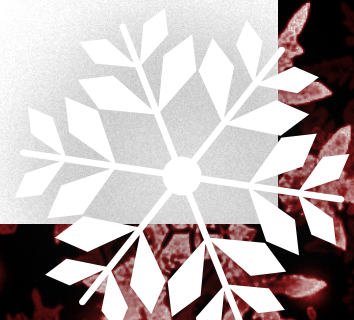
Your participation greatly assists Sounds of Blackness in our primary goal of bringing together people of all backgrounds through the music of the African-American experience. Combining our collective resources directly supports the continuing enrichment and enhancement of the quality of life for the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

<b>Joy Of Christmas</b> .....	Carrie Harrington
<b>Children Go</b> .....	Ronnie Allen
<b>Born In A Manger</b> .....	Ayenna Joyce Davis
<b>Go Tell It</b> .....	Bridget Dawkins, Ayenna Joyce Davis
<b>Silent Night</b> .....	Steve Dinkins, Layce Dreamz
<b>O Come All Ye Faithful</b> .....	Carrie Harrington
<b>Away In A Manger</b> .....	Jamecia Bennett
<b>Santa's Comin' To Town</b> .....	Len Jones
<b>Santa We've Been Waiting</b> .....	Layce Dreamz, Steve Dinkins, Len Jones
<b>Dance Chitlins Dance!</b> .....	Chitlins
<b>The Jolly One</b> .....	Rodney Fair
<b>Dash Away All</b> .....	Reindeer
<b>For Christmas Sake</b> .....	Micah Cherina Eubanks, Jamecia Bennett
<b>Enough Is Enough!</b> .....	David Hurst
<b>Merry Christmas To The World</b> .....	Ensemble
<b>Soul Holidays</b> .....	David Hurst, Jamecia Bennett

# The Artists



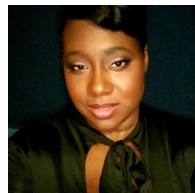
**Ronnie Allen**



**Jamecia  
Bennett**



**Quintin Brown**



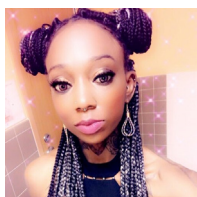
**Ayenna Joyce  
Davis**



**Bridget  
Dawkins**



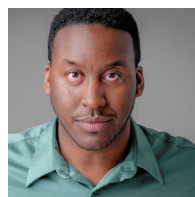
**Steve Dinkins**



**Layce Dreamz**



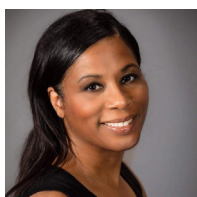
**Micah Cherina  
Eubanks**



**Rodney Fair**



**Graydon  
Francis**



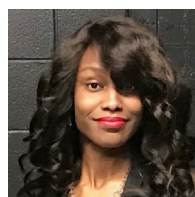
**Carrie  
Harrington**



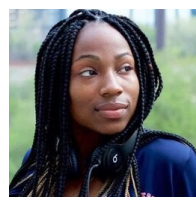
**David Hurst**



**Len Jones**



**Kadejsha  
Kibble**



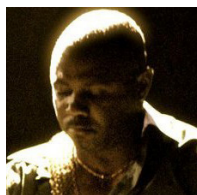
**Artisha  
Knight-Milon**



**Daryl  
Boudreaux**



**Gary Hines**



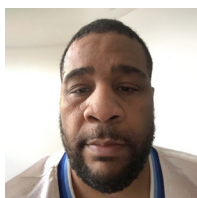
**Darrold  
McCray**



**Juan Navarro**



**Solomon  
Parham**



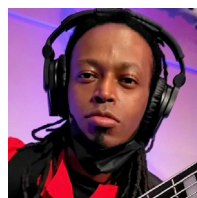
**Larry Robinson**



**Larry Sims**



**Billy Steele**



**Yohannes Tona**

# Jazz, blues, spirituals, rock & roll, R&B, gospel, hip hop, and soul — these are the Sounds of Blackness!

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  
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](http://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  
Audio Mix/Master  
Video Editor  
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



# Special Thanks

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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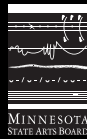
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## Special Thanks

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# THANK YOU

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To learn more about and support Sounds of Blackness, please visit **[soundsofblackness.org](https://soundsofblackness.org)**.



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