



# MUSIC AID CIRCLE

PEOPLES CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Cheryl Dunham, President  
Nathaniel Moore, Vice President

July 2011

Dear Friends of Music:

The Music Aid Circle of Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ is very pleased to invite you to *An Afternoon of Music* featuring Washington Performing Arts Society's (WPAS') Children of the Gospel *Choir* in concert on Saturday afternoon, September 24, 2011, at 4:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary. For over 60 years, the Music Aid Circle has provided an opportunity for a broad array of vocal and instrumental classical performing artists to showcase their talents. This year, we have decided to focus on a different genre of music, gospel, which has its roots in the African-American experience. An added bonus is having this music performed by a highly-regarded choir consisting of young people under the age of 18.

WPAS' Children of the Gospel Choir was formed in 1993 through a community-wide audition to celebrate the tradition and inspirational roots of gospel music as performed on America's main stages. The Choir consists of uniquely talented young voices ages 9-18 and showcases their own distinctive style of high-energy performances featuring works by local and national composers. They have shared the stage with a variety of artists including Richard Smallwood, Dottie Peoples, Kurt Carr, Y'Anna Crawley, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Kathleen Battle, and Sweet Honey in the Rock.

WPAS' Children of the Gospel Choir has performed at The White House, the National Prayer Service for President Barack Obama at the National Cathedral, The Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, and on NBC's Today Show.

As Artistic Director of WPAS Gospel Choirs, Stanley J. Thurston has received critical acclaim from *The Washington Post*. He is well-known as a pianist, composer, and arranger. His orchestral arrangements have been performed by the National Symphony Orchestra, as well as the symphony orchestras of Baltimore and New Jersey. A graduate of the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen, Mr. Thurston is also the founding Music Director of *The Heritage Signature Chorale*.

Michele Fowlin has cultivated her love and passion of music from a young age. She attended Howard University and earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Vocal Performance/Pedagogy with a piano minor. While at Howard, she studied with renowned opera singers Regina McConnell, Carmen Balthrop and Charlotte Holloman. Under the tutelage of Dr. James Weldon Norris she was introduced to conducting. Ms. Fowlin has worked with Washington Performing Arts Society's Children of the Gospel Summer Music Camp, for the past several years as a vocal coach and director and has conducted various church youth choirs in the area.

In the past, Music Aid Circle has proudly presented The Evelyn White Chorale, Carmen Balthrop, Thomas J. Flagg, Hildred Roach, LeRoy Dorsey, Valerie Harris-Gregory, John Williams, The Dennard Singers of Detroit, Mattiwilda Dobbs, Don Jones, Raymond Jackson, Yvonne Hobson, Marva Cooper, Fred Irby, Dana Kristina-Joi Morgan, David Daniel, High School Choirs of Washington, D. C., Regina McConnell, Steven Herring, Andre Kearns, and others. In March 2010, we joined with the Music and Arts Committee to present *A Showcase of Church Ensembles* which featured the choirs of Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ and a Jazz Ensemble in celebration of the church's 119<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Should you decide to become a subscriber or purchase a ticket, please fill out the attached form and return it to the address indicated. Your support will enable us to continue to offer this type of cultural arts programming.

We invite you, your family, and friends to share this event with us. We also wish to thank you for your interest in the cultural arts and look forward to seeing you and yours at *An Afternoon of Music* on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 4:00 P.M. Following the concert, you will have an opportunity to meet and greet the performers at a Reception in the Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to share this information and flyer with others and to post it where appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

**Cheryl Dunham  
King-Berry**

Cheryl Dunham, President  
The Music Aid Circle

**Arlene**

Arlene King-Berry  
Concert Chairperson