

AROUND THE CITY



68th Annual Hartford Messiah

Laydell Harper



Handel's Messiah is a grand holiday tradition, and one that lives on throughout the years. It is one of the most popular holiday traditions of the season. It would be difficult to celebrate the holiday season without the Messiah. This enchanting musical tradition never grows old. Listeners are still in awe 250 years after the composer's death. This highly celebrated performance at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church will keep you coming back year after year.

If you've never experienced a performance of the *Messiah* don't miss this opportunity on December 15th at 4 p.m. Now celebrating more than 60 successful years of *Handel's Messiah* at Hartford Church, this is a rare opportunity to hear some of the most acclaimed soloists in a local performance at no charge and open to the public. It is a family event that is a joyous occasion for the entire family. *Messiah* could very easily become an annual family tradition; an opportunity for children of all ages to begin to appreciate the joy of classical music and the traditions.

One of the most frequently asked question by young people; Why do you stand up during the Hallelujah Chorus? The answer, the king was supposedly at the performance and stood up during the Hallelujah Chorus. According to royal protocol, when the king or queen stands, everyone else must stand and remain standing until the monarch returns to his or her seat.

"*Messiah* has been around for nearly 300 years and it has remained the most popular piece of chorale ever composed. It is our gift to Detroit and it offers an untold opportunity to reach out to a diverse public throughout the area," said Dr. Charles G. Adams, pastor emeritus of Hartford Church. We are proud to present this ageless production year after year. Our young people must experience all kinds of music."

The reviews from both the audience and the media for this annual performance continue to be nothing short of outstanding.

The Hartford presentation of *Handel's Messiah* has consistently maintained the highest performance standards this year with guest conductor Dr. Eugene Rogers, Director of Choral Activities University of Michigan.

The soprano soloist is Alaina Brown, Liana Wimberly Williams, alto. Tenor, James Moore and bass baritone, Dr. Theodore Jones both maintain outstanding careers, performing in concert, opera and oratorio throughout the country and abroad. For the last several years their performances in *Hartford's Messiah* have moved this event to new heights of artistry and interpretation.

This is a star powered performance, and most amazing of all, Hartford presents this world-class *Messiah* performance free of charge on December 15 at 4 p.m.

Hartford Memorial Baptist Church is located at 18700 James Couzens Hwy. at W. 7 Mile Rd. Complimentary Valet Parking is available. For more information call Hartford Church (313) 861-1285 or hmbcdetroit.org.

LIVE THEATRE

Mosaic Youth Theatre's A Christmas Carol at DIA

Bringing in the holiday season, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit shares Charles Dickens' inspiring holiday masterpiece, *A Christmas Carol*.

The song-filled adaptation of Dickens' classic tale reawakens the true spirit of Christmas in the heart-stirring Carol of compassion and redemption.

It plays in the Detroit Film Theatre at The Detroit Institute of Arts on December 14 at 7 p.m and December 15 at 4 p.m.

Mosaic's production of *A Christmas Carol* is adapted by Janet Ballard and Michael Bigelow Dixon with new arrangements of classic carols by DeLashea Strawder, Maurice Draughn and the Mosaic Singers. Under the direction of Andrew Huff, the cast includes over 60 young artists.

General admission single tickets begin at \$10 for youth and \$20 for adults with discounts for seniors and groups. For more information see mosaicdetroit.org. The Detroit Institute of Arts is located at 5200 Woodward Ave., in Greater Detroit's Cultural District.



CCD's Spiritual Peace & Joy Concert



The Community Chorus of Detroit (CCD) will present its monumental winter 2019 concerts, *Spiritual Peace & Joy*, conducted by Dr. Edward Maki-Schramm on Friday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 14 at 4 p.m., at Jefferson Ave. Presbyterian Church.

The performances feature the 85-voice chorus with orchestra and guest artists from the University of Michigan.

The concerts feature Maurice Draughn's new work, *A Ceremony of Spirituals*, in addition to other contemporary works and selections from *Handel's Messiah*, for the purpose of interweaving musical genres that convey the universal messages of peace on earth and radiant joy at this darkest time of year.

Spiritual Peace & Joy performances each include a special, one-item silent auction for a fabulous trip-of-a-lifetime vacation package for two for a photo safari in South Africa's famous Zulu Nyala game reserve.

The Community Chorus of Detroit was founded in 2010 to bring community members from both the city and the suburbs together through music. Chorus members represent more than 35 zip codes in the Greater Detroit area. General admission tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. For tickets and more information see communitychorusofdetroit.com. Jefferson Ave. Presbyterian Church is located at 8625 E. Jefferson Ave. in Detroit's Indian Village area.