

RELEASE IMMEDIATE:

Holidays a Difficult Time for African American Classical Musicians

As the bells ring this Holiday Season, many African American classical musicians will go without performing and showcasing their talent. They would love to present their gifts to the audiences and the world, but may not have a supportive vehicle with which to do it.

One of the most neglected genre in music among the African American community is classical and opera music. Noted performers of the past such as Marion Anderson and William Warfield struggled with discrimination and financial struggles. They only wanted to perform and share their gifts with the world.

Although there are vehicles with Black roles including *Porgy and Bess* or the new opera *Margaret Garner*, which premiered this past spring in Detroit, roles for struggling African American classical musicians are few and far between. They often find themselves in dire situations, not performing as much as they would like, especially during the holidays. When they do perform, they find a void of Black audience participation.

A Washington, DC based non-profit group who dedicates its efforts to support African American classical musicians and audiences has researched the likelihood of Blacks attending an opera or a symphonic presentation. The statistics show Blacks often find the costs prohibitive.

"It is very costly to attend an opera especially if you want orchestra seats", stated Dale Allen, Executive Director of **CAAPA (Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts, Inc.)**.

"Our goal is to have funds available to assist persons to attend and to develop relationships for the performers to perform.

and found found **CAAPA, Inc.** Holiday donations are needed to assist in providing much needed financial opportunities to African American classical musicians so they may continue to study and/or perform. As an entity created to provide performance opportunities, educational enrichment, audience awareness, and cultural outreach of and for African Americans in the performing arts, CAAPA is dedicated to help galvanize organizations, associations, presenters, sponsors, and supporters with African American Performing Artists in creative ways your donation will help make possible. With your generous donation, our goals will be met.

As the holiday bells ring, your support of Black classical musicians will aid in ringing their bells in an exciting and needed way --- a perfect way to help enrich peoples of the African Diaspora in the performing arts.

Again, thank you for supporting the arts and African American artists and audiences! Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Please send your donation today.