Join us for an exciting journey into the music, history and lives of African American Women Composers and Arrangers. This year, the Department of Music is pleased to offer this symposium in collaboration with the University of Dayton’s 4th annual Annie T. Thornton Women’s Leadership Conference, created to promote the development and recognition of women in leadership about critical issues and to build a sisterhood that transcends race, religion and socio-economic status. The life-mission of African American women artists and composers have often mirrored the same or similar themes.

Questions? Please Contact Us.

Bree Sprankle, Symposium Coordinator
sprankbh@notes.udayton.edu

Dr. Donna Cox, Chair, Dept. of Music
Featured Composer...

Dr. Rosephanye Dunn-Powell
Associate Professor of Voice
Auburn University

Dr. Rosephanye Dunn Powell holds degrees from the Florida State University, Westminster Choir College, and Alabama State University. Dr. Powell served on the faculties of Philander Smith College and Georgia Southern University before assuming her present position at Auburn University. Dr. Powell is a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, the American Choral Directors Association, the College Music Society, the National Association of Teachers of Singing and the Music Educators National Conference. She has been included in Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers and Outstanding Young Women in America. Her works are in demand at choral festivals nationally and internationally. Dr. Powell’s works have been conducted and premiered by many of the country’s most prominent choral conductors.

Featured Lecturer...

Dr. Horace Clarence Boyer
Professor Emeritus of Music Theory and African American Music at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Dr. Horace Boyer is a widely acclaimed lecturer and performer of African American gospel music. Dr. Boyer’s many articles on gospel music from a theoretical and compositional perspective have appeared in many journals and books. He was an editor of Lift Every Voice and Sing, an African American Hymnal, has articles published in We’ll Understand It By And By (Smithsonian Institute) and authored the very popular How Sweet The Sound: The Golden Age of Gospel.

Presentations by...

Latasha Diggs
Richard Heard
Jeannie Pool
Timothy Kinsella
Bethany Jo Smith
Kathy White Bullock
Diane L. White
Adrienne Alexander
Trudy Faber
Lea Person
Raymond Wise
Ki­i­m­berly Davis
John W. Wright
Lee Hoffman
Donna Cox
Eleanor McClellan
University Chorale
Ebony Heritage Singers

Featured Artist...

Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell
Sweet Honey In The Rock

Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell, a native of New York, has performed with the internationally acclaimed a cappella quintet, Sweet Honey In The Rock since 1979. An outstanding singer, Dr. Barnwell has an impressive three-octave range and appears on more than twenty-five recordings with Sweet Honey. She has worked as a commissioned composer on numerous projects including Sesame Street, Women’s Philharmonic of San Francisco and the New Spirituals Project. Dr. Barnwell is also an actress whose credits include voice-overs, documentary film narration, a principle role in an episode of the TV show ‘A Man Called Hawk’, and an appearance in the film, BELOVED, directed by Jonathan Demme.

Symposium Mass Choir

Symposium Mass Choir
celebrating the gospel music artistry of African American women.
Open to all symposium participants as well as community members without charge. Featuring works by Rosephanye Powell, Diane White, Donna Cox, Dottie Peoples and others.