

Steph Davis, marimba

Season 26-27 Solo Recital Offerings

The Prayers of Black Folk (Black Utopia)

Banyere Yo* Traditional (Lobi)

Kpil Kpala* Traditional (Lobi)

Guun: Sacred Music of West Africa Traditional (Dagara/Lobi)

1. Kohl Maiya Arranged by Kakraba Lobi and Valerie Dee Naranjo
2. "En Yowa Part 1"
3. "The Sweet Memories"

Remember, Marimba Errollyn Wallen (b. 1958)

Deep River Traditional African American Spiritual
Arranged by Steph Davis

Sonata in E Minor: II. "Andante" Florence B. Price (1887-1953)
Adapted by Steph Davis

I go to prepare a place for you Steph Davis (b. 1999)

Gandayina* Traditional Lobi

Banda Jel Kakraba Lobi (1939-2007)

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing (The Black National Anthem) J. Rosamond Johnson
(1873-1954)
Arranged by Steph Davis

* = performed on gyil

About the Program:

Performed on the marimba and gyl, *The Prayers of Black Folk (Black Utopia)* is a musical expression of the following ideas:

"The [Black] utopian imagines a bridge that spans the gap between lives. These lives may be easily differentiated or found within oneself, across time: the people we thought we might have been and the people we became."

- *The Black Utopians*, Aaron Robertson

"Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave."

- Maya Angelou 1978

Equipment Needs:

1. One 5.0 octave Marimba One brand marimba
2. Two channel speaker system for audio playback

like flower petals...

Guun: Sacred Music of West Africa

Kakraba Lobi (1939-2007)

Arranged by Valerie Dee Naranjo (b. 1958)

1. "Kohl Maiya"
2. "En Yowa Part 1"
3. "The Sweet Memories"
4. "En Yowa Part"
5. "Men's Music"
6. "Eeiya"
7. "Bass Wonder"
8. "Eeiya Reprise"
9. "Lobi Funk"
10. "Tol Jil Danga Lembie"
11. "Finale"

Lift Every Voice and Sing

J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954)

Arranged by Steph Davis

Sonata in E minor: II. Andante

Florence Price (1887-1953)

Adapted by Steph Davis

Deep River

Traditional African American Spiritual

Arranged by Steph Davis

Tender Thought

Ulysses Kay (1917-1995)

Adapted by Steph Davis

Remember, Marimba

Errollyn Wallen (b. 1958)

Fer Bare Kona Jeno (Don't Play Favorites)

Kakraba Lobi

Arranged by Valerie Dee Naranjo

I go to prepare a place for you

Steph Davis (b. 1999)

Mother's Sacrifice

L. Viola Kinney (1890-1945)

Adapted by Steph Davis

Banda Jel (lizard egg)

Kakraba Lobi

Arranged by Valerie Dee Naranjo

About the Program:

Describing Black folks' hair, writer and philosopher bell hooks once said, "our hair feels like flower petals." She was discussing language and its power to liberate – it's power to generate narratives around Black identity that communicate beauty within a society where minstrel images and stereotypes run rampant. When I heard her say "our hair feels like flower petals," I reached by hands up to touch my hair. Feeling my own kinky afro coils, I smiled when I agreed with her; *my hair feels like flower petals*. Internalizing this simple, powerful description helped to shift how I view myself.

like flower petals... aims to shift how people living in Euro-American societies view the marimba. Though the marimba has a rich and ancient history rooted on the African continent, much of the marimba repertoire and historiography in the West emphasizes white Euro-American contributions while simultaneously ignoring the music of African descended people and cultures. Combining traditional West African gyil music, traditional African American spirituals, and the Black classical music tradition, this program engages an Africanist/African-Americanist lens through which to experience the marimba.

Equipment Needs:

1. One 5.0 octave Marimba One brand marimba
2. Two channel speaker system for audio playback

Marimba Memoir

From My Little Island	Robert Aldridge (b. 1954)
of thoughts and thinking	Antonio C. Lymon (b. 1972)
Variations on Lost Love	David Maslanka (1943-2017)
I. Theme	
See Ya Thursday	Steven Mackey (b. 1956)
Lift Every Voice and Sing	J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954) Arranged by Steph Davis
Brothers in Peace	Julie Spencer (b. 1962)
Merlin	Andrew Thomas (b. 1939)
I. Beyond the Faint Edges of the World	
II. Time's Way	
Remember, Marimba	Errollyn Wallen (b. 1953)
Deep River	Traditional African American Spiritual Arranged by Steph Davis
Mother's Sacrifice	L. Viola Kinney (1890-1945) Adapted by Steph Davis
I go to prepare a place for you	Steph Davis (b. 1999)
Goodbye	Traditional Guun (Lobi) Arranged by Valerie Dee Naranjo

About the Program:

Showcasing my personal story and the musical breadth of the marimba, *Marimba Memoir* is a dynamic curation of pieces that were formative in my journey of becoming a marimbist. The selected pieces represent various stages of my life as a marimbist: among these are the first marimba solo I listened to through headphones, the first marimba piece I studied with my teacher of six-years, Nancy Zeltsman, the first four-mallet piece I learned how to play, and pieces of music that honed technical/musical skills that have helped shape my musical voice.

Equipment Needs:

1. One 5.0 octave Marimba One brand marimba