

Steph Davis, marimba

Solo Programs

Bones, Soil & Song

Description:

Bones, Soil & Song reflects on embodied ancestral memory. Songs from the balafon “book-end” the program, representing allusions to re-membered West African ontologies, Garveyism, and the Western appropriation of the balafon (marimba). The program juxtaposes pre-colonialism–colonization, resistance–assimilation, Black nationalism–multiracial solidarity. These musical juxtapositions build a layered and complex expression of Afro-American history, identity, and freedom movements, where multiple truths must be held.

This program is 70-minutes in length.

Program:

Lift Every Voice and Sing (Black National Anthem)	J. Rosamond Johnson (1873–1954) Arranged by Steph Davis
Goodbye	Traditional Guun (as conceived and interpreted by kakraba Lobi) Arr. Valerie Dee Naranjo
See Ya Thursday	Steven Mackey (1956)
Remember, Marimba	Errollyn Wallen (b. 1958)
Deep River	Spiritual Arranged by Steph Davis
Brothers in Peace	Julie Spencer (b. 1962)

Before I'd Be a Slave

Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989)
Adapted by Steph Davis

I go to prepare a place for you

Steph Davis (b. 1999)

Merlin

Andrew Thomas (b. 1939)

Fra Fra Song

Traditional Kuorbine (Lobi/Dagara)
Arr. Valerie Dee Naranjo

Equipment Needs:

1. 5.0 *Marimba One* marimba (If you do not have one, please contact Jeff Hartsough at jeffh@marimbaone.com who can provide sourcing and rental information)

Steph Davis, marimba

like flower petals...

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

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 2"
5. "Men's Music"
6. "Eeiya"
7. "Bass Wonder"
8. "Eeiya Reprise"
9. "Lobi Funk"
10. "Tol Jil Danga Lembie"
11. "Finale"

Memory of the Woods Akemi Naito (b. 1956)

Deep River Traditional African American Spiritual
Arranged by Steph Davis

Fer Bare Kona Jenò (Don't Play Favorites) Kakraba Lobi
Arranged by Valerie Dee Naranjo

Remember, Marimba Errollyn Wallen (b. 1958)

Mother's Sacrifice L. Viola Kinney (1890-1945)
Arranged by Steph Davis

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

Banda Jel (lizard egg) Kakraba Lobi
Arranged by Valerie Dee Naranjo

Program Description:

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 history rooted on the African continent, much of the marimba repertoire in the West emphasizes white Euro-American contributions while simultaneously ignoring the music of African descended people and cultures. Combining arrangements of 1) traditional West African gyil music, 2) soulful Japanese classical music, 3) African American spirituals, and 3) classical, romantic, and contemporary music by Black composers, this program engages Africanity as a lens through which to view (and listen to) the Western marimba.

Equipment Needs:

1. *5.0 Marimba One* marimba (if you do not have one, please contact Jeff Hartsough at jeffh@marimbaone.com who can provide sourcing and rental information.
2. PA or other speaker system.

Through the Wall

featuring Brian Stuligross, violin

Description:

Through the Wall explores African-American ancestry and cultural identity, for many African Americans, their ancestry past just a few generations is a mystery as a result of enslavement, mass displacement, and genocide of Africans throughout the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. This program reflects this dark history. Yet still, African-American ancestry remains rich with traditions of love, strength, resilience, and beauty. This program reflects Blackness in a liberatory, multi-generational, and colorful aesthetic. This program is 90 minutes in length.

Program:

Deep River	Spiritual Arranged by Steph Davis
Lift Every Voice and Sing	J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954) Arranged by Steph Davis
Brothers in Peace	Julie Spencer (b. 1962)
Before I'd Be a Slave	Undine Smith Moore (1905-1989) Adapted 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)
If You Go There	Alissa Voth (b. 1994)
10-minute intermission	
Sonata No. 1 for Violin and Piano	George Walker (1922-2018) Adapted by Steph Davis

De Color

Tania León (b. 1943)

1. Pastel-blu
2. Bronce
3. Cobre
4. Mestizo

Equipment Needs:

1. 5.0 *Marimba One* marimba (If you do not have one, please contact Jeff Hartsough at jeffh@marimbaone.com who can provide sourcing and rental information)
2. PA or other speaker system