



May 10, 2021

Dear Donor:

As we continue to adjust to our new environment because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and keeping the health, safety and well-being of our supporters as our first priority, the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc. is again presenting a virtual Spring Benefit Concert. We have assembled an outstanding group of performers for your viewing and listening pleasure.

To celebrate African-American Music Appreciation Month, the Foundation changed its Spring Benefit Concert from a date in April to Sunday, June 13, 2021, 5 pm. On this date, you will be able to go to our website ([www.ssspfoundation.org](http://www.ssspfoundation.org)) and click on the link and view the concert.

You have been unwavering in your support of the Foundation, and we thank you so very much and appreciate your continued support. Last year we increased the number of \$1,000 scholarships given from five to six. Our desire is to further increase the number of scholarships given and the amount of each scholarship. You can make that possible with your donation.

This benefit concert is part of the Foundation's campaign to raise \$500,000 to endow its Scholarship Fund. We invite you to make a donation. The sponsorship levels are below:

- Signature: Tier 1: \$5,000 - \$10,000
- Tier 2: \$1,500 - \$4,999
- Platinum Legacy: \$1,000 - \$1,499
- Gold: \$500 - \$999
- Silver: \$200 - \$499
- Friend: \$100 - \$199

Sponsorships must be received by **June 1, 2021**, in order to be included on our website. However, donations of all amounts are welcome and are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to: Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc. and mailed to P.O. Box 372750, Decatur, GA 30037-2750 in the enclosed envelope. Donations may also be made online at [www.ssspfoundation.org](http://www.ssspfoundation.org).

Thank you for your donation and continued support of the Foundation.

Sincerely,

Min. Harry E. Holley, Sr., President  
Board of Director, Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc.  
(C) 404-243-9576  
Email: [holleytab@aol.com](mailto:holleytab@aol.com)

## Honorary Chairperson

### *Dr. Dwight D. Andrews*



Dr. Dwight D. Andrews is Senior Pastor of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Atlanta and Professor of Music Theory and African American Music at Emory University. He holds degrees from the University of Michigan, Yale Divinity School, and Yale University. As a saxophonist and multi-instrumentalist, Dr. Andrews has appeared on over 25 jazz and 'creative music' recordings. He is also known for his collaborations with American playwright August Wilson and director Lloyd Richards. He served as musical director for Broadway productions of Wilson's works, including the Broadway revival of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. He has also provided the music direction for the Broadway revival production of *A Raisin in the Sun*. Dr. Andrews has taught at Rice and Yale Universities and was the inaugural Quincy Jones Professor of African American Music at Harvard University. He also served as *Distinguished Visiting Scholar of the Arts* at Spelman College. He is currently writing a book on the intersection of spirituality and jazz.

## Samuel H. Johnson 2021 Education Award Honorees

### *Dr. Daniel Black*



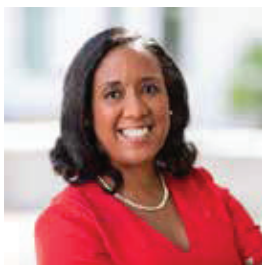
Dr. Daniel Black is an award-winning novelist, professor, and activist. His published works include *They Tell Me of a Home*, *The Sacred Place*, *Perfect Peace*, *Twelve Gates to the City*, *The Coming*, and *Listen to the Lambs*. Dr. Black's works have garnered major awards from a variety of noteworthy organizations, including the Distinguished Writer's Award from the Mid-Atlantic Writer's Association and "Author of the Year" by the National Book Club. A native of Kansas City, Kansas, Dr. Black graduated from Clark College, where he earned the prestigious Oxford Modern British Studies Fellowship to study at Oxford University. Awarded a full fellowship to Temple University, he earned his Ph.D. in African American Studies. Dr. Black is currently Professor of African American Studies at his alma mater Clark Atlanta University. He is also the founder of the Ndugu-Nzinga Rites of Passage Nation, a mentoring society for African American youth.

### *Dr. Morcease Beasley*



Dr. Morcease Beasley currently serves as Superintendent of Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS). He previously served as CCPS Chief School Improvement Officer. Dr. Beasley has over 20 years of dedicated service in instructional practices and has held numerous leadership positions in public education. He is known as an innovative leader with an exceptional ability to transform both large urban and suburban school districts. Dr. Beasley is a recipient of notable accolades and multiple recognitions by numerous organizations. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from the University of Montevallo, a Master of Science degree in Mathematics Education from Samford University, an Educational Specialist and a Doctorate degree in Education with an emphasis on Educational Leadership from Samford University. Dr. Beasley has also completed Harvard University's Public Educational Leadership Program.

### *Dr. Andra Gillespie*



Dr. Andra Gillespie is Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference at Emory University. She earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from Yale University. Dr. Gillespie teaches courses on American politics, race and politics and qualitative methodology. Her research focuses on the political leadership of the post-civil rights generation. In particular, she studies African American politicians who attempt to transcend race and how Black voters respond to them. She is the author of *The New Black Politician: Cory Booker, Newark and Post-Racial America* (2012) and *Race and Obama Administration: Symbols, Substance and Hope* (2019). She is also the editor of *Whose Black Politics? Cases in Post-Racial Black Leadership* (2010). In addition, she is an active public scholar whose interviews and op-eds have appeared in numerous local, national and/or international media outlets.



## Featured Artists



**Trey Daniels**, soloist, composer, soulful bandleader, and award-winning saxophonist, is an inspiration for his generation in jazz, funk, R&B, and Hip Hop. Coming from Atlanta, Daniels' music blends his experience and his captivating energy, creating beautiful soundscapes across genres. As part of eight-time Grammy award winner Anita Baker's Farewell World Tour, Daniels was featured at the Monaco Jazz Fest, North Sea Jazz Fest, Montreux Jazz Fest, and more. In addition, his very first single, 86th St., was listed on the Smooth Jazz Billboard Charts in 2017. In Daniels' upcoming 2021 release, he draws on his influences from the likes of Stevie Wonder, H.E.R., Gerald Albright, Kenny Garrett, and Miles Davis to embody vibrant and relentless creativity.



**Taylor Raven** is a mezzo-soprano from Fayetteville, NC. During the 2020-21 season, Taylor was scheduled to debut at the Lyric Opera of Chicago as Grimgerde in *Die Walküre* and the Mother in *Blue*. She was also slated to debut at the Minnesota Opera as Angelina in *La Cenerentola*; make a role/house debut as Carmen at Opera San Jose and a house debut at Finger Lakes Opera as Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. She is a recent alumna of the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program at the Los Angeles Opera, where she was most recently seen as Zweite Dame in the Kosky production of *Die Zauberflöte*, Annio in *La clemenza di Tito*, Tebaldo in *Don Carlo*, and the Sandman in *Hansel and Gretel*. In the 2019-20 season, she was seen as Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and Concepción in *L'heure espagnole* as a Filene Artist at Wolf Trap Opera. She is a recipient of a 2017 Sara Tucker Study Grant from the Richard Tucker Music Foundation and won first prize in the 2018 Loren L. Zachary competition. Taylor holds degrees from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and the University of Colorado-Boulder.



**Kebbi Williams**, a Grammy award winning tenor saxophonist, is one of contemporary music's whirlwind improvisers. The imaginative multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer, arranger, and teacher resists categorization. Kebbi's playing and compositions create a sound that is uniquely and undeniably his own. The Atlanta native received both an undergraduate degree and Master's in Jazz Studies from Howard University. At the age of 22, he won the Jazz Instrumental Soloist Category (college division) award from *Downbeat Magazine*. Kebbi launched his professional career as a much in demand studio and touring musician. OutKast, the legendary Donald Byrd, Cee-lo Green, Mos Def, drummer Jeff "Tain" Watts, Bilal, Oteil Burbridge, Me'Shell Ndegeocello, Russell Gunn, Julie Dexter and iconic Betty Carter are among the elite musicians and vocalists who jumped off Kebbi's horn. He is also an original member and presently touring for the ninth year with the Tedeschi Trucks Band (with whom he won the Grammy in 2012 in the Blues Album category). Additionally, he fronts his own Atlanta band, The Wolf Pack. The physicality of the band's performance captures the audience's full attention.



**Under 21 The Band** is a group of artistic and ambitious young individuals showcasing their talents to the world. Ranging from amazing vocalists to proficient instrumentalists, these artists are all under the age of 21 and truly the newest rising stars of Gen-Z. Under 21 inspires audiences of all ages with their compelling lyrics and grooves that make you move. The group was created by Jorel Flynn (aka JFLY) who is a renowned drummer, composer, producer, and recording artist. He is also the Founder/CEO of "How Big Is Your Dream."

Jorel Flynn, Recording Academy/Grammy President (Atlanta Chapter), has truly crafted an avenue for the next generation of artists with big dreams to illustrate their abilities.



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Donations may be made payable

**Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 372750-2750**

**Decatur, GA 30037-2750**

Online at <http://www.ssspfoundation.org>

For more information, call (404) 243-9576