

# INSPIRATION

THURSDAY, MARCH 31 | 8 PM | BROOKS CONCERT HALL

**LANGSTON HUGHES**  
*Christon Carney, tenor*

# MUSICAL

ART SONG CONCERT



HC community must present HC clear status.  
All others must follow the guidelines  
in the Visitors to Campus Policy.



Live-Stream available at:  
<https://linktr.ee/hcmusic>

*Langston Hughes, Musical Inspiration*  
*A Concert of Art Song*

Christon Carney, tenor  
Leonardo Ciampa, piano

Brooks Concert Hall  
Thursday, March 31, 2022  
8:00 pm

Four Songs from Weary Blues  
    My Dream  
    Songs to the Dark Virgin  
    Ardella  
    Dream Ships  
Florence Price (1887-1953)

3 Dreams Portraits  
    Minstrel Man  
    Dream Variations  
    I, too  
Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)

Genius Child  
Robert Owens (1925-2017)

*There will be a brief 5-minute intermission.*

The Angels Changed My Name  
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)


Dream Dust (*World Premiere*)  
Leonardo Ciampa (b. 1971)

Four Songs  
    In Time of Silver Rain  
    Heart  
    Carolina Cabin  
    Lonely People  
Jean Berger (1909-2002)

Prayer  
Leslie Adams (b. 1932)


Lonely House, from Street Scene  
Kurt Weill (1900-1950)

*Please silence all cell phones.*



LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION ABOUT THIS  
PROGRAMMING?

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT,  
[CHRISTONCARNEY.COM/MUSICALINSPIRATION](http://CHRISTONCARNEY.COM/MUSICALINSPIRATION)



Scan the QR code above for notes on the program by Christon Carney

## Texts

All texts by Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

### **Four Songs from Weary Blues**

#### **My Dream**

To fling my arms wide  
In some place in the sun,  
To whirl and dance  
Till the bright day is done.  
Then rest at cool evening  
Beneath a tall tree  
While night comes gently  
Dark like me.  
That is my dream.  
To fling my arms wide  
In the face of the sun.  
Dance! Whirl! Whirl!  
Till the quick day is done.  
Rest at pale evening,  
A tall, slim tree,  
Night coming tenderly  
Black like me.

#### **Songs to the Dark Virgin**

Would  
That I were a jewel  
A shattered jewel  
That all my shining brilliants  
Might fall at thy feet  
Thou dark one

Would  
That I were a garment  
A shimmering, silken garment  
That all my folds  
Might wrap about thy body  
Absorb thy body  
Hold and hide thy body  
Thou dark one

Would  
That I were a flame  
But one sharp, leaping flame  
To annihilate thy body  
Thou dark one

#### **Ardella**

I would liken you  
To a night without stars  
Were it not for your eyes.  
I would liken you  
To a sleep without dreams  
Were it not for your songs.

#### **Dream Ships**

The spring is not so beautiful  
there,—  
But dream ships sail away  
To where the spring is  
wondrous rare  
And life is gay.

The spring is not so beautiful  
there,—  
But lads put out to sea  
Who carry beauties in their  
hearts  
And dreams, like me.

### 3 Dreams Portraits

#### Minstrel Man

Because my mouth  
Is wide with laughter  
And my throat  
Is deep with song,  
You do not think  
I suffer after  
I have held my pain  
So long.

Because my mouth  
Is wide with laughter,  
You do not hear my inner  
cry?  
Because my feet  
Are gay with dancing  
You do not know  
I die?

#### Dream Variations

To fling my arms wide  
In some place in the sun,  
To whirl and dance  
Till the bright day is done.  
Then rest at cool evening  
Beneath a tall tree  
While night comes gently  
Dark like me.  
That is my dream.  
To fling my arms wide  
In the face of the sun.  
Dance! Whirl! Whirl!  
Till the quick day is done.  
Rest at pale evening,  
A tall, slim tree,  
Night coming tenderly  
Black like me.

#### I, too

I, too sing America.

I am the darker brother.  
They send me to eat in the  
kitchen  
When company comes.  
But I laugh,  
And eat well,  
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,  
I'll [be] at the table  
When company comes.  
Nobody'll dare  
Say to me,  
"Eat in the kitchen,"  
Then.

Besides,  
They'll see how beautiful I  
am  
And be ashamed.

### **Genius Child**

This is a song for the genius child.  
Sing it softly, for the song is wild.  
Sing it softly as ever you can --  
Lest the song get out of hand.

Nobody loves a genius child.

Can you love an eagle,  
Tame or wild?

Wild or tame,  
Can you love a monster  
Of frightening name?

Nobody loves a genius child.

Kill him -- and let his soul run wild!

### **Dream Dust (World Premiere)**

Gather out of star-dust  
Earth-dust,  
Cloud-dust,  
And splinters of hail,  
One handful of dream-dust  
Not for sale.

### **Four Songs**

#### **In Time of Silver Rain**

In time of silver rain  
The earth puts forth new  
life again,  
Green grasses grow  
And flowers lift their heads,  
And over all the plain  
The wonder spreads

Of Life,  
Of Life,  
Of life!

In time of silver rain  
The butterflies lift silken  
wings  
To catch a rainbow cry,  
And trees put forth new  
leaves to sing  
In joy beneath the sky  
As down the roadway  
Passing boys and girls  
Go singing, too,

In time of silver rain  
When spring  
And life  
Are new.

## Heart

Pierrot  
Took his heart  
And hung it  
On a wayside wall.

He said,  
"Look, Passers-by,  
Here is my heart!"

But no one was curious.  
No one cared at all  
That there hung  
Pierrot's heart  
On the public wall.

So Pierrot  
Took his heart  
And hid it  
Far away.

Now people wonder  
Where his heart is  
Today.

## Carolina Cabin

There's hanging moss  
And holly  
And tall straight pine  
About this little cabin  
In the wood.

Inside  
A crackling fire,  
Warm red wine,  
And youth and life  
And laughter  
That is good.

Outside  
The world is gloomy,  
The winds of winter cold,  
As down the road  
A wandering poet  
Must roam.

But here there's peace  
And laughter  
And love's old story told –  
Where two people  
Make a home.

## Lonely People

Lonely people  
In the lonely night  
Grab a lonely dream  
And hold it tight.

Lonely people  
In the lonely day  
Work to salt  
Their dream away.

Lonely people.

## **Prayer**

I ask you this:  
Which way to go?  
I ask you this:  
Which sin to bear?  
Which crown to put  
Upon my hair?  
I do not know  
Lord God  
I do not know

## **Lonely House, from Street Scene**

At night when everything is quiet  
This old house seems to breathe a sigh  
Sometimes I hear a neighbor snoring  
Sometimes I can hear a baby cry

Sometimes I can hear a staircase creaking  
Sometimes a distant telephone  
Oh, and when the night settles down again  
This old house and I are all alone

Lonely house, lonely me  
Funny with so many neighbors  
How lonely it can be

Lonely town, lonely street  
Funny, you can be so lonely  
With all these folks around

I guess there must be something  
I don't comprehend  
Sparrows have companions  
Even stray dogs have a friend

The night for me is not romantic  
Unhook the stars and take them down  
I'm lonely in this lonely house, in this lonely town



## About the performers:

**Christon Carney**, a native of Nashville, TN, received his Masters of Music in Vocal Performance from the New England Conservatory and his Bachelors of Music in Music Education from Lipscomb University. He debuted in Nashville Opera's production of La Traviata as Giuseppe and has gone on to perform with the Boston Lyric Opera, singing various roles in the chorus, as well as outreach opportunities. He has performed as concert soloist with the Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra, Nashville Symphony, Nashville's Heimermann Chorale, and has over a decade of choral experience participating in vocal ensembles and premiering new works.

Carney has received honors from several disciplines including the prestigious ABRSM Diploma in Voice and as a finalist in the Alltech Vocal Scholarship Competition. Christon is also a compelling recitalist, performing programs for the Music at Trinity Music Series, Mechanics Hall's Concerts Plus Series, and many others. He has worked as a paid singer and section leader at many religious organizations, including the Parish of All Saints, Worcester, MA. He is currently Education and Community Programs Coordinator at the prestigious Mechanics Hall and is a vocal instructor at the Pakachoag Community Music School in Worcester.

Born in Boston in 1971, **Leonardo Ciampa** is a musician of international reputation. He is Mechanics Hall Composer-in-Residence 2021-2023, Director of Music of Emanuel Lutheran Church, also in Worcester (since 2019), and Maestro di Cappella Onorario of St. Ubaldo's Basilica in Gubbio, Italy (since 2015). He was previously artistic director of organ concerts at MIT (2009-2016) and founding director of Arts MetroWest (2012-2019).

As an organ recitalist, Ciampa has made a dozen European tours, encompassing Italy, Austria, Germany and Switzerland. He is particularly admired in Italy, where he has played in numerous international festivals (Festival Perosiano, Festival Biellese, Organi Storici della Valsesia, Le Voci della Città, Festival Organistico Lauretano, Reate Festival, etc.). He has given solo organ recitals in cathedrals in Vienna, New York City, Boston, Altenberg, Brandenburg, Tortona and Biella, and in basilicas in Rome, Torino, Loreto, Rieti and Gubbio. In August 2022, he will add to that list the Cathedral in Lucca and the Basilica in Tortona.

Ciampa's compositions have been performed in such prestigious venues as Sanders Theatre (Harvard), Mechanics Hall, Princeton University Chapel, Kresge Auditorium (MIT), and the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. As a pianist, Ciampa is particularly noted for his interpretations of Chopin, whose 200th birthday he commemorated with six recitals in 2010 at First Church in Boston. Ciampa is the author of several books, most recently *Gigli*.

## Music Calendar of Events Spring 2022

Live-Stream available for all concerts at: <https://linktr.ee/hcmusic>

Monday, April 4, 12:30 pm  
***"Fire, Passion, Beauty:  
Music of Domenico Scarlatti"***  
Laurence Rosania, Piano  
Brooks Concert Hall

Friday, April 8, 8 pm  
***Chamber Singers Concert  
Clash! Music of Struggle***  
Brooks Concert Hall

Saturday, April 9, 1 pm  
**Nicholas Rockwood, Piano  
Senior Recital**  
Brooks Concert Hall

Thursday, April 21, 8 pm  
***Jazz Ensemble Concert***  
Brooks Concert Hall

Sunday, April 24, 3 pm  
***Percussion Ensemble Recital***  
Brooks Concert Hall

Wednesday, April 27, 7 pm  
***Holy Cross Spring Orchestra &  
Holy Cross Choirs:  
Academic Conference Concert  
"Mendelssohn, Warlock, &  
Brahms"***  
St. Joseph Memorial Chapel

Thursday, April 28, 8 pm  
***H-CLEF Concert***  
Brooks Concert Hall

Friday, April 29, 6 pm  
***Chamber Music Recital***  
Brooks Concert Hall

Saturday, April 30, 2:30 pm  
**Joseph Cracolici, Cello  
Junior Recital**  
Brooks Concert Hall

Saturday, April 30, 4 pm  
**Chase Ackerson, Violin  
Senior Recital**  
Brooks Concert Hall

Sunday, May 1, 3 pm  
***Spring Wind Ensemble Concert***  
Brooks Concert Hall

Tuesday, May 3, 6 pm  
***End of Semester Student Recitals***  
Brooks Concert Hall

Thursday, May 5, 6 pm  
***Gregorian Vespers for the Ignatian  
Year***  
St. Joseph Memorial Chapel

Saturday, May 7, 8 pm  
***Gamelan Gita Sari Concert***  
Brooks Concert Hall

Monday, May 9, 12:30 pm  
***Artist-in-Residence Concert  
Featuring works by Matthew Jaskot,  
Shirish Korde, & Osvaldo Golijov***  
Brooks Concert Hall

Tuesday, May 10, 4 pm  
***Sadie O'Connor, Soprano  
Senior Recital***  
St. Joseph Memorial Chapel