We Shall Overcome—
A Celebration of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
featuring Damien Sneed

Thursday, February 21, 2019
7:30 pm
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featuring

DAMIEN SNEED
Leader, Piano, Vocals

with

MARK CLARK, Drums
JOHN MATTHEW CLARK, Bass
MARQUÉZ CASSIDY, Keyboard
CHENEE CAMPBELL, Vocals
MARKITA KNIGHT, Vocals
ANITRA McKinney, Vocals
ALICIA PETERS-JORDAN, Vocals
LINNY SMITH, Vocals
BRANDIE SUTTON, Vocals

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Hancher Auditorium, The University of Iowa

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

DAMIEN SNEED

Damien Sneed is a pianist, organist, conductor, composer, producer, arranger, and arts educator whose work spans multiple genres. Sneed has worked with jazz, classical, pop, and R&B legends including the late Aretha Franklin, Wynton Marsalis, Jessye Norman, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Ashford & Simpson, Lawrence Brownlee, and many others. The multi-genre recording artist is a recipient of the prestigious Sphinx Medal of Excellence, which is presented annually to emerging Black and Latino leaders in classical music.

This year, Sneed embarked on a 36-city North American tour, We Shall Overcome: A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. featuring Damien Sneed. This year also marks the 35th Anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, which was signed into law and made a federal holiday in 1983.

Sneed adds, “I look forward to honoring the life and legacy of the great civil rights leader, Martin Luther King Jr., in my upcoming tour as well as many other great artists and public figures who used their voices and their art to let the world know that one day we will truly overcome.”

Joining Sneed on tour is an ensemble of multi-genre vocalists and instrumentalists including vocalists Chenee Campbell, Anitra McKinney, Markita Knight, Alicia Peters-Jordan, Linny Smith, and Brandie Sutton, along with classical recording artists Patrice Eaton, Audrey DuBois Harris, and Kierra Hogan, who will all appear on select tour dates. The musicians include Mark Clark on drums, John Matthew Clark on bass, and Marquéz Cassidy on organ and keyboard.

Sneed’s boutique label, LeChateau Earl Records, established in 2009, reflects Sneed’s varied musical interests and features critically-acclaimed artists from classical, jazz, gospel, and other musical genres. He has released several CD projects including his current album, Damien Sneed: We Shall Overcome (January 2019). Other releases include The Three Sides of Damien Sneed: Classical, Jazz and Sanctified Soul (July 2018), Broken To Minister: The Deluxe Edition (March 2015), Spiritual Sketches (June 2013), and Introspections LIVE (January 2010).

Sneed has also served as music director for Grammy Award-winning gospel artists The Clark Sisters, Richard Smallwood, Donnie McClurkin, Hezekiah Walker, Marvin Sapp, Karen Clark Sheard, Dorinda Clark-Cole, and Kim Burrell.

Sneed is the founder and artistic director of Chorale Le Chateau, which has gained a global reputation for its vivid interpretations of vocal literature, from Renaissance period pieces to art songs to jazz, spirituals, gospel, and avant-garde contemporary music. He is featured on the recording of Wynton
Marsalis’s *Abyssinian Mass* as a conductor, with Marsalis, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, and Chorale Le Chateau.

A graduate of John S. Davidson Fine Arts School, Sneed has studied at some of the finest conservatories and universities, including Howard University, where he earned a Bachelor of Music, Piano Performance; the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University; New York University, where he earned a Master of Music in Music Technology: Scoring for Film and Multimedia; and the Manhattan School of Music. Sneed will also graduate with his doctorate in Orchestral Conducting from USC in 2019.

Sneed recently joined the acclaimed staff of the Houston Grand Opera (HGO) as Music Director and Composer in Residence and serves as cover conductor for HGO mainstage productions under Patrick Summers, Artistic and Music Director. He has been commissioned to compose a new work for Houston Grand Opera which will have its world premiere on March 5, 2020, at the Cullen Theater.

For more information on Damien Sneed and LeChateau Earl Records, go to damiensneed.com and lechateauearl.com.

**VOCAL ARTISTS OF IOWA**

Vocal Artists of Iowa is a semi-professional choir based out of the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area. Founded in the summer of 2017, its membership draws primarily upon music professionals and music educators in the region. VAoI is a project-based group and typically will perform five to six concerts per year, with dates being chosen by the availability of its constituency. Vocal Artists of Iowa was recently honored by being given a feature performance at the Iowa Choral Directors Association Choral Showcase where it had the opportunity to perform among other distinguished choirs at the Concert Hall in the University of Iowa’s Voxmax Music Building.

VAoI is primarily housed at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church ELCA in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but is available for hire in any location. Please feel free to check out our recordings as well as our repertoire list from our past concerts at vocalartistsofiowa.com. Follow us on Facebook as well as SoundCloud to hear the latest recordings and to keep up to date with our upcoming concerts!
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