



Gateways Music Festival to celebrate African musicians

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More than 120 classical musicians of African descent from throughout the U.S. will perform Aug. 8-13 in the 2017 Gateways Music Festival at Eastman School of Music.

The instrumentalists will perform more than 50 solo, chamber music and - orchestral concerts in Rochester venues including Hochstein School of Music and Dance, 50 N. Plymouth Ave.; Rochester City Hall, 30 Church St.; Rochester Public Library, 115 South Ave.; Cornhill Landing, 270 Exchange Blvd.; and Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre, 26 Gibbs St.

Among the musicians are members of American symphony orchestras and college and university music school faculties as well as concert and freelance artists.

All festival events are free.

Now in its 24th year, Gateways Music Festival has been held biennially in Rochester since 1995.

“Gateways’ national and international reputation is growing rapidly,” said Lee Koonce, festival president and artistic director. “We are excited to welcome many guests to Rochester who want to hear great music played at a world-class level, and want to celebrate the centuries-long participation and achievements of classical musicians of African descent.”

This year’s festival will feature works by composers of African descent, including Joseph Bologne; Le Chevalier de St. Georges; Adolphus Hailstork, of Rochester; and Jessie Montgomery, of New York City.

The festival will feature a panel discussion with musicians at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 8 in Kilbourn Hall, 26 Gibbs St., Rochester; and a pre-concert conversation by Paul Burgett, vice president and senior adviser to the president at University of Rochester, at 6 p.m. Aug. 12 at Hochstein School of Music and Dance. Burgett, the leading authority on African-American music, will speak before a chamber

music concert at 7:30 p.m.

Gateways Music Festival Orchestra Concert will end the series under the direction of Michael Morgan at 4 p.m. Aug. 13 in Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre. Canadian pianist Stewart Goodyear will solo in the performance of Sergei Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto.

The orchestra concert program will include Johannes Brahms's Second Symphony and Hailstork's "An American Port of Call."

For information, call 585-232-6106 or visit gatewaysmusicfestival.org.