

Classical musicians of African descent to perform in Rochester

Staff report Published 7:36 p.m. ET July 21, 2017

Gateways Music Festival runs Aug. 8-13



(Photo: Provided)

More than 120 classical musicians of African descent from throughout the United States will perform in Rochester from Aug. 8-13 as part of the 2017 Gateways Music Festival, in association with the Eastman School of Music.

The instrumentalists will be featured in more than 50 solo, chamber music and orchestral concerts in venues ranging from the Hochstein School of Music & Dance, Rochester City Hall, and the Rochester Public Library to Corn Hill Landing, houses of worship and Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theatre. All events are free.

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

In its 24th year, the 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, first, want to hear great music played at a world-class level; and second, want to celebrate the centuries-long participation and achievements of classical musicians of African descent.”

[SUMMER CONCERTS: Region offers variety of rock, blues, soul and pop](http://www.pressconnects.com/story/entertainment/2017/05/23/summer-concerts-region-offers-variety-rock-blues-soul-pop/102082570/)
(<http://www.pressconnects.com/story/entertainment/2017/05/23/summer-concerts-region-offers-variety-rock-blues-soul-pop/102082570/>)

[Check out these fantastic summer music festivals](http://www.pressconnects.com/story/life/2017/05/27/check-fantastic-summer-music-festivals/102237064/)
(<http://www.pressconnects.com/story/life/2017/05/27/check-fantastic-summer-music-festivals/102237064/>)

[Drama, comedy and more: Summer theater around region](http://www.pressconnects.com/story/entertainment/2017/06/06/drama-comedy-summer-theater-around-region/102566306/)
(<http://www.pressconnects.com/story/entertainment/2017/06/06/drama-comedy-summer-theater-around-region/102566306/>)

Works by these composers of African descent will be among the music performed at this year’s festival — Joseph Bologne, Le Chevalier de St. Georges of 18th century Paris, Rochester native Adolphus Hailstork, and the up-and-coming Jessie Montgomery of New York City.

Non-concert events of the festival will be:

- A panel discussion by some of the festival musicians at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 8, in the Eastman School of Music’s Kilbourn Hall.
- A pre-concert conversation by Paul Burgett, University of Rochester vice president and senior advisor to the president, who is a leading authority on African-American music. That will be at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, at Hochstein preceding a chamber music concert there at 7:30 p.m.

The festival finale will be the Gateways Music Festival Orchestra Concert, under the direction of Michael Morgan, the festival’s music director and conductor, at 4 p.m. Aug. 13 in Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theatre. Canadian pianist Stewart Goodyear will be the soloist in the performance of Rachmaninoff’s “Piano Concerto No. 2.”

The orchestra concert program also will include Brahms’ “Symphony No. 2” and Hailstork’s “An American Port of Call.”

Gateways was founded in 1993 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, by Armenta Hummings Dumisani, an award-winning, Julliard-trained concert pianist. The festival moved to Rochester after Hummings accepted an appointment to the Eastman School of Music faculty in 1994. She is now retired.

For more information and concert schedule, go online to www.gatewaysmusicfestival.org (<http://www.gatewaysmusicfestival.org>) or call 585-232-6106.

Read or Share this story: <http://press.sn/2to4Tqf>