



Celebrating
Black Artistry
Through Music

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Castle of our Skins presents “Ain’t I a Woman”

Roxbury, MA: Castle of our Skins, a Boston-based concert and education series dedicated to celebrating Black artistry through music, presents “Ain’t I a Woman”, Saturday, May 26, at 7:30PM. This project explores Black feminism through music, arts, spoken word, and history in the year CNN has named “the year of women”. Artists, academics, and music by Black female composers merge synergistically in a celebration of Black women and their creative power.

Curated by artistic director Ashleigh Gordon, the program spotlights explorative and emotionally reflective music by L. Viola Kinney, Florence B. Price, Undine Smith Moore, Zenobia Powell Perry, living composers Jacqueline B. Hairston, Nkeiru Okoye, and a world premiere by the young, exciting, New York-based composer Jessica Mays. *Songs of Harriet Tubman* by Ms. Okoye is a suite from her powerful opera *Harriet Tubman: When I Crossed that Line to Freedom*.

“This moving, soul-stirring collection is an anchor to the program,” says Gordon. “Castle of our Skins is proud to present this work as well as acclaimed soprano Synthia Pullum, who was the soloist in last year’s performance at Mt. Holyoke College for their *Songs of Hope and Courage* concert of music by women.” Furthermore, Boston Lyric Opera and Castle of our Skins will feature excerpts from this opera for their upcoming collaborative community project. For *Ain’t I a Woman*, the musical offerings will pair with dramatic spoken word artistry by Boston-based dancer, poet, and creative, Destiny Polk. “The combination of spoken word and music,” states Gordon, “always paints a complete image for audiences, clearly communicating the literal and the emotional message of this relevant project.”

Preceding the musical presentation will be a historical lecture given by L’Merchie Frazier, Director of Education and Interpretation for Boston’s historic Museum of African American History. Ms. Frazier’s presence as fiber artist, holographer, poet, and thought leader has been vital to Boston’s Black community. Additionally, Black female vendors will be featured throughout the evening, and guests will have the opportunity to learn more about their businesses, share their services with their friends and family, and purchase their products. These vendors include Kréyol (fashion), Ayana Mack (graphic designer/visual arts), Distinct Element (fashion, accessories, body care), and Natasha’s Homemade Organic Body Butter. Kréyol’s designs have been featured in multiple platforms, including Best of Boston, Teen Vogue, and the New York and London Fashion Weeks. These vendors display the variety of talent amongst Boston’s Black Female business creatives. This project will be presented at the historic Hibernian Hall in Roxbury, the “heart of Black culture in Boston” (Boston.gov).

Saturday, May 26, 2018 at 7:30PM*

Hibernian Hall, Roxbury
184 Dudley Street, Suite 102
Roxbury, MA 02119

Tickets: \$15 General Admission;
\$10 Students & Seniors (60+)
Children 12 & under: FREE

* Pre-concert lecture: 6:30PM
* Market Showcase of local Black female
artisans throughout the evening

Program: *Ain’t I a Woman*

Untitled (World Premiere) by Jessica Mays
On Consciousness Streams and *The Season of Remembrance* by
Jacqueline B. Hairston
Love Let the Wind Cry ... How I Adore Thee by Undine
Smith Moore
Night by Florence Price
Songs of Harriet Tubman by Nkeiru Okoye
Mother’s Sacrifice by L. Viola Kinney
Homage by Zenobia Powell Perry

About Castle of our Skins: Born out of the desire to foster cultural curiosity, *Castle of our Skins* celebrates Black artistry through music. From classrooms to concert halls, *Castle of our Skins* invites exploration into Black heritage and culture, spotlighting both unsung and celebrated figures of past and present. www.castleskins.org

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