



Celebrating  
**Black Artistry**  
Through Music

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## Castle of our Skins presents “Night Songs”

**Roxbury, MA:** Castle of our Skins, a Boston-based concert and education series dedicated to celebrating Black artistry through music, will present its second appearance at Roxbury Community College in a concert entitled “Night Songs”, on Friday, March 18th at 7:30pm. All art songs on the program were written by Black poets ranging from such path setters as Langston Hughes and James Weldon Johnson to living legends Sonia Sanchez and Cornelius Eady.

Along with beloved and underrepresented works by the established composers Dorothy Rudd Moore and H. Leslie Adams, the COOS Collective – the flexible ensemble in residence with Castle of our Skins – will premiere works by LJ White (alum of Boston University and New England Conservatory), Frank S. Li (alum of Brandeis), and Samuel Beebe (alum of Boston University and Northeastern University). The world premieres by Li and Beebe were chosen from an international call for proposals, whereby composers regardless of age, nationality or race were encouraged to set the text of Black writers into song. A third composer – the late Ethan Frederick Greene – was also chosen from the call for proposals. In memory of his recent death, The COOS Collective will perform his “Three Eady Songs” which set the poetry of Pulitzer Prize nominee poet Cornelius Eady to music.

“Night Songs” is made possible with funding by the New England Foundation for the Arts' Creative City Program, with funding from The Barr Foundation, and with funding by Music Drives Us, dba of The Boch Family Foundation, a nonprofit 501c3 serving communities throughout New England. While “Night Songs” marks this organization’s third concert presentation, Castle of our Skins has reached over 2,500 people of all ages through its educational workshops, public presentations, and community outreach programs which have occurred in New England, The Netherlands and Bulgaria. In the words of Artistic Director Ashleigh Gordon, “Castle of our Skins first and foremost is about education and sparking cultural curiosity. Our ultimate goal is to encourage people to be curious about themselves, their culture, and the cultures of other people. That kind of curiosity, we hope, will lead to greater social harmony and acceptance – two things Boston and beyond could certainly use more of.”

Friday, March 18, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.  
Roxbury Community College  
1234 Columbus Ave, Roxbury  
Tickets: FREE ADMISSION

Program: *Night Songs*  
Dorothy Rudd Moore: “Sonnets on Love, Rosebuds, and Death”  
Samuel Beebe: “Rocking Chair Child”  
Frank S. Li: “The Heart of a Woman”  
LJ White: “Way Down Yonder”  
Ethan Frederick Greene: “Three Eady Songs”  
H. Leslie Adams: “Nightsongs”

### Artists

Farah Darliette (soprano), Fred C. VanNess Jr. (tenor), Shaw Pong Liu & Olga Patramanska-Bell (violins), Ashleigh Gordon (viola), Javier Cabellero (cello), Anthony Green (piano)

**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. For more information, please visit [www.Castle-of-our-Skins.com](http://www.Castle-of-our-Skins.com).

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