

Still We Rise

CELEBRATING AMERICAN DIVERSITY IN MUSIC
AND THE LEGACY OF CECIL LYTLE



SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022

UC San Diego Conrad Prebys Music Center

This year's program celebrates both the 25th anniversary of the Lytle Scholarship and the establishment of the Cecil Lytle Endowed Chair in African and African American Music. In celebration of American diversity in music, the event will feature music and poetry from the African American experience.

PROGRAM

Announcement of the Cecil Lytle Chair in African and African American Music

*Pradeep K. Khosla
Chancellor*

*Cristina Della Coletta
Dean, Division of Arts and Humanities*

Opening Remarks

Cecil Lytle, Professor Emeritus

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PRE-CONCERT PERFORMANCES

***"Banner" by Jessie Montgomery
and "Adoration" by Florence Price***

*Symphonic Student Association
Gaby Carr, President / Ross Greer, Conductor*

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CONCERT PERFORMANCES

"Jacaranda" by Alexander Anderson
Rob Thorsen Jazz Quartet

***"The Miracle of Morning" by Amanda Gorman
and "Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou***
Yolanda Marie Franklin

"Song for the Old Ones" by Maya Angelou
Yolanda Marie Franklin and Ernie McCray

"Caged Bird" by Maya Angelou
Yolanda Marie Franklin and Ernie McCray

"I'll Catch You" by John Scofield
Rob Thorsen Jazz Quartet

(continued on reverse)

"Phenomenal Woman" by Maya Angelou

Yolanda Marie Franklin

"Bebop Delight" by Rob Thorsen

Rob Thorsen Jazz Quartet

"Dream Deferred" by Langston Hughes and

"I Have a Dream" by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Yolanda Marie Franklin, Ernie McCray and students from The Preuss School UC San Diego

INTERMISSION

"Boycott" by Alexander Anderson

Rob Thorsen Jazz Quartet

"You & I" by Steph Johnson

Steph Johnson and Rob Thorsen

"An Out of This World Moment with Steph Curry" by Ernie McCray

Ernie McCray

"When I See Stacey" by Ernie McCray

Yolanda Marie Franklin and Ernie McCray

"Standing on Midnight Shoulders" by Yolanda Marie Franklin

Yolanda Marie Franklin

"Mud Puppies" by Rob Thorsen

Rob Thorsen Jazz Quartet

"Harlem" by Langston Hughes

Yolanda Marie Franklin

"Feeling Langston" by Ernie McCray

Ernie McCray

"Butterfly" by Herbie Hancock

Rob Thorsen Jazz Quartet and Steph Johnson

"Dream" by Langston Hughes

Ernie McCray

"Bouquet" by Langston Hughes

Yolanda Marie Franklin

"Let America Be America, Again" by Langston Hughes

Ensemble and students from The Preuss School UC San Diego

"America, the Beautiful"

Nathan East, recorded orchestra

"Someday We'll All Be Free" by Donny Hathaway

Nathan and Noah East and Rob Thorsen Jazz Quartet

"Sir Duke" by Stevie Wonder

Nathan and Noah East, Steph Johnson and Rob Thorsen Jazz Quartet

Closing remarks

Nathan East and Chris Weil

"Still We Rise" is a joint production of Common Ground Theatre, the La Jolla Theatre Ensemble, and the UC San Diego Lytle Scholarship. For program notes and to learn more about tonight's performers, please scan the QR code at right.



Still We Rise

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PROGRAM NOTES

"Still We Rise" is a joint production of Common Ground Theatre, the La Jolla Theatre Ensemble and the UC San Diego Lytle Scholarship. Accepting Maya Angelou's iconic poem as a starting point, tonight's program features poems and prose by two leading African American poets: Ms. Angelou and Langston Hughes. For added flavor are poems and narrations by local celebrity poets Yolanda Marie Franklin and Ernie McCray. Rob Thorsen and colleagues will intersperse selections of the poets' favorite music, jazz.

The preconcert segment presented during the reception will feature works by Jessie Montgomery and Florence Price. These are performances from the sphere of 20th and 21st century classical music that speak to the issues raised by Angelou, Hughes, Franklin and McCray tonight. "Banner," composed by Ms. Montgomery, a 41-year-old African American woman composer, was commissioned in 2014 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of "The Star-Spangled Banner." As Ms. Montgomery writes, it is a reimagining of the American anthem:

The Star-Spangled Banner is an ideal subject for exploration in contradictions
... What does an anthem for the 21st century sound like in today's
multicultural environment?

The music of Florence Price (1887-1953) has enjoyed a renaissance over the past 25 years, especially in San Diego. The La Jolla Symphony & Chorus, under the direction of Steven Schick, has performed and recorded both of her violin concertos. Tonight's performance of Florence Price's "Adoration" advances the public knowledge and appreciation of this almost forgotten African American woman composer. Despite her close association with Langston Hughes, Marian Anderson and successful compositions for the Chicago Symphony and the Boston Symphony, Florence Price's music languished until the publication of UC Irvine Professor Rae Linda Brown's biography, "The Heart of a Woman: The Life and Music of Florence B. Price."

PRODUCER BIO

Cecil Lytle joined the music faculty in 1974 after serving two years as assistant professor of music at Grinnell College in Iowa. Prior to then, he was an award-winning concert pianist sharing the stage with jazz and classical music artists. He was recruited to the UC San Diego Department of Music to begin the Black Music Program, establish the UC San Diego Gospel Choir and jazz performance ensembles, and develop related courses. It wasn't long before colleagues deployed him in courses and ensemble, teaching the classical music tradition as well as offering courses in chamber music, romantic music, the classical sonata and experimental music.

Lytle was appointed senior Fulbright Scholar to the United Kingdom (1979-80). His talents and interests extended into university-level administration, as well. Upon returning from the London assignment, he served two terms as music department chair, undertook extensive activity in Academic Senate Committees, including Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP), Space Committee, Committee on Committees, Admission Committee and a variety of campus-wide search committees.

Chancellor Richard Atkinson appointed Professor Lytle provost of Third College in 1988. The tumultuous history of Third College required deft handling to move its core curriculum and faculty participation forward following Third College's founding during the Civil Rights Movement in America. In response to the UC Regents and the State of California banning the use of affirmative action, Lytle led the four-year effort that led to the creation of The Preuss School UC San Diego on the campus in 1999. Lytle also led other firsts across campus.

In 2001, University of California President Richard Atkinson appointed Professor Lytle to be the inaugural director of the UC Bloomsbury Study Centre in London (2001-03). Duties included managing the affairs of 600+ UC students studying in the 19 affiliated campuses throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland, as well as screening the comparable number of UK/Irish students wishing to study at one of the UC's 10 campuses.

Provost Lytle led a faculty group to revise the college's core curriculum in the establishment of Dimensions of Culture (DOC); he successfully led faculty, students and alumni in 1991 to concur on a new college name, Thurgood Marshall College; in 1993, under his leadership, staff and faculty culminated agreements to establish the UC San Diego/Morehouse and Spelman College Student Exchange Programs on behalf of all UC San Diego colleges.

Until recently, interdisciplinary programs were nested within the UC San Diego colleges. Because of its history of activism, most interdisciplinary programs had been previously nested in and supported by Thurgood Marshall College. In the 1990s, Provost Lytle led the Academic Senate to approve the conversion of these many programs into full-fledged academic departments. These new departments are Ethnic Studies, Education Studies, and Urban Studies and Planning. Indeed, several minor programs were inspired by Lytle and Thurgood Marshall College faculty, including the Public Service Minor and Partners-at-Learning (a course of study and supervision that places university tutors in Title I schools in southeast San Diego to serve as tutors and mentors).

Following the passing of his first wife, Rebecca Elizabeth Lytle, to cancer in 1995, Cecil and their children established an endowed student scholarship fund in her name. Cecil performs annual concerts to benefit the fund each year. The Rebecca E. Lytle Scholarship Fund presently has a book value of over \$400,000, issuing up to \$30,000 in awards to Preuss School graduates attending UC San Diego.

Along with Professors Peter Gourevitch and Hugh “Bud” Mehan, Provost Lytle led the faculty/staff initiative that created The Preuss School UC San Diego in 1999, a high-quality public charter school on campus serving more than 850 students who aspire to become the first in their families to attend college. Following the success of The Preuss School, Lytle and Mehan joined with parents and local community to shepherd the effort that led to the opening of Gompers Preparatory Academy (<http://www.gompersprep.org/>) as a not-for-profit public charter school in 2005. It was the first replication of the Preuss model in the Chollas View neighborhood in southeast San Diego.

Since retirement:

- » Cecil Lytle has resumed his career full-time as an active pianist and composer with three new CD publications and six new [live television broadcasts](#) of ragtime, late Beethoven piano sonatas, Latin jazz, the music of the Harlem Hellfighters, Latin music and Jewish music.
- » Professor Lytle remains active in the classroom. Since 2011, he has taught a UC San Diego Global Seminar (<https://studyabroad.ucsd.edu/students/programs/global-seminars/index.html>) in Paris, France, entitled [Jazz in Paris](#).
- » Lytle presently serves the campus as co-chair with Professor Emeritus Jeanne Ferrante (Engineering) on a faculty/staff workgroup to establish a UC San Diego senior retirement residence on the campus.
- » In 2018, Cecil Lytle shared the UC San Diego Emeriti Association’s [Dickson Award](#) recognizing emeritus faculty for continuous service to the University of California.
- » In 2015, Chancellor Khosla presented Cecil Lytle with the Revelle Medal, the highest honor the chancellor gives to a retired or emeriti UC San Diego faculty member.
- » Since 2010, Cecil Lytle has been a member of the board of directors at [RECON](#), a \$110 million for-profit environmental restoration company headquartered in San Diego.

ARTISTS' BIOS

Alexander Anderson is a California native, forward-thinking pianist, keyboardist, composer and arranger with a bent toward mixing '70s influenced jazz and fusion with hip-hop and R&B. <https://www.facebook.com/alexonthepiano/>

Nick Caldwell is a San Diego high school junior attending San Diego High School of Creative and Performing Arts and a multiple National Young Arts awards winner on alto and tenor saxophone. Nick played his first professional gig at age eleven and has recently appeared at the Monterey Jazz Festival.

Nathan East, a founding member of the chart-topping contemporary jazz group Fourplay, was 16 years old when he got his first break and found himself on the road with Barry White. The next time the phone rang, Quincy Jones was on the line. The calls kept coming and for the last forty years, East has been churning out hit songs with artists as legendary as Eric Clapton, George Harrison, Michael Jackson, Phil Collins, Whitney Houston, Beyoncé, Barbra Streisand and Stevie Wonder. His genre-crossing groove has earned him both the recognition – a Congressional Record for his contributions to the worldwide music community, for one – and the boundary-busting respect of his peers, illustrated by his current appearances on two hit records as diverse as Andrea Bocelli’s “Passione” and Daft Punk’s “Random Access Memories.” Nathan is a proud UC San Diego alumnus.

Noah East is the perfect example of apples not falling far from the tree. Growing up in Los Angeles, the son of Nathan East and Dr. Anita East, Noah will graduate from UC Berkeley this June with a degree from the Haas School of Business. His ambitions are to pursue careers as an active jazz performer and launch an entrepreneurial venture in the music industry. Having served internships with Quincy Jones Productions is the perfect launch for the future.

Yolanda Marie Franklin is an award-winning actor, director, educator, producer and is now the newly appointed executive artistic director for Common Ground Theatre, the third longest-running African American theatre company in the United States. Yolanda continues to be an advocate for her people as well as a positive force of unity in our theatre community and world. She is a co-writer of the one-woman show, "Ten Chain Links from Judge," which she is set to tour in the near future.

Ernie McCray is a man of many lives. Born, raised and educated in Tucson, Arizona, Ernie served a 45-year career as a public school teacher and principal in San Diego before retiring in 1999. A renowned poet, McCray describes himself as "a father, grandfather and great-grandfather; athlete, a widower, a lover, an 83-year-old soul brother who even today holds the University of Arizona's most points scored in a basketball game record." He acts and sings and writes both poetry and prose, mostly as a columnist for the OB Rag.

Whether serving as a teacher, school principal or poet, at his core Ernie is an activist for love and peace who rises each day to do whatever he can, no matter how small or grand, to make the world better in some way.

Richard Sellers mixes a diverse array of musical styles to create his own unique "ChefRnB" drum style. Equally at home on stage or in the recording studio, Richard brings enthusiasm and world-class proficiency to every gig. <https://www.richardsellersdrummer.com>

Rob Thorsen found his true calling with the upright bass after playing guitar, flute, saxophone and tuba growing up. "When I began playing upright bass, the fact that I felt the sound as much as heard it had a profound effect on me. I was hooked for life." <http://www.robthorsen.com>

We would like to recognize, with gratitude, the following talented student performers from The Preuss School UC San Diego: Reymundo Cedillo, Christine Doan, Taylin Kieu, Jasmine Matthews, Liam Rodriguez and Nova Salon.

The Symphonic Student Association (SSA) at UC San Diego is a student-run organization committed to fostering a community for students and community members who share an interest in classical music. SSA also strives to make classical music more accessible in the community by presenting regular free concerts and workshops both on and off campus. The Symphonic Student Association is led by President Gabby Carr and Conductor Ross Greer.