



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Opera Columbus and CAPA Continue Columbus' Harlem Renaissance Celebration with "The Journey"**

**Concert to encompass 200 years of African-American history and culture**

(Columbus, OH) – **Opera Columbus** in partnership with the **Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA)** will commemorate Columbus' centennial observance of the Harlem Renaissance with *The Journey: A Celebration of Music Inspired by African-American Culture*, at the Lincoln Theatre (769 E. Long St.) on Thursday, January 24, at 7:30 p.m.

The Southside Reeb Avenue Center's Boys & Girls Club, Thioassane West African Dance Institute, the Lincoln Theatre "Expand Your Horizon" Incubation Program, and local choirs and singers, will be part of this one-night only concert that spans 200 years of history with performances of African drums, spirituals, gospel songs, and music from the Harlem Renaissance.

"This new initiative, conceptualized and created by Destiny Coleman, Director of Education and Artistic Administration for Opera Columbus, will focus on building partnerships with community organizations that go beyond engagement to create new programs that are truly inclusive, giving representation, and opportunities to artists of color by celebrating and integrating African-American culture, history, and forms of expression with opera," said Opera Columbus General and Artistic Director Peggy Kriha Dye. "The appeal of this powerful music is universal, and we hope to reach out to all ages, cultures, and religions with this presentation."

"CAPA is proud to further support and participate in Columbus' celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance through this collaboration," stated CAPA President and CEO Chad Whittington. "It was an unparalleled time of artistic and social growth that impacted generations to come, and the efforts of Columbus' cultural and artistic community to exhibit and celebrate that elevates this city on a national scale."

Opera Columbus in partnership with CAPA present "The Journey" Tickets are \$26.50 at the CAPA Ticket Center (39 E. State St.), all Ticketmaster outlets and [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) beginning Sept. 7. To purchase tickets by phone, please call (614) 469-0939 or (800) 745-3000.

The Harlem Renaissance was an African-American cultural and artistic explosion born in New York in 1918, that spread to other American cities, including Columbus, Cleveland, and Cincinnati. Out of this groundswell of African-American art, writing, theatre, music, political thought, and journalism emerged such treasures as the writings of Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Chester B. Himes; the music of Eubie Blake; and the art of Jacob Lawrence.

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Throughout the fall, Opera Columbus and other participants will preview select works from this program in a smaller community production titled “The Voice of Freedom.” Dates will be announced at a later time, but performances will take place at the Reeb Avenue Center, Columbus Metropolitan Library Main Branch, local churches, and The Refectory.

“The rich history and culture of this movement – of African culture in America in general – is an indelible part of who we are today, and Opera Columbus is very proud to be a part of Columbus’ Harlem Renaissance celebration,” said Kriha Dye.

### **CALENDAR LISTING**

**Opera Columbus in partnership with CAPA present *The Journey: A Celebration of Music Inspired by African-American Culture***

**Thursday, January 24, 7:30 pm**

**Lincoln Theatre (769 E. Long St.)**

Opera Columbus in partnership with CAPA will commemorate Columbus’ centennial observance of the Harlem Renaissance with *The Journey: A Celebration of Music Inspired by African-American Culture*. Featuring the Southside Reeb Avenue Center’s Boys & Girls Club, Thioassane West African Dance Institute, the Lincoln Theatre “Expand Your Horizon” Incubation Program, and local choirs and singers, the concert will span 200 years of history with performances of African drums, spirituals, gospel songs, and music from the Harlem Renaissance. The Journey aims to share the African-American experience with audiences of all ages, races, and religions.

Tickets are \$26.50 at the CAPA Ticket Center (39 E. State St.), all Ticketmaster outlets, and [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). To purchase tickets by phone, please call (614) 469-0939 or (800) 745-3000. [www.OperaColumbus.org](http://www.OperaColumbus.org)

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The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this program with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, education excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. CAPA also appreciates the generous support of the Barbara B. Coons and Robert Bartels Funds of The Columbus Foundation and the Greater Columbus Arts Council.

### **About Opera Columbus**

Under the vision of Artistic Director Peggy Kriha Dye, Opera Columbus is redefining the concept of regional opera with world-class, original productions that celebrate extraordinary young talent and artistic collaboration, engaging a new, diverse audience for this most magnificent of art forms. In partnership with the Ohio State University School of Music, Opera Columbus’ Opera Goes to School program reaches more than 13,000 students each year, and its community engagement programs serve the community each season with one-hour-long operas sung in English. In addition, Opera Columbus’ annual Cooper-Bing Competition draws top vocalists from around the world to Columbus to compete for a grand prize of \$10,000. For more information, visit [www.OperaColumbus.org](http://www.OperaColumbus.org), Facebook: [www.facebook.com/OperaColumbus](http://www.facebook.com/OperaColumbus), or Twitter: @OperaColumbus

### **About CAPA**

Owner/operator of downtown Columbus’ magnificent historic theatres (Ohio Theatre, Palace Theatre, Southern Theatre) and manager of the Riffe Center Theatre Complex, Lincoln Theatre, Drexel Theatre, Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts (New Albany, OH), and the Shubert Theater (New Haven, CT), CAPA is a non-profit, award-winning presenter of national and international performing arts and entertainment. For more information, visit [www.capa.com](http://www.capa.com).