

# KENTUCKY OPERA

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MEDIA CONTACT

Lisa Chensvold  
[lchensvold@gmail.com](mailto:lchensvold@gmail.com)  
919-599-9988

### **Kentucky Opera Presents Juneteenth Jubilee Concert Featuring Black Musical Traditions**

***Third annual Amplify: Songs of Justice concert is the centerpiece of Metro Louisville's Juneteenth Jubilee Celebration***

Louisville, KY – Kentucky Opera will present its third annual *Amplify: Songs of Justice* concert on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at the Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health. Part of Metro Louisville's official Juneteenth Jubilee Celebration, the Juneteenth Jubilee Concert is a free community event with local artists and a powerful lineup of music and spoken word featuring Black musical traditions and the ongoing pursuit of justice.

The concert will include spirituals, blues, and jazz music featuring Louisville-based artists. A highlight of the evening is the return of *Songs of Justice*, a five-part song cycle commissioned by Kentucky Opera in 2020. Composed by Jorell Williams with lyrics by Councilwoman Paula McCraney, *Songs of Justice* reflects on civil rights struggles past and present and will feature local artists Kayla Wilson Emerson, Dejah Watts, and Christina Booker.

Kentucky Opera is proud to partner with Simmons College of Kentucky, the city's Historically Black College and University (HBCU), for this year's performance. Simmons' director of choral activities, Christopher Smith, will conduct the Juneteenth Jubilee Choir, a volunteer ensemble open to all. No experience is required to join, and rehearsals begin May 27. This choir reflects the spirit of the event: a shared celebration of community, freedom, and resilience through music.

"The Juneteenth Commission is excited to collaborate once again with Kentucky Opera on our signature event, *Amplify: Songs of Justice*," said Carolle Jones Clay, chair of Metro Louisville's Juneteenth Jubilee Commission. "This concert continues to bring hope through prose and songs of love to all who gather at our Third Annual Juneteenth Jubilee."

The Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health is a fitting place for this performance. Opened in 2024, the center is more than a performance venue. Designed to bring artists and audiences closer together the center is a space for connection, healing, and cultural expression.

The Juneteenth Jubilee Concert is presented with generous support from the Juneteenth Jubilee Commission of Louisville, which has recognized *Amplify: Songs of Justice* as a signature event in this year's celebration. Funding support is also provided by the Kentucky Historical Society.

Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg is expected to attend in recognition of the event's cultural and civic significance. "I appreciate the Kentucky Opera for recognizing Juneteenth and amplifying important voices in our community," said Mayor Greenberg. "It will be a great night of celebration in honor of our Louisville residents who are being recognized by the Juneteenth Jubilee Commission for their important work in our community to help us keep moving forward in a new direction."

### **Event Details:**

*Amplify: Songs of Justice*

Juneteenth Jubilee Concert

Thursday, June 19, 2025

Doors open at 6:00 PM | Concert begins at 7:00 PM

Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health

708 Magazine Street, Louisville, KY 40203

Admission is free, but reservations are recommended.

Reserve tickets: [kyopera.org](https://kyopera.org)

Lear more about the Juneteenth Jubilee Celebration: [louisvilleky.gov/juneteenth](https://louisvilleky.gov/juneteenth)

Sign up for the Juneteenth Jubilee Choir: <https://kyopera.org/songs-of-justice/>

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### **About Kentucky Opera**

For more than 70 years, Kentucky Opera has enriched the cultural and artistic landscape of the region. Designated the State Opera in 1982, Kentucky Opera is a producing company dedicated to sparking discovery, joy, and connection through the shared experience of music and theatre. We believe the power of the arts invites a more empathetic, compassionate, and just community. For more information, visit [KYOpera.org](https://KYOpera.org).