

# 90<sup>th</sup> SEASON

The logo for the South Bend Symphony Orchestra, featuring a cluster of blue dots of varying sizes arranged in a semi-circular pattern, with a single orange dot at the bottom center.

SOUTH BEND  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA

**Dr. Marvin V. Curtis**, Vice President and Chair, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Committee

**Justus Zimmerman**, Executive Director

## Press Release

March 1, 2021  
Immediate Release



### **South Bend Symphony Orchestra Votes Unanimously to Adopt Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement and Strategic Plan**

The South Bend Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors voted unanimously on Thursday to adopt an official statement and plan of action to address equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) as proposed by the Symphony's EDI Committee. Formed in the wake of George Floyd's murder, the committee of Board and community members have been working on an official statement and set of initiatives since August 2020.

"The statement and strategic plan addressing EDI work is a landmark for our organization," said John Axelberg, Board President. "The documents pave the way for strengthening the Orchestra and the Board and therefore our ability to serve our community."

The statement focuses on the greater representation of African diaspora composers across the Symphony's seasons, reassessed hiring and recruitment practices across the organization, and partnerships with organizations already leading this work.

"I feel so privileged and honored to be a part of an organization that is working to create positive change in its community. There is great music by Black composers out there that that we've never played, and I cannot wait to hear our musicians performing it," wrote Music Director Alastair Willis.

"I've been in South Bend for 13 years, and apart from the MLK Day Celebration concert which we started my first year as Dean of the Raclin School of the Arts at Indiana University South Bend change has been slow," wrote Dr. Marvin Curtis, who chairs the Symphony's EDI Committee. "But it's a new day. The murder of George Floyd created a moment, and I wish we could have gotten here under different circumstances, but I'm not going to let this moment pass us by."

The full statement is available at [www.southbendsymphony.org/EDI](http://www.southbendsymphony.org/EDI).

#### **About the South Bend Symphony Orchestra**

Embarking on the 89th season, the South Bend Symphony Orchestra is the region's only professional orchestra and is committed to engaging the community in all it does. In addition to being recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts and other state and local arts funding organizations, the South Bend Symphony Orchestra is the recipient of the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County's 2019 Leighton Award for Nonprofit Excellence, which recognizes the best-run nonprofit organization in St. Joseph County, Indiana.

# STATEMENT

# JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION



The South Bend Symphony marks Juneteenth with WNIT special program

6/17/21, 10:22 AM

## South Bend Tribune

### MUSIC

# WNIT airs the South Bend Symphony's 'Juneteenth' program Saturday

**Tribune Staff Report**

Published 7:01 a.m. ET Jun. 16, 2021

**SOUTH BEND** — The South Bend Symphony Orchestra presents “A Juneteenth Celebration” at 9 p.m. Saturday on WNIT, Michiana PBS (Ch. 34.1), and online at [wnit.org](http://wnit.org).

A new, hour-long program, the show celebrates — through stories, music and poetry — Juneteenth, a holiday observed across the country celebrating the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863.

The program features a 12-musician string ensemble from the SBSO; Marvin V. Curtis, guest artists Pam Blair, and Emorja Roberson, and interviews with African American leaders Latorya Greene and Gladys Muhammad, alongside SBSO Music Director Alastair Willis.

The orchestra performs five works by composers of African descent, including Jesse Montgomery, Joseph Boulogne, William Grant Still and George Walker.

The program is part of the SBSO's commitment to the voices of South Bend's African American community as expressed through dialogue and the performing arts.



# BOOK CLUB

## DVOŘÁK'S PROPHECY

And the  
**VEXED FATE**  
of  
**BLACK CLASSICAL  
MUSIC**

JOSEPH  
HOROWITZ

With a Foreword by GEORGE SHIRLEY

JOIN THE  
CONVERSATION

# DVOŘÁK'S PROPHECY SYMPOSIUM

The South Bend Symphony Orchestra and the St. Joe County Public Library unite to host a three-week book club symposium addressing this lack of diversity of repertoire using the publication, *Dvořák's Prophecy and the Vexed Fate of Black Classical Music* by Joseph Horowitz. The book postulates that in 1893, during his visit to the United States, composer Antonín Dvořák prophesied "a great and noble school of American classical music based in the Negro melodies." However, this idea was rejected by white influential American composers keeping African American composers suppressed. Join host Dr. Marvin Curtis to discuss in details the historical events and the future of African American composers.

7 – 8 p.m.  
**March 16, 23, 30**

### LEARN MORE

WWW.SOUTHBENDSYMPHONY.ORG or scan the code  
St. Joe County Public Library - Main Branch  
304 S. Main St.  
South Bend, Indiana 46601  
Virtual option available

Free and Open to the Public  
Registration is required

f @ v t n  
574-232-6343  
www.southbendsymphony.org





A sign advertising the "American Composers" concert reflects against the windows outside the South Bend Symphony Orchestra's office on Thursday, March 24, 2022, in South Bend. *Robert Franklin, South Bend Tribune*

In a 2019 article published in *The American Scholar*, cultural historian Joseph Horowitz poses the question: Was Dvořák naïve?

He's referring to the Czech composer's 1893 statement to the New York Herald that "the future music of this country must be founded upon what are called negro melodies. ... In (them) I discover all that is needed for a great and noble school of

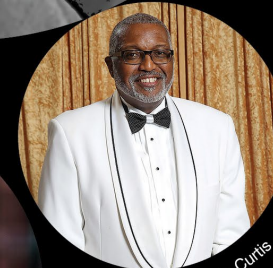
## FIRST SUBSCRIPTION SERIES PERFORMANCE TO FEATURE ALL AFRICAN- AMERICAN COMPOSERS



# CELEBRATION FOR A KING

# Celebration *for a* King

The South Bend Symphony Orchestra partners with local churches to applaud and commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the cultural significance of African American music in a series titled "Celebration for a King." The public is welcome to join the Symphony's Woodwind Quintet, host and Symphony Board Member Dr. Marvin Curtis, guest violist Cameren Anai Williams, and church choirs for three evenings that celebrate Dr. King's life and legacy.



Host Dr. Marvin Curtis



Guest Violist Cameren Anai Williams

## 7 p.m. January 12

Faith Alive Ministries  
909 N Bendix Dr.  
South Bend, IN 46628



Free and Open to the Public  
Register on EventBrite

## 7 p.m. January 13

Olivet AME Church  
719 N Notre Dame Ave.  
South Bend, IN 46617



Free and Open to the Public  
Register on EventBrite

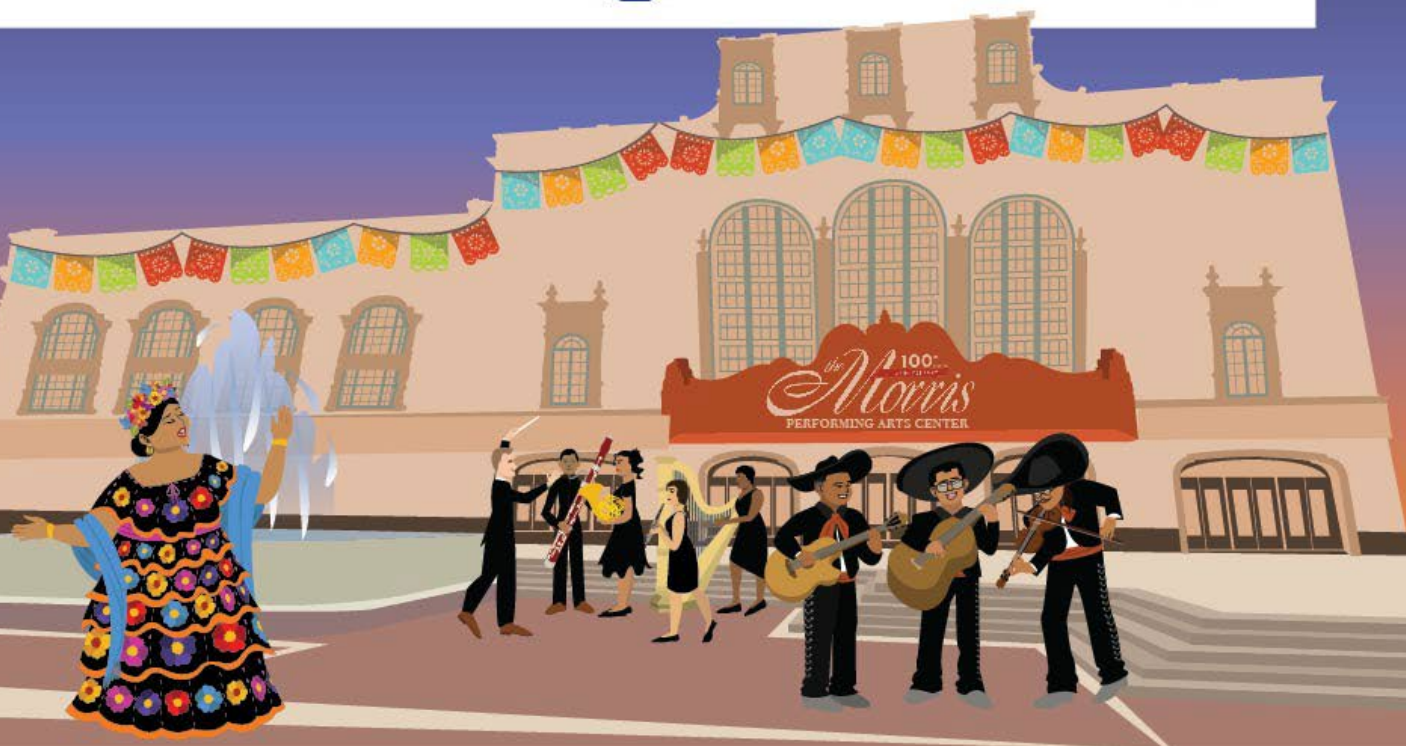
## 7 p.m. January 14





# DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Presented & Sponsored



SHEIN TRUST COMMUNITY SERIES

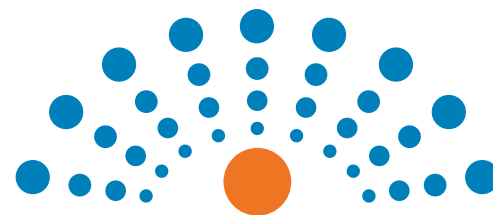
# DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS



3 P.M. OCTOBER 30

FREE CONCERT & FESTIVAL

Morris Performing Arts Center  
Featuring award-winning mariachis  
Vanessa Alonzo and Trio Chapultepec,  
South Bend's Folklórico Dancers, and  
the South Bend Symphony Orchestra!



SOUTH BEND  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA

127 N. MICHIGAN ST.

SOUTH BEND, IN 46601

[WWW.SOUTHBENDSYMPHONY.ORG](http://WWW.SOUTHBENDSYMPHONY.ORG)