



NEWS RELEASE

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Knoxville Symphony Orchestra presents free concert in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Knoxville Symphony Orchestra has partnered with the Tennessee Theatre to present a special tribute concert to the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on **Sunday, January 15, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.** at the Tennessee Theatre. The performance is free and open to the public.

The KSO is joined by **Knoxville Poet Laureate Rhea Carmon**, vocalist **Michael Rodgers**, and Obayana Ajanaku's **Indigenous Vibes edutainment group** and **Drums Up, Guns Down** ensemble to present an inspiring and powerful selection of orchestral works, spirituals, gospel music and more.

"Nearly 60 years since the March on Washington, Dr. King's dream demands our attention as urgently as ever in these turbulent times," said KSO Music Director Aram Demirjian. "It is with both joy and solemnity that the KSO joins with some of our most beloved community partners to celebrate Dr. King's life and legacy, in words and music."

Demirjian will lead the KSO in an hour-long program complete with spirituals like "My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord" and "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit;" gospels that were influential in the Civil Rights movement, including "We Shall Overcome" and "Precious Lord, Take My Hand;" and orchestral works by African-American composers William Grant Still, Florence Price, Valerie Coleman and more.

The Boyd Foundation and Knox County Commissioner Dasha Lundy are sponsoring the performance. Visit <https://knoxvillesymphony.com> for more information.

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About the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra

Led by Music Director Aram Demirjian, the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra consists of 80 professional musicians and performs 300 programs throughout the region each season, reaching audiences of more than 200,000 people. The KSO performs in traditional venues such as the Tennessee Theatre, Bijou Theatre and Civic Auditorium, as well as non-traditional places like hospitals, schools, city parks and churches. For more information regarding the KSO, please visit www.knoxvillesymphony.com or call 865-291-3310.