



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY AND QUEENS UNIVERSITY OF CHARLOTTE PRESENT

TOGETHER WE RISE

**A Concert Exploring the Themes of Freedom, Strength, and Justice
In Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Led by Resident Conductor Christopher James Lees**

**Featuring the World Premiere of Malek Jandali's *Elegy*
Nia Imani Franklin's *Chrysalis Extended*, Carlos Simon's *Portrait of a Queen*, and More**

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Sarah Belk Gambrell Center for the Arts and Civic Engagement at Queens

December 15, 2022 | Charlotte, NC – The Charlotte Symphony and Queens University of Charlotte present *Together We Rise*, a concert featuring music from a diverse range of composers exploring the themes of freedom, strength, and justice in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The concert will take place at the Sarah Belk Gambrell Center for the Arts and Civic Engagement at Queens on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

The concert will open with the Overture to *Fidelio*, led by Charlotte Symphony Resident Conductor Christopher James Lees. Beethoven's only opera, *Fidelio*, tells the story of a man who is unjustly imprisoned and shares the message of freedom and equality. The program will continue with the world premiere of *Elegy*, a work by Queens Composer-in-Residence Malek Jandali, based on an old Syrian tune, part of his aim to preserve the Syrian culture through music.

Carlos Simon's *Portrait of a Queen* traces the evolution of Black people in America through the lens of the Black woman. Using one figurative character who represents strength, courage, and selflessness, this "queen" transforms from her journey, through spoken word, as a leader in Africa to a slave on an American plantation, to a disenfranchised citizen subject to Jim Crow laws, and finally to the strong matriarch found in many churches presently.

The program will also include *Chrysalis Extended*, a piece by Nia Imani Franklin, exploring the idea of reaching one's full potential through the life cycle of a butterfly, and *La, La, La La*, by Daniel Bernard Roumain, a prolific genre-bending composer, performer, educator, and social entrepreneur.

Tickets

Tickets start at \$10 and are available now at charlottesymphony.org.

About the Charlotte Symphony

One of the premier music organizations in the Southeastern United States and the oldest operating symphony orchestra in the Carolinas, the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra (CSO) connects with more than 100,000 music lovers each year through its lively season of concerts, broadcasts, community events, and robust educational programs. The CSO is committed to its mission of uplifting, entertaining, and educating the diverse communities of Charlotte-Mecklenburg and beyond through exceptional musical experiences. The CSO employs 62 professional full-time orchestra musicians, fosters three youth orchestras, and offers significant educational support aimed at serving the under-resourced areas of our community. Founded in 1932, the Charlotte Symphony plays a leading cultural role in the Charlotte area and aims to serve the community as a civic leader, reflecting and uniting our region through the transformative power of live music.

About Queens

Queens University is a private, coeducational university located in Charlotte, N.C. The university serves nearly 2,500 students with 43 major and 63 minor undergraduate degree options and 12 graduate degrees. Students represent 44 states and 70 foreign countries. As part of the university's vision to promote educational experiences that nurture intellectual curiosity and promote global understanding, nearly two-thirds of traditional undergraduates participate in study abroad experiences and 100 percent take part in internships. The U.S. News & World Report ranked Queens 9th among regional universities in the south in its 2022 edition of Best Colleges.

Event Listing

TOGETHER WE RISE

Sandra Levine Theatre in the Sarah Belk Gambrell Center for the Arts and Civic Engagement at Queens University of Charlotte

Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Christopher James Lees, *conductor*

BEETHOVEN	Overture to <i>Fidelio</i>
Malek JANDALI	<i>Elegy</i> (World Premiere)
Carlos SIMON	<i>Portrait of a Queen</i>
Nia Imani FRANKLIN	<i>Chrysalis Extended</i>
Daniel Bernard ROUMAIN	<i>La, La, La, La</i>

ALL PROGRAMS AND ARTISTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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