

# About The Music Settlement

Since 1912, The Music Settlement has connected people from all ages and backgrounds to celebrate and share experiences through the universal language of music. Our mission is to inspire and welcome all to our music and arts community to learn, create, celebrate and heal.

We ensure music and the arts are accessible to all through our generous financial assistance program and year-round enrollment at our historic east side campus in University Circle and our west side campus in Ohio City.

Our programs are delivered by exceptional faculty and music therapists in an environment that nurtures individual achievement and creativity, allowing students and clients to reach their full potential while developing a lifelong love of the arts.

We offer generous financial aid and scholarships so that all have access to our beneficial arts-infused programming. We also welcome and encourage all members of our community to get involved with TMS in a variety of opportunities: as volunteers; attending recitals, performances, and events; and through gifts of support.

## Center for Music

Our Center for Music delivers first-class music instruction in a variety of musical styles in private lessons, ensembles, and performance opportunities to students of all ages and abilities. Programs and courses are designed based on the needs and interests of the community.

## Center for Early Childhood

Focused on children from 3-weeks through six years of age, our Center for Early Childhood is a top-rated Gold "Step Up To Quality" school that infuses music and the arts in Preschool, Kindergarten, and summer camp programming.

## Center for Music Therapy

Our Center for Music Therapy utilizes music-based interventions to impact the lives of children and adults living with a variety of challenges. We are the first community organization to offer clinical, preventative, and supportive services focused on the healing powers of music on a large scale.

## BOP STOP

Owned and operated by TMS, BOP STOP is a live music and performance venue in Ohio City. In addition to presenting live music, BOP STOP hosts private events and fundraisers to support local schools, organizations, and other arts and culture initiatives.



The Music Settlement

OHIO CITY · UNIVERSITY CIRCLE



2026

## Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Concert

Sunday, January 18, 2026

3:00 PM

The Music Settlement  
11125 Magnolia Drive  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Follow us on social!



[www.TheMusicSettlement.org](http://www.TheMusicSettlement.org) | 216.421.5806

# THANK YOU!

## We can't do it without you!

All proceeds from this event benefit our mission to inspire and welcome all to our music and arts community to **learn**, **create**, **celebrate** and **heal**. Your support allows us to deliver accessible, life-enhancing music and arts experiences to people of all ages and abilities.



Donate at [TheMusicSettlement.org/Give](http://TheMusicSettlement.org/Give)

# Welcome!

Thank you for joining us!

## Greetings

Geri Presti  
President & CEO, The Music Settlement

## Opening Remarks

Jeff Brown  
Chair, Center for Music, The Music Settlement

## Amazing Grace

~ Obie Shelton, violin

## Traditional

Holy Forever  
Man in the Mirror

~ Tamar Gray, mezzo-soprano  
Kerry Holland, piano

Chris Tomlin  
Ballard and Garrett

\* denotes TMS Merit Scholarship Student  
^ denotes TMS Faculty Member  
~ denotes TMS Board Member

**Amazing Grace** is one of the most recognizable songs in the English-speaking world. American historian Gilbert Chase writes that it is “without a doubt the most famous of all the folk hymns” and Jonathan Aitken estimates that the song is performed about 10 million times annually.

Chris Tomlin’s **Holy Forever**, inspired by Revelation 4, invites believers to join the unending heavenly praise for God’s eternal holiness, celebrating His transcendence and faithfulness. Tomlin says, “I just tried to capture a piece of Heaven in this song that never ends, this eternal song.”

**Man in the Mirror** is about personal responsibility for global change, urging listeners to look within and change themselves before expecting the world to improve, inspired by songwriter Siedah Garret’s desire to write a meaningful anthem and Michael Jackson’s own call for compassion.

Our programs are generously funded by:



Summertime  
from *Porgy and Bess*  
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot  
Wade in the Water

^ Ken LeeGrand, saxophones  
Bill Ransom, percussion  
^ Ed Ridley, piano

G. Gershwin

Spiritual  
Adderly

\* denotes TMS Merit Scholarship Student  
^ denotes TMS Faculty Member  
~ denotes TMS Board Member

**Summertime** became a popular and much-recorded jazz standard, described as “without doubt...one of the finest songs the composer ever wrote ... Gershwin’s highly evocative writing brilliantly mixes elements of jazz and the song styles of Black people in the southeast United States from the early twentieth century.” Stephen Sondheim, composer of *Wicked*, characterized the lyrics of **Summertime** and “My Man’s Gone Now” as “the best lyrics in the musical theater.”

Originating in early African-American musical traditions, **Swing Low, Sweet Chariot** was probably composed in the late 1860s by Wallace Willis and his daughter Minerva, both Choctaw freedmen. The earliest recording was in 1894 by the Standard Quartette. It is widely recognized as one of the best-known Christian hymns.

It is thought that Harriet Tubman used **Wade in the Water** to warn slaves to get off the trail and into the water to prevent being sniffed out by dogs. Songs during the time of American slavery were used as warnings, as ways to teach new generations, and as ways to heal and keep spirits afloat during centuries when Blacks were treated as subhuman. In this way, music was one of the few modes of salvation.

## Acknowledgement

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Linda Allen** for curating this annual concert. Her dedication to showcasing the importance of diversity through music makes this event truly special. With nearly 50 years of service at TMS, Linda’s passion for music and the arts has had a lasting impact on our community. We are deeply grateful for her unwavering commitment and leadership.



Bayou Home  
from Three Songs

William Grant Still

\* Grace Berendt, trombone  
^ Jeff Brown, piano

What a Wonderful World  
Hymn to Freedom

Bob Thiele and George Davis Weiss  
Oscar Peterson

Evelyn Wright, vocals  
^ Ed Ridley, piano

---

William Grant Still's first major orchestral composition, Symphony No. 1 "Afro-American," was performed in 1931 by the Rochester Philharmonic. It was the first time the complete score of a work by an African American was performed by a major orchestra. By the end of WWII, the piece had been performed in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Berlin, Paris, and London. In 1936, Still conducted the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra at the Hollywood Bowl. He was the first African American to conduct a major American orchestra in a performance of his own work.

Thiele said, "In the mid-1960s during the deepening national traumas of the Kennedy assassination, Vietnam, racial strife, and turmoil everywhere, ...Weiss and I had an idea to write a 'different' song specifically for Louis Armstrong that would be called **What a Wonderful World.**" Weiss said he wrote the song for Armstrong, as he was inspired by his ability to bring together people of different races. The recording was inducted to the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1999.

Recognized as one of Oscar Peterson's most significant compositions, **Hymn to Freedom** was written in 1962 and swiftly embraced by people over the world as the anthem of the Civil Rights Movement. Peterson drew upon various church renderings of Negro spirituals recalled from his childhood in Montreal.

Just a Closer Walk with Thee  
Soon and Very Soon

arr. Jack Gale  
Andraé Couch

**Settlement Brass Quartet**

^ Loren Toplitz, trumpet  
^ Van Parker, French horn  
^ Eric Richmond, trombone  
^ Joe Miller, trumpet

Deep River

Spiritual, arr. H. Burleigh

\* Pamela Young, soprano  
Linda Allen, piano

---

No one knows who wrote **Just a Closer Walk with Thee**, but it's commonly thought to have originated as an African American Spiritual. The Selah Jubilee Singers are credited with the first recording in 1941. In 1956, none other than Elvis Presley had a mega hit with the song. As of today, hundreds of artists have recorded it and the song continues to be a standard in many churches throughout the southern United States.

Andraé Couch was born in 1942 to bivocational-pastor parents. He received the gift of music as a child and began playing at church at age 11, writing his first gospel song at 14. Crouch went on to win nine Grammys and numerous other awards. He is one of the most popular gospel artists in the United States, writing, arranging, and recording more than 45 albums and over 700 singles, including **Soon and Very Soon**.

**Deep River** is a traditional African American spiritual with unknown exact origins, emerging from the songs of enslaved people. It was first printed in 1876 by the Fisk Jubilee Singers, and later popularized by Burleigh's influential concert arrangement around 1917, becoming a beloved piece known for its themes of longing for freedom and a heavenly home.

## Private Music Lessons

Repeatedly voted "**Best of the East**" by Cleveland Magazine, our private music lessons are individually tailored for each student. We offer year-round, open enrollment for students of any skill level, ages 4 and up.

Financial aid and hardship are available to those who qualify. Established students are eligible to audition for merit scholarships. Multiple discounts are available.

**Scan the QR code to learn more and enroll today!**



## SUMMER CAMPS

REGISTRATION  
BEGINS FEBRUARY 14  
SCAN TO LEARN MORE



I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free Billy Taylor and Dick Dallas  
 Work Song N. Adderley and J. Cannonball Adderley  
 \*^ Afi Scruggs, piano

Speak No Evil Wayne Shorter  
 It's Probably Me Sting  
 I've Got a Feeling Walt Mills  
 ^ Glenn Holmes, bass  
 ^ Ed Ridley, piano  
 Paul Samuels, drums  
 Angi Lynard, vocalist

**I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free** was originally recorded as an instrumental and later released as a song with lyrics by Dick Dallas. Taylor's original version ("I Wish I Knew") was recorded in 1963 and released on his *Right Here, Right Now!* album. The song served as an anthem for the Civil Rights Movement and was widely popularized thanks to a recording by Nina Simone in 1967 on her *Silk & Soul* album.

**Work Song** was inspired by Nat Adderley's childhood experience of seeing a group of convict laborers singing while they worked on a chain gang, paving the street in front of his family's home in Florida.

Wayne Shorter was a legendary American jazz saxophonist, composer, and bandleader, celebrated for his visionary approach and profound influence on modern jazz. A recipient of numerous awards, including 12 Grammy Awards, **Speak No Evil** is the iconic title track from his 1966 masterpiece album.

**It's Probably Me**, originally from the *Lethal Weapon 3* soundtrack, is about deep, loyal friendship and unconditional support. The song uses the phrase to convey a hidden bond, with lyrics about always being there for someone in tough times, symbolizing sacrifice and enduring connection.

"But if there's one guy, just one guy  
 Who'd lay down his life for you and die  
 It's hard to say it  
 I hate to say it  
 But it's probably me."

Walt Mills' biggest success in the Southern Gospel market came in 1990 when **I've Got a Feeling** topped the radio airplay charts and went on to be nominated for a Dove Award. The song uses biblical stories to convey that one can find reassurance that everything will turn out fine in the end.



## Spring 2026 Registration

*Come and join our music and arts community!*

Registration is now open for Spring 2026 at The Music Settlement! Our award-winning Center for Music offers multiple programs for students of all ages and skill levels, including:

- **Private Lessons**
  - All band and orchestral instruments
  - Voice lessons (ages 12+)
  - Rock and folk instruments
  - Multiple styles and genres
- **Ensembles**
  - Adult Orchestra
  - Flautrageous Flute Choir
  - Harp Ensemble
  - Junior J@MS
  - The Settlement Singers
  - Steel Drum Ensemble
- **Group Classes**
  - Dalcroze Eurhythmics
  - Group Youth Piano
  - Keyboard Explorers
  - Popular Guitar Club
  - ...and more!
- **Workshops**
  - Bolivian Baroque Workshop
  - Cleveland Cello Collective
  - Musical Mix & Mingle
  - Old-Time Jam

**Financial aid and hardship assistance** are available to those who qualify, as well as payment plans.

**Scan the QR code to learn more**  
 or call 216-421-5806 ext. 100 for details.

