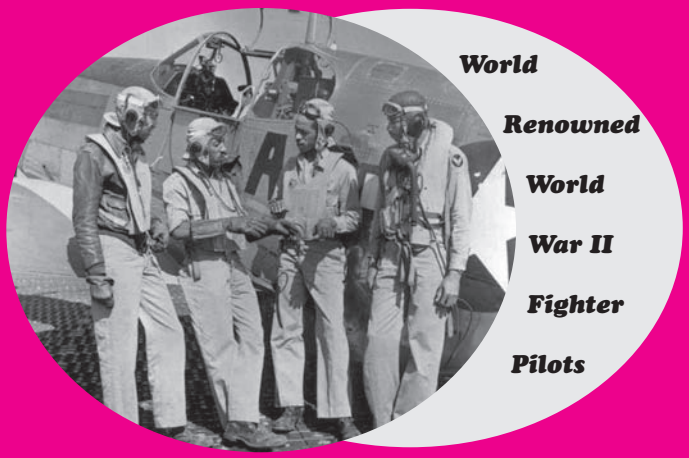
City of Columbus 2009

Black History Month Celebration

featuring **The Tuskegee University Choir**

and honoring The Heroic and Heralded

Tuskegee Airmen



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Mayor

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Department of Human Resources

Mayor Michael B. Coleman

Jacquilla Bass, Deputy Director,
Department of Human Resources

Dr. Melvin V. Richardson,
Black History Month Coordinator

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—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Welcome to the 2009

City of Columbus Black History Month Celebration

"What's Going On?"

February 28, 2009 King Arts Complex

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A WATERS JAZZ TRIO

Andrew Waters is a veteran performer, working for over 25 years with numerous talented artists in a Columbus area and in the Midwest. He is a virtuoso of soprano, alto, tenor, baritone and saxophones, flute, and ewi, (electronic wind instrument). Waters entertains audiences with many styles of music including classical, jazz, rhythm, and blues and funk.

THIS DYNAMIC Jazz trio is comprised of ANDREW WATERS featured on flute, saxophones, and guitar, VICKY SAUNDERS-VOCALS and MARK WILLIAMS on guitar. Each musician brings to this project years of experience, having performed many styles of music on numerous occasions.

THE JAZZ TRIO is available for club dates, weddings, corporate parties, banquets, award ceremonies, grand openings, or whatever function you care to celebrate.

Tuskegee University

Golden Voices Choir

Tuskegee University "Golden Voices" Concert Choir is steeped in more than a century of pride and the richest of choral traditions. Since its inception, the Tuskegee Choir has served as an artistic model while carving its place in American history. From the beginning, Tuskegee (Institute) University students were encouraged to express themselves in "communal singing." Dr. Booker T. Washington, the school's founder, insisted on the singing of Negro spirituals at weekly Chapel services. Dr. Washington told students, "If you go out to have schools of your own, have your pupils sing them as you have sung them here, and teach them to see the beauty which dwells in these songs." Thus, Tuskegee developed and passed on a singing tradition. In 1884, Booker T. Washington organized the Tuskegee Quartet to "promote the interest of Tuskegee Institute." Two years later, he organized the school choir to lead vesper services and to sing for other special campus occasions. That choir, which has since grown to become the "Golden Voices Concert Choir," is now charged with both leading the singing on campus and promoting the wider interest of Tuskegee University.

The Spring 2009 Tour, which kicked off Feb. 26 in Chattanooga, Tenn. and will take the choir through Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio. The world-renowned ensemble is continuing a tradition of excellence and exposure to the masses. "We continue to remember and to celebrate the music of our heritage, past and present," said Dr. Wayne Barr, choir director. Under the leadership of the renowned composer and educator William Levi Dawson, the Tuskegee Choir rose to international prominence with appearances at Radio City Music Hall in New York, the White House (1932), Constitution Hall (1946), and a host of popularteleviision shows. The 1955 recording, *The Tuskegee Choir Sings Spirituals* is still widely hailed today as one of the best recordings of spirituals. The choir has also performed at the request of national leaders, such as President John F. Kennedy and William Jefferson Clinton. In 2006, the Golden Voices, led by Barr and accompanied by Lynda Garcia, produced a CD, *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit*. The Spring 2009 Tour program includes works by Joseph Haydn, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Frank Ticheli, Maurice Duruflé, Ulysses Kay, Adolphus Hailstork and William L. Dawson.

SPRING 2008 - 2009 ROSTER

Aaron, Lindie Alto I Sophomore Biology/Pre-med., Augusta, Ga.
Abrams, Cherilyn Soprano I Senior Finance, Riverdale, Md.
Adeeb, Meroë Soprano I Junior Sales and Marketing, Accokeek, Md.
Banks, Jessica Alto II Senior Social Work, Cobbtown, Ga.
Bates, Monica Soprano II Senior Pol. Science/ Psychology, Fort Washington, Md.,
Beamon, Megan Soprano II Sophomore Electrical Engineering, Montgomery, Ala.
Bean, Kala Alto I Sophomore Chemical Engineering, Montgomery, Ala.
Bell, Shelbra Soprano I Sophomore Business Administration, Memphis, Tenn.
Bowling, Juan Bass I Senior Chemical Engineering, Mobile, Ala.
Brown, Andrew Bass I Senior Sales and Marketing, Baltimore, Md.
Cherry, Kigwana Tenor II Senior Physics, Augusta, Ga.
Clark, Evelyn Alto I Sophomore Biology, Cincinnati, Ohio
Clements, Christal Alto I Sophomore Animal Science, Stafford, Va.
Cottman, Brittany Soprano II Freshman Political Science, Pocomoke, Md.
Cook, Brittany Alto I Freshman Occupational Therapy, Mobile, Ala.
Cook, Whitney Alto I Freshman Pre-med/Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Mobile, Ala.,
Davis, Ransom Bass I Senior Electrical Engineering, Birmingham, Ala.
DeShields, Danielle Alto II Senior Nursing, Mosspoint, Miss.
Dolberry, Amber Alto I Sophomore Undecided, Philadelphia, Pa.
Dukes, Alexander Bass I Sophomore Political Science, Palmdale, Calif.
Featherson, Erica Alto I Sophomore Biology/Psychology, Svisvn, Calif.
Fitzpatrick, Stephon Tenor I Junior, Smyrna, Ga.
Fye, Regyné Alto I Senior Physical Education, Suwanee, Ga.
Gardner, Shnita Alto II Senior Political Science/English, Barstow, Ca.
Gentry, Mariah Soprano I Freshman Animal Science, Lithonia, Ga.
Givhens, Charita Alto II Sophomore Occupational Therapy, Bolingbrook, Ill.
Govan, Kiaylah Soprano I Freshman Pre-Vet. Science, Clarkston, Ga.
Gillis, Brittnee Alto I Freshman Animal Science, Gary, Ind.
Holmes, Danny Bass I Sophomore Chemical Engineering, Pickerington, Ohio
Humphrey, Courtney Alto II Senior English, Mobile, Ala.
Humphrey, Tamarah Alto II Senior English, San Francisco, Ca.
Hundley, Danyelle Alto II Freshman Biology/Nutritional Science, Augusta, Ga.
Hunter, Nigel Bass II Junior Occupational Therapy, Fayetteville, Ga.
Jefferson, Antwan Bass II Sophomore Electrical Engineering, Albany, Ga.
Jenkins, Charlie Tenor II Sophomore Accounting/ Business Admin., Montgomery, Ala.
Joseph, Dionne Alto I Sophomore Occupational Therapy, Marrero, La.
Lewis, Katie-Marie Alto I Senior Animal Science ,Charleston, S.C.
Lindsey, Lauren Alto I Freshman Undecided, Jackson, Miss.
Lockhart, Ashley Soprano I Sophomore Biology, Shaker Heights, Ohio
Martin, Isaac Tenor I Sophomore Histor,y Decatur, Ga.
Mayers, Tiffany Soprano II Junior Nursing, Brandon, Miss.
Mayes, Deidra Alto I Senior Political Science, Birmingham, Ala.
McArthur, Lashá Soprano II Freshman Animal Science, Birmingham, Ala.
McCrary, Chasity Alto II Freshman English/Psychology, Jonesboro, Ga.
McCray, Dorothiann E. Alto I Senior Elementary Education, Birmingham, Ala.
McMillan, Marquial Tenor I Freshman English/Secondary Education, Mobile, Ala.
Mills, Maressa Alto I Sophomore Pre-Veterinary Medicine, Cairo, Ga.
Mitchell, Jada Soprano II Senior Biology, Philadelphia, Pa.
Moore, Amber Alto II Freshman Biology, Kansas City, Mo.
Moorer, Trevor Tenor II Freshman Animal Science/Pre-Vet., Georgetown, S.C.
Moses, Karyn Alto II Freshman Chemical Engineering, Angie, La.
Pearson, Ashley Alto I 1st yr. Grad Occupational Therapy, Baltimore, Md.
Perkins, Randall Bass I 1st yr. Grad Occupational Therapy, Huntsville, Ala.
Person, Glenn D. Tenor I Senior Mathematic,s Columbus, Ga.
Pertilla, Mia Alto I Sophomore Animal Science, Atlanta
Pratt-Minor, Jasmin Alto II Sophomore Nursing, Oakland, Calif.
Robinson, Adreana Alto I Sophomore Nursing, Antioch, Calif.
Rogers, Arlevia Soprano II Sophomore Accounting, San Francisco, Calif.
Rollins, Courtney J. Bass II Senior Animal Science/History ,Birmingham, Ala.
Shelton, Sydney Alto I Sophomore Elementary Education, Detroit
Simons, Audrie Alto I Senior Aerospace Engineering, Charlotte, N.C.
Small, Santanna Alto I Sophomore Biology, Huntsville, Ala.
Soares, Joseph A., III Tenor II Junior Architecture, Bridgeport, Conn.
Sparks, Jahrel T. Tenor I Freshman Elementary Education, Waukegan, Ill.
Stewart, Jade Soprano II Freshman Pre-Veterinary Medicine, Hephzibah, Ga.
Stone, Mia Soprano II Freshman Biology, Cincinnati, Ohio
Swinney, Armani Tenor I Senior Business, Philadelphia, Pa.
Tigner, Ira Bass II Freshman Biology, LaGrange, Ga.
Turner, Carmen Soprano I Sophomore Electrical Engineering, Newport News, Va.
Vaughn, Earlene Alto II Senior Biology, Music Minor, Flatwood, Ala.
Waldron, Jessica Alto I Sophomore Psychology St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
Ward, Ashton S. Bass II Junior Political Science, San Antonio, Texas
Whitney, Meagan Soprano II Freshman Nursing ,Waco, Texas
Wilkinson, Shanequa Alto I Junior Elementary Education, Freeport, N.Y.
Williams, Afra Alto II Senior Hospitality Management, West Palm Beach, Fla.
Williams, Qwyncile Soprano II Senior Undecided ,West Palm Beach, Fla.

MEET THE DIRECTOR

Wayne A. Barr is Director of Choral Activities at Tuskegee University. He earned degrees in church music and choral conducting from Westminster Choir College (B.M.), Southern Methodist University (M.M., M.S.M.), and The University of Michigan (D.M.A.). He has served as organist and choir director at churches in Alabama, Michigan, New Jersey and Texas. Before coming to Tuskegee University, Mr. Barr was Director of Music at the historic Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan, and instructor of music at William Tyndale College in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Under Mr. Barr's direction, the Tuskegee University Choir has toured the Midwest and Northeast regions of the United States, and the San Francisco Bay Area. The Choir has also presented numerous concerts throughout the Southeast. The Choir's recent recording, EV'RY TIME I FEEL THE SPIRIT, is its first in over twenty-five years.

Mr. Barr is an organ recitalist and music workshop clinician. He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, the Choristers Guild and the American Guild of Organists. He is also actively involved in the Tuskegee community as a musician and through the Tuskegee Repertory Theatre.

MEET THE ACCOMPANIST

Lynda K. Garcia, accompanist for the "Golden Voices" Concert Choir, is an accomplished pianist. A graduate of Oklahoma City University and Auburn University, she has participated in many competitions, including the Lawton Philharmonic Young Artists' Competition and the Miss Black America Pageant. Through these and other events, Ms. Garcia has had the privilege to meet composer/conductor Norman Dello Joio and the legendary "Duke" Ellington. Ms. Garcia is an instructor of music in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts at Tuskegee University.

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1881 by Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee University is home to approximately 3,000 students from more than 30 countries. The campus, a National Historic Site, is spread across 450 acres of that reach out to encompass another 4,500 acres of forest and agricultural experiment/research station spaces. Tuskegee University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award doctoral, professional, master's and bachelor's degrees. It offers accreditations in: architecture, business, chemistry, dietetics, education, engineering, clinical sciences, nursing, social work, occupational therapy and veterinary medicine.

What's Going On?

Mother, mother
There's too many of you crying
Brother, brother, brother
There's far too many of you dying
You know we've got to find a way
To bring some lovin' here today - Ya

Father, father
We don't need to escalate
War is not the answer
For only love can conquer hate
You know we've got to find a way
To bring some lovin' here today

Picket lines and picket signs
Don't punish me with brutality
Talk to me, so you can see
Oh, what's going on
What's going on
What's going on
Tell me what's going on

Father, father, everybody thinks we're wrong
Oh, but who are they to judge us
Simply because our hair is long
Oh, you know we've got to find a way
To bring some understanding here today

Picket lines and picket signs
Don't punish me with brutality
Talk to me
So you can see
What's going on
What's going on
Tell me what's going on

Marvin Gaye,
Singer, Songwriter, Composer and Instrumentalist

-The Prince of Motown-
He was the label's top-selling solo artist in the '60s and also made a string of hits with the likes of Kim Weston and Tammi Terrell before establishing himself as one of music's prolific artists in the '70s and '80s. -Ebony Magazine Feb. 2009

Celebrating Black History and Making Black History...

Columbus City Council enacts new law for the observaton of Black History Month. Passed 12/10/08

Whereas, the city of Columbus celebrates the mouth of February as Black History month, and
Whereas, the department of human resources has designed the implementation of an annual Black History program and

Whereas, such a program would honor men and women who have open doors to scientific, artistic, economic, and social successes, now therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLOMBUS:

SECTION 1. The Columbus city council supports a program, which encourages the recognition and celebration of, black history from which the city and its taxpayer's will benefit.

SECTION 2. The Columbus city council has determined that this program serves a proper public purpose.

SECTION 3. The director of the department of human resources may institute a Black History program to invite city employees and the public to honor and celebrate African American heritage.

SECTION 4. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from after the earliest period allowed by law.

City of Columbus 2009 Black History Month Celebration

"What's Going On?"

The theme for this year's celebration is the title of the song, and the timeless, and therefore always pertinent question of the late singer and songwriter, Marvin Gaye. In tribute to Marvin Gaye and in acknowledgement of the 50th Anniversary of Motown Records, three of Gaye's songs will be performed as a part of today's celebration.

The Warm-Up

Electric Slide	Music by A. Waters Jazz Trio

The Main Event

Opening	Dr. Melvin V. Richardson, Black History Month Coordinator
"What's Going On?"	First Tribute: A. Waters Jazz Trio - music and lyrics by Marvin Gaye
	Historical Projections by John Hoberg
"HOPE"	A visual and poetic tribute to President Barack Obama by Ms. Cherl Jenee Greene, City of Columbus, Department of Human Resources
Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance	Honor Guard - Columbus Division of Fire
Welcome & Acknowledgements	Chester C. Christie, Director, Dept. of Human Resources
Remarks	The Honorable Michael B. Coleman, Mayor, City of Columbus
Introduction of the Tuskegee University Choir	Mrs. Cheryl Christie

Selections ..... Tuskegee University Choir, Directed by Dr. Wayne A Barr,
Piano Accompanist, Ms. Lynda K. Garcia

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing Ralph Vaughn Williams

I Waited for the Lord Felix Mendelson,
Meroe Adeeb and Shelbra Bell, Sopranos

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord arr. Moses G. Hogan

Tuskegee Airmen Song arr. Stephen Hayes

Lift Every Voice and Sing arr. Roland M. Carter

Battle Hymn of the Republic arr. Peter J. Wilhousky

"Mercy, Mercy Me" ..... Second Tribute: A. Waters Jazz Trio - music and lyrics by Marvin Gaye

INTERMISSION

(8 minutes - please be prompt in returning to seats. The celebration is being broadcast LIVE - Thank you.)

The Tuskegee Airmen Visual Presentation

Introduction of the Tuskegee Airmen ..... Jacquilla R. Bass, Deputy Director, Dept. of Human Resources

"In Their Own Words" ..... The Tuskegee Airmen

God is Love .....(The Benediction)..... Final Tribute: Music and Lyrics by Marvin Gaye

CONCLUSION of the 2009 BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION

Light refreshments served immediately following the program

History of the Tuskegee Airmen

African Americans fought in every American war in racially segregated units, and with the generally unrealized expectation that patriotism and courage would demonstrate their rights to first-class citizenship at home. The story of Tuskegee airman and their exemplary record is virtually unknown to most Americans. Few scholarly works deal with the history of the airman and their primary flight training at Moton field. As planes and flying developed following World War I, Blacks pressured for admission to the Air Force. But a 1925 study commission by the Army War College claimed scientific proof that Negroes were innately unable to operate aircrafts. Not until April 3, 1939 as Europe prepared for war, did congress pass Public Law 18 that called for major expansion of American air forces. The bill provided for the establishments to training programs for Negroes, but for support services only at several Black collages

One program was authorized to train black pilots. The 66th Air Force Flying School was to be established at Tuskegee, Alabama, site of Tuskegee Institute, partly because the weather permitted year-round training, partly because the south was already heavily segregated. Under considerable pressure the NAACP and the Black press, the War Department authorized the creation of an all Black flying unit, the 99th Pur suit Squadron, later called the 99th Fighter Squadron. African Americans wanted to be eligible for the regular Air Force, but most white civilians and military personnel did not want them in the service at all. The compromise was a segregated unit.

Nearly 500 blacks soldiers, all male, entered the Tuskegee program, which was run by white officers. Since those in charge both expected and wanted African Americans to fail, the black trainees were expelled from the slightest reason, resulting in a high dropout rate from the program. The first class preparing to be pilots began their training on August 25, 1941. The class consisted of 13 men, 5 of whom graduated in June 1942. The class included Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. who later rose to become the country's first black General. The officers at Tuskegee considered the African American unfit for combat and thus insisted on prolonging their practice time, the Tuskegee pilots emerged from the program especially well-trained. The men who survived the rigorous training programs were an elite group, largely college-educated, and highly motivated.

Eventually nearly 1,000 men earned heir wings as trained pilots, and another 1,000 graduated from the program with various support skills. When finally allowed to fight, some 450 pilots flew combat missions. The segregated Black 332nd Fighter Group was formed which combined four fighters' squadrons, the 99th, 100th, 301st and 302nd. Assigned largely to Italy, their record was impressive. Their fighter planes escorted 200 bombing missions on their Europe and in 1,578 missions, and 15,552 sorties. Flying P-39's, P-47's and their custom-painted red tailed P-51's mustangs, they destroyed or damaged 409 enemy planes. In Trieste Harbor they actually sank a German destroyer, the first time a ship of that size and offensive capability had ever been sank simply by a machine gun fire. By wars end, the fighter group had lost 66 men, and been awarded 100 Distinguished Flying Crosses. In March 2007, awarded the congressional gold medal.

On September 5, 1946, the government disbanded the fighter units and closed the Tuskegee base. Then, Lockbourne Air Base, (now Rickerbaker International Airport) was the last home base for three years to the Tuskegee Airman in Columbus, Ohio. The outstanding success and courage of the Tuskegee Airmen was a contributory factor in president Harry S. Truman's signing Executive Order 9981 in 1948. The order officially ended racial segregation in the U.S. Armed Forces, which went on to become a model of racial integrations. In addition to their extraordinary war record and their role in the integration of the U.S. Military, many graduates of the Tuskegee program went on to become leaders in other fields.

Tuskegee Airmen, Ohio Memorial Chapter

Robert L. Peeples, President; Edward W. Morast, Vice-President; Evelyn Kelly-Antoine, Historian

IN MEMORIAM: William H. Brooks, October 8, 2008
William Watkins, March 19, 2008

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Franklin University recognizes one of our alums

Robert L. Peeples

We honor Mr. Peeples' exemplary patriotism and service to our country as a **Tuskegee Airman**, and we applaud his commitment to lifelong learning as a Franklin University graduate.

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Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and Heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou Who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee.
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

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