

We Shall Overcome

A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Featuring Damien Sneed

Friday, January 31 at Attucks Theatre

Inspired by the words and action of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “We Shall Overcome” fills the historic Attucks Theatre on Friday, January 31 at 7:30 pm with music that electrified generations of civil rights activists, interwoven with spoken word from Dr. King’s recorded speeches. Featuring award-winning producer and musical director Damien Sneed, you’ll hear traditional and modern gospel, classical, jazz, and Broadway, from Aretha Franklin to Wynton Marsalis, Duke Ellington to Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone to Donny Hathaway. An inspiring evening of song co-presented by Virginia Arts Festival and SevenVenues.

For tickets, visit vafest.org, call 757-282-2822 or visit the Virginia Arts Festival box office located at 440 Bank Street in Norfolk (Monday-Friday, 10 am – 5 pm). Also available at ticketmaster.com.

Damien Sneed’s career covers an incredible breadth of genres. He has conducted and collaborated on major original works for Wynton Marsalis, regularly accompanies Jessye Norman, has collaborated with Lawrence Brownlee, and has toured extensively with Diana Ross, Aretha Franklin and the Clark Sisters. Sneed is a recipient of the prestigious Sphinx Medal of Excellence, which is presented annually to emerging Black and Latino leaders in classical music. A graduate of John S. Davidson Fine Arts School in his hometown of Augusta, Georgia, he earned a Bachelor of Music – Piano Performance from Howard University and a Master of Music in Music Technology: Scoring for Film and Multimedia from New York University. Sneed is the founder and artistic director of the international vocal ensemble Chorale Le Chateau, and the founder of Le Chateau Earl Records. He was recently named a 2019 Artist-in-Residence at the Carr Center in Detroit, MI, along with Debbie Allen, George Shirley and Savion Glover, as well as Assistant Conductor, and Composer in Residence for the Houston Grand Opera.

About Virginia Arts Festival

Since 1997, the **Virginia Arts Festival** has transformed the cultural scene in southeastern Virginia, presenting great performers from around the world to local audiences and making this historic, recreation-rich region a cultural destination for visitors from across the United States and around the world. The Festival has presented numerous U.S. and regional premieres, and regularly commissions new works of music, dance, and theater from some of today’s most influential composers, choreographers and playwrights. The Festival’s arts education programs reach tens of thousands of area schoolchildren each year through student matinees, in-school performances, artists’ residencies, master classes and demonstrations.

About SevenVenues

The City of Norfolk’s **SevenVenues** serves to link Norfolk’s residents, visitors and tourists to Norfolk’s rich cultural arts and entertainment community. Besides providing entertainment services, the City of Norfolk’s Department of Cultural Facilities, Arts and Entertainment is also responsible for the maintenance, repair, management and operation of the City’s seven public assembly facilities which include: Scope Arena, Chrysler Hall, the Attucks Theatre, the Wells Theatre, Harrison Opera House,

Harbor Park, and Open Air Events.

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