

FLORENCE PRICE INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

Dr. Michael Clark

Dr. Michelle Cann

Friday, November 6, 2026
Faulkner Performing Arts Center
7:30 p.m.
University of Arkansas

PROGRAM

Dances In The Canebrakes — Florence Price

I. Nimble Feet
II. Tropical Noon
III. Silk Hat and Walking Cane

Dream Boat — Florence Price

I. To a Little Girl (To Vicki)
II. Absence
III. Rhapsody in E-flat Major

Preludes — Florence Price

I. Allegro moderato
II. Andantino cantabile
III. Allegro molto
IV. Allegretto con tenerezza
V. Allegro

Michael Clark, piano

INTERMISSION

Fantasie nègre No. 2 — Florence Price

Spiritual Suite — Margaret Bonds

Fantasie nègre No. 1 — Florence Price

Michelle Cann, piano

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PERSONNEL

Michael Clark is a pianist, teacher, and scholar noted for his "natural, clear, and nuanced" performances (Piano Magazine). An advocate for the music of Florence Price, he has presented recitals of her piano music on four continents. His debut album, *Waltzes and Character Pieces of Florence Price*, has been featured on classical radio stations in 48 U.S. states and 14 countries. His latest album, *Price: Piano Sonata and Other Works*, was released by Navona Records in March 2026. Described by Sonograma Magazine as "not only an object of aesthetic enjoyment, but an essential historical document that makes the canon of classical music a better and more inclusive place," the album features premiere recordings of works first published in *Florence Price: Rediscovered Gems for Piano Solo*, an award-winning collection Clark edited for Hal Leonard in January 2025. He recently prepared *Florence Price: Piano Works*, a critical edition of 28 pieces for Edition Peters.

Devoted to practical solutions in pedagogy, Clark researches traditions of piano fingering and is the founder of *Piano Tricks*, an online database of fingerings and redistributions for more than 1,000 passages from the piano repertoire. He has presented at the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, the Music Teachers National Association Conference, and MTNA's Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy (GP3) Forum. His pedagogical writing has appeared in Piano Magazine, MTNA e-Journal, and American Music Teacher, and he currently serves on American Music Teacher's Editorial Committee.

Clark is Assistant Professor of Piano and Coordinator of Secondary Piano at Baylor University. He is the author of Baylor Piano Basics, an open-access textbook for collegiate class piano instruction. Clark previously taught in collegiate, studio, and community outreach settings in the Houston area. He earned a DMA in Piano Performance and a Certificate in Teaching and Learning from Rice University, an MM in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Houston, and a BM in Piano Performance from Ithaca College. His primary teachers include Robert Roux, Nancy Weems, Jennifer Hayghe, and Melinda Smashey Jones. Clark studied pedagogy with Courtney Crappell and John Weems and has been a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) since 2017.

Lauded as “exquisite” by The Philadelphia Inquirer and “a pianist of sterling artistry” by Gramophone, GRAMMY Award winning pianist **Michelle Cann** is one of the most sought-after artists of her generation. Recent engagements include appearances with Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra, and Orquestra Sinfônica Municipal de São Paulo. She is a recipient of the Sphinx Medal of Excellence and the Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Award, and she served as the inaugural Christel DeHaan Artistic Partner of the American Piano Awards.

Highlights of Cann’s 2025-26 season include appearances with the Colorado Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, and Ireland’s National Symphony Orchestra. She also performs the world premiere of a new piano concerto by Valerie Coleman with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C. Her recital appearances include Stanford Live, Music Toronto, Chamber Music Detroit, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Spivey Hall, and a recital tour in China.

Recognized as a leading interpreter of the piano music of Florence Price, Cann performed the New York City premiere of Price’s Piano Concerto in “One Movement with The Dream Unfinished Orchestra” in July 2016 and the Philadelphia premiere with The Philadelphia Orchestra and Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin in February 2021. Her recording of the concerto with the New York Youth Symphony won a GRAMMY Award in 2023 for Best Orchestral Performance. She won a GRAMMY Award in 2025 for *Beyond the Years: Unpublished Songs of Florence Price*, recorded with soprano Karen Slack, which features 19 unpublished songs composed by Price. Her acclaimed debut solo album *Revival*, featuring music by Price and Margaret Bonds, was released in May 2023 on the Curtis Studio label. She has also recorded two Price piano quintets with the Catalyst Quartet as a part of the quartet’s UNCOVERED series. A champion of emerging talent, Cann and cellist Tommy Mesa recorded *Our Stories*, an album of new works by five living composers of color, which was released in November 2023.

A celebrated chamber musician, Cann has collaborated with leading artists including the Catalyst, Dover, and Juilliard string quartets, Imani Winds, violinists Timothy and Nikki Chooi, soprano Karen Slack, and mezzo-soprano J’Nai Bridges. She regularly performs duo piano repertoire with her sister, pianist Kimberly Cann, as the Cann Duo. She has appeared as co-host and collaborative pianist with NPR’s “From The Top”, collaborating with actor/conductor Damon Gupton, violinist Leila Josefowicz, and violinist and MacArthur Fellow Vijay Gupta. Cann’s numerous media appearances include Performance Today, PBS Great Performances’ “Now Hear This”, and Living the Classical Life.

Embracing a dual role as performer and pedagogue, Cann is frequently invited to teach master classes, give lecture-demonstrations, and lead teaching residencies. Recent residencies include the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival and the National Conference of the Music Teachers National Association. She has recorded lessons for tonebase, the

popular piano lesson platform. She has also served on the juries of the Cleveland International Piano Competition, the Kauffman Music Center International Youth Piano Competition, and the piano competition of the Music Academy of the West.

Cann holds bachelor's and master's degrees in piano performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied with Paul Schenly and Dr. Daniel Shapiro, and an Artist's Diploma from Curtis Institute of Music, where she studied with Robert McDonald. She joined the Curtis piano faculty in 2020 as the inaugural Eleanor Sokoloff Chair in Piano Studies. She is also on the piano faculty of the Manhattan School of Music.