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ABOUT MUSIC

The University of Arkansas is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music and the Department of Music is housed within the Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences.

Home to over 300 music students and fifty faculty members, we offer a variety of degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Department faculty and students perform over 400 concerts per year, on and off campus. Large concerts are performed at the 600-seat Faulkner Performing Arts Center that opened in 2015. Chamber and solo recitals are primarily presented at the 200-seat Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall. It is currently under renovation and estimated to re-open in Spring 2025.

For more information, find us on social media or contact us at (479) 575-4701, email us at **music@uark.edu**, or visit **music.uark.edu**.



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12th ANNUAL BLACK MUSIC SYMPOSIUM

Hosted by the Arkansas Center for Black Music

WITH:

Titus Underwood

Lenora Green-Turner

Traci Hall

Caree Banton

LaShawnda Fields

Uché Ewelukwa Ofodile

BAANG

February 7, 2025

Faulkner Performing Arts Center

University of Arkansas

PROGRAM

10:30am-11:50am:

Oboe Masterclass with Titus Underwood

12pm – 12:50pm

Dr. Lenora Green Turner & Traci Hall: “Let’s Talk About It! Black Vocal Literature”

1pm – 1:50pm

Titus Underwood Q&A “The Classical Scene”

2pm-2:30pm –

Dr. Caree Banton: “Jamaican Politics, Nationalism, and Musical Culture in Transition, 1974 - 1984”

2:40-3:10pm –

Dr. LaShawnda Fields : “Unpacking Cowboy Carter and Music Genres”

3:20pm - 3:50pm –

Prof. Uché Ofodile: “Copyright Law, Race, and Music: A History of Exploitation, Exclusion or Empowerment?”

7:00-7:20pm –

ARKANSAS Soul Band with Reggie James

7:30-8:30pm –

BAANG

PERSONNEL



American soprano, **Lenora Green-Turner**, is being recognized as one of America's loved sopranos with her full warm, gorgeous, lyrical voice, the critics and the audiences are drawn to listen for more desirable sounds like hers. Green-Turner is hailed by Opera News as an impressive vocalist and NYTimes as a most expressive singer.

"When Lenora sings, it is apparent that she is an indulgence the audience can wholeheartedly support." --NOLA DEFENDER, Louisiana. She is making herself known in the Southern Region as a featured soloist with the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas under the baton of Paul Haas

and collaborating with Maestro John Jeter and Fort Smith Symphony Orchestra. Her opera roles include as Mimi, Mary (Highway 1, U. S. A.), Countess Susanna (Il Segreto di Susanna), Donna Anna, Suor Angelica, and Antonia. Awards: Jane Willson Emerging Artist, Sarasota Opera Guild; and Metropolitan Opera and NATS. Former Artist-In-Residence for Stax Music Academy, LeMoyne-Owen College, and Opera Memphis; Dr. Green-Turner earned her DMA and MM from University of Michigan, and Performance Diploma from Indiana University. A member of EXIGENCE (Dr. Eugene Rogers) and TACTUS (Dr. Warren Puffer Jones), she is the Vice President Elect of the Arkansas Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), the business owner of Green Room Studios, LLC; on the voice faculty at the University of Arkansas where she resides with her husband and daughter, Anthony and Addie in Fayetteville, AR.



Traci Hall has been accompanying and collaborating with instrumentalists, ensembles, choirs, and vocal soloists for nearly 40 years. She is currently the staff collaborative pianist for the Northwest Arkansas Community College, the Suzuki Music School of Arkansas, and the Community Music School, and is one of several freelance collaborative pianists for U of A students. Traci has served as staff collaborative pianist for the Ozark Suzuki Institute and has had the privilege of collaborating with guest artists hosted by the Arkansas Philharmonic Orchestra.



Dr. Caree Banton is the Chair of the History Department, Associate Professor of African Diaspora History, and the former Director of the African and African American Studies Program at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Banton earned a BPA in Public Administration and a BA in History from Grambling State University in 2005. She received an MA in

Development Studies from the University of Ghana in July 2012 and completed her Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University in June 2013. Much of her work focuses on teaching and learning with an emphasis on strong written and verbal communication skills, problem-solving around issues of diversity, justice, and equity, and cultivating empathetic listening abilities in adults. Her academic research focuses on movements toward freedom, particularly abolition, emancipation, and colonization through which she explores ideas of citizenship, nationhood, and race. Her work has been supported by the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, the Andrew Mellon Foundation Fellowship, the Lapidus Center Fellowship at the Schomburg Center, the Nancy Weiss Malkiel Fellowship, and the National Endowment for the Humanities grant. Dr. Banton is a member of the University of Arkansas Teaching Academy and has been named a Master Teacher in Fulbright College. Her book, *More Auspicious Shores: Barbadian Migration to Liberia, Blackness, and the Making of the African Republic*, was published by Cambridge University Press in May 2019. Her forthcoming manuscript, "The Many Archives of the Black Republic: Liberian Loss, and Memory Across its Diaspora" is currently in progress.



Jeremiah Pickett, known by his stage name **BAANG**, is a trailblazing hip-hop artist hailing from Arkansas, whose craft is deeply rooted in the art of storytelling. With razor-sharp wordplay, magnetic energy, and an electrifying stage presence, Baang transforms each performance into an unforgettable journey, captivating audiences with his authenticity and lyrical prowess. More than just music, Baang embodies a philosophy—Believe, Aspire, Achieve, Now Go—inviting fans to embrace a mindset of ambition and resilience. Seamlessly blending the rawness of Southern hip-hop with a universal message of self-determination, Baang is a dynamic force redefining the sound and spirit of Arkansas music on a national stage.

For more about Baang, please explore the following:

- [Official Website](#)
- [Spotify](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [TikTok](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Facebook](#)



Prof. **Uche Ewelukwa Ofodile** L.L.B., University of Nigeria; LL.M., Harvard & London; S.J.D., Harvard.

Professor Ofodile is the E.J. Ball Professor of Law at the University of Arkansas School of Law. She specializes in intellectual property (IP) law, copyright law, trademark law, international trade and investment, international dispute settlement, food and agricultural law, and corporate social responsibility. She is an Honorary Fellow of the Asian Institute of International Financial Law in Hong Kong, and was recently a Senior Fellow of the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at Harvard Kennedy School.

Professor Ofodile has held numerous leadership positions in professional organizations that grapple with IP rights issues, problems, and challenges. She previously served as Co-Chair of the Intellectual Property Law Group of American Society of International Law, as Co-Chair of the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee of the American Bar Association Section of International Law (ABASIL), and as Vice-Chair of ABASIL's Intellectual Property Committee. She is an elected member of the American Law Institute, a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (North America branch), and a fellow of the Institute of Mediators and Conciliators.

Prof. Ofodile is a frequent speaker at national and international IP conferences and has spoken at IP workshops and seminars organized for attorneys, diplomats, business executives, government officials, and policy makers. She is frequently featured in law magazines such as Law360 ('Breaking IP Barriers With Arkansas Law Prof Uche Ofodile'). She has published extensively in the areas of her research expertise. She is the recipient of numerous awards including awards from the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs and the Albert Einstein Institution, the American Bar Association Section of International Law, and Women's Giving Circle.

In addition to her numerous law degrees, Professor Ofodile holds several certificates

from the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, including a certificate of training in 'Workshop for Mediators in Intellectual Property Disputes,' 'Advanced Workshop for Mediators in Intellectual Property Dispute,' 'Advanced Workshop on Domain Name Dispute Resolution,' and 'Intellectual Property Arbitration Workshop.'



LaShawnda Fields is a native of St. Louis, MO where she completed both her Ph.D. and MSW degreed at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. Her current research focuses on the culture and climate within social work education pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Before returning to school, LaShawnda worked at Washington University as the Diversity in Retention Coordinator. In this role, she primarily worked with and supported students who identified as first-generation and or low-income in their persistence to graduation. As a staff member, she volunteered across campus in many diversity-related capacities.

Dr. Fields has spent more than a decade immersed in the promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion, completing a wide array of training by some of the industry leaders, including the creators of the Social Justice Training Institute. Dr. Fields has had several opportunities to present at national conferences and several peer institutions of higher education. LaShawnda remains committed to diversifying higher education and the private sector by ensuring equitable experiences for all of these communities' members. This work is a journey with no finish line; instead, there are unlimited success markers along the way. Dr. Fields is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Titus Underwood is the Principal Oboist of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Gateways Music Festival, and co-principal of the Chineke! Orchestra. Underwood is also the Associate Professor of Oboe at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory



of Music. In addition, Underwood is a faculty artist at the Aspen Music Festival, and National Youth Orchestras at Carnegie Hall. A fierce advocate for amplifying voices of the historically underrepresented, he co-founded the Black Orchestral Network (BON) and Sphinx Orchestral Partners Auditions (SOPA). His personal endeavors in digital media have led to multiple releases, notably the short film *A Tale of Two Tails*. Underwood also holds the honors of a Sphinx Medal of Excellence award for his ongoing commitment to leadership and community, and an Emmy Award for his work executive producing “We Are Nashville” with the Nashville Symphony. Underwood is a graduate of The Juilliard School, The Colburn School, and the Cleveland Institute of Music. Visit www.titusunderwood.com to learn more.

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