



Dr. Lester Green joins the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra team to bring a welcome perspective to its artistic panel. For 10 years Green served the Music Ministry of the historic Metropolitan AME Church of Washington, DC. As Minister of Music of that organization he oversaw the production of many cultural musical staples which had become part of the fabric of the Capital City's annual holiday fare, such as the annual Metropolitan AME Church presentation of Handel's *Messiah* with orchestra, mass choir, and very talented soloists, including local professionals as well as talented youth performers from the capital area's most prestigious performing arts programs. During his tenure, Green also oversaw musical production of prestigious historical events such as the funeral service of Civil Rights icon Rosa Parks as well as two Inaugural Prayer Service events for former President Barack Obama and the first family. In February of 2014, his final year with

that ministry, Green co-produced a concert with the US Air Force Strings featuring works of black composers. Highlights of the concert included newly-commissioned orchestral arrangements of the *Three Dream Portraits*, art songs of African-American composer Margaret Bonds based on works of Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes. The concert also featured a newly-commissioned setting of *A City Called Heaven*, a spiritual for orchestra as well as works of Afro-British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.

After leaving Metropolitan AME Church in 2014, Green branched out to serve as artistic director for the Coalition of African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA), a non-profit 501-c3 organization, which seeks to recognize the achievements and contributions of persons of color to the field of classical music by "bringing color to the classics," through partnerships, performances, and educational initiatives which highlight diversity and inclusion. In 2018, Green joined the artistic team of the Children's Chorus of Washington to assist in delivering an unparalleled community-based choral music education to the children of the nation's capital.

Green has served at various times as artist faculty for various institutions including the Peabody Institute, Morgan State University, Howard University, and the Duke Ellington School for the Arts in Washington, D.C. Dr. Green joined the faculty of the UMCP School of Music's Division of Voice and Opera as Vocal Coach in January 2020 and maintains a voice studio at Morgan State University. As a performer, Green has contributed to a wide variety of genres through repertoire presentations in numerous solo piano, chamber, and vocal music recitals. He has conducted opera performances in Washington, DC and Baltimore and worked as a coach and assistant conductor with small and large opera companies and initiatives, nationally and internationally.

Green earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Collaborative Piano Performance from the University of Maryland College Park (2005), the Graduate Performance Diploma in Piano (1999) and Master's degree in Piano Performance from the Peabody Conservatory (1997) as well as an undergraduate degree in Piano Performance with a concentration in German Language Studies from the University of South Carolina (1995).