

# PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

## Castle of our Skins

Louise Toppin, *coloratura soprano*; Brian Dunbar, *flute*;  
Ashleigh Gordon, *viola*; Kyle P. Walker, *piano*

**Wednesday, May 17 – 7:30 PM**

*Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center*

**PREVIEW  
NOTES**

### PROGRAM

#### *Fanmi Imen*

**Valerie Coleman**

**Born:** 1970, Louisville, KY

**Composed:** 2018

**Duration:** 8 minutes

The title *Fanmi Imen* is Haitian Creole for Maya Angelou's famous work, *Human Family*. Both the musical and literary poems acknowledge differences within mankind, either due to ethnicity, background, or geography, but Angelou's refrain: "we are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike," reaffirms our humanity as a reminder of unity. Coleman's work draws inspiration from French flute music blending with an underlying pentatonicism found in Asian traditions, a caravan through Middle Eastern parts of the world merging with Flamenco, and an upbeat journey southward into Africa with the sounds of Kalimba (thumb piano).

#### *The Hidden Words of Baha'u'llah*

**Zenobia Powell Perry**

**Born:** October 3, 1908, Boley, OK

**Died:** January 17, 2004, Greene County, OH

**Composed:** 1977

**Duration:** 13 minutes

There are six songs in this cycle for soprano, flute, and piano: *O son of spirit*; *O children of men*; *O son of being*; *O friends abandon not the everlasting beauty*; *O companion of my throne*; and *O oppressors on earth withdraw*. The texts are taken from a book written in 1858 by the prophet and founder of the Baha'i faith. Perry, a composer, professor, and civil rights activist who taught at a number of historically black colleges and universities, makes inventive and graceful use of this instrumental combination.

#### *...all that is good...*

**Anthony R. Green**

**Born:** 1984, Arlington, VA

**Composed:** 2019

Castle of our Skins gave the world premiere of this work for soprano and piano by Anthony R. Green, a composer, performer, social justice advocate, and co-founder of Castle of our Skins. Green's creative output includes musical and visual creations, interpretations of original works or works in the repertoire, collaborations, educational outreach, and more. The current 10th season will be his final season with Castle of our Skins, after which he will transition to director emeritus, occasional consultant, and lifelong friend.

#### *Sanctum Rhapsody*

**Adolphus Hailstork**

**Born:** 1941, Rochester, NY

**Composed:** 2008

**Duration:** 13 minutes

In this work for viola and piano, Hailstork allows us to see his more introspective, abstract side. Evoking memories of Hailstork's time as a chorister at the Cathedral of All Saints in Albany, NY, the piece "reflects [upon] the contrast between the turbulence of the outside world and the search for serenity within the walls of the cathedral."

#### *Shine*

**Allison Loggins-Hull**

**Born:** 1982, Chicago, IL

**Composed:** 2022

Co-commissioned by PCMS, *Shine* is the latest work by "powerhouse" (*Washington Post*) flutist/composer Allison Loggins-Hull. It has its world premiere on tonight's program.