CELEBRATION OF BLACK VOICES
WEST SIDE Takes the Stage: Take 2
TALENT SHOW FOR ADULTS

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Gary Mitchell, Jr.

HOST
Alan H. Green

JUDGES
Brandon Mauer, Mia Shepherd, Ari Zorn

SPONSORED IN PART BY
Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
&Pittsfield Cultural Council

TARTELL FAMILY OUTDOOR STAGE
AUGUST 6, 2021
CELEBRATION OF BLACK VOICES STAFF

Producers .............................................................. Sharron Frazier-McClain & Melle Powers
Artist Coach ................................................................... Alan H. Green
Judges ............................................................................ Brandon Mauer, Mia Shepherd, Ari Zorn

CREATIVE TEAM

Musical Director .................................................................. Gary Mitchell, Jr.
Host ....................................................................................... Alan H. Green
Judges .................................................................................. Brandon Mauer, Mia Shepherd, Ari Zorn

SPECIAL THANKS

Berkshire Black Economic Council,
Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier,
Women of Color Giving Circle, Roz Lee,
Rites of Passage & Empowerment program

BSC’S BLACK VOICES MATTER

View past performances at
BarringtonStageCo.org/Black-Voices-Matter/BVM-Past-Goodwin

Learn more about Black Voices Matter at
BarringtonStageCo.org/BVM
PERFORMANCES

DJ Boy Blue — Rapper
“Watch Me Drown” ORIGINAL PIECE

Anita Anderson — Singer/Piano
“Spirit” ORIGINAL SONG & “My Song” by H.E.R.

Chelle A. — Singer
“Stand Up” by CYNTHIA ERIVO

BJ Lawton — Rapper
“Do You Understand” by OTB HUNDUN

Jermaine Hill — Singer
“Only Believe” & “I Believe” by JAMES FORTUNE & FIYA

Kaz Smith — Piano
“Moonlight Sonata” BEETHOVEN
& “Love Me” by YIRUMA

Rafioso — Singer
“Lay Me Down” by SAM SMITH

Kendrah Bellevue — Singer
“If I Ain’t Got You” by ALICIA KEYS
& “Love On the Brain” by RIHANNA

Christopher “Big Boy King” Barton — Rapper
“My Story” & “In Your City” ORIGINAL PIECES
CREATIVE TEAM

GARY MITCHELL, JR. (Musical Director) Pianist Gary Mitchell, Jr. regularly collaborates with renowned singers, instrumentalists, artists and ensembles, ranging from opera to musical theatre, classical, sacred, jazz and gospel. A concert and recording artist, Gary has performed throughout the world.

An Arkansas Native, he began to study piano while in third grade. He matriculated at Jackson State University and the University of Houston Moores School of Music. He is a concert maestro, composer, conductor, vocalist and an actor. Gary debuted as Noah “Horse” T. Simmons in The Full Monty at The Clink Theatre, Port Douglas, Queensland, Australia. He has also portrayed Jimmy Powers (music director and pianist) in Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill, at Portland Stage Theatre, as well as at The Cape Playhouse.

He has collaborated and performed with MTV, Steinway International, PBS, and he is Music Director and Pianist with Phillip Boykin’s New York Gospel Brothers. Mitchell also portrayed Jasbo Brown in Porgy and Bess at The Royal Danish Opera House in Copenhagen. He has performed at Mississippi Opera, Grand Central Station, Library of Congress, Dance Theatre of Harlem, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Harlem Opera Theatre, Lincoln Center, Convent Avenue, Harlem Stage Theatre (Antigone in Ferguson), Columbia University (guest lecturer), Abyssinian Baptist Church, NAACP ACT-SO, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority with select appearances in Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, England, Japan, France and Colombia.

Previously, Gary was a bass vocalist at Houston Grand Opera and Artist-in-Residence at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Houston, and now serves as Director of Music and Arts Administration at First AME Church: Bethel-Harlem. He is also Artist-in-Residence at Mother Zion AME Zion Church, Artist-in-Residence at Union Theological Seminary, and he is Director of the Gospel Choir at The Interchurch Center, while previously serving in the professoriates of Tougaloo College, Texas Southern University and Houston’s High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

Gary is a composing member of ASCAP, and member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, Inc., PHA Aurora Lodge, The National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM), The American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) and Actor’s Equity Association (AEA).
ALAN H. GREEN (Host) BSC Associate Artist. BSC: *Who Could Ask for Anything More? The Songs of George Gershwin, BSC’s Holiday Getaway, The Hills Are Alive with Rodgers & Hammerstein, American Underground, The Royal Family of Broadway, Broadway Bounty Hunter, Romance in Hard Times*. Alan has been on Broadway in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, School of Rock, Sister Act* and *Play On!* He’s been in multiple First National Tours and is heard on several cast albums — most recently *Broadway Bounty Hunter* by fellow BSC Associate Artist Joe Iconis. He’s been a featured soloist all over the world including Radio City Music Hall, The White House and the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. His TV work includes *Almost Family, Murphy Brown, Unforgettable, Peter Pan Live!, 30 Rock, Law & Order: SVU* and many national commercials. Alan has a degree in Vocal Performance from Rice University, is a Deacon at Metro Baptist Church and a board member here at Barrington Stage. IG: @alanhgreen ALANHGREEN.com

SHARRON FRAZIER-MCCLAIN (Co-Producer) currently works as the Community Engagement/EDI Coordinator for Barrington Stage Company. Under the title, she wears many hats. She serves as a Co-Artistic Mentor for the Playwright Mentoring Project, and a founding member of J.E.D.I. (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion), which is a “working” Equity group within BSC that focuses on Cultural Competency training and EDI training for staff.

Sharron created *Black Voices Matter*, which is a 12-month umbrella initiative that creates a platform for BIPOC artists in Berkshire County where they can highlight their work for networking purposes, and create a pipeline for BIPOC artists to allow multiple entry points into the Arts and Culture Industry. This initiative also serves as a great educational tool regarding race relations and social justice issues the Black community faces.

Sharron is a Co-Champion of the Blackshires, which is a community empowerment platform for the Black community in Berkshire County, addressing and serving the needs of Black community members around arts, education, small business ownership, housing, etc. Sharron is an active member of BSC’s Community Advisory Board and Berkshire Underground Board. She is also an Evangelist for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Boston District, and Executive Board Member for The Christian Center in Pittsfield. She also lends her gifts and talents in consultation.
with The Black Economic Council, Northern Berkshire Youth Community Coalition, Berkshire Cultural Assets Network and a host of other local organizations. In 2020, Sharron won a Rising Star Award for her Community Engagement efforts from the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires. Her love for the community she serves and the youth in the community has fueled her efforts to innovate ways to better serve and collaborate with the community she calls home.

MELLE POWERS (Co-Producer) feels so fortunate to have been called to work on this amazing project with this talented team. For Barrington Stage, she recently directed a digital series of Idris Goodwin plays for their Black Voices Matter campaign. Melle has been a professional artist and storyteller for the past 20 years, appearing on television (Chappelle's Show and others), on stage (originating roles in plays by Lynn Nottage and Sarah Ruhl, among others) and in film. She has also written, produced and performed original theatrical pieces, and served as Co-Founder and Managing Producer of “The Mudbone Collective”, a New York City-based theatre company led by MFA actors of color. Most recently, she recorded multiple roles in the upcoming scripted comedy podcast, The Rubber Room, starring David Cross, Tony Hale and Allison Pill.

In her personal artistic pursuits, Melle is interested in mining the stories that aren’t told at the forefront of our nation’s folklore. She recorded a first-person account of her experience traveling solo to a Louisiana plantation in 2018 for the Family Ghosts podcast. She is also very proud to have taken part in a workshop of Say Her Name: The Lives That Should Have Been — a play written by Kimberlé Crenshaw, Executive Director of the African American Policy Forum (and the woman who coined the term intersectionality). She currently has her ear tuned towards excavating the rich stories of Black History and culture in the Berkshires region.

Melle is the founder of “Powerful Communications”, a consultancy rooted in the belief that every individual possesses the gifts to help build more engaged communities through the stories we hold as truths. Melle holds an MFA from NYU and is a Certified Diversity Professional.
CELEBRATION OF BLACK VOICES

AUG 4  6PM  KICKOFF: BROWNSKIN BAND
AUG 5  11AM  INTERACTIVE SUPADUPA STORYTELLING POWER HOUR WITH TY ALLAN JACKSON
6PM  POETRY SLAM
AUG 6  6PM  WEST SIDE TAKES THE STAGE: TAKE 2
local Talent Show for Adults
AUG 7  6PM  WEST SIDE TAKES THE STAGE: TAKE 2
local Talent Show for Students ages 14–21
AUG 8  1PM  JOYFUL NOISE GOSPEL CONCERT
6PM  AIN’T I A WOMAN

FOR FREE TICKETS TO ANY OF THESE EVENTS
BARRINGTONSTAGECO.ORG
BOX OFFICE 413.236.8888

AUGUST 4 – 8  FREE!