

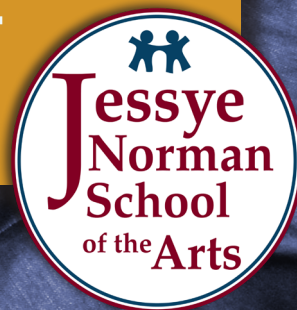
An Evening with

WYCLIFFE GORDON

A CONCERT BENEFITTING THE STUDENTS OF
THE JESSYE NORMAN SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Sunday, October 10, 4pm

STREAMING LIVE FROM
THE MAXWELL PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE
JESSYENORMANSCHOOL.ORG/BENEFIT



ADVANCING THE ARTS.
ENRICHING LIVES.





A Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

This is a letter of appreciation to our community.

Throughout the the last 18 months, the Covid-19 pandemic has afforded us the opportunity to look at ourselves and our relationships with new eyes. We've witnessed immense suffering and we've lost many people dear to us. In spite of the hardship, the people of our city have picked themselves up, dusted themselves off, helped their neighbors, and found reasons to celebrate and share their joy. They've done this through acts of support and kindness, through forgiveness, through music, art, plays, festivals, and simply by being present for each other.

You are appreciated Augusta. You have supported our school, our programs, and our students in one fashion or another since it was conceived by our founding board 20 years ago. In the first part of those 20 years, you supported us as we shared our doubts, concerns, austerity, and challenges. In those middle years, you supported us as we shared our hopes, dreams, and determination. And in our most recent years, you've supported us as we shared our pride, our accomplishments, and our sense of community.

Like the children and families that we serve, our school and the people who support it have grown. We've grown from shaky legged little ones at our inception, to energetic and exuberant elementary students, to moody middle schoolers, to bright high-schoolers with the whole world ahead of us. And maybe now, we're growing into young promising adults coming into ourselves, our work, and our values.

It's my hope that as we move forward, our city, our school and our extended family of students, parents, and supporters will all continue to persevere in the face of our challenges. That we'll grow and develop, that we'll share our insecurities, our victories, and that we'll support each other through all of it.

This concert is in honor of two of our greatest supporters, Ann and Ellis Johnson. Both were such bright lights in an often dark world, and they gave so much to the communities they were a part of. I don't think it goes too far to suggest that without them, the Jessye Norman School of the Arts would not exist.

Best wishes,

Gary Dennis, Executive Director



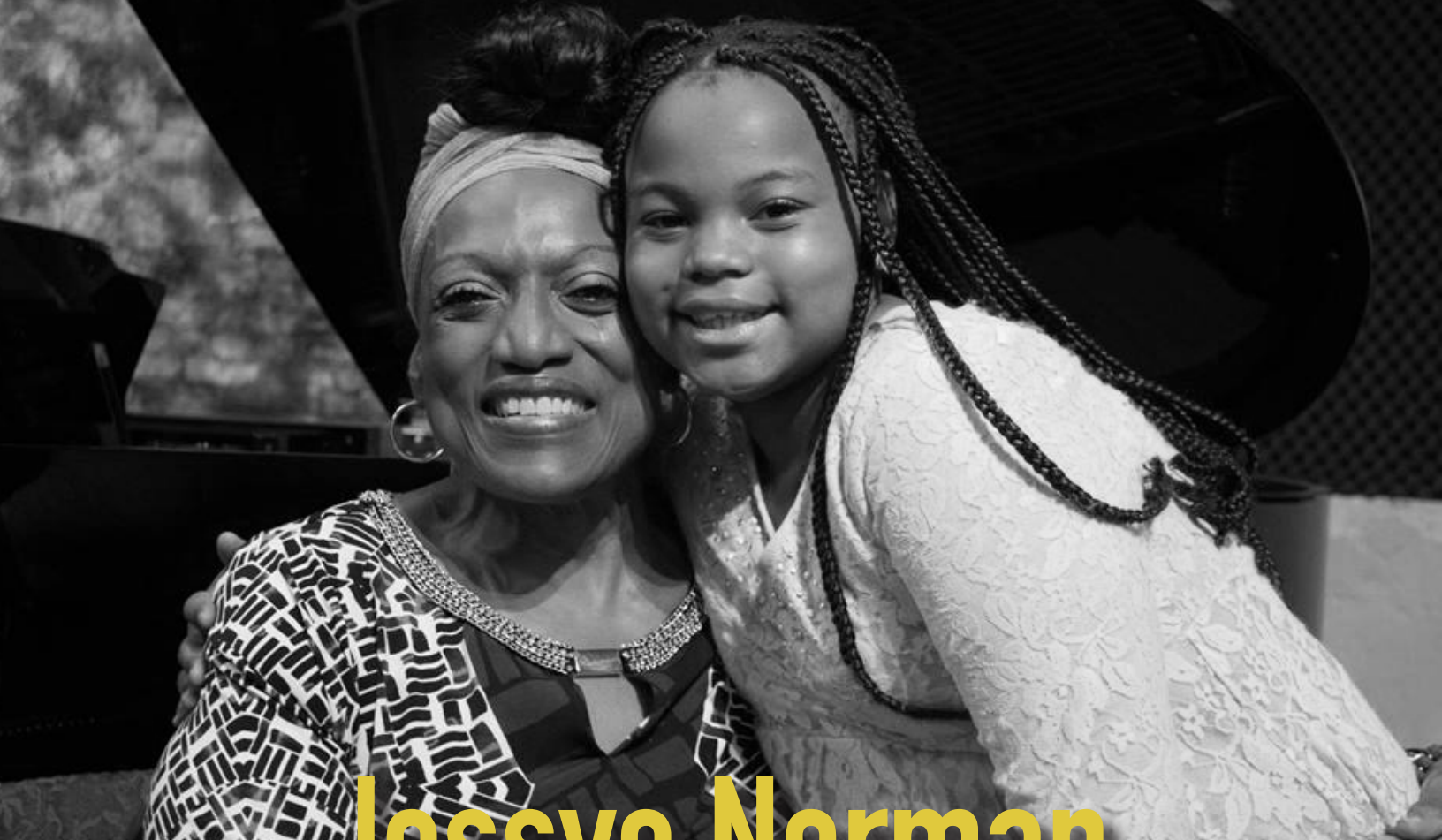
ANN & ELLIS JOHNSON

One of Augusta's most influential citizens, Ellis Johnson left this world in January of 2020; only 18 months after the loss of his beloved wife Anne in January of 2018. Few people have had more impact on our community than Ann and Ellis Johnson.

Married for Almost 50 years, Ann and Ellis have selflessly contributed to and served the Augusta arts community with generosity, kindness, and grace. Their love for the arts and their city was an inspiration to all who knew them. As a founding board member of the Jessye Norman School of the Arts, Ellis helped to elevate the school from humble beginnings to an organization that now serves hundreds of students throughout the year, exposing them to the transformative power of the arts and continuing the legacy of caring creativity and true citizenship.

Ann, a longtime member of the Friends of the Jessye Norman School of the Arts, (FJNSA), initiated fundraising efforts for the school and inspired the community as an avid supporter of various organizations, including the Morris Museum of Southern Art, The Lucy Craft Laney Museum, Paine college, and many more.

This visionary couple were catalysts of change in the Augusta Arts community and will be missed and remembered for years to come; without their hard work, the Jessye Norman School of the Arts would not exist. With gratitude, we dedicate this concert to their memory.



Jessye Norman

(September 15, 1945 – September 30, 2019)

Jessye Norman, one of the world's most celebrated performing artists, was acclaimed for her performances in wide range of leading roles with the world's premier opera companies, in solo recitals and in concerts of her cherished classical repertoire with preeminent orchestras all over the globe, as well as her latest artistic expansion with her jazz ensemble and the extensive programming of music from the American musical theater, which she entitled: AMERICAN MASTERS. She was the recipient of many awards and accolades, including forty honorary doctorate degrees from colleges, universities, and conservatories around the world, five Grammy awards including the 'Lifetime Achievement Award', the National Medal of the Arts received at the White House from President Obama in 2010, and was a Kennedy Center Honors recipient. In France, an orchid was named for her by the National Museum of Natural History. She was a Commandeur de L'Orde des Arts et des Lettres and was an Officier of the Legion Francaise. Her community service included trustee board memberships at The New York Public Library, Carnegie Hall, The Dance Theatre of Harlem, the Lupus Foundation, Paine College, and the New York Botanical Garden. She was called upon often to speak to her passionate involvement and advocacy of arts education. The school for the arts in her hometown of Augusta, Georgia which bears her name, enabled her to support and see first-hand the extraordinary work of an equally dedicated staff of teachers and auxiliary personnel. Students who would otherwise not be able to avail themselves of private tutelage in the arts grew into the fullness of their talents and gifts as they developed their own sense of community and citizenship. She absolutely glowed at any mention of The Jessye Norman School for the Arts and was grateful indeed for this tangible, living opportunity to address the need for education in the arts in the town where her own studies and training began. Her memoir, STAND UP STRAIGHT AND SING!, released in May of 2014 and in France in the summer of 2015, chronicles her childhood in Augusta, Georgia and many experiences of her professional life as it unfolded all over the world over a period of four decades!

“WHY BE MIEDIOCRE? EXCELLENCE HAS TO ALWAYS BE THE GOAL. THERE'S NO POINT IN BOTHERING IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE IT YOUR ALL.”

- JESSYE NORMAN 2014, (INTERVIEW FOR THE AFUWI BOB MARLEY AWARD)



WYCLIFFE GORDON

Wycliffe Gordon experiences an impressive career touring the world performing to great acclaim from audiences and critics alike.

Jazz Journalists Association named him 2020 "Trombonist of the Year" for the record breaking 13th time, and he's topped Downbeat Critics Poll for "Best Trombone" again for an unprecedented six times (2020, 2018, 2016, 2014, 2013 & 2012).

Last year he was the recipient of the "Louie Award", the International Trombone Award and the Satchmo Award, among others. Wycliffe is a prolific recording artist and is extremely popular for his unmatched signature sound, plunger technique and unique vocals. He can be heard on hundreds of recordings, soundtracks, live DVD's and documentaries.

In addition to an exceptionally successful solo career, Gordon tours regularly leading his quintet, headlining at legendary jazz venues and performing arts centers throughout the world.

He is commissioned frequently, and has an extensive catalog of original compositions that span the various timbres of jazz and chamber music. Musicians and ensembles of every caliber perform his music throughout the world and his arrangement of the theme song to NPR's "All Things Considered" is heard daily across the globe.

Gordon is a former veteran member of the Wynton Marsalis Septet, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and has been a featured guest artist on Billy Taylor's "Jazz at the Kennedy Center" Series. Gordon is also one of America's most persuasive and committed music educators, and serves as Director of Jazz Studies at Augusta University in Augusta, GA. Wycliffe Gordon is a Yamaha Performing Artist and has his own line of Wycliffe Gordon Pro Signature Mouthpieces by Pickett Brass.

Visit www.wycliffegordon.com.

JNSA

Faculty and Staff

Gary Dennis.....Executive Director
 Vivian Clanton.....Assistant Director, After School Program
 Carmen Moses.....Peforming Arts Director
 Stephanie Willingham.....Visual Arts Director
 Tony Hambrick.....Choral Director, Afterschool Program
 Bennett Wright.....Accompanist, Afterschool Program
 Latrina Brown.....Dance Teacher, Walton Oaks
 Sol Tucker.....Dance Teacher, Afterschool Program
 Art Abdon.....Art Instructor, Savannah River Academy
 Delia Collins.....Homeschool Coordinator
 Florence Hechtel.....Voice and Piano Teacher
 Collin Segura.....Donor Coordinator, Grants
 Jay Jacobs.....Art Instructor, Savannah River Academy
 Roger Evans.....Art Instructor, Walton Oaks
 Khalia Crawford.....Administrator, After School Program
 Jacob Boland.....Photography Instructor, After School Program
 Ernest Jones.....Bus Driver
 Rudolph Brown.....Lead Bus Driver
 Ashton Pawl.....Intern, Afterschool Program
 Graham Gooden.....Intern, Afterschool Program
 Sophia Byne.....Intern, Afterschool Program

JNSA Board of Directors

President.....William Mills
 Vice President.....Shawna Lloyd
 Vice President-Operations....Erik Engle
 Treasurer.....Bowe Strickland
 Secretary.....Dennis Sodomka
 Governance Chair.....Dr. Mark Barron
 Member at Large.....Dr. Ashley Gess
 Member at Large.....Michell Davis
 Member At Large.....Kathleen Scott
 Member at Large.....Sophia Tian
 Member at Large.....Monique Williams

Member at Large...Dr. Ashley Strong-Green
 Member at Large.....Michael Albright
 Emeritus.....Pat Knox Hudson
 Emeritus.....Dr. Linda M. Scales
 Member at Large.....Lou Scales
 Member at Large.....Melanie Wade-Larsen
 Member at Large.....Robin Turman
 Member at Large.....Tonya Currier
 Chancellor.....Ed Enoch
 Executive Director.....Gary M. Dennis

Wycliffe Gordon and Friends

A benefit concert for the Jessye Norman School of the Arts

Emcee: Monique Williams

The 2020 Blues.....W. Gordon

Suite for Charles Henry Douglas.....W. Gordon

- The Welcome Song
- Classical Interlude
- Suite for Charles Henry

Ow.....John Birks Gillespie

Con Alma.....John Birks Gillespie

This is for Albert

Savannah Song.....W. Gordon

Black and Blue.....Thomas “Fats” Waller

C Jam Blues.....Edward K. Ellington

Intermission

Mercy, Mercy, Mercy.....Joe Sawinul

The Lords Prayer F.....Albert H. Malotte

Just a Closer Walk.....Traditional

When the Saints.....Traditional

Down by the Riverside.....Traditional

The Jessye Norman School of the Arts Creed Song

Performed by the JNSA School Choir

Band:

Wycliffe Gordon, trombone, vocals • Melvin Jones, trumpet

Michael Burton, saxophone • Tyrone Jackson, piano

Kevin Smith, bass • Robert Boone, drums

Thank you to all of our sponsors!

Connoisseur

Chestnut Family Foundation • Julia R. Knox • Peter S. Knox IV • Women in Philanthropy • Georgia Rehabilitation Institute • South Arts, Inc • The Community Foundation of CSRA • George L. Shields Foundation • Helen McConnell • Creel-Harrison Foundation • Lou & Linda Scales • Ann Anderson & Sara Davenport • General Perry and Mrs. Connor Smith • Margaret Brubaker • Gil Shiva • Greater Augusta Arts Council • Georgia Power • Mount Calvary Baptist Church • Savannah River Academy

Visionary

Jessye Norman Estate • Marks Family Foundation • Dennis and Teri Sodomka • Augusta Exchange Club Charity Fund Inc • Frances Force • Marsha & Michael Shlaer • Karen Makino

Catalyst

Mark R. Barron • Bowe Strickland • Kimberly Clark, Your Cause, LLC • Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
The Dot and Lam Hardman Family Foundation • Nelson Danish • Barbara Gordon and Metro Courier • Karen Gordon and Urban Pro Weekly • William Mills • Bruce Chizen • Mary Schorsch • Lavarne Burton • Richard K. DeScherer • AARP Georgia • Turner's Keyboards

Partner

Miriam Atkins • Patricia S. Hall • Augusta Players Inc. • Beatrix K. Knox • Creighton Laircey Co., Inc • Damon J. Butler • Elizabeth A. Johnson • Kendall O. Fields • Sanctuary of Augusta • V. Elaine N. Sturkey • Impact Media Group • Vivian Sylvester • Roberta Stevens • CSM William A. Mitchell • The Segura Family • Butch and Tracie Gallup • Patricia Rolle • Jennifer & Pastor Don Crampton • Kay Webster • Tom and Melanie Larsen • Andy Reese • Gordon and LizAnne Johnson • Matt and Page Sharpe • Lindsey Teague • Shawna Lloyd • Security Federal Bank • Tonya Jeffords • Tonya Currier

Special Thanks

Special thanks to the following organizations for supporting arts and culture in the CSRA!



To all who have donated at any level, volunteered their time, or have contributed to the growth of our school; It is because of you that we are able to serve our community through the transformative power of the arts. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

How can You Help?

Find out how at Jessyenormanschool.org!

- **Donate materials, instruments, or supplies**
 - Donate a vehicle
 - Become a sponsor
- **Make direct monetary donations**
 - Volunteer your time
 - Attend Events
- **Mail a check to 739 Greene Street, Augusta Ga, 30901- Payable to JNSA**
 - Say something nice about us on social media:

IG: @thejnsa

FB: @jessyenormanschool



The JNSA Creed

I Represent
Something larger than myself
In everything I do
And In everything I say
I represent myself,
my family, my school,
and the Jessye Norman School of the
Arts

I will strive to bring honor to all that I
represent
By doing only my best,
Saying only my best,
and being only my best.

I am a student of the Jessye Norman
School of the Arts!

www.jessyenormanschool.org