

The City College of New York presents

The 44th Annual
**LANGSTON
HUGHES
FESTIVAL**





Table of Contents

Schedule 1-2
 Lynn Nottage Award Winner 3-4

Symposium 5-8
 Jodi-Ann Francis
 Laurie Woodard
 Kaitlyn Greenidge
 Quiara Alegría Hudes

Ceremony 9-12
 President Vincent Boudreau
 Provost Tony M Liss
 Interim Dean Renata K. Miller
 Yahdon Israel
 Salamishah Tillet

Musical Guests: Members of The Harlem Chamber Players 13-18
Musicians: Melissa Westgate, Tia Allen, Belinda Whitney and Nicole Wright
Composers: Jessie Montgomery and Nkeiru Okoye

History of the Langston Hughes Festival 19-20
 About
 Mission
 Medal
 Acknowledgments

Advisory Committee 21





Schedule of Events

Welcome to Aaron Davis Hall



The Symposium

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

Jodi-Ann Francis, Moderator

*Laurie Woodard, Kaitlyn Greenidge, and
Quiara Alegría Hudes in conversation*

Q&A

The Ceremony

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Yahdon Israel, Master of Ceremonies

*Pres. Vincent Boudreau, Provost Tony Liss, Dean
Renata K. Miller offer welcome remarks*

*Harlem Chamber Players perform "Strum" by
Jessie Montgomery*

A Reading by Lynn Nottage

*A Conversation between Lynn Nottage
and Salamishah Tillet*

*Harlem Chamber Players perform "Free Movements
for String Quarter" by Nkeiru Okoye*

Our Medal Presentation

Remarks by Lynn Nottage



LYNN NOTTAGE

2023 Medal Winner

Lynn Nottage is a playwright and a screenwriter, and the first woman in history to win two Pulitzer Prizes for Drama. Her plays have been produced widely in the United States and throughout the world.

Most recently, Nottage premiered *MJ the Musical*, directed by Christopher Wheeldon and featuring the music of Michael Jackson, at the Neil Simon Theater on Broadway, *Clyde's* directed by Kate Whoriskey at Second Stage Theater on Broadway and an opera adaptation of her play *Intimate Apparel* composed by Ricky Ian Gordon and directed by Bart Sher, commissioned by The Met/ Lincoln Center Theater.

Her other work includes, *Floyd's* (retitled- *Clyde's*) (Guthrie Theater), the musical adaptation of Sue Monk Kidd's novel *The Secret Life of Bees*, with music by Duncan Sheik and lyrics by Susan Birkenhead (The Atlantic Theater), *Mlima's Tale* (Public Theater), *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark* (Lilly Award, Drama Desk Nomination- Second Stage/Signature Theater), *Ruined* (Pulitzer Prize, OBIE, Lucille Lortel, New York Drama Critics' Circle, Audelco, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Award- MTC/Goodman Theater); *Intimate Apparel* (American Theatre Critics and New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards for Best Play Center Stage/SCR/ Roundabout Theater); *Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine* (OBIE Award - Playwrights Horizons/Signature Theater); *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*; *Las Meninas*; *Mud, River, Stone*; *Por'knockers*; and *POOF!*

Her play *Sweat* (Pulitzer Prize, Evening Standard Award, Obie Award, Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, Tony Nomination, Drama Desk Nomination) moved to Broadway after a sold-out run at The Public Theater. It premiered and was commissioned by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival American Revolutions History Cycle/Arena Stage. Inspired by her research on *Sweat*, Nottage developed *This is Reading*, a performance installation based on two years of interviews, at the Franklin Street, Reading Railroad Station in Reading, PA in July 2017.

She is the co-founder of the production company, Market Road Films, whose most recent projects include the award-winning documentary

Takeover (NY times, Op-doc) by Emma Francis Francis-Snyder, the Peabody nominated podcast *Unfinished: Deep South* (Stitcher) by Taylor Hom and Neil Shea, *The Notorious Mr. Bout* directed by Tony Gerber and Maxim Pozdorovkin (Premiere/ Sundance 2014), *First to Fall* directed by Rachel Beth Anderson (Premiere/ IDFA, 2013) and *Remote Control* (Premiere/Busan 2013- New Currents Award). Market Road Films currently has a first look deal with *SISTER*. Over the years, she has developed original projects for Amazon, HBO, Sidney Kimmel Entertainment, Showtime, *This is That* and *Harpo*. She was a writer and producer on the Netflix series *She's Gotta Have It*, directed by Spike Lee and a consulting producer on the third season of *Dickinson* (Apple +).

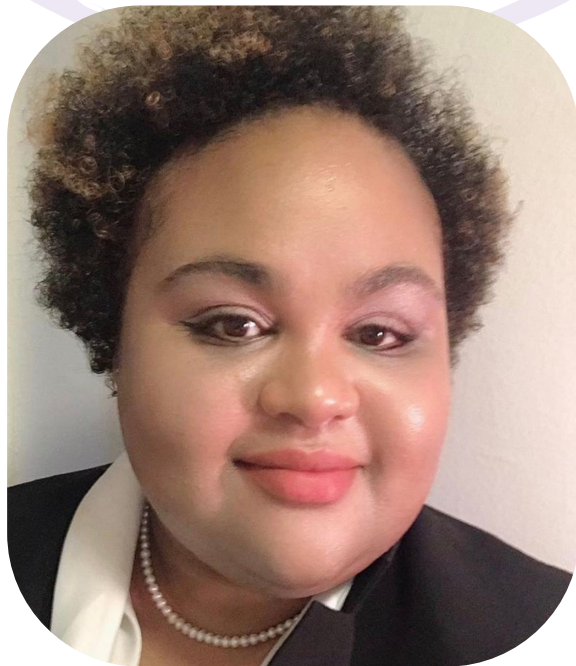
Nottage is the recipient of a MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship, Steinberg "Mimi" Distinguished Playwright Award, PEN/Laura Pels Master Playwright Award, William Inge Festival Distinguished Playwright, TIME 100 (2019), Signature One Playwright, Merit and Literature Award from The Academy of Arts and Letters, Columbia University Provost Grant, Doris Duke Artist Award, The Joyce Foundation Commission Project & Grant, Madge Evans-Sidney Kingsley Award, Nelson A. Rockefeller Award for Creativity, The Dramatists Guild Hull-Warriner Award, the inaugural Horton Foote Prize, Helen Hayes Award, the Lee Reynolds Award, and the Jewish World Watch iWitness Award. Her other honors include the National Black Theatre Fest's August Wilson Playwriting Award, a Guggenheim Grant, Lucille Lortel Fellowship and Visiting Research Fellowship at Princeton University. She is a graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama. She is also an Associate Professor in the Theatre Department at Columbia School of the Arts.

Nottage is a board member for BRIC Arts Media Bklyn, Donor Direct Action, Dramatist Play Service, Second Stage and the Dramatists Guild. She recently completed a three-year term as an Artist Trustee on the Board of the Sundance Institute. She is member of the The Dramatists Guild, WGAE, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is currently an artist-in-residence at the Park Avenue Armory.

Meet the Panelists:

THE SYMPOSIUM

Jodi-Ann Francis | Moderator



As Associate Director of the Black Studies Program at City College, Jodi-Ann Francis has curated readings with prominent African and African diasporic figures in the literary world like Pushcart prize winning poet Kwame Dawes, former South African President Kgalema Petrus Motlanthe and the family of author Chinua Achebe.

She was a fellow with both the Harvard Future of Work Cross-Study (a collaboration between Harvard Business School and Harvard Division of Social Science) and the Harvard Sustainability Council at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Both organizations explore the intersection between education, technology, diversity and labor trends using case studies in public universities and community colleges.

Ms. Francis is also a writer, blogger and artist who has collaborated with BRIC Arts Media, the Apollo Theater, Bronx Council on the

Arts, the Harlem Arts Council and Caribbean Media-The Blog.

She is a proud CCNY alum and serves on the advisory committee of the Langston Hughes Festival and UMANN-CUNY Black Male Initiative Program at the City College of New York.

Laurie A. Woodard | Panelist

An Assistant Professor of African American History and Black Studies, Laurie A. Woodard began her professional life as a dancer with the Dance Theater of Harlem. She completed her BA in History at Columbia University and her PhD in History and African American Studies at Yale University. Her research focuses upon the intersection between the cultural and sociopolitical realms and employs interdisciplinary methodologies, drawing from cultural and political history, biography, critical race theory, performance studies, and women and gender studies.



Her work, which has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Mellon Foundation, and PSC-CUNY, has appeared in *The Journal of African American History*, *The New York Times*, and *American Quarterly*.

Her study of the life and work of performing artist and civil and human rights activist Fredi Washington, *A Real Negro Girl: Fredi Washington and the New Negro Renaissance*, will be released by Oxford University Press in 2023. Dr. Woodard served as a consultant for the "Taking the Stage" exhibit at the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the Smithsonian. She is also a member of Governor Kathy Hochul's 400 Years of African American History in New York State Commission.

Meet the Panelists:

THE SYMPOSIUM

Kaitlyn Greenridge | Panelist



Kaitlyn Greenridge's debut novel is *We Love You, Charlie Freeman* (Algonquin Books), one of the New York Times Critics' Top 10 Books of 2016. Her writing has appeared in *Vogue*, *Glamour*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Elle*, *Buzzfeed*, *Transition Magazine*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The Believer*, *American Short Fiction* and other places. She is the recipient of fellowships from the Whiting Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University and the Guggenheim Foundation. She is currently Features Director at *Harper's Bazaar* as well as a contributing writer for *The New York Times*. Her second novel, *Libertie*, is published by Algonquin Books and out now.

Quiara Alegría Hudes | Panelist

Quiara Alegría Hudes is a West-Philly-born-and-bred language grrrl. Her critically-acclaimed memoir *My Broken Language* was recently the Free Library's One Book One Philadelphia citywide read. Her Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Water by the Spoonful*, and Pulitzer finalist play *Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue* explore the diasporican community in Philly and beyond. For the screen, Hudes adapted her Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *In the Heights* into a major motion picture and wrote *Vivo*, an animated feature, both with collaborator/composer Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Her essays have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *The Nation*, and most notably *American Theater Magazine*, where *High Tide of Heartbreak* was read widely throughout the theater industry. With her cousin, Hudes founded and runs a prison writing project, *Emancipated Stories*.

Originally trained as a composer, Hudes has often written at the intersection of music and drama. She has collaborated with kick-ass musicians including Nelson Gonzalez, Michel Camilo, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Erin McKeown, Alex Lacamoire, and The Cleveland Orchestra.



Meet the Panelists & Guests:

THE CEREMONY

President Vincent Boudreau | Opening Remarks



Vincent Boudreau was appointed president of The City College of New York by the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York on December 4, 2017. For three years previous to that, he served as the founding dean of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at CCNY. From 2002 through 2013, he directed the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at CCNY, and is a professor of political science at City College and a member of the City University of New York graduate faculty.

A specialist in the politics of social movements, particularly in Southeast Asia, his latest book is *Resisting Dictatorship: Repression and Protest in Southeast Asia* (Cambridge University Press) He has also conducted research about government transitions to democracy, collective violence, and the relationship between civil society, social movements, and democratization processes in Indonesia and the Philippines. He is the academic adviser to the International Development Program at the City University of Hong Kong.

At City College, Dr. Boudreau has served as the director of the M.A. Program in International Relations, the chair of the Department of Political Science, the director of the International Studies Program, and the deputy dean of the Division of Social Science. In addition to his academic work, he has undertaken projects with ActionAid Asia, Jubilee South Asia, and The Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, and has consulted for Oxfam Asia, Action of Economic Reform (Philippines), and Freedom House.

Dr. Boudreau received his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1991.

Provost Tony Liss | Opening Remarks

Tony M. Liss, an internationally known physicist with research experience at the world's highest energy accelerators, is The City College of New York's provost. He had served as interim provost and senior vice president for academic affairs since March 2018. Provost Liss continues to help lead the 173-year-old CCNY that is now classified in the "Doctoral Universities: High Research" category by The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education*.



Dr. Liss joined CCNY in fall 2013 as the first Martin and Michele Cohen Dean of Science. During his tenure as dean, he reinforced the Division of Science's five departments with dynamic research-active faculty; oversaw the opening of a new complex of science buildings on CCNY's South Campus, and tirelessly championed faculty, student and staff success. Before coming to CCNY, Dr. Liss was a professor of physics at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, whose faculty he joined in 1988.

Globally, Dr. Liss is renowned for his research in high-energy physics at the world's highest energy accelerators, including the Large Hadron Collider at CERN and the Collider Detector at Fermilab (CDF). He led groundbreaking research that resulted in the discovery of a new fundamental particle, the top quark, and he is a member of the ATLAS Collaboration that co-discovered the Higgs Boson in 2012. A fellow of the American Physical Society, Provost Liss earned his PhD in physics from the University of California – Berkeley in 1984 and holds a BA in physics from The Johns Hopkins University. He is a member of the New York Academy of Sciences and serves on the boards of the New York Structural Biology Center and Science and Arts Engagement New York.

Meet the Panelists & Guests:

THE CEREMONY

Interim Dean Renata K. Miller
Opening Remarks



Renata K. Miller (remiller@ccny.cuny.edu) is interim dean of the Division of Humanities and the Arts at the City College of New York. As deputy dean and interim dean she has supported the development of new curricular and pedagogical models that incorporate primary research and internships at community partner institutions, as well as Digital Humanities and data science. This work has been supported with three major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities in the last three years. She previously served as chair of the English Department and also has extensive experience in faculty governance. A professor of English, she teaches and researches Victorian literature and culture, as well as the rise of disciplines in the nineteenth century. She is the author of *The Victorian Actress in the Novel and on the Stage* (2019) and of a book on reinterpretations of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (2005).

Yahdon Israel
Master of Ceremonies

Yahdon Israel is a Senior editor at Simon Schuster and founder of Literaryswag, a cultural movement that intersects literature and fashion to make books accessible. He has written for *The New Inquiry*, *LitHub*, *Poets and Writers*, *Vanity Fair*, and *The Atlantic*. He teaches Creative Writing in the MFA Program at City College, previously served on the Board of the National Book Critics Circle, and founded the Literaryswag Book Club, a Brooklyn-based subscription service and book club that meets every last Wednesday of the month.



Salamishah Tillet
Interlocutor for Conversation with Honoree



Salamishah Tillet is a curator, activist, and the 2022 recipient of the Pulitzer prize in criticism. She is the Henry Rutgers Professor of Africana Studies and Creative Writing at Rutgers University–Newark and a contributing critic-at-large for the New York Times. Her books are *Sites of Slavery: Sites of Slavery: Citizenship and Racial Democracy in the Post-Civil Rights Imagination* (2012) and *In Search of The Color Purple: The Story of an American Masterpiece* (2021). Tillet is the executive director of Express Newark, a center for socially engaged art and design at Rutgers, and also the cofounder, along with her sister Scheherazade Tillet, of A Long Walk Home, a nonprofit that empowers young people to use art to end violence against all girls and women. In 2021, she co-hosted the Webby award-winning podcast, “Because of Anita,” a thirty-year retrospective of the impact of Anita Hill’s testimony. Tillet is currently co-curating “Pulling Together,” the first public art exhibit on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., and completing a book on the civil rights musician Nina Simone.

Meet the Musical Guests:

MEMBERS OF THE HARLEM CHAMBER PLAYERS

About The Harlem Chamber Players

The Harlem Chamber Players is an ethnically diverse collective of professional musicians dedicated to bringing high caliber, affordable, accessible live music to people in the Harlem community and beyond. Founded in 2008, The Harlem Chamber Players annually presents a rich season of formal live concerts, indoors, outdoors, and online. They also promote arts inclusion and equal access to the arts, bringing live music to underserved communities and promoting shared community arts and cultural engagement. The group was first inspired by the late Janet Wolfe, a long-time patron of minority musicians and founder of the NYC Housing Authority Symphony Orchestra. The Harlem Chamber Players have presented culturally relevant programs at numerous venues throughout the city and collaborated with many other arts organizations. The Harlem Chamber Players are also Artists-in-residence at the Harlem School of the Arts.

They have been featured on national radio on WQXR as well as The Greene Space at WQXR and WNYC. The Harlem Chamber Players have also been mentioned in articles in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Guardian, Musical America, and on NPR, NBC, and Here and Now on ABC. The Harlem Chamber Players were awarded the 2022 Sam Miller Award for the Performing Arts.



To learn more about Harlem Chamber Players, please visit their website at www.harlemchamberplayers.org.

Tia Allen | Viola

Tia Allen (viola) has performed at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Radio City Music Hall, Madison Square Garden, Metropolitan Museum, Royal Opera House of Muscat, and the Teatro Nacional in Santo Domingo. As a freelance artist in New York City she has performed with Tony Bennett, Lady Gaga, The Eagles, Anderson Paak, Miley Cyrus, Cynthia Erivo, DuaLipa, Michael Bolton, Frank Ocean, and Bebe Winans, to name a few. She held the viola chair on Broadway's *Jagged Little Pill*. Other Broadway performances include *My Fair Lady*, *Spongebob Squarepants*, *An American in Paris*, and *On the Town*.

She enjoyed many televised performances and appeared in Bruce Springsteen's Tucson Train and Western Stars videos. A past fellowship member of Spoleto Festival in Charleston, she is also the founder, director, and violist of Diverse Concert Artists. She most recently made history as the first black woman to music coordinate/contract for a show on Broadway at *For Colored Girls*.



Melissa Westgate | Cello



Melissa is a member of the Greenwich Symphony in CT and has also performed in the American Symphony, the Discovery Orchestra, Orchestra Lumos, Harlem Chamber Orchestra and the Knickerbocker Chamber Orchestra. In 2021, Melissa became the cellist for *Mrs. Doubtfire* on Broadway. In addition to subbing for the Broadway Shows, *Wicked* and *Hamilton*, she has played in the band for *Broadway Backwards* and backup orchestra for *The Who*. She now holds the cello chair for the new Broadway show, *New York New York* which is scheduled to begin previews on March 24th.

In 2018, Melissa began composing music for cello and piano and cello duo. During the pandemic shutdown, she ventured beyond duos and started recorded multiple cello tracks with Midi which she compiled into an album called *Cello Flight*.

Listen at melissawestgate.com

Meet the Musical Guests:

MEMBERS OF THE HARLEM CHAMBER PLAYERS

Belinda Whitney | Violin 1



Violinist Belinda Whitney began her studies in the Philadelphia public schools, later earning a Bachelor of Music degree from Temple University and a Master of Music degree under renowned teacher Ivan Galamian.

Ms. Whitney was one of the first Black concertmasters of a U.S. regional orchestra, the Savannah Symphony. She was a prize winner and/or finalist in the Savannah Symphony National Violin Competition, the Perrenoud Foundation International Violin Competition, and the Carnegie Hall International American Music Competition.

She has been concertmaster for *My Fair Lady*, *Porgy and Bess*, *South Pacific* and other Broadway shows. She has worked with such artists as Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston and Stevie Wonder, and has played

on over 70 films. She is currently concertmaster of the Knickerbocker Chamber Orchestra and a member of the New York Pops. She can be heard weekly on television's *Masterpiece Theater Mystery!* violin tango theme.

Nicole Wright | Violin 2

Dr. Nicole Wright is an award-winning violinist, violist, arranger, and music educator who has worked with renowned artists such as Rick Ross, Miley Cyrus, Mark Ronson, Jon Batiste, Metro Boomin, Yebba Smith, and Madonna. She has performed at the White House Correspondents Dinner Pre-party, hosted by Google and *The Atlantic*, under the Obama administration, appeared as an on-stage musician at the Metropolitan Opera; and, in a series of television shows such as *The David Letterman Show*, *Saturday Night Live*, *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, *The Tonight Show* with Jimmy Fallon, and in the Netflix's limited series, *The High and the Hog*.



As a world traveling artist she has performed in Guadeloupe, France with Ensemble du Monde, in Panama City Panama with the Funsincopa organization, and the Tri-state area with the Wordless Orchestra. Passionate about performing, arranging, and teaching, Dr. Wright was reached out to by the Bronxnet Television station to be their spotlight artist. There, she shared her teaching philosophy and performed her arrangement of Michael Jackson's 'Heal the World'. The Bronxnet Television station also shared her arrangement of 'Lean on Me', in honor of Black History Month.

Ms. Wright holds a Master of Music Degree from Mannes College of Music, and a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from Rutgers University. Along with performing, Dr. Wright is a passionate educator. Currently, she is the teaching master at Opus 118, Harlem School of Music. There, she leads the violin program at a public school in Harlem and trains aspiring violin teachers.

Dr. Wright resides in New York City and enjoys traveling, reading, cooking, and fashion.

Meet the Musical Guests:

THE COMPOSERS

Jessie Montgomery | Composer

Jessie Montgomery is an acclaimed composer, violinist, and educator. She is the recipient of the Leonard Bernstein Award from the ASCAP Foundation, the Sphinx Medal of Excellence, and her works are performed frequently around the world by leading musicians and ensembles. Her music interweaves classical music with elements of vernacular music, improvisation, poetry, and social consciousness, making her an acute interpreter of 21st century American sound and experience. Her profoundly felt works have been described as “turbulent, wildly colorful and exploding with life” (*The Washington Post*).

Her growing body of work includes solo, chamber, vocal, and orchestral works. Some recent highlights include *Shift, Change, Turn* (2019) commissioned by the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, *Coincident Dances* (2018) for the Chicago Sinfonietta, and *Banner* (2014)—written to mark the 200th anniversary of “The Star-Spangled Banner”—for The Sphinx Organization and the Joyce Foundation, which was presented in its UK premiere at the BBC Proms on 7 August 2021.

Summer 2021 brought a varied slate of premiere performances, including *Five Freedom Songs*, a song cycle conceived with and written for Soprano Julia Bullock, for Sun Valley and Grand Teton Music Festivals, San Francisco and Kansas City Symphonies, Boston and New Haven Symphony Orchestras, and the Virginia Arts Festival (7 August); a site-specific collaboration with Bard SummerScape Festival and Pam Tanowitz Dance, *I was waiting for the echo of a better day* (8 July); and *Passacaglia*, a flute quartet for The National Flute Association’s 49th annual convention (13 August).

Since 1999, Jessie has been affiliated with The Sphinx Organization, which supports young African American and Latinx string players and has served as composer-in-residence for the Sphinx Virtuosi, the Organization’s flagship professional touring ensemble.

A founding member of PUBLIQuartet and a former member of the Catalyst Quartet, Jessie holds degrees from the Juilliard School and New York University and is currently a PhD Candidate in Music Composition at Princeton University. She is Professor of violin and composition at The New School. In May 2021, she began her three-year appointment as the Mead Composer-in-Residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. For more information, please visit jessiemontgomery.com.

Nkeiru Okoye | Composer

Nkeiru Okoye is an American-born composer of African American and Nigerian ancestry. She was born in New York, NY and raised on Long Island. After studying composition, music theory, piano, conducting, and Africana Studies at Oberlin Conservatory, she pursued graduate studies at Rutgers University and became one of the leading African American women composers. Her works have been commissioned, performed and presented by Detroit Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, Opera North UK, Mt. Holyoke College, Juilliard School, Houston Grand Opera, the American Opera Project, Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, the University of Michigan Orchestras, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Sinfonietta, Cleveland Opera Theater, Moscow Symphony, Tanglewood Music Festival, Virginia Symphony, Tulsa Opera, Royal Opera House, Da Capo Chamber Players, Cellist Matt Haimovitz, Pianist Lara Downes, and many others.

Her works include: “Tales from the Briar Patch” (2019, 2022); “Inside is What Remains” (2021), a song commissioned by the Tulsa Opera as part of “Greenwood Overcomes”; “Black Bottom” (2020); “Charlotte Mecklenburg” (2018); “We’ve Got Our Eye on You” (2016); “Voices Shouting Out” (2002) “Harriet Tubman: When I Crossed that Line to Freedom” (2014); “Songs of Harriet Tubman” (2011); “Phillis Wheatley” (2005); “African Sketches (2003-04, 2015)”; and “The Creation” (2001).

Among her honors are a Guggenheim Fellowship, the inaugural International Florence Price Society award for composition, a Beneva Foundation award, composer grants from the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, many awards from ASCAP, the Yvar Mishakoff Trust for New Music, and the National Endowment of the Arts.

She has been the featured composer at programs for University of Michigan School of Music, Theater and Dance, Dance Theater of Harlem, University at Albany, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Black Women’s Leadership Caucus. In 2021, she was in the inaugural cohort of William Grant Still Fellows for Medomak Conductor’s Institute, the inaugural composer in residence for South Shore Conservatory SSC Transform initiative, and the inaugural composer-in-residence for the Florence Price Festival at the University of the Incarnate Word.

She is an Artistic Chair for American Opera Project’s prestigious Composers and the Voice program, a mentor for the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) mentoring program for Composers, and a Board member of Composers Now!. For more, please visit nkeiruokoye.com.

About Langston Hughes

James Mercer Langston Hughes (1902-1967) rose to become a major American poet and central figure of the Harlem Renaissance. He lived in and traveled to many places including Africa, Mexico, France and Asia. Upon the publication of his first volume of poetry, *The Weary Blues* (1926), Hughes inaugurated a tradition of poetry inflected with the Afrocentric rhythms and tonalities of blues and jazz, and remained dedicated to the depiction of urban African American folk life. Hughes also wrote plays, a novel, two autobiographies and newspaper columns. Known as a pioneer of blues and jazz poetry, Hughes modeled himself as a poet as activist and is celebrated as such around the world.

Mission

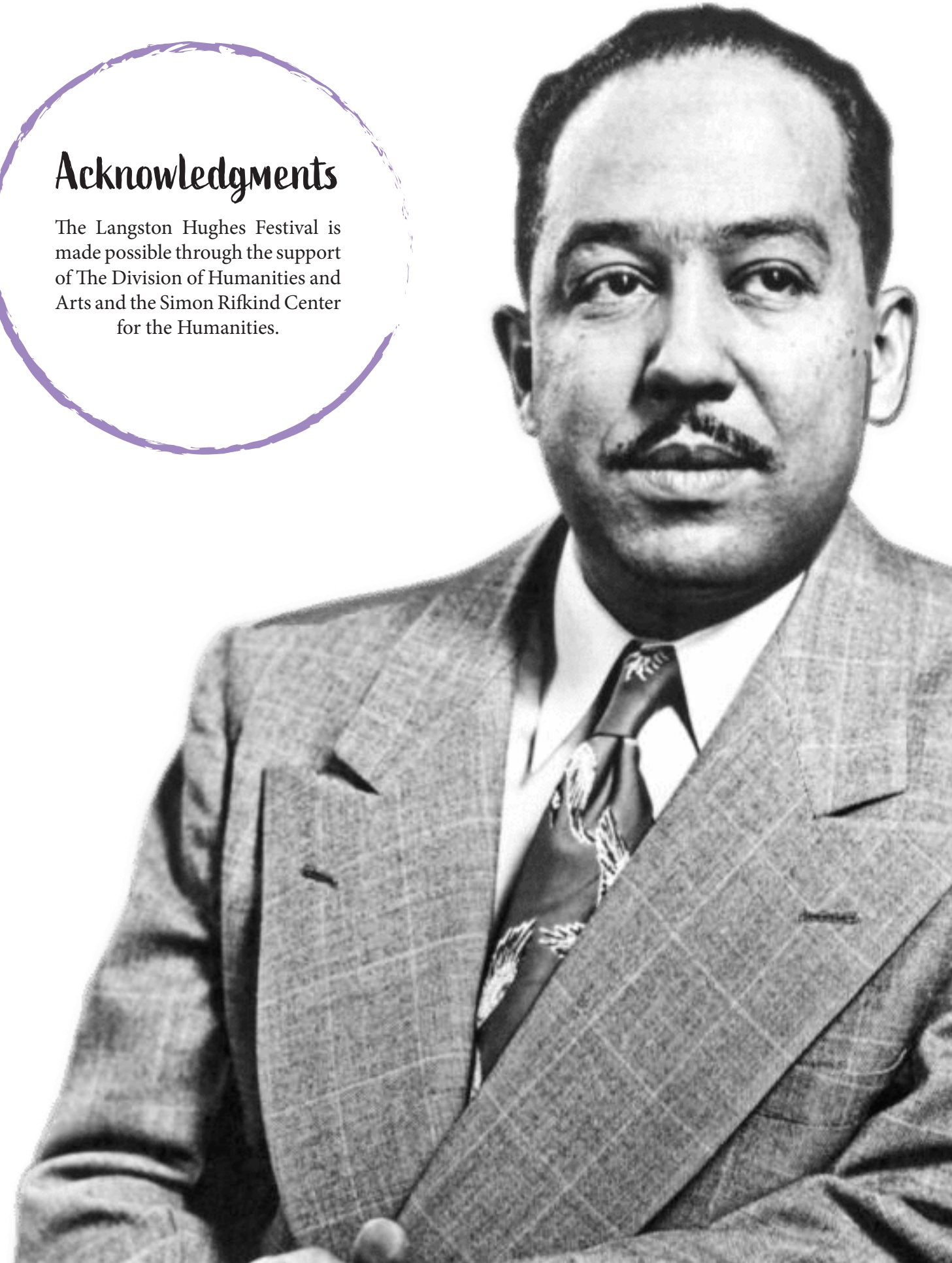
The Langston Hughes Festival has been in existence since 1978. Its mission is to celebrate and expand upon the literary legacy of the poet laureate of Harlem, James Langston Hughes. We award the Langston Hughes Medal to the most distinguished writers associated with the African diaspora. The medal is presented as the culmination of a day of salons, scholarly conferences and symposia in celebration of the legacy of Langston Hughes, as well as a creative performance in tribute to the honoree and an interview of and reading by the honoree.

The Medal

The Langston Hughes Medal is awarded to highly distinguished writers from throughout the African American diaspora for their impressive works of poetry, fiction, drama, autobiography and critical essays that help to celebrate the memory and tradition of Langston Hughes. Each year, the LHF's Advisory Committee reviews the work of major black writers from Africa to America whose work is assessed as likely having a lasting impact on world literature. Past award winners include James Baldwin, Gwendolyn Brooks, Toni Morrison, August Wilson, Wole Soyinka, Derek Walcott, Octavia Butler, and Edwidge Danticat. Writers selected for this award receive the Langston Hughes Medal, an honorarium and an invitation to attend the Langston Hughes Festival Award Ceremony in the Marian Anderson Theatre at Aaron Davis Hall at The City College of New York in Harlem.

Acknowledgments

The Langston Hughes Festival is made possible through the support of The Division of Humanities and Arts and the Simon Rifkind Center for the Humanities.





Advisory Committee

- Vanessa K. Valdés, Director and Associate Provost for Community Engagement*
- Jodi-Ann Francis, Assistant Director, Black Studies Program*
- Michelle Valladares, Director, Creative Writing MFA Program*
- David Unger, Director, Publishing Certificate Program*
- Emily Raboteau, Professor, English*
- Felice Neals, Instructor, Creative Writing*
- Yahdon Israel, Instructor, Creative Writing*
- Norval Soleyn, Director, Student Outreach Services*
- Kedon Willis, Assistant Professor, English*
- Chuck Frye, CCNY alum and retired adjunct instructor*
- Elizabeth Mazzola, Chair of English Department*
- Dean Renata Kociuba Miller, ex officio*

To continue celebrating the spirit of Langston Hughes, our friends at Project Audion welcome you to the following event:

WATCH AND LISTEN AT PROJECTAUDION.COM
OR YOUTUBE.COM/PROJECTAUDION

LANGSTON HUGHES'
NEVER-PRODUCED
RADIO SOAP
OPERA FROM
THE 1940S

LITTLE HARLEM

ONLINE
PREMIERE
FEBRUARY 10
@ 9PM EST
PROJECT AUDION

The 44th Annual
**LANGSTON
HUGHES
FESTIVAL**

Jodi-Ann Francis | Associate Director

*North Academic Center
Room 4/149
160 Convent Avenue
New York, NY 10031*

*P: 212.650.8117
F: 212.650.5635
E: lhf@ccny.cuny.edu*

THE RIFKIND CENTER
FOR THE HUMANITIES AND ARTS AT THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

**CCNY College
of New York**
ESP
EMERSON STUDIES PROGRAM

