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**CONCERT COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEATURES
MEMBERS OF THE HARLEM CHAMBER PLAYERS AT SIMON'S ROCK, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26**

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA— On Sunday February 26 at 3 pm, the South Berkshire Concerts at Simon's Rock, in partnership with Berkshire Multi-Cultural Bridge, will offer a free performance of music by Black composers from the 18th through 21st centuries, performed by members of the Harlem Chamber Ensemble, the resident performers at the Schomburg Center for Black Culture in New York City. The ensemble will constitute a string quartet, and will offer works by Joseph Bologne (the Chevalier St. George), Florence Price, William Grant Still, George Walker, and Jessie Montgomery. The program will be performed at the Schomburg Center prior to the Simon's Rock appearance. The performance will take place in the McConnell Auditorium of the Daniel Arts Center on the Simon's Rock campus. Free tickets will be available at the door on a first-come, first served basis and the audience is requested to remain masked during the performance. For further information, call 413-528-7212.

The performers will include **Ashley Horne**, violinist and native of Los Angeles, who has performed professionally around the world. As principal violinist and soloist of The Harlem Chamber Players, performance highlights have included the Sibelius *Violin Concerto* at Columbia University's Miller Theatre, the Bernstein *Serenade* at Merkin Hall, a Harlem walking tour video memoir of Coleridge Taylor-Perkinson, and performances at WQXR's The Greene Space. He is also a founding member of the newly-formed Harlem Chamber Players String Quartet, which recently performed during the reading of names at the World Trade Center's Ground Zero 20th year memorial tribute. Mr. Horne is known for championing works by Black composers. In 2019, he was a featured soloist in Carnegie Hall's sold-out event, *Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration*. He appeared in *Le Mozart Noir*, the PBS documentary

about the life of violinist and composer Chevalier de Saint-Georges, and his recordings of Perkinson's *Louisiana Blues Strut (A Cakewalk)*, Henry Cowell's *Fiddler's Jig* and William Grant Still's *Mother and Child* with the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra (Koch International) can be heard on WQXR.

Puerto-Rican born violinist, violist and baritone **José Pietri-Coimbre** has appeared as a soloist and ensemble performer playing a variety of instruments. As a violinist and violist he has performed with ensembles in the US and Puerto Rico such as the "Phantom of the Opera" and "My Fair Lady" Orchestras on Broadway, Puerto Rico Symphony, Albany Symphony, Greenwich Symphony, and Zipoli Ensemble for the American Baroque. He is passionate about chamber music, and has performed actively with the Harlem Chamber Players and Quartetto Tomassini, among others, and in multiple chamber music performances as a guest artist in the US, Puerto Rico and Europe.

Violist **Tia Allen** 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, Nas, Mark Ronson, Miley Cyrus, to name just a few. Per request of Lorin Maazel she has performed as principal violist at his Castleton Music Festival. She is a past fellowship member of Spoleto Festival in Charleston and a six-summer veteran of the Aspen Music festival and school where she performed *Souvenir de Florence* with Julia Fischer in the Benedict Music Tent. She has also performed at festivals in Graz Austria, and Nice France. With a passion for chamber music she is the founder, director, and violist of Diverse Concert Artists with contracted performances at the Kennedy Center and BAM featuring Bryce Dessner's *Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)*. As educator she teaches at the Harlem School for the Arts and has held an educational chamber music residency at the University of Iowa with Harlem Symphony Chamber Players and University of Massachusetts, Lowell with Quatuor Mahogany.

A passionately committed performer and teaching artist, cellist **Kirsten Jermé** has performed chamber music internationally from the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. to Harlaxton College in England to La Pieve di Gropina in Arezzo, Italy. Based in New York City, Kirsten served as guest cellist of the Cassatt String Quartet for the 2022 Seal Bay Festival of American Chamber Music and has recently appeared with the Harlem Chamber Players, North Country Chamber Players, and in a series of concerts she curates at the cell theatre in Chelsea with Atrikk Ensemble. In her four seasons as Principal Cellist of the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and cellist of the Eykamp String Quartet, the quartet was featured twice as soloists with the Philharmonic and received the Mayor's Arts Award for outstanding ensemble. A passionate proponent of chamber music pedagogy, Kirsten spearheaded the development of a chamber

music course at the University of Evansville with her colleagues in the Eykamp Quartet, helped run a string quartet mentorship program for members of the Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and served as faculty for the Harlaxton Chamber Music Festival at the University of Evansville's sister school in Grantham, England. An advocate of building community through live performance, Kirsten also co-founded and curated the "Coffee and Classics" chamber music series at Wired in Evansville.

About Simon's Rock

[Bard College at Simon's Rock](#) is the only college in the country specifically designed for highly motivated students ready to enter college after the 10th or 11th grade. Simon's Rock offers a challenging program in the liberal arts and sciences, taught exclusively in small seminars by supportive, highly trained faculty, who are leading scholars in their fields. The College grants degrees in more than 35 majors. The Princeton Review's *Best 380 Colleges* rates academics at Simon's Rock higher than Harvard and Princeton.

[Bard Academy at Simon's Rock](#) is the nation's first two-year boarding and day program designed to prepare 9th and 10th graders to start college early. A student entering Bard Academy as a high school freshman will earn an Associate of Arts degree from Bard College at Simon's Rock after only four years and a Bachelor of Arts degree after only six years. The Academy curriculum is designed and taught by students' future college professors who are leading scholars in their fields.

For more information, visit simons-rock.edu and bardacademy.simons-rock.edu.

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