

**Brooklyn Academy of Music**

Katy Clark, President

Joseph V. Melillo,  
Executive Producer

**Borough of Brooklyn**

Eric L. Adams, President

and

**Medgar Evers College**

City University of New York

The 30th Annual Brooklyn Tribute to

**Dr. Martin**

**Luther King, Jr.**

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House  
January 18, 2016 at 10:30am

Keynote speaker

**Dr. Michael Eric Dyson**

Performers

**The Brooklyn Interdenominational Choir**

**Kimberly Nichole**

*The tribute will be followed by a screening in  
BAM Rose Cinemas of the film The Black Panthers:  
Vanguard of the Revolution (2015), directed by  
Stanley Nelson*

*Season Sponsor:*

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Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute*

*Support for the Signature Artist Series provided  
by The Howard Gilman Foundation.*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.*

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, GA, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man who devoted his life to the fight for full citizenship rights of the poor, disadvantaged, and racially oppressed in the United States.

After receiving a BS in 1948 from Morehouse College, a BD in 1951 from Crozer Theological Seminary, and a PhD in 1955 from Boston University, Dr. King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, AL. He and his wife, Coretta Scott King, who he met and married while at Boston University, had been living in Montgomery less than a year when Mrs. Rosa Parks defied the ordinance concerning segregated seating on city buses. In reaction to this event, Dr. King successfully organized a year-long bus boycott, which catapulted him to national prominence as a leader of the civil rights movement.

After the boycott, Dr. King, who had studied the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, began touring the nation, preaching and further advancing the Indian leader's doctrine of nonviolent civil disobedience. Meanwhile, Dr. King was also writing his first book, *Stride Toward Freedom*, which was published in 1958. In 1960 Dr. King and his father became co-pastors of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, and Martin Luther King, Jr. became president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. During this time, Dr. King also organized the massive march on Washington on August 28, 1963 in which he delivered his brilliant "I Have A Dream" speech. The January 1964 issue of *Time* magazine named Dr. King "Man of the Year," the first black American to receive the honor. Later that year, Dr. King became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize at age 35.

Early in 1968, while planning a second march on Washington, Dr. King flew to Memphis, TN, to lend his support to striking laborers. There, on April 4, Dr. King was assassinated. With his violent death, a symbol of moral and social progress in America was lost, and riots were ignited around the country. In 1983, Dr. King's birthday was designated a national holiday.



**DR. MICHAEL ERIC DYSON**—who is an American Book Award recipient and two-time NAACP Image Award winner—is one of the nation's most influential and renowned public intellectuals. He has been named one of the 150 most powerful African-Americans by *Ebony* magazine. *The Philadelphia Weekly* contends that Dr. Dyson "is reshaping what it means to be a public intellectual by becoming the most visible black academic of his time."

Dr. Dyson's pioneering scholarship has had a profound effect on American ideas. His first book, 1993's *Reflecting Black: African American Cultural Criticism*, helped establish the field of black American cultural studies. His next book, 1994's *Making Malcolm: The Myth and Meaning of Malcolm X*, was named one of the most important African American books of the 20th century. Dr. Dyson's first book on Martin Luther King, 2000's *I May Not Get There with You: The True Martin Luther King, Jr.*, made a significant contribution to King scholarship by recovering the radical legacy of the slain civil rights leader. According to book industry bible

*Publisher's Weekly*, his 2001 book, *Holler if You Hear Me: Searching for Tupac Shakur*, helped to make books on hip hop commercially viable. His 2006 book *Come Hell or High Water: Hurricane Katrina and the Color of Disaster* was the first major book on Katrina and probed the racial and class fallout from the storm. Dr. Dyson's 2005 *New York Times* bestseller, *Is Bill Cosby Right? Or Has the Black Middle Class Lost Its Mind?*, helped to jumpstart a national conversation on the black poor that has been called the most important debate in black America since the historic debate between Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois. His book, *The New York Times* best-selling *April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Death and How It Changed America*, has been hailed by *The Washington Post* as "an excellent sociological primer on institutionalized racism in America." His most recent book, *Can You Hear Me Now? The Inspiration, Wisdom, and Insight of Michael Eric Dyson*, offers a sampling of his sharp wit, profound thought, and edifying eloquence on the enduring problems of humanity, from love to justice, and the latest topics of the day, including race and the presidency.

It is both revealing and relevant, and at once thoughtful provoking and uplifting.

Not only has Dr. Dyson taught at some of the nation's most prestigious universities—including Brown, Chapel Hill, Columbia, and the University of Pennsylvania—but his influence has carried far beyond the academy into prisons and bookstores, political conventions and union halls, and church sanctuaries and lecture stages across the world.

Dr. Dyson has appeared on nearly every major media outlet, including *The Today Show*, *Nightline*, *O'Reilly Factor*, *The Tavis Smiley Show*, and *Real Time with Bill Maher*—and he has cemented his star appeal on such shows as *Rap City*, *Def Poetry Jam*, and *The Colbert Report*. He is also a contributing editor of *Time* magazine. In addition, he hosts an hour-long news and talk program on NPR, *The Michael Eric Dyson Show*, where he delivers thoughtful analysis of today's biggest stories from pop culture to race relations.

His powerful work has won him legions of admirers and has made him what *The Washington Post* terms a “superstar professor.” His fearless and fiery oratory led the Chronicle of Higher Education to declare that with his rhetorical gifts he “can rock classroom and chapel alike.” Dr. Dyson's eloquent writing inspired *Vanity Fair* magazine to describe him as “one of the most graceful and lucid intellectuals writing on race and politics today.”

Dr. Dyson is presently University Professor of Sociology at Georgetown University where, in 2011, he received widespread attention for his course “Sociology of Hip-Hop: Jay-Z.” His legendary rise—from welfare father to Princeton Ph.D., from church pastor to college professor, from a factory worker who didn't start college until he was 21 to a figure who has become what writer Naomi Wolf terms “the ideal public intellectual of our time”—may help explain why author Nathan McCall simply calls him “a street fighter in suit and tie.”

### **KIMBERLY NICHOLE**

Seattle-born Kimberly Nichole first appeared on the national music scene during the eighth season of NBC's *The Voice*, recognized by the judges for her show-stopping performances, stylish presence, and vocal power. She has since written and released her first rock and soul album, *The Yellow Brick Journey*, which has had songs featured on MTV, VH1, BET, LOGO, Lifetime, and Showtime. She also appeared as the featured rock performer in the film *You're Not You*, directed by George C. Wolfe and starring Hilary Swank. Nichole has brought her savvy showmanship to many New York stages, including the Apollo Theater, Lincoln Center, and Bowery Ballroom. She has performed with many different artists, including Slash, Jason Derulo, Janelle Monae, and Christina Aguilera. Nichole continues to perform with her band and is currently working on her sophomore album entitled *The Lonely Bones*.

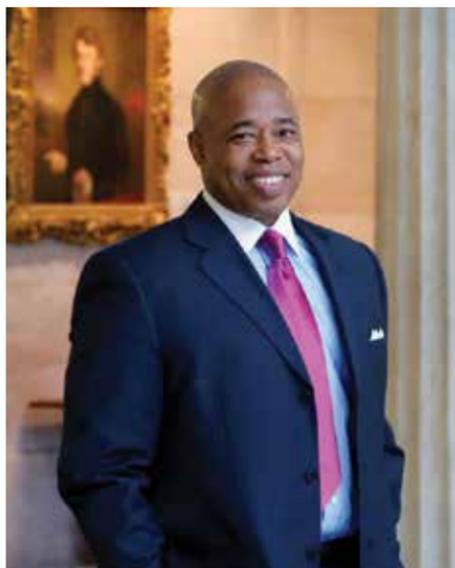


### **THE BROOKLYN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHOIR (BIC)**

The Brooklyn Interdenominational Choir is an ensemble committed to bringing people together through artistic expression. The choir encourages members to appreciate, learn about, and celebrate the diverse cultures which make our world great. It is founded by Frank A. Haye who is a conductor, choral director, flutist, composer, and producer. BIC records and ministers in different venues, including churches, temples, outdoor music festivals, concert halls, and private functions. All members of BIC receive world-class musical training and opportunities for fellowship with artists from diverse ethnic, religious, and social backgrounds. Its motto is simple: "One



Great City, One Great Choir to the Glory of God." Haye states, "We believe the power of music transcends our cultural, political, financial, and religious differences to expose that which we truly share: faith, hope, and love."



### **ERIC L. ADAMS, BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT**

For the past three decades, Eric L. Adams has served the residents of the city of his birth as a police officer, state senator, and coalition builder. In November of 2013, he was elected to represent all of Brooklyn as borough president. Born in Brownsville and educated in the City's public school system, Adams is committed to ensuring Brooklyn's bright future by helping each and every Brooklynite reach his or her full potential.

Throughout his career, Adams has been an effective advocate for Brooklyn, bringing people and communities together to create progressive change, and working with both the private and public sectors to invigorate the borough's economy by encouraging job growth and investment in every neighborhood. Whether his beat was on the street or in the halls of government, Adams has always looked out for Brooklyn's working families and sought to protect our most vulnerable residents. He believes that government works best when everyone has a chance to be heard, and he has resolved to use his office to provide an opportunity for diverse groups to work together for the common good.

Since the beginning of his first term as the highest-ranking elected official in America's fourth-largest city, Adams has worked to make the popularity of Brooklyn's brand translate into prosperity for the more than 2.6 million Brooklynites that call the borough home. He is a big believer in the power of connections, of bringing together people in need of services with resources that have long existed but have been underutilized. Adams has opened Brooklyn Borough Hall in ways that it never has been prior, allowing thousands of people to connect for the first time with government and civic life. His agenda cannot be defined by a short list of issues: he is committed to addressing the wide range of concerns facing Brooklynites.

In his career as a police officer with NYC Transit and the NYPD, Adams made the kind of life-and-death decisions that reflect his insight, expertise, and poise under fire, resulting not just in his promotion to captain, but earning him the reputation for going above and beyond the call of duty. In 1995, he co-founded 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, an initiative that not only improved NYPD/community relations, but raised funds for worthy causes throughout the city.

From 2006 until his election to borough president in 2013, Adams represented the 20th Senate District—which includes Borough Park, Flatbush, Crown Heights, Park Slope, Prospect Heights, Sunset Park, and Windsor Terrace, working tirelessly to address a broad range of issues affecting constituents, from civil rights and public safety to transparency in government and quality of life. He organized support against the NYPD's controversial "stop and frisk" policy, and led efforts on behalf of gun control. As a legislator, Adams' record in the New York State Senate was one that underscores his strong commitment to the rights of those from every walk of life, including protecting the right to privacy, supporting marriage equality, defending a woman's right to choose, as well as fighting for students' rights, workers' rights, and animal rights. His work involved efforts to prevent racial profiling,

gender discrimination, domestic violence, and elder abuse. He also proposed legislation to reform campaign financing, address inequities in sentencing depending on the crime, restrict outsourcing, and improve the availability of quality health care and affordable housing. Throughout his legislative career, Adams championed community and economic development in his district and borough-wide.

Adams has also served on the board of the Eastern District Counseling Service, an organization assisting former substance abusers to live productive lives without dependency on drugs or alcohol. Adams maintains residences in Bedford-Stuyvesant and Prospect Heights, where he has resided for over 20 years. He enjoys riding the streets of Brooklyn on his bicycle, meditation, and exploring new cultures and places.

### **DR. RUDOLPH F. CREW**

is President of Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, NY. A lifelong educator and author, Dr. Crew's career has spanned from the classroom to the chancellorship of the nation's largest school district, New York City Public Schools. In 2012, Dr. Crew was selected to serve as Oregon's first Chief Education Officer. Dr. Crew is a renowned leader and reformer who has made it a mission to improve student achievement, especially for poor and minority students. The Chancellor's District, The Parent Academy, and the School Improvement Zone are among Dr. Crew's innovations that are considered national models for reform. These successful strategies have engaged parents, business, and political leaders, and the community, ensuring students achieve higher levels of success and are prepared for the global challenges ahead. Dr. Crew has served on numerous boards, including Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Communities in Schools, Al Shanker Institute, and the Public Education Network. He is the recipient of many awards, including the NAACP Educational Leadership Award, the Arthur Ashe Leadership Award, and the AASA National Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Crew's acclaimed book, *Only Connect: The Way to Save Our Schools*, continues to guide a vital public discussion.



**MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE** was founded as a result of collaborative efforts by community leaders, elected officials, the chancellor, and the board of trustees of the City University of New York. The college, named for the late civil rights leader Medgar Wiley Evers (1925—1963), was established in 1970 with a mandate to meet the educational and social needs of the central Brooklyn community. The college is committed to the fulfillment of this mandate, and to the belief that education has the power to positively transform the lives of individuals and is the right of all individuals in the pursuit of self-actualization. Consequently, the college's mission is to develop and maintain high-quality, professional, career-oriented undergraduate degree programs in the context of liberal education. The college offers programs both at the baccalaureate and at the associate degree levels, giving close attention to the articulation between the two-year and the four-year programs. The college has a commitment to students who desire self-improvement, a sound education, an opportunity to develop a personal value system, and an opportunity to gain maximum benefits from life experience and their environment. Medgar Evers College is a senior college of the City University of New York, the nation's leading urban university comprising 11 senior colleges, six community colleges, a graduate school, a law school, a medical school, and an affiliated school of medicine, with degree-credit students and adult and continuing education students enrolled from throughout the five boroughs of the city of New York. Information is available on the CUNY website ([cuny.edu](http://cuny.edu)) and the Medgar Evers College website ([mec.cuny.edu](http://mec.cuny.edu)).

**BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC (BAM)** is recognized internationally for its innovative programming of dance, music, theater, music-theater, and opera. In addition to presenting leading national and international artists, BAM identifies and supports the work of groundbreaking contemporary artists in the performing arts with its Next Wave Festival, founded in 1983, one of the world's most important cultural festivals. America's oldest performing arts center in continuous operation, BAM has presented performances since 1861. BAM also serves New York City's diverse population through a wide variety of educational and community programs and unique partnerships. BAM collaborates every year with the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation for its annual DanceAfrica festival, providing a curriculum on the culture of the visiting company available to hundreds of young people and offering the opportunity for students from Restoration to perform with the visiting company. The Black Male Achievement Program, an in-

school residency, is part of the Brooklyn Reads literacy through spoken word program working specifically with high school males. BAM's role in Brooklyn has expanded with the creation of BAMcafé and BAM Rose Cinemas. As part of BAMcinématek, its repertory film program, BAM annually presents FilmAfrica, the best of the African Film Festival, during DanceAfrica, as well as New Voices in Black Cinema every spring, co-presented by ActNow Foundation. President Katy Clark began at BAM in 2015, joining longtime Executive Producer Joseph V. Melillo.

**TARGET** Minneapolis-based Target Corporation (NYSE: TGT) serves guests at 1,805 stores and at Target.com. Since 1946, Target has given 5 percent of its profit to communities, which today equals more than \$4 million a week. For more information, visit [Target.com/Pressroom](http://Target.com/Pressroom). For a behind-the-scenes look at Target, visit [Target.com/abullseyeview](http://Target.com/abullseyeview) or follow [@TargetNews](https://twitter.com/TargetNews) on Twitter.



Black Panthers from Sacramento, Free Huey Rally, Bobby Hutton Memorial Park in Oakland, CA, 1969. Photo courtesy of Pirkle Jones and Ruth-Marion Baruch

### **Book signing in BAMcafé**

Jan 18 at 1pm

Dr. Michael Eric Dyson signs copies of his books available at the Greenlight kiosk.

### **Film at BAM Rose Cinemas**

*The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution* (2015)

Directed by Stanley Nelson

Jan 18 at 1pm, FREE. Seating is first come, first served

This groundbreaking documentary looks at the history of the Black Panther Party, considering the political and social aims of the organization during the civil rights era and the black revolutionary spirit it inspired. Combining archival footage with the voices of party leaders, journalists, and criminal justice and government officials, the film reflects on the ambitions and legacies of the Black Panthers, exposing students to an important and under-explored dimension of US political history.

Post-film Q&A with director Stanley Nelson.

### **Art exhibition in BAMcafé**

Jan 15—18

BAM presents *Picture the Dream*, a community art exhibition featuring works by students from the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Atlantic Terminal Community Center, operated by University Settlement. For the eighth year in a row, BAM partners with NYCHA to offer free art workshops to children living in Brooklyn public housing residences. This year, students from the Atlantic Terminal Community Center created original artwork inspired by Dr. King's dream of freedom and equality.