

Brooklyn Academy of Music

Katy Clark, President

Joseph V. Melillo,
Executive Producer

Borough of Brooklyn

Eric L. Adams, President

Medgar Evers College

City University of New York

Dr. Rudolph R. Crew, President

Present

The 31st Annual Brooklyn Tribute to

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House
January 16, 2017 at 10:30am

Master of ceremonies

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams

Keynote speaker

Opal Tometi

Performers

The Campbell Brothers

The Institutional Radio Choir

*The tribute will be followed by a screening of Ava
DuVernay's 13th (2016) in BAM Rose Cinemas*

Season Sponsor:

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*Support for the Signature Artist Series provided
by 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.

OPAL TOMETI

Social activist and co-creator of the viral Twitter hashtag and movement, #BlackLivesMatter

A dedicated activist working at the intersection of racial justice and immigrant rights for more than a decade, Opal Tometi was incensed by the 2013 acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin—and was inspired to take action. Starting the Twitter hashtag #BlackLivesMatter, Tometi (with Alicia Garza and Patrisse Cullors), prompted activism nationwide and introduced the banner under which this generation's civil rights movement marches.

An established immigration rights advocate and community organizer, Tometi's passionate interest stems from experience as the child of Nigerian immigrants. Recognized as a rising leader in the movement, she was named a "New Civil Rights Leader" by the *Los Angeles Times* for her work building movements that bridge immigrant and human rights initiatives to the ever-growing black liberation movement. Tometi and her fellow Black Lives Matter co-founders were honored with inclusion on 2015's *The Root's* Top 100 List for the movement's social and political impact. In 2016, in recognition of their contributions to human rights, the Black Lives Matter co-founders received BET's Black Girls Rock Community Change Agent Award, and were recognized among the world's 50 greatest leaders by *Fortune* magazine and *POLITICO*.



As the executive director at the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, Tometi is at the helm of the country's leading black organization for immigrant rights, steering initiatives including the first Congressional briefing on black immigrants. She has also presented at the United Nations and has participated with the UN's Global Forum on Migration and Commission on the Status of Women.

Tometi reveals raw insights into the adversity inflicted by social injustice, anti-black bias, and uninformed views on immigration, educating and inspiring audiences to organize and stand together to transform society into a world where the lives and contributions of all individuals are recognized equally.

THE CAMPBELL BROTHERS

The Campbell Brothers present Sacred Steel: African-American gospel music with electric steel guitar and vocal. This tradition is just now emerging from the House of God Keith Dominion Church, where for more than 60 years it has been an integral part of worship and a vital, if little known, American tradition. As the music moves from sanctuary to concert hall—including the Hollywood Bowl, Kennedy Center, BAM, and Symphony Space—secular audiences are now able to appreciate a performance both devoted and rocking.

Pedal steel guitarist Chuck Campbell (2004 National Heritage Fellowship recipient) and his lap steel-playing brother Darick are two of the finest in this tradition. Rounding out the band, which has been playing together for nearly two decades, is a high-energy rhythm section featuring brother Phil Campbell on electric guitar, his son Carlton on drums, and bassist Malcom Kirby.



Classic, gutsy gospel vocals by Katie Jackson and Denise Brown bring the ensemble to a level of energy and expression that defies description.

The Campbell Brothers present a compelling, rich variety of material from the African-American Holiness-Pentecostal repertoire with a new twist: the growling, wailing, shouting, singing, and swinging voice of the steel guitar, played as you have never heard it played before.

INSTITUTIONAL RADIO CHOIR

Member of the Institutional Radio Choir, known as "The Hitmakers," have been serving their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in the ministry of song for almost 50 years. They have a repertoire which consists of all gospel types—traditional Gospel, anthems, and even hard rock gospel. Because of this well-rounded combination, the group is referred to as the traditional gospel choir with a contemporary message.

The choir is the result of the vision God gave its founder and pastor emeritus, Chief Apostle Carl E. Williams, Sr. It was originally under the capable direction of the now Bishop J.C. White, and his brother, Alfred White. Nationwide tours resulted from their first gold album, *Stretch Out*, and have grown to worldwide acclaim. Their travels have taken them to Europe, the Caribbean Islands, Greece, Mexico, Canada, and Asia. This choir's success was enhanced when the late Professor John Hason joined Bishop White and Alfred.

The Institutional Radio Choir has recorded 25 live albums, plus the recent release of the 26th, 7. Their Gospel in Song has been a blessing to multitudes and has drawn visitors from around the world to their weekly services. The choir has had the privilege of performing with some of the industry's greatest entertainers—Ben Vereen,



Donald Fagen, Glenn Frye, Paul Simon, Morgan Freeman, Carl Lumbly, Max Roach, Roberta Flack, Patti LaBelle, Yussef Latiff, Jay Giles, Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra, Barry Manilow and many others.

In 1980 Bishop Carl E. Williams, Jr., senior pastor of the Institutional Church of God In Christ of Brooklyn, took up the baton as administrator and manager for the choir. He is currently assisted by the Minister of Music, Pastor Alex Williams. The mission of the Institutional Radio Choir is to continue in the way of God, and to give hope to mankind through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, utilizing their ministry of song.

The Radio Choir has received several outstanding awards and accomplishments. They are numerous, but will be recorded in historical memoirs, giving all the glory and honor unto God.



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) and the Medgar Evers College website (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.

Frederick Douglass in Brooklyn

Co-presented by BAM and Greenlight Bookstore

Readings by Carl Hancock Rux

Commentary by Theodore Hamm

Launch of *Frederick Douglass in Brooklyn*

Mon, January 16 at 1pm / 1hr | BAM Fisher Lower Lobby | Free

As part of BAM's celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., BAM and Greenlight Bookstore present the launch of *Frederick Douglass in Brooklyn*, a volume published by Brooklyn-based Akashic Books that compiles original source material that illustrates the complex relationship between Frederick Douglass and the city of Brooklyn. Douglass' role as an abolitionist leader, spokesman for racial equality, and defender of women's rights resonates clearly with Dr. Martin Luther King's vision of social activism and equality. Performer Carl Hancock Rux will read from, and editor Theodore Hamm will provide context and commentary for some of Douglass' most prominent speeches, many of which were given at BAM. This reading, discussion and Q&A will take place in the Wendy's Subway Reading Room, located in the BAM Fisher Lower Lobby. Attendees will be able to purchase and have signed copies of *Frederick Douglass in Brooklyn*, available to all attendees at a 15% discount.

Film at BAM Rose Cinemas

13th (2016)

Directed by Ava DuVernay

Jan 16 at 1pm, FREE. Seating is first come, first served

In Ava DuVernay's *Selma* important, thought-provoking documentary, scholars, activists, and politicians analyze the criminalization of African-Americans and the US prison boom.

Picture the Dream—Art exhibition in BAMcafé (Lepercq Space, 30 Lafayette Avenue)

On view Jan 13—Feb 12 (when the Lepercq Space is open)

In conjunction with this year's celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr., BAM presents a community art exhibition featuring original artwork by students from the University Settlement Atlantic Terminal Community Center. Every year, BAM offers free art workshops, led by visual artist Che Baraka, to children living in Brooklyn public housing residencies. The original artwork featured in this year's exhibition, inspired by Dr. King, is a collaboration by participating students.