

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Music at the Point

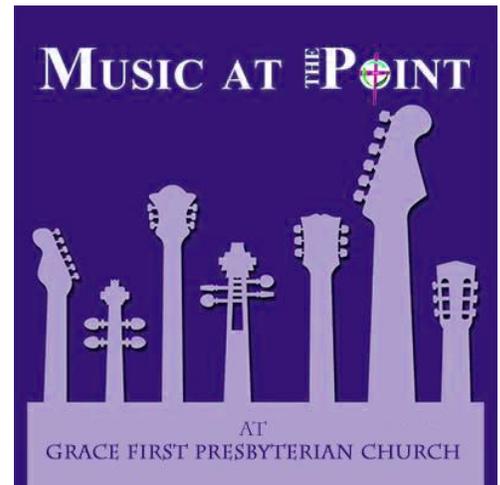
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RELEASE DATE:

June 1, 2021



Long Beach Church Hosting a Special “Juneteenth” Concert

Featuring Vocalist Extraordinaire, Diane White-Clayton

Dateline: [Long Beach, CA, June 1, 2021] — Music at the Point's return to indoor concerts will be a spectacular concert featuring the vocal and piano prowess of **Dr. Diane White-Clayton**, in a Juneteenth-focused concert celebrating the rich heritage of African-American music. The concert will be held at **Grace First Presbyterian Church, 3955 N. Studebaker Rd., Long Beach on Saturday, June 19 at 3:00 p.m.**

Dr. Diane White-Clayton is one of those singers you have to hear in-person to believe. She has an expressive soprano voice that covers four octaves. Just when you think she can't possibly go any higher, sing any more beautifully, she does it. She was originally booked for Music at the Point in June of 2020, which had to be cancelled. However, Music at the Point has made a commitment to re-booking any artists whose shows were cancelled due to the pandemic.

The date of this concert, June 19 at 3:00pm is no accident. Diane White-Clayton is not only an incredible musician, she is a scholar of gospel music and the role of African-American music in American history. June 19, or Juneteenth as it is commonly referred to, is the date that is recognized for the ending of slavery. Grace First Presbyterian Church is committed to dialogue and exchange of ideas in the service of social justice. Stan DeWitt, Minister of Music, sees part of his job is to use music to serve those ends. So Diane and Stan are working to make this event a joyous celebration of African-American music in all of its forms.

A native of Washington, DC, Diane White-Clayton holds Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in music composition from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a B.A. degree in music from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri with emphases in composition, voice, and piano. As a rotary scholar, she studied classical piano at the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris, performing solo gospel concerts throughout Europe as an Ambassador of Goodwill.

Affectionately known as “Dr. Dee,” Diane travels extensively as a vocalist, pianist, composer, conductor, workshop clinician, and speaker. She has held numerous positions at universities, colleges and churches across the country including Artistic Director with the Washington

Performing Arts Society; Artist-in-Residence and Assistant Director of African-American Student Development at Appalachian State University; Artist-in-Residence at Westmont College; Composer-in-Residence at Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Scholar-in-Residence at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa; Loyola Marymount University; and Choral Conductor at the New Christ Memorial Church under legendary gospel great, Pastor Andraé Crouch. For thirteen years, she was a choral conductor at the 6,000-member Faithful Central Bible Church in Inglewood, California under the headship of internationally esteemed, Bishop Kenneth C. Ulmer, where she founded the acclaimed Sacred Praise Chorale.

Dr. Dee works as a vocal clinician consultant with the Disney Performing Arts Conservatory in Anaheim, California. Possessing a three-and-a-half octave range, Diane weaves her high operatic soprano voice with her soulful gospel roots in her self-produced recordings. As a composer, her works have been performed at such venues as the John F. Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, with her most popular piece being a choral work entitled "Clap Praise" which has been featured across the globe. Whether arrangements of African, Korean or African-American folk songs, her arrangement of the Hatikvah, her atonal classical works, or her inspirational sacred or gospel songs, Dr. Dee's compositions and performances demonstrate a mélange of the power of gospel music, the technique of classical music and the colors of jazz.

An inspirational speaker and author, Dr. Dee combines an inviting genuineness with humor, eloquence and faith. Dr. Dee is a member of the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles. She is founder and CEO of BYTHAX, a company committed to supporting artists in sacred and in secular arenas, through Christian counsel, mentoring, and networking with publishing, workshops, vocal coaching and live performances. She is the artistic director of the famed Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers, known for their international influence as classical performers of Negro Spirituals. And she is the founding director of "Dr. Dee & the BYTHAX Ensemble," a gifted, musically-diverse, professional vocal ensemble. BYTHAX stands for "Bringing You Talented, Heavenly-minded Artists with eXcellence!" Diane is the author of "Journey to the Altar," an encouragement for single women who are waiting for that special love, inspired by her own story. Diane is happily married to her best friend and business partner, Joe Louis Clayton, former recording and touring Motown R&B percussionist.

Another exciting part of this concert is that it will be the first concert back indoors. Music at the Point held two outdoor events this Spring, but they are challenging. Being back indoors will be a welcome return. For now, masking will still be requested, and seating in the Sanctuary is socially spaced (every other row is taped off and pool noodles ensure that your neighbor is sitting 5-6' away.) We will return to a free-will donation box at the door when concert goers arrive.

This concert will be held in the sanctuary of **Grace First Presbyterian Church, Long Beach, at 3955 Studebaker Rd.**, at Los Coyotes Diaonal. It will be **at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 19.** There will be a free-will offering at the door. For interviews or more information, contact Stan DeWitt at 562-972-3324 or stan.gracefirst@gmail.com.

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