We hope that we can say each and every year was better than the last, and we are excited to report that our previous season was yet another exciting year filled with new ventures and partnerships.

The highlight of our season was bringing Jeff Scott’s momentous work *A Hug for Harlem* to the Schomburg Center for its local Harlem premiere in a concert featuring all African American composers in celebration of Harlem. John McLaughlin Williams, the first African-American conductor to win a Grammy Award, led the historic evening. Virtuoso harpist Dr. Ashley Jackson joined The Harlem Chamber Players again last season, this time as featured soloist in the performance of Harlem Renaissance composer William Grant Still’s *Ennanga* for harp, piano and strings. Virtuoso pianist and renowned Broadway musical director Joseph Joubert performed as soloist in Coleridge-Taylor Perkins’s tone poem *Grass* for piano, strings and percussion. Before he died the composer Perkins requested that Joseph Joubert record this work, and you can hear Joubert on the Cedille album *Coleridge-Taylor Perkins: A Celebration* with the Chicago Sinfonietta, conducted by Paul Freeman.

The Harlem Chamber Players 2017 – 2018 Season is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; in part by a grant from Columbia Community Service; in part by the New York State Council on the Arts; in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; in part by West Harlem Development Corporation via the Tides Foundation; and through the generous donations from our supporters and donors. We also thank our community partners, Goddard Riverside Community Center, the Harlem School of the Arts, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and Opus 118 Harlem School of Music.

Visit [www.HarlemChamberPlayers.org](http://www.HarlemChamberPlayers.org) for more info.

### 2016 – 2017 Year in Review

**September 29, 2017 at 7 PM**
Season Opening Concert
Broadway Presbyterian at 114th Street and Broadway

**October 29, 2017 at 3 PM**
An Afternoon of Chamber Music
Goddard Riverside Community Center
Bernie Weld Center at 647 Columbus Avenue (at 91st Street)

**November 17, 2017 at 7 PM**
Annual Bach Concert
Broadway Presbyterian at 114th Street and Broadway

**February 15, 2018 at 6:30 PM**
10th Annual Black History Month Celebration
The Schomburg Center at 135th Street and Malcolm X Blvd.

**March 24, 2018 at 4 PM**
Spring Concert with Opus 118 Harlem School of Music
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 521 West 126th Street

**June 1, 2018 at 7 PM**
Harlem Songfest
Miller Theatre at Columbia University
2960 Broadway (at 116th Street)

Staff: Liz Player, Executive and Artistic Director; Carl Jackson, Director of Development and Artistic Planning; Derrick Clarke, Educational and Community Outreach Director; Amy Faison, Administrative Coordinator. Advisory Committee: Jo-Ann Graham, Ph.D.; Joseph Joubert; Lee Koonce; Jean McCurry; Terrance McIntyre; Alizia Hall Moran; Jason Moran. Board: Thomas Pellaton, President; William Hodi, Treasurer; Susan Macaluso, Secretary; James Davis Jr., Advisor; Liz Player, Advisor.

Violinist Ashley Horne, pianist David Berry, cellist Patrice Jackson-Tilghman and mezzo-soprano Lucia Bradford joined again in the Harlem School of the Arts’ second annual Winter Music Festival. During Black History Month in February, members of The Harlem Chamber Players were invited to perform at the United Nations International School in two days of educational programs for over 870 students. Members of The Harlem Chamber Players continued its educational outreach programs, bringing concerts to Newark School of the Arts and in partnership with NJSO CHAMPS Program at University Heights Charter School in Newark.
2016 – 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

Thanks to an unexpected Cultural Immigrant Initiative grant we received from our former City Council Member (now Assemblywoman) Inez E. Dickens, we were able to present a Concert for Unity at the end of our season in June. We presented an experimental version of our “Harlem Bach Project,” a modern take on music by the master J.S. Bach and other classical composers. Met Opera and New York City Opera soprano Brandie Sutton and mezzo-soprano Joyce Hammann and Belinda Whitney, violinist Tia Allen and cellist Clay Ruede will also be featured. We continue our partnership with Goddard Riverside Community Center and will present an Afternoon of Chamber Music on Sunday, October 29, 2017. Violinists Joyce Hammann and Belinda Whitney, violist Amadi Asikwe and Tia Allen, and cellist Robert Burkhardt will perform music by Beethoven, Ysaÿe, Florence Price, and Gary Faigin.

The Annual Bach Concert this year is scheduled for Friday, November 17, 2017, and we have special guests. New York Philharmonic’s harpsichordist Paolo Bordignon and Peruvian-born tenor Christopher Sierra will join as guest soloists. James Davis Jr. returns to conduct the chamber orchestra comprised of members of The Harlem Chamber Players. Violinist Belinda Whitney returns as soloist and concert master in a program featuring the Tchaikovsky String Quartet No. 1 and the Pulitzer Prize winning composer Jennifer Higdon’s Pale Yellow from the Piano Trio. Violinists Joyce Hammann and Belinda Whitney, violist Amadi Asikwe and Tia Allen, and cellist Robert Burkhardt will perform music by Beethoven, Ysaÿe, Florence Price, and Gary Faigin.

Our final concert of this season is a Harlem Songfest, which will feature some of Harlem’s favorite star vocalists—Met Opera sopranos Janinah Burnett and Brandie Sutton, mezzo-soprano Lucia Bradford and baritone Kenneth Overton. This concert will feature some of the most beloved arias from the operatic repertoire with James Davis Jr. conducting an orchestra consisting of members of The Harlem Chamber Players. Please visit www.harlemchamberplayers.org for more info and to purchase tickets.

We are also pleased to announce that Jo-Ann Graham, Ph.D., Joseph Joubert, Alicia Hall Moran and Jason Moran joined the Advisory Committee this year.

2017 – 2018 SEASON PREVIEW

We are excited to announce our 10th Anniversary Season kicks off on Friday, September 29, 2017! Joseph Joubert will return to join The Harlem Chamber Players in our Season Opening Concert, which will feature the Dvořák Piano Quartet No. 2 in A Major, the Tchaikovsky String Quartet No. 1 and the Pulitzer Prize winning composer Jennifer Higdon’s Pale Yellow from the Piano Trio. Violinists Joyce Hammann and Belinda Whitney, violinist Tia Allen and Clay Ruede will also be featured. We continue our partnership with Goddard Riverside Community Center and will present an Afternoon of Chamber Music on Sunday, October 29, 2017. Violinists Joyce Hammann and Belinda Whitney, violist Amadi Asikwe and Tia Allen, and cellist Robert Burkhardt will perform music by Beethoven, Ysaÿe, Florence Price, and Gary Faigin.

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Photos from top to bottom, left to right: Pianist Joseph Joubert, harpsichordist Paolo Bordignon, conductor James Davis Jr., soprano Janinah Burnett, soprano Brandie Sutton, mezzo-soprano Lucia Bradford, baritone Kenneth Overton. Lower left photo: Tenor Christopher Sierra.