



Music by Daniel Blake
Choreography by Tomiko Magario
featuring Westchester Ballet Company
<http://www.gotmywings.org/>

“Where do we find our freedom?” This question is a wake-up call posed by author and Buddhist practitioner Jarvis Jay Masters, who has been incarcerated and on death row in San Quentin, CA for over three decades for a crime he did not commit (read more at www.freejarvis.org). His 2008 memoir derives its title from the story of a bird perched on the wall of San Quentin, about which Mr. Masters remarks “That Bird Has My Wings!”. Masters’ writings explore the powerful metaphor of flight-as-freedom, both corporeal and spiritual, a theme that became the primary inspiration for the ballet project and educational workshop *Got My Wings* (www.gotmywings.org). Through a triptych of sound and movement, *Got My Wings* reflects on freedom while staying grounded in the words and wisdom of Jarvis Jay Masters, who was interviewed by the composer especially for this work.

With support from **Arts Westchester** and **Humanities New York**, the *Got My Wings* high school workshop offers a unique hands-on curriculum exploring **art as a vehicle for examining the complex issue of incarceration and social justice**. The curriculum was designed by the work’s creators with direct input by Jarvis Jay Masters as well as teaching artists from the New York-based prison advocacy organization **Rehabilitation Through the Arts** (RtA.org). In fulfilling New York State’s **Culturally-Responsive Sustaining Education (CR-S)** principles, the workshop presents a diverse range of perspectives on art and social justice within an affirming and inclusive educational environment. The workshop is offered as a field trip to **Bethany Arts Community** in Ossining New York, where students will engage in the following:

1. **Dialogue:** After hearing some introductory pre-recorded remarks by Jarvis Jay Masters, teachers and students will discuss the essay “Scars” from Masters’ award-winning collection *Finding Freedom*. The facilitators will also review some essential information about his case. Students will have the opportunity to share questions and reflections on the reading and the criminal justice system more generally. Students, teachers and participants will learn about local advocacy through the Ossining-based community organization ENUBuilds.
2. **Performance and Movement workshop:** Students will hear directly from a small group of talented and dedicated dancers of Westchester Ballet Company about the work’s choreography and the intersections between creativity and social justice. Daniel Blake, the work’s composer, will give a live performance of some of the music from the piece, with opportunities for students to get involved in a music/movement improvisation (no musical or performance background is required).
3. **Writing and Creative Art Workshop:** With the help of facilitators from Rehabilitation Through the Arts, students will have a chance to reflect creatively on a prompt created by Mr. Masters especially for this workshop. Student work may take the form of poetry, spoken word, visual art, or extended prose. There will also be an opportunity for sharing and reflection before the close of the workshop.

In addition to the Bethany Arts Community field trip, workshop facilitators can also offer an **in-person school visit** to introduce the workshop themes to students, as well as offer professional development opportunities to faculty. Please contact us with any questions or to seek more information on scheduling!

Email contact: Daniel Blake, Ph.D. (dblake2881@gmail.com)

Please click the link below to view audio/visual samples on this workshop:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4vua87i1n74w0hh/AAAobahYEwlTf8lw5kbSCzn-a?dl=0>

