

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

Golden Voices Choir

Wayne A. Barr, D.M.A., Director



The Tuskegee Choir is an organization steeped in more than a century of pride and the richest of choral traditions. Since its inception, the Tuskegee Choir has served as an artistic model while carving its place in American history. The school choir was developed in 1886 because Dr. Washington had determined that the Institute needed a group of singers who could lead vesper services and sing for special campus occasions.

A new era began for the Tuskegee Choir in 1930 under its most renowned director and educator William L. Dawson, the “Dean of African-American Choral Composers”. His tenure was marked by performances for the grand opening of Radio City Music hall, for United States presidents (Herbert Hoover and president-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt), at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., and for a host of television and radio programs.

The Tuskegee Choir has since appeared at Carnegie Hall, has been invited to the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony (1962) by President John F. Kennedy, and the National Prayer Breakfast (1994) and the White House (1997) by President William J.

Clinton. On January 18, 2015, in celebration of the release of the movie *Selma*, the choir was invited to sing the Grammy Award winning song “Glory” with John Legend and Common on the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

The Tuskegee University Golden Voices Concert Choir continues its mission of campus service and ambassadorship through leadership at weekly All-University Worship Services and appearances in the community and across the nation. The Choir tours annually. The 2012 Northeastern tour included a March 1 performance at the United negro College Fund banquet in New York. The choir also returned to the Lincoln Center during that tour, marking the fortieth anniversary of its 1972 performance there as the first all-black choir to do so. In 2018 the Tuskegee Choir toured Ontario, Canada.

The choir’s 2020 Southwest Spring Tour will include concerts in Austin, TX; Little Rock, AR; Springfield, MO; Memphis, TN, and Florence, AL.



Wayne A. Barr is Director of Choral Activities at Tuskegee University. He earned degrees in church music and choral conducting from Westminster Choir College (B.M.), Southern Methodist University (M.M., M.S.M.), and The University of Michigan (D.M.A.). He has served as organist and choir director at churches in Alabama, Michigan, New Jersey and Texas.

Under Mr. Barr's direction, the Tuskegee Choir has toured the Midwestern and East Coast regions of the United States, and the San Francisco Bay Area. The Choir has also presented numerous concerts throughout the Southeast.

As an organ recitalist, Mr. Barr has twice been a featured organist at the Colour of Music Festival in Charleston, South Carolina. He is also a music workshop clinician. Mr. Barr is co-director of the Italian Opera Study Abroad Program, which offers students of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) a four-week study of Italian opera with a renowned coach in Italy. As a regional conductor for the 105 Voices of History, a choir made up of student representatives of the 105 HBCUs as defined by the White House Initiative, he has prepared students and served as organ accompanist for the 2008 and 2009 Kennedy Center performances of the 105 Choir. He served as a national conductor for the 2010 Kennedy Center performance. In February 2015, Barr presented concerts with a Bolivian choir and American soloists in La Paz and Cochabamba, Bolivia under the auspices of the U. S. Embassy in Bolivia.

Dr. Barr is a member of the American Choral Directors Association and the American Guild of Organists. He is also actively involved in the Tuskegee community through the Optimist Club, an organization that supports children and youth, and through the Tuskegee Repertory Theatre.



Brenda Shuford serves as the newly appointed Choral Accompanist for the Choral Department of Tuskegee University. She is a certified music educator, choral conductor, vocalist and accomplished pianist. Her degrees include a Master of Education in Music Education from Alabama State University, and a Bachelor of Arts in piano performance from Huntington College.

For more than 20 years, Mrs. Shuford has provided music education to students in the Montgomery Public School System. She has spent the past 14 1/2 years as the choral director of the ChoraLees of Robert E. Lee High School. Her extensive work at Robert E. Lee High School brought regional visibility and acclaim for her innovative musical creation "The Saturday Night Fish Fry", among other notable productions throughout the Montgomery area.

As an ordained elder, Mrs. Shuford has also served as the minister of music at the Mount Zion A.M.E. Zion Church in Montgomery. During her tenure, she has presented major music works, cantatas, and original musical productions with intricate orchestration, choreography and dramatic presentations.

Mrs. Shuford is a member of the National Association for Music Education.

Chaperone: Mrs. Antoinette Frederick

Photographer: Mr. Stefan Smith

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Fact Sheet

- The Tuskegee Choir is one of the country's leading college and university musical organizations. It was invited to sing for thirty-six days at the dedication of the Radio City Music Hall, Rockefeller Center, opening on December 27, 1932. (William L. Dawson, Director)
- The Tuskegee Choir Album, released in 1954 by Westminster Recording Company, was included in the "Best Selling Long Playing Records of the Decade" as listed in the March 16, 1958 issue of the New York Times.
- A new era began for the Tuskegee Choir in 1931 under renowned director, composer and educator William L. Dawson. The 100-voice choir appeared at the opening of Radio City Music Hall in New York City (1932). This event expanded Tuskegee's prestige worldwide.
- The Tuskegee Choir was invited to sing at the birthday party of President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt in Hyde Park, N.Y. A few days later, the choir presented a concert at the White House at the request of President Herbert Hoover. In the years to follow, the Tuskegee Choir would perform a series of concerts on the ABC, CBS, and NBC radio networks. In 1946, the choir would become the first black performing organization to appear at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.
- The Tuskegee Choir's television debut came in 1950. On Feb. 5, the group appeared on "The Edgar Bergen Show". The choir's popularity continued to extend across the television airwaves as invitations poured in for appearances on shows such as the popular "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1952.
- Under Dawson's direction, the Tuskegee Choir in 1955 produced the album "The Tuskegee Institute Choir Sings Spirituals."
- In 1958 the Tuskegee Choir received invitations to participate in the Brussels World's Fair and the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration of Radio City Music Hall. The latter was accepted, and members of the choir performed May 29 - June 25, 1958. (Relford Patterson, Director)
- In April 1972, the Tuskegee Choir became the first Black choir to perform in Lincoln Center, New York City. (Roy E. Hicks, Director)
- In 1973, the Tuskegee Choir was invited by the Strategic Air Command to render concerts at Air Force Bases in Maine, Michigan, Montana and North Dakota. A first among colleges and universities. (Roy E. Hicks, Director)
- In 1994, the Tuskegee Choir performed at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. for an audience that included Mother Teresa. It also commemorated its 1962 visit to the United States Department of State with a concert later that day. (Stephen L. Hayes, Director)
- In December 1997 the Tuskegee Choir was honored to sing in the East Room of the White House in December 1997. (Stephen L. Hayes, Director)
- In 2006, the Tuskegee Choir released a CD, *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit*, to celebrate the University's 125th Anniversary. (Wayne A. Barr, Director)
- In 2012, the Tuskegee Choir performed for the United Negro College Fund Banquet in New York on March 1, and at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center on March 4, marking the fortieth anniversary of the choir's appearance there.
- In 2015, the Tuskegee Choir sang the song *Glory* with John Legend and Common on the Edmund Pettus Bridge to celebrate the release of the movie *Selma*.
- In 2018, the Tuskegee Choir's Midwest tour included four concerts in Ontario, Canada.

Tuskegee University Golden Voices Concert Choir

2020 Roster

Last Name	First Name	Voice Part	Major	Class	City and State
Calvin	Faith	Soprano 2	Animal Science	2023	Memphis, TN
Cooper	DeAngelo	Bass 1	Electrical Engineering	2021	Rome, GA
Council	Kdayjah	Soprano 2	Dietetics	2022	Tuskegee, AL
Curry	Taylor	Alto 2	Agribusiness	2021	Detroit, MI
Davenport	Deja	Soprano 1	Psychology	2020	Athens, GA
Dickson	Cynthia	Alto 2	Nutritional Science and Biology	2022	Birmingham, AL
Drah	Raja	Percussion	English	2021	Tacoma, WA
Ellis	Kaci	Soprano 2	Communications	2022	Roebuck, SC
Fitch	Jacob	Bass 1	Environmental Science	2020	Tuscaloosa, AL
Gray	Aysha	Soprano 2	Agricultural Business	2023	Saint Louis, MO
Greene	Terry	Tenor 2	Animal science	2020	Detroit, MI
Hardaway	Joelle	Soprano 1	Animal & Poultry Science	2022	Jamaica, NY
Harris	Paeton	Bass 1	Agricultural Business	2022	Mobile, AL
Hatten	Daniel	Bass 2	History	2020	Tuskegee, AL
Humphrey	Robyn	Alto 2	Chemical Engineering	2023	Memphis, TN
Hunter	Fernandez	Tenor 2	Architecture	2021	Birmingham, AL
Jackson	Brooke	Soprano 2	Chemistry	2023	Mobile, AL
James	Robyn	Alto 2	Communication	2020	Taylorville, GA
Jenkins	Myles	Bass 1	Biology	2023	Powder springs, GA
Kyler	Cilicia	Soprano 2	Psychology	2021	Hephzibah, GA
Mabra	Robyn	Alto 1	Aerospace Engineering	2022	Surprise, AZ
May	Rolyn	Bass 2	Architecture	2020	Houston, TX
Moore	McKayla	Soprano 2	Biology	2023	Columbia, SC
Morgan	Sydney	Soprano 1	Animal science	2022	Hampton, GA
Scott	Da'Najah	Soprano 1	Performing Arts and Marketing	2023	Grovetown, GA
Spearman	William	Tenor 1	Occupational Therapy	2021	Millington, TN
Thompson	Eugene	Tenor 2	Mechanical engineering	2023	Nassau, Bahamas
Toussaint	Patrese	Alto 1	Music	2020	Atlanta, GA
Umeugo	Chukwuma	Tenor 1	Music	2020	Charlotte, NC
Warren	Kaila	Alto 1	Nursing	2022	Birmingham, AL
Wells	Kyler	Tenor 1	Biology and Mathematics	2020	Inglewood, CA
White	Jaya	Alto 1	Animal science	2023	College Park, GA
Williams	Zion	Alto 2	Music & Education	2021	Cincinnati, OH

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2020 Spring Tour Performance Itinerary

Sunday, March 8, 4:00 PM

Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church
8500 Cameron Road
Austin, TX 78754
(512) 302-4575

Tuesday, March 10, 7:00 PM

St. Mark Baptist Church
5722 W. 12th Street
Little Rock, AR 72204
(501) 663-3955

Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 PM

Brentwood Christian Church
1900 E. Baratavia Street
Springfield, MO 65804
(417) 881-0144

Thursday, March 12, 7:00 PM

Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church
70 N. Bellevue Blvd.,
Memphis, TN 38104
(901) 729-6222

Saturday, March 14, 5:00 PM

Woodmont Baptist Church
2001 Darby Drive
Florence, AL 35630
(256) 766-1255