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Contact: Leslie Jones
Phone: 240.293.0107
Email: contact@thehundred-seven.org

More than the Band
Celebrating the HBCU Connection to the Opera World

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In honor of Black Music Month, The Hundred-Seven is highlighting opera singers who attended Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as well as HBCUs offering opera programs or classical music programs that have recently prepared opera singers.

The focus on music at HBCUs is often limited to the amazing marching bands. But HBCU music is about more than the band. For more than 150 years, the musicians produced at HBCUs have been known across the globe with the Fisk Jubilee singers perhaps being the 1st to bring recognition to their college and the music of African-Americans. Since then HBCUs have continued to prepare professionally trained musicians in every genre, including opera.

Schools selected for the listing offer opera concentrations or workshops or have a music program that provides classical music training for vocalist; all have notable alumni in the opera world. The complete listing of the HBCUs being recognized can be viewed here. The list of notable alumni can be viewed here.

The Hundred-Seven was founded by educator, historian and HBCU expert, Leslie D.W. Jones to promote higher education through Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The Hundred-Seven’s website, launched in February months ago, not only highlights the accomplishments of HBCUs and their alumni, but includes the only online searchable database that features every academic program offered by every HBCU. Thousands of visitors, including students, parents and counselors have already connected with the site to identify which college has the academic program to meet their needs. The Hundred-Seven’s site includes more than 1000 academic programs ranging from common programs like Accounting, Education and Psychology to more unique offering like Motorsports Management, Golf Management and Jewelry Design. All levels of degrees are included, from Associate’s to Doctoral degrees, certificate and online programs.

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