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PLACE DES ARTS

A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
WITH DAMIEN SNEED

# We Shall Overcome

including songs by

Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder,  
Nina Simone, Wynton Marsalis,  
Donny Hathaway and Duke Ellington



THÉÂTRE MAISONNEUVE  
JANUARY 16, 2020

LA  
PRESSE



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# We Shall Overcome

**A Celebration of  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,  
featuring Damien Sneed.**

**Inspired by the words and action of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “We Shall Overcome” showcases repertoire from across the African American music traditions that electrified generations of civil rights activists and defenders with interwoven spoken word from Dr. King’s recorded speeches.**

Producer and Musical Director Damien Sneed’s career covers an incredible breadth of genres. He has conducted and collaborated major original works for Wynton Marsalis, regularly accompanies Jessye Norman, collaborated with Lawrence Brownlee, and has toured extensively with Diana Ross, Aretha Franklin and the Clark Sisters.

This production ties together a living lineage of music and culture that includes traditional gospel, modern gospel, classical, jazz, Broadway and spirituals. From Aretha Franklin, to Wynton Marsalis; Duke Ellington to Stevie Wonder; Nina Simone to Donny Hathaway; and traditional spirituals and music from “the Wiz”, Damien’s unique understanding of each genre allows him to fluidly cover so much musical ground in a single performance.

Composers including: Duke Ellington, Damien Sneed, Nina Simone, Stevie Wonder, Wynton Marsalis. Songbooks of Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, Dionne Warwick, Donny Hathaway, Music from “The Wiz”.

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PLACE DES ARTS

## **KEY PARTNER OF CREATORS AND ARTISTS FROM HOME AND ABROAD**

From theatre to song, dance to circus arts, Place des Arts stands out as a key partner in the production and presentation of the performing arts with its *Les spectacles Place des Arts* series. Together with the shows presented annually by some 150 producers, this series further confirms the richness and diversity of the programming offered at Place des Arts, a vital space for artistic expression in the heart of Montreal.

## We Shall Overcome

- Damien Sneed:**  
bandleader, piano, keys, vocals
- Chenee Campbell:** vocals
- Markita Knight:** vocals
- Anitra McKinney:** vocals
- Alicia Peters-Jordan:** vocals
- Linny Smith:** vocals
- Marquéz Cassidy:** organ
- Arthur Sutton:** bass
- Joel Tate:** drums

## DAMIEN SNEED

Multi-genre recording artist and instrumentalist, **Damien Sneed** is a pianist, organist, composer, conductor, arranger, producer, and arts educator whose work spans multiple genres. The Sphinx Medal of Excellence recipient has worked with jazz, classical, pop, and R&B legends, including the late Aretha Franklin and Jessye Norman, which he is featured on Norman's final recording, *Bound For The Promised Land*. He also worked with Wynton Marsalis, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Ashford & Simpson, J'Nai Bridges, Lawrence Brownlee, and many others.



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Sneed recently joined the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music. A graduate of John S. Davidson Fine Arts School in his hometown of Augusta, GA., Sneed studied at some of the finest conservatories and universities, including Howard University, where he earned a Bachelor of Music – Piano Performance; the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University; New York University, where he earned a Master of Music in Music Technology: Scoring for Film and Multimedia; and the Manhattan School of Music. Sneed will also graduate with his doctorate in Orchestral Conducting from USC in 2020. Sneed was a member of the faculty at the Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and Nyack College. His other professional affiliations have included The Juilliard School as a staff accompanist, Jazz at Lincoln Center as an artistic consultant, and the City University of New York (CUNY) as a professor of music. In 2015, Sneed established the Damien Sneed Performing Arts Institute, a division of the Damien Sneed Foundation.

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# LAGRIME DI SAN PIETRO

A Renaissance masterpiece reinterpreted by 21 a cappella singers,  
with brilliant staging by Peter Sellars



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A RHYTHMIC, SENSUAL  
AND POWERFUL CELEBRATION!

# CHE MALAMBO

SALLE WILFRID-PELLETIER

FEBRUARY 7, 2020

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