

# Guest Artist Recital

**Dr. Gwendolyn Alfred & Dr. James Rodriguez**

**with Amanda Arrington**

**March 11th, 2025**

**7:00pm**

**All Faiths Chapel, Kansas State University**

## PROGRAM

Largo al factorem ..... Gioachino Rossini  
from *Il barbiere di Siviglia*

James Rodriguez, baritone

Dich, theure Halle ..... Richard Wagner  
from *Tannhäuser*

Gwendolyn Alfred, soprano

El clavel del aire blanco ..... Carlos Guastavino  
Se equivoco la paloma

Mi sueño ..... Edward Kilenyi

James Rodriguez, baritone

Allerseelen ..... Richard Strauss  
Zueignung

Gwendolyn Alfred, soprano

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The Boatmen's Dance ..... Aaron Copland  
Simple Gifts  
The Little Horses  
I Bought Me A Cat

James Rodriguez, baritone

Tears ..... B. E. Boykin  
Sounds Like Pearls  
Greyday  
Refusal

Gwendolyn Alfred, soprano

A Lullaby for You ..... Betty Jackson King  
A Winter Twilight ..... Rosephanye Powell  
Love Let The Wind Cry...How I Adore Thee..... Undine S. Moore

Gwendolyn Alfred, soprano

Il Trovatore Duet ..... Giuseppe Verdi

James Rodriguez, baritone  
Gwendolyn Alfred, soprano

Special thanks to the College of Arts and Science, Dow Center for Multicultural and Community Studies, and the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance for their invaluable contributions in making this event possible.

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Praised for her “bright and passionate tone” (Houston Chronicle), soprano Gwendolyn Alfred made her Houston Grand Opera debut in a newly-commissioned work which landed her in the prestigious Texas Monthly magazine. Her Houston Symphony debut featured her as a soloist in their touring Summer Community Concert Series and she additionally sang the soprano solos in Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony (Houston Civic Symphony & Fort Bend Symphony) and Carmina Burana (Fort Bend Symphony). Her most notable opera roles include: Emeline (What Wings They Were), Donna Anna (Don Giovanni), Giulietta (Les Contes d’Hoffmann), Magda (The Consul), Contessa Almaviva (Le Nozze di Figaro), Madama Cortese (Il Viaggio a Reims), Mrs. Gobineau (The Medium), Cinna (Lucio Silla), and Maria Corona (The Saint of Bleecker Street) with such companies as HGOco, Opera in the Heights, Miami Music Festival, and The Moores Opera Center. Alfred recently made her off-Broadway debut as a soprano soloist in the original dramatic work *The Women Have Something to Say*.

Dr. Alfred is an Assistant Professor of Voice at Texas Christian University. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Houston, Master of Music from Lamar University, and Doctorate of Musical Arts in Voice Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Houston. Her research on William Grant Still’s opera, *Troubled Island*, has been published in *Black Americans in Higher Education: A Review of Social Science Research*, Volume 8. Alfred has also published research on black women composers in the *NATS Journal of Singing* and has presented at the International Florence Price Festival. She has toured “The Black Female Composer” trio recital nationally, with Drs. Artina McCain and James Rodriguez, and has been recently performing her newly-curated recital, featuring contemporary black women composers and new commissions, nationally and soon in Toronto, Canada. In 2024, she sang as part of the Mahogany Chamber Music Series at the Crosstown Theater in Memphis, Tennessee and premiered *Colossus Mother of Exiles* by Christopher Aspaas with the TCU Concert Chorale. Her mission is to influence and build well-rounded musicians from diverse backgrounds with her love for a wide array of genres, and her eclectic experience with various musical styles.

Honduran baritone, James D. Rodriguez, has appeared in operatic works by Bizet, Rossini, Mozart, Donizetti, Strauss, Verdi, Catán, and many others. Favorite roles include Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Tonio in *Pagliacci*, Dr. Rappaccini in *La Hija de Rappaccini*, Herr Fannin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, and the title roles in *Rigoletto* and *Falstaff*. Other appearances include those with Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera in the Heights, Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre, Opera Theatre Pittsburgh, the Natchez Festival of Music, and the Moores Opera Center. Concert appearances include Beethoven’s 9th Symphony & Mass in C, Fauré’s Requiem, Handel’s Messiah, Carlisle Floyd’s *Pilgrimage*, Mahler’s *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, Goodall’s *Eternal Light: A Requiem*, and Rossini’s *Petite Messe Solennelle* with the Houston Camerata, Fort Bend Symphony, and San Antonio Symphony, among others.



An avid collaborator, he has performed recitals with PianoTexas Festival with Michael Bukhman, the Festival of American Song with Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao (with composer Libby Larsen in residency), Opus Nova, Mt. Vernon Music, and Austin Chamber Music Center, for which he was awarded an Austin Critics Table Award for his participation in “Black Composers Concert: The Black Female Composer”, with pianist, Dr. Artina McCain. In addition, he has performed as part of a trio with Drs. McCain and Alfred, touring the works of Black Female Composers as part of a recital series throughout the United States. In 2024, he sang as part of the Mahogany Chamber Music Series at the Crosstown Theater in Memphis, Tennessee and premiered *COLOSSUS: Mother of Exiles* by Christopher Aspaas with the TCU Concert Chorale. He is also the recipient of the gold medal in the Young Texas Artists Vocal Competition.

Dr. Rodriguez is an Associate Professor of Voice & Voice Pedagogy at Texas Christian University. He holds advanced degrees from the University of Houston and is a Certified Vocologist from the National Center for Voice and Speech.