



## TURTLE CREEK CHORALE

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### **TURTLE CREEK CHORALE BRINGS 'DREAMLAND: TULSA 1921' TO CARNEGIE HALL**

*World-renowned male chorus to honor victims of Tulsa Race Massacre with melodies of healing, love, and social justice*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: APRIL 11, 2022, New York, NY —**

Following the two-year anniversary of the protests of the murder of George Floyd, [Turtle Creek Chorale](#) will play Carnegie Hall **Saturday, July 9** at 8:00 PM with the world premiere of the choral theater piece, "**Dreamland: Tulsa, 1921**" by librettist **Sandra Seaton** and composer **Marques Garrett**. Utilizing a massive chorus, orchestra, and actors, "Dreamland: Tulsa, 1921" tells the true story of the victims who lost everything in the all-Black Greenwood neighborhood of the Tulsa Race Massacre and acknowledges the efforts still needed to achieve a brighter future for all people.

The second act of the evening will feature uplifting choral anthems by black composers and artists, including another world premiere of the provocative "**Where Are the Bodies?**" by Dallas-based composer Reginal White, along with pieces dealing with the subjects of racial equity and social justice. Ranging from powerful and dynamic to challenging and provocative, the program will educate us on the continuing experiences of our Black brothers and sisters, along exploring the prospect of moving forward, of reconciliation, and of hope. The evening will also welcome members of the Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus as guests of the Chorale.

Tickets are on sale now at [CarnegieHall.org](#)

#### ***About Tulsa 1921***

On May 31st, 1921, one of the worst acts of racial violence in U.S. history struck the Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, OK. One hundred years later, the world is just now learning about these horrific incidents in an economically thriving community that was known as the country's "Black Wall Street." The Tulsa Race Massacre left hundreds of Black Americans killed or homeless as a white mob attacked residents' homes and businesses for over 18 hours between May 31 and June 1, 1921. Sparked by an alleged incident involving Black shoe shiner Dick Rowland and white elevator operator Sarah Page, white residents of Tulsa and the surrounding areas, as well as law enforcement, destroyed the Greenwood community beyond recognition.

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Created by TCC and developed by composer Dr. Marques Garrett, and librettist Sandra Seaton, both Black artists, the TCC will perform powerful yet challenging songs with vivid imagery and descriptions of the events. The piece is named after the Williams Dreamland Theater, one of the first buildings to be destroyed during the 1921 riot. The theater was owned by two Black entrepreneurs who played a major role in the development of Tulsa's Black Wall Street.

"Growing up in Tulsa, I never learned about the horrific Tulsa Race Massacre – it was hidden from us," said Sean Baugh, TCC Artistic Director and Tulsa native. - "While I knew of the events from spoken knowledge passed down, it wasn't until the massacre was again depicted in HBO's *Watchmen* early last year did I fully understand the importance and power of the story of this horrific piece of my Oklahoma history."

Librettist and American playwright Sandra Seaton was inspired by *Events of the Tulsa Disaster*, a book written by Mary E. Jones Parrish, a journalist who fled Greenwood with her daughter and gathered the firsthand accounts of others who witnessed and suffered from the violence. Seaton's interpretation of events is brought to life by composer Marques Garrett, who holds a Ph.D. in Music Education and whose compositions have been performed by high school all-state, collegiate, and professional choirs.

### **Concert Details:**

Turtle Creek Chorale Presents *Let Us March On!*

Saturday, July 9, 2022, at 8:00 PM

Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall

[Buy Tickets Here](#)

*Performers:* Sean Mikel Baugh (TCC Artistic Director and Conductor), Turtle Creek Chorale, members of the Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus, and more to be announced.

*Program:* MARQUES L.A. GARRETT, SANDRA SEATON, *Dreamland: Tulsa 1921* (World Premiere) and works by John Legend, J.W. Johnson, J.R. Johnson, and others

### **[APPROVED IMAGES AND MEDIA LINKS](#)**

### **About the Turtle Creek Chorale:**

In 1980, 30 men stood on stage and sang at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Dallas, Texas. Now known as Turtle Creek Chorale (TCC), that group has grown to more than 250 dues-paying members who contribute over 100,000 hours annually to rehearsals, performances, and community outreach services. TCC has provided musical journeys to audiences in Dallas and beyond for over 42 years, and annually offers a dynamic mainstage concert series at concert venues throughout the area.

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## TURTLE CREEK CHORALE

While primarily a gay men's chorus, the Turtle Creek Chorale welcomes all men and those who identify as male, regardless of sexual orientation. The mission of the Turtle Creek Chorale is to Entertain, Educate, Unite, and Inspire.

Learn more about the Turtle Creek Chorale at [TurtleCreekChorale.com](https://www.turtlecreekchorale.com)

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