

**African-American Female Vocalists:
Their Influence, Their Versatility
and Their Songs**

A senior project given by

**Natalie
Fletcher-Brown**
MEZZO-SOPRANO

In partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Bachelor of Arts in music

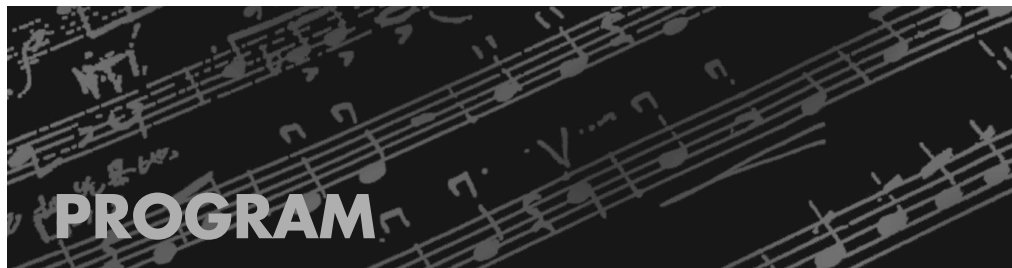
**From the studio of
John Wesley Wright**

**Accompanied by
Robert A. Baker, pianist**

**Assisted by
Kimberly Barnhill, mezzo-soprano
Terron Quailes, percussion**

Salisbury
UNIVERSITY

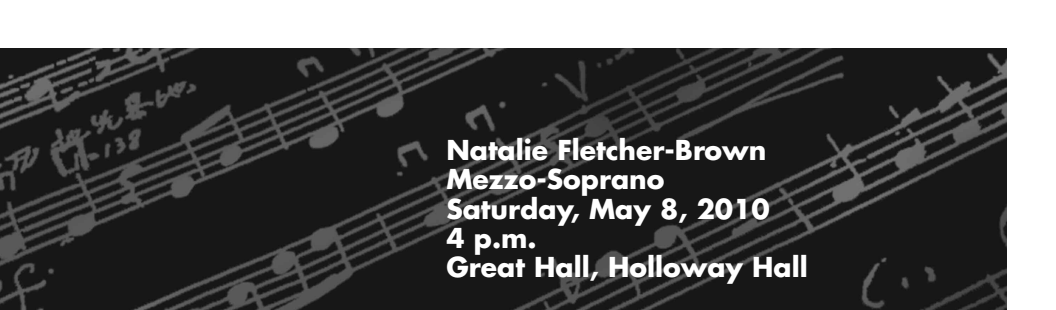
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PROGRAM

“...and the ...”

Natalie Fletcher-Brown is a senior at Salisbury University and will earn a B.A in music with a concentration in voice and a minor in English. Before coming to SU, Brown traveled to different states as a lead vocalist with the Bowie State University Gospel Choir and has backed world-renowned gospel singers Shirley Caesar and Yolanda Adams. Brown was crowned Miss Freshman at Bowie State and was the first-place winner of several oratorical speech contests and talent competitions. At SU, Brown has been a soloist in the stage production *The Gospel of Colonus*, sung lead with the University Jazz Ensemble and been a guest soloist with the Salisbury Pops. She has been the choir director of Mission Hill Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ's Youth and Mass Choirs for the past five years. She plans to settle in the area and raise her family, as well as continue her pursuit of performance, teaching and musical studies.



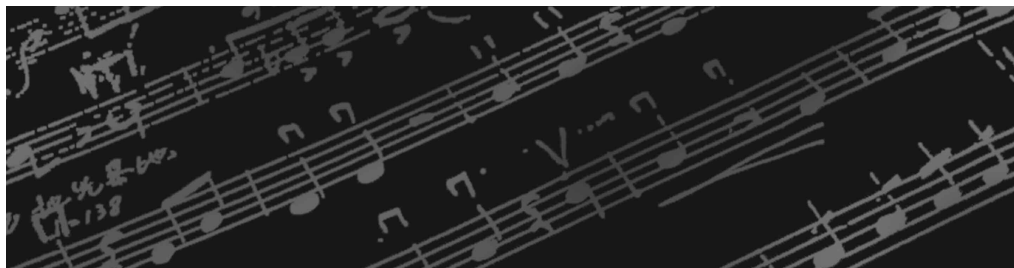
Natalie Fletcher-Brown
Mezzo-Soprano
Saturday, May 8, 2010
4 p.m.
Great Hall, Holloway Hall

Dr. Robert A. Baker is an active composer, pianist and conductor. His compositions have been performed in Canada by numerous performers and presenters including Esprit Orchestra, The Standing Wave Ensemble, the Composer's Quartet, The New Guitar, Elgin String Trio, The Great Lakes Duo and toneART ensemble (of which Baker is a founding member). Baker's music has also been performed in the United States, Wales, Italy and the Czech Republic, and been broadcast on CBC*SRC Radio Canada. Baker's works have received international recognition from "Jihlava 2000" International Choral Composition Competition, Czech Republic (third prize) and the Sixth International Contemporary Music Contest, Città di Udine, Italy (Finalist) in 2006. Commercial recordings of Baker's music are available on classical guitarist Danielle Cumming's 2001 début CD, *Postcards* (cuerdas 701) and the self-titled 2003 recording by toneART ensemble (tA 1103-2). To sample excerpts from these recordings and more, visit Baker's homepage at the Canadian Music Centre at www.musiccentre.ca. Baker is an experienced conductor of both orchestral and choral music, and since 1991 has held various music director and guest conductor posts for orchestras and choirs including Brampton Symphony, Scarborough Cathedral Bluffs Symphony, St. Pat's Players (Gilbert and Sullivan company), as well as St. Cyprian's Anglican and St. John's United church choirs. Baker recently completed the Ph.D. composition program at McGill University in Montréal, Canada, studying under composer John Rea. His dissertation included an original monodrama for tenor and ensemble, as well as extensive research into compositional strategies in relation to spatiotemporality in 20th century opera. Visit Baker's Web site at www.robertabaker.net.

SPECIAL THANKS

Natalie Fletcher-Brown offers the following thank you:

I thank everyone for coming out and showing their support. Studying at Salisbury University under the direction of Professor John Wright has been a mystical experience. I have learned so much under his instruction, and with his guidance I know that vocally, anything is possible. Thank you, Professor Wright! I thank Professor Robert Baker for sticking with me from the beginning of my studies at SU and bringing forth magical musical experiences for me whenever we perform together. I give a special thank you to the entire SU Music Department staff, especially Professor Knier for always having an encouraging word. You've helped me in more ways than you know. I also thank my family, especially my brothers and sister who are the center of my joy, always being the source of my happiness. To my grandmother, thank you for passing down this voice and teaching me to be the DIVA that I am today. To my grandfather, thank you for giving me the word of God, for it has brought me thus far and will continue to lead me on. To my Aunt Leslie and my best friend, thank you for your words and your beautiful smiles. You all have been by my side encouraging me to believe that with God I can do anything. To my father, thank you for ALWAYS healing and encouraging me. I love you more than words. To my mother, thank you for always being there and being the mother that many children dream of having. Above all else, I thank the man who inspires me to do what I love, encourages me to be who I am and most importantly, accepts me ... my wonderful husband. Thank you for everything that you are. To my wonderful, loving, handsome, charming, charismatic son Prince Daniel, you are without a doubt my inspiration and I love you more than life. Thanks to God, my Lord, for without Him I would fail.



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Kimberly Buegler, *Assistant Program Management Specialist, Department of Music*

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