



# WE SHALL OVERCOME

A CELEBRATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

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Featuring **Damien Sneed**

## **PROGRAM**

*There will not be an intermission.*

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**Friday, January 17 @ 8 PM**

Zellerbach Theatre

## PROGRAM NOTES

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Inspired by the words and actions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., *We Shall Overcome* is a joyful celebration of music 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.

The 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 Sneed's unique understanding of each genre allows him to fluidly cover so much musical ground in a single performance.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

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### **Damien Sneed**

Sneed is a pianist, organist, conductor, composer, producer, arranger and arts educator whose work spans multiple genres. Sneed has worked with jazz, classical, pop and R&B legends including Aretha Franklin, Wynton Marsalis, Jessye Norman, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, Ashford & Simpson, Lawrence Brownlee and many others. The multi-genre recording artist is a recipient of the prestigious Sphinx Medal of Excellence, which is presented annually to emerging Black and Latino leaders in classical music. Sneed recently embarked on a 36-city North American tour with *We Shall Overcome: A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* 2020 marks the 37th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, which was signed into law and made a federal holiday in 1983. Sneed recently joined the acclaimed staff of the Houston Grand Opera (HGO co) as Music Director and Composer in Residence and serves as cover conductor for HGO mainstage productions under Patrick Summers, Artistic and Music Director. He has been commissioned to compose a new work for Houston Grand Opera which will have its world premiere on March 5, 2020, at the Cullen Theater. [damiensneed.com](http://damiensneed.com)