

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.
Featuring composer Libby Larsen

Biographies

Libby Larsen - is one of America's most prolific and most performed living composers. She has created a catalogue of over 500 works spanning virtually every genre from intimate vocal and chamber music to massive orchestral works and over 15 operas. Her music has been praised for its dynamic, deeply inspired, and vigorous contemporary American spirit. She has been hailed as "the only English-speaking composer since Benjamin Britten who matches great verse with fine music so intelligently and expressively" (*USA Today*). Her music has been praised for its "clear textures, easily absorbed rhythms and appealing melodic contours that make singing seem the most natural expression imaginable" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*). "Libby Larsen has come up with a way to make contemporary opera both musically current and accessible to the average audience" (*The Wall Street Journal*).

Kathleen Wilson - Ed.D., Professor of Voice at Florida International University, has degrees from the University of Arizona and Teachers College Columbia University. She taught at the University of New Hampshire and was a Fulbright Senior Scholar to Venezuela. She has several CD's to her credit and her performance of *To and Fro*, by Tania León, was nominated for a Latin Grammy in 2010. Publications include *The Art Song in Latin America: Selected Works by 20th c. Composers* (Pendragon Press, 1998). For over 20 years she has been using Vocal Function Exercises to help healthy, aging and/or injured voices, and she has presented her research most recently at NATS in Chicago and ICVT in Stockholm. She received a Teaching Excellence award from the University of New Hampshire, two grants from NEA, and the NATS and Voice Foundation's Van L. Lawrence Fellowship for her active interest in voice science and pedagogy.

Talitha Arnold - is Senior Minister of the United Church of Santa Fe (United Church of Christ). A graduate of Pomona College and Yale Divinity School, she's been Associate Chaplain for Yale and pastored congregations in Connecticut and Arizona. Nationally known for her work in mental health, she helped start Santa Fe's Habitat for Humanity and Youth Commission. Publications include *Worship for Vital Congregations* (Pilgrim Press) and essays for *The Christian Century* and NPR's *All Things Considered*. She's lectured for the Berkshire Choral Festival and Santa Fe Symphony and is a guest preacher for *Day1*. In 2017, she wrote and co-produced short documentaries about Iraqi refugee camps. Her ministry has been recognized by Yale and the UCC, as well as by Santa Fe's "Ten Who Make a Difference" and the Desert Chorale's Civic Leadership Award.

Bradley Ellingboe - has led a wide-ranging career in the world of singing, including accomplishments as a choral conductor, soloist, composer, scholar and teacher. As a choral conductor he has led festival choruses in 35 states and 14 foreign countries. As a bass-baritone soloist he has sung under such conductors as Robert Shaw, Helmuth Rilling, and Sir David Willcocks. Ellingboe has over 150 pieces of choral music in print. For his scholarly work in making the songs of Edvard Grieg more accessible to the English-speaking public, he was knighted by the King of Norway in 1994. As a teacher, the University of New Mexico Alumni Association named him Faculty of the Year in 2008. He founded *Coro Lux* in 2015, the same year he began directing the Sanctuary Choir at the United Church of Santa Fe.