

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JORGENSEN CENTER TO HOST JOYOUS MUSICAL TRIBUTE “WE SHALL OVERCOME – A CELEBRATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.” FEATURING DAMIEN SNEED

*Presented in Collaboration with UConn’s Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Living Legacy Convocation*

Thurs, Jan 23, 2020, at 7:30 pm

MEDIA CONTACT:

Renee Fournier

Marketing Manager

JORGENSEN CENTER for the Performing Arts

University of Connecticut – Storrs CT

Phone: 860-486-5507 | Email: renee.fournier@uconn.edu

STORRS, CT – Accompanied by a world-class ensemble of multi-genre musicians and vocalists, award-winning **music director and pianist Damien Sneed** brings his stirring musical tribute **“We Shall Overcome”: A Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.** to the stage at **UConn’s Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday evening, January 23** to honor the life and legacy of America’s iconic legendary civil rights leader. The event is sponsored by the **UConn Office for Diversity and Inclusion** in collaboration with the **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Living Legacy Convocation**.

Inspired by Dr. King’s words and actions, Sneed ties together a living lineage of music and culture that includes traditional and modern gospel, classical, jazz, Broadway, and traditional spirituals that evoke the struggles and triumphs of the civil rights movement.

“The University is pleased to have the opportunity to experience Dr. King’s legacy through Damien Sneed, and truly understand that in spite of the passage of time, we are all accountable for making Dr. King’s dream a reality,” said Dana Wilder, Interim Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer, on behalf of UConn’s Office for Diversity and Inclusion.

Covering timeless classics from artists like Aretha Franklin, Wynton Marsalis, Duke Ellington, Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, Donny Hathaway, and music from *The Wiz*, the program showcases repertoire from across the African American music traditions that electrified generations of civil rights activists and defenders. Providing additional inspiration for both audience and performers are interwoven spoken words from Dr. King’s recorded speeches.

The Jorgensen concert, part of the production's 40+ city North American tour, coincides with the January 2020 release of the deluxe edition of Sneed's CD, *Damien Sneed: We Shall Overcome*, on the LeChateau Earl Records label. Doors will open at 7:00 pm. Show begins at 7:30 pm. For additional information about the artist please visit www.damiensneed.com.

Voted Best College or University Performing Arts Center in the Hartford Courant's CTNow, Jorgensen presents 30 to 40 diverse performances each season, from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles ranging from classical music to world music and dance, classical ballet and contemporary dance, comedy, family programming and contemporary entertainment.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2132 Hillside Road on the UConn campus in Storrs. Tickets are now available online at Jorgensen.uconn.edu. **Tickets are free for UConn students, faculty and staff (One (1) free ticket with valid UConn ID). UConn affiliates must pick up ticket in person at Box Office. Tickets for the general public are \$32-36 each. Youth/Non-UConn Students are \$25 each.**

For tickets and information, go to jorgensen.uconn.edu, or call the Box Office at 860.486.4226, Monday - Friday, 10 am - 5 pm, and 90 minutes prior to events. Due to construction on campus, Lot L and half of Lot X is permanently closed through December. Closure of Lot N and the remainder of Lot X will follow in Spring 2020. Convenient \$5 event parking is available in the North Garage. Free parking is also available in Lot F. For a detailed parking map and more information, go to park.uconn.edu.

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