

J. Donald Dumpson, MM

J. Donald Dumpson's talents as an educator, producer, artistic and musical director make him a sought after clinician, production administrator and entertainer. He is President of J. Donald Dumpson Productions, LLC.

Mr. Dumpson is the Minister of Music at the Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia, PA where Rev. Kevin R. Johnson is pastor. As Minister of Music, he has taken the music ministry of Bright Hope from the church sanctuary to television and Broadway. His musicianship encompasses the worlds of Classical, Jazz, Pop and African American Sacred Music: Spirituals and Gospel and their performance practices.

As an educator, Mr. Dumpson has committed a substantial portion of his career to creating opportunities for urban youth to matriculate into college music programs across the country. His work is most evident with the success of many students at the Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, NJ and at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. Committed to education, he is the founding conductor and artistic director of the Westminster Jubilee Singers. He has presented many presentations for ACDA and MENC national and regional conventions as well as served as guest conductor for choral festivals around the world. From 1994-1999, as assistant professor of music, he directed the Cheyney University Concert Choir and was director of the University's Center for Cultural Enrichment and Appreciation. Mr. Dumpson also was employed by the School District of Philadelphia, where he taught for eight years. During his tenure, he served as an administrative assistant at the Kenderton Elementary School and director of the Concert Choir at the Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts.

Recently, two students inspired by him, Laquita Mitchell and Karen Slack were finalists in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Grand Finals Concert, at Lincoln Center. Laquita Mitchell went on to win first prize. Always eager to explore new perspectives and experiences in the arts and education, Mr. Dumpson earned a Master of Music degree from Temple University. He has done pre-doctoral studies at Peabody Conservatory of Music, Morgan State University, New York University, Philadelphia

University of the Arts, Westminster Choir College and University of California-Los Angeles.

He was co-producer of “An Evening of Stars,” formally known as the Lou Rawls Parade of Stars, benefiting the United Negro College Fund, Inc. For the January 8, 2005 syndicated broadcast, which honored Quincy Jones, he secured the talents of Bill Cosby, Oprah Winfrey, Stevie Wonder, Whoopi Goldberg, Kenneth “Babyface” Edmonds, Denyce Graves, Nancy Wilson, Macy Gray, Joss Stone, Yolanda Adams, Monique, Tyler Perry, Kirk Franklin, and many more. For this telecast, Mr. Dumpson accompanied opera diva, Denyce Graves. As one of the invited guest conductors for the internationally acclaimed Bach Festival, he also conducted BWV 234 Missa Brevis in A Major for orchestra, chorus, and soloists. He also produces an annual Operatic Concert in Rittenhouse Square Philadelphia, PA. The 2005 performance featured outstanding talent from the Academy of Vocal Arts. As an entertainment consultant, Mr. Dumpson has collaborated on several national television presentations, the most recent with PBS. He served as the co-musical director on “Breaking the Rules; An Evening with Denyce Graves”, with special guests Patti LaBelle and Take 6, for which he earned a regional Emmy Award. He has also served as co-musical director for the July 4th nationally televised special produced by Norman Lear. This special included a reading of the United States Constitution by Mel Gibson and Whoopi Goldberg and included performances by Garth Brooks and many others.

Some of Mr. Dumpson’s clients include, The Sun Oil Company (SUNOCO), McDonald’s, The United Negro College Fund, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, The Children’s Defense Fund, MTV, Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards, Louis J. Horvitz Productions, The National Urban League, Inc., The Congress of National Black Churches, Inc., The New Yorker Magazine and many more.

Mr. Dumpson has conducted the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO). The concerts received rave reviews. He has prepared the NJSO Community Chorus for performances of the Maher Symphony #2 “Resurrection”, Gustave Holst’s “Planets” as well as concerts with Al Jerreau and Peabo Bryson. He made his Carnegie debut in March of 2001 when the Westminster Choir College Jubilee Singers performed Porgy and Bess

under the baton of the legendary maestro Skitch Henderson. As musical director of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Chorus, he prepared the chorus for Hannibal Lokumbe's "African Portraits". The New York Times cited the composer's statement; "this was the best chorus I have ever heard." Mr. Dumpson created a chorus for the Marian Anderson Award Concert, featuring conductor Julius Rudel and Metropolitan Opera star Florence Quivar. Mr. Dumpson also received rave reviews when he prepared a chorus of regional singers for Gershwin's Porgy and Bess with the Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Bobby McFerrin. He prepared the chorus for the premier of the monumental work "God, Mississippi, and a Man Named Medgar" composed by Hannibal Lokumbe.

He has collaborated on projects with internationally renowned artists Zednek Macal, Charles Dutoit, Bobby McFerrin, William Curry, Leslie Dunner, Andre Raphael Smith and The Philadelphia Orchestra; Peter Nero and the Philadelphia Pops Orchestra; Philadelphia Singers, under the direction of the late Michael Korn, Morgan State University Choir, under the direction of the late Dr. Nathan Carter; Bucks County Choral Arts Society, under the direction of the late Elma Heckler; the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia, Alan Harler, director; Singing City of Philadelphia under the direction of the late Dr. Elaine Brown; and Gail Poch and the Temple University Singers, Dr. Anthony Leach and the Penn State University Essence of Joy Choir. He has also worked with Roy Ayers, Harry Belafonte, the late Cab Calloway, Jean Carne, Shirley Caesar, the late Rev. James Cleveland, Sandi Duncan, Cissy Houston, LL Cool J, Gerald Levert, Dawnn Lewis, Mary-Mary, Donnie McClurkin, Boyz II Men, Ricky Minor, Melba Moore, Musiq, Smokie Norful, Della Reese, Smokey Robinson, Jill Scott, Kathy Sledge, George Shirley, The Pointer Sisters, Charles Strouse, Tommy Tune, the late Grover Washington, Jr. and many more.

Mr. Dumpson's professional life is committed to building bridges of creative and powerful exchanges through the Arts.

Board Affiliations:

- African American Museum in Philadelphia
- American Choral Directors Association (NJ-ACDA)

- Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce (GPCC)
- Multi-Cultural Affairs Congress (MAC ~ PCVB)
- Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau (PCVB)

Other Organizations

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Life Time Member (NAACP)
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.