



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 18, 2021

Backstage at the Lincoln to Present First-Ever Double Bill October 21

Program to feature The Voice of Freedom and the Kingdom Image Awards' 2021 Small Group of the Year, Terrence Dooley & Testimony

[Backstage at the Lincoln](#), the Lincoln Theatre's local artist showcase series, offers audiences the extraordinary opportunity to be seated on stage for a uniquely intimate performance experience set against the hand-painted grandeur of the Lincoln's rare, Egyptian Revival-style interior. On October 21, Backstage presents its first-ever, two-act bill featuring *The Voice of Freedom*, an introduction to opera that celebrates African American history through song, and the Kingdom Image Awards' 2021 Small Group of the Year, Terrence Dooley & Testimony.

Backstage at the Lincoln presents *The Voice of Freedom* and Terrence Dooley & Testimony at the Lincoln Theatre (769 E. Long St.) on Thursday, October 21, at 7 pm. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in-person at the CBUSArts Ticket Center (39 E. State St.), online at www.LincolnTheatreColumbus.com, or by phone at (614) 469-0939.

This event is made possible through the generous support of Larry and Donna James and Crabbe, Brown, & James with additional support from the Greater Columbus Arts Council.

The Voice of Freedom

Concept and creation by Destiny Coleman

Originally developed and commissioned by Opera Columbus

Hannah Marie Bullock, soprano

DeMeeshia Marshall, soprano

Destiny L. Coleman, mezzo-soprano

Justin T. Swain, baritone

Ashley Wise, pianist

The Voice of Freedom introduces audiences to the operatic art form by celebrating African American cultural history through song. Featuring pieces steeped in African American history and culture, yet universal in their emotional and musical appeal, the performance will highlight gospel, spirituals, and operatic works throughout history. The Voice of Freedom aims to share the African American experience with audiences of all ages, races, and religions.

Terrence Dooley & Testimony

A *Billboard* Top 10 national gospel artist, Columbus-based singer/songwriter [Terrence J. Dooley](#) is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist, recording artist, producer, highly sought-after organist, keyboardist, clinician, minister, and director. In 2007, he founded small choir Testimony, an assembly of singers known for versatility in execution, proficiency in high-energy praise songs, and experience in worship. Under Dooley's leadership, Testimony has since made waves in the gospel music industry, releasing three studio albums—*Freedom* (2010), *Turning Point* (2015), and *Testimony* (2018) which debuted at #2 on *Billboard's* Current Gospel Albums chart, #10 on Top Gospel Albums, and #35 on Top Christian/Gospel Albums. Their most recently released single, "Thank You" (November 2020), debuted at #4 on *Billboard's* Gospel Digital Song Sales chart. On October 9, 2021, Terrence Dooley & Testimony were named the 2021 Small Group of the Year by the [Kingdom Image Awards](#), a Columbus non-profit organization that recognizes and celebrates the work and musical contribution of local artists who share the Gospel and represent the Kingdom with excellence.

www.LincolnTheatreColumbus.com

CALENDAR LISTING

Backstage at the Lincoln presents THE VOICE OF FREEDOM and TERRENCE DOOLEY & TESTIMONY

Thursday, October 21, 7 pm

Lincoln Theatre (769 E. Long St.)

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Support for the Lincoln Theatre's 2021-22 season is provided in part by the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the City of Columbus, AEP Foundation, Nationwide, The Columbus Foundation's Fred Sands Family Fund with the assistance of the Ingram-White Castle Foundation, and the Ohio Arts Council to encourage economic growth, educational excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.

About the Lincoln Theatre

First opened in 1928, the Lincoln Theatre is a landmark in African American and jazz history. After undergoing a \$13.5 million renovation funded by a partnership of public and private support, the Lincoln reopened in May 2009 as a multi-use, state-of-the-art performing arts and education center serving the diversity of the central Ohio community. The Lincoln is a bustling hub of activity 365 days a year hosting performances, rehearsals, and classes in the performing arts, as well as a wide variety of community events such as film festivals, meetings, and receptions.

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