



HARRY T. BURLEIGH
SOCIETY

***Meet Allen Christian:
Fisk Jubilee Singers®***



Tell us about yourself and your musical background.

My name is Allen Christian and I am native of Nashville. I have been familiar with Fisk University and the world-renowned Fisk Jubilee Singers all my life. I

entered Fisk University in the fall of 2015 majoring in Music Education. My concentration is in Vocal Performance; I am a classically trained Bass-Baritone. I have the honor of having been classically trained since I was ten years old. I was being groomed to be in this ensemble by participating in The Choral Arts Link MET Singer Ensemble. Having the experience of performing professionally as an adolescent prepared me for the privilege to sing with this impeccable ensemble.

What made you want to be a member of the Fisk Jubilee Singers®?

My first experience of The Fisk Jubilee Singers was at an annual concert that the ensemble has for Metro Nashville Public Schools. Back in 2007, I was a fifth grader. As I sat anticipating their performance. I had always heard my mentors, who are Fiskites (Fisk Alumni), boast about how The Fisk Jubilee Singers were nothing less than amazing. I vividly remember my reaction when the Singers approached the stage and began singing “Elijah Rock” arranged by Jester Hairston. My jaw dropped and my eyes filled with tears of amazement. Shortly after, I turned to my best friend and told her that “I must attend Fisk University to become a Fisk Jubilee Singer.” From that moment on, my goal was to enroll at Fisk University.

What do you hope to learn and experience in your time as a Singer?

As a Singer, I am motivated to become a better musician and vocalist. My desire is to learn more about the esteemed history of the ensemble so that I may share it with others. I have been in the ensemble for four years, and I have gained significant exposure to so many great people and fantastic places. In my first year in the ensemble, the group traveled to Germany to perform in cathedrals and concert halls. That trip alone will forever be the highlight of my tenure in this ensemble. I am grateful for every performance and moment that I have spent traveling with The Fisk Jubilee Singers.

What are your future plans?

As a graduating senior of this illustrious institution, I plan to enroll in graduate school in the fall of 2019. I expect to earn my Master’s degree in Music

Education at Austin Peay State University. After, I will pursue a teaching career while earning my Doctoral degree in Administration from Tennessee State University. I then plan to become an administrator in the Metro Nashville Public School System. I desire to give back to my community. I want to dispense as much knowledge as possible into the generations to come, all while enhancing the Arts in the urban school areas.

Fisk Jubilee Singers® Sing Harry T. Burleigh Spirituals



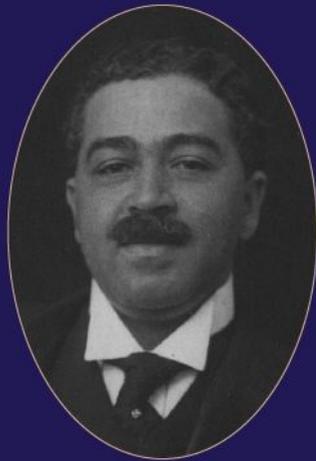
March 2nd 2019
Zankel Hall, Carnegie Hall
7:30pm

The Harry T. Burleigh Society and the Fisk Jubilee Singers® join in a historic performance celebrating Ella Sheppard (1851–1915), an original Fisk Jubilee Singer, and Harry T. Burleigh (1866–1949), leaders of the concert spiritual tradition. The Fisk Jubilee Singers® will perform the music of these underheard cultural leaders, and make calls for freedom.

Concert Tickets

*More Than the Promise of the
American Myth: Rethinking
Burleigh & Sheppard in the Second
Gilded Age*

**MORE THAN THE PROMISE
OF THE AMERICAN MYTH:**



**RETHINKING
BURLEIGH & SHEPPARD
IN THE SECOND GILDED AGE**

• AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE •

March 3rd, 2019

May Room - Weill Terrace Room, Carnegie Hall

9am - 3pm

The Harry T. Burleigh Society's first academic conference considers Burleigh's and Sheppard's impact on the concert spiritual genre, the historiographic limits of composer biography, Black art music aesthetics, and the liberatory capabilities within the work of Burleigh, Sheppard, and their contemporaries. Dr. Daphne Brooks will deliver the keynote address. Other speakers include Dr. Louise Toppin, baritone Kenneth Overton, Dr. Crystal deGregory and descendants of Burleigh and Sheppard.

Free and open to the public. [Registration encouraged.](#)

[Conference Details](#)

Thank you for your continued support of the Harry T. Burleigh Society.



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