

# CONCERT SERIES HELPS FUND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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A blending of faiths and cultures expressed through music will highlight "Celebrating Life," the first in a nationwide series of concerts to benefit the Project People Foundation of New York will be held in Delray Beach.

The concert is set for 3 p.m. April 22 at Cason United Methodist Church. It will support the foundation's efforts to provide humanitarian assistance, leadership training and education for South African women and children in need.

Soprano Diana Solomon-Glover, of The Riverside Church of New York, will be the featured guest artist in the program. The Florida Atlantic University Gospel Choir and independent cantor Ann Turnoff of Boca Raton also will perform.

The choir will sing three numbers.

"We'll do For Every Mountain, a piece arranged by Kurt Carr. It's a gospel piece with a flavor of the old Negro spirituals. About 15 men and women from the choir will perform," said Pamela Byrd, associate director of FAU's office for multi-cultural affairs, which oversees the choir. "We'll also do Giants, a contemporary gospel song, and a medley of more traditional gospel songs."

A commissioned work, Dreams are Never Free, by composer Deborah Nodel Gordon, will be sung by Solomon-Glover and Turnoff. The piece will include words from a poem by 16-year-old South African AIDS orphan Manini Mkhabela.

"The approach to the piece is classical with a waltz feeling but mournful in the beginning. Deborah interweaves the words, which include excerpts from a Don Mattera poem and from Martin Luther King Jr.'s I Have a Dream," said Solomon-Glover. "The piece goes into a much lighter feeling where the cantor and I are in a duet, and there, Manini's poem comes in."

Turnoff will have a solo number, too.

"They were looking for a cantor, and Linda called and asked me to do this, and I said `yes,' of course. I'm thrilled to be involved in a cause like this," said Turnoff, who founded the Mark Center for Jewish Excellence, an organization she characterizes as a synagogue without walls.

Rev. Linda Tarry-Chard, president of Project People, minister for new members and ecumenical interfaith relations at Riverside and a part-time Delray Beach resident, said the money raised would help train South African women to

make school uniforms.

"What better way to celebrate and create awareness than with something that everyone can appreciate ... music," Tarry-Chard said.

Solomon-Glover will perform at future concerts as well.

"I'm thrilled to be involved with this, I routinely try to lend my talent to efforts that champion social justice," she said.

"She is the anchor; all the concerts will have basically the same format. The next one will probably be in November in Atlanta. After that, we're looking at Chicago and the Baltimore-Washington D.C. area," said Tarry-Chard.

"God gives us all sorts of ways to crisscross in love, and it's not just through entertainment, but through a visionary partnering that begins in the local community and ripples out," said the Rev. Sharon G. Austin, Cason's pastor since 2004. "Every little bit helps, and it's a way for people to connect and be involved."

Cason United Methodist Church is at 342 N. Swinton Ave. A \$20 donation is suggested. Call 561-276-5302. For information on Project People Foundation, go to [projectpeoplefoundation.org](http://projectpeoplefoundation.org).

**[Illustration]**

PHOTO; Caption: Diana Solomon-Glover will headline concert series.

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