

Black Opera Research Network

blackoperaresearch.net | blackoperaresearchnetwork@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

11 October 2024

International Musicology Society Group Study Day on the Decolonial Potential in Global Music History. Participants from around the world will deliver papers and participate in panel discussions including working team member **Mia Pistorius**. Register for this online event [here](#).

9–19 October 2024

The Baxter Theatre Centre in Cape Town is presenting *Nkoli: The Vogue-Opera* by Philip Miller about the life of the gay anti-apartheid freedom fighter, Simon Nkoli. Find out more [here](#).



BORN in South Africa

The members of BORN's working team gathered in South Africa in late July and early August. Our first stop was the annual meeting of the South African Society for Research in Music at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Working Team members Hilde Roos, Mia Pistorius, Wayne Muller, and Donato Somma helped plan the meeting, and Lena van der Hoven, Michael Mohammed, and Allison Smith attended. Naomi André gave the keynote address, and the other members gave papers and participated in a panel discussion (see the picture below). With financial support from UNC-Chapel Hill, the University of California at Los Angeles, San Francisco Conservatory, and the Music and Letters Trust, all the members of the working team assembled for a four-day retreat in Fynbos, about an hour outside of Cape Town. We discussed our current projects and future plans. Stay tuned in the months and years to come as we work to bring our plans to fruition!



Announcements

Opera UCT, the student opera company at the University of Cape Town, staged the world premiere of *Dalinda* by Gaetano Donizetti. Composed in 1838 but never staged, musicologist Eleonora Di Cintio reconstructed the score from archival sources.

Belize-born British composer and musician Errollyn Wallen has been appointed the Master of the King's Music by King Charles III. A prolific composer, Wallen has written over 15 staged work and many other vocal pieces. Learn more about her [here](#).

The White Snake Projects presented the world premiere of *Is This America?* by Mary D. Watkins on 20–22 September 2024 about voting rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer as part of their Sing Out Strong: Emancipated Voices multi-year community-based project.

Community Highlights

Working Team member **Mia Pistorius** has accepted a new position as Lecturer in Global Arts, Culture and Politics at the University of Amsterdam

Working Team member **Joy Calico** collaborating with Daniel Chua has launched a new book series with the University of California Press called the California Studies in Global Musicology. The series aims to publish work that stimulates collaborations across regional, disciplinary, and geographical borders and disrupts the boundaries between “the West” and “the rest.”

Affiliate **Theo Magongoma** has won first prize and the audience prize in the 4th Stignani Competition in Imola, Italy.

Affiliate **Megan Steigerwald Ille**'s first monograph, *Opera for Everyone: The Industry's Experiments with American Opera in the Digital Age* was published as an open access book by University of Michigan Press in April. You can read it [here](#).

Working Team member, **Michael Mohammed** participated in the Florence Price Festival Symposium 4–6 October held at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in collaboration with Opera Philadelphia. See more [here](#).

Affiliate **Sibusiso Njeza** has been nominated for a KORA All Africa Music Awards.



Upcoming Events

12 October 2024

Harlem Opera Theater in partnership with the Connecticut Lyric Opera will present a free preview showcase of *Amistad* by Anthony Davis at the Church of the Intercession in New York City. See [here](#) for more.

30 November–23 December 2024

South African soprano Golda Schultz will play Ann Trulove in the Palais Garnier's production of *The Rake's Progress* by Igor Stravinsky in Paris. See [here](#) for information.

With funding from the Mellon Foundation, the Cincinnati Opera has announced their new Black Opera Project to support the development of three new operas by Black creators. They plan to premiere *Lalovavi*, an Afrofuturist grand opera by Kevin Day (music) and Tifara Brown (libretto), *Good Trouble: The Boy from Troy* about civil rights activist John Lewis by Maria Thompson Corley (music) and Diana Solomon Glover (libretto), and a third yet-to-be-announced work between 2026 and 2028.