

## A Musical Legacy on the Hilltop

If you scroll through the “Old School” playlist on my iPod, you’ll hear Roberta Flack and Donny Hathaway belting out one of those classic melodies that garnered awards in the 1970s. Flip over to my “Opera” playlist and you’ll hear Jessye Norman’s lilting soprano. These three Howard alumni have been on my playlist for quite awhile, along with others, such as Kenny Latimore and Angela Bofill. But after completing this issue of *Howard Magazine*, which explores the musical legacy at the University, you’ll find that Howard alumni populate a much larger space on my iPod than they did previously!

It’s a musical legacy that extends back decades, with the Department of Music celebrating its centennial this year. It includes veterans who paved the original musical path at Howard (such as Benny Golson, Harold Wheeler, Shirley Horn, Donald Byrd and Richard Smallwood) and those who are crafting a new path (such as Afro Blue, Eric Roberson, Kenny Wesley and Shai Littlejohn). Some developed their skills in the Department of Music; others majored elsewhere but came back to their first love—music. They all contributed to a volume of music that will entertain and inspire generations to come.

Also featured in this issue of *Howard Magazine* is an article that commemorates the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and examines the challenges that lie ahead. For those of

us who, like me, were born after these struggles, it is critical to connect to the past and celebrate those sung and, mostly, unsung heroes who protested and pushed to get the landmark legislation passed. We must never forget the sacrifices they made to create a more equitable society. The act outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Alumnus Damon J. Keith, whose book *Crusader for Justice* describes his journey through discrimination to become a federal judge,

explains very profoundly that the act “has been one of our best instruments to fight discrimination and create a society that we all deserve to live in.”

We hope you enjoy this issue, and, as always, we welcome your feedback and encourage you to send us an email at [magazine@howard.edu](mailto:magazine@howard.edu). Don’t forget to download the magazine’s mobile app on iTunes or visit us at [www.howard.edu/howardmag](http://www.howard.edu/howardmag). Have a wonderful summer!

### Alumni On the Move

We hear so many great stories about alumni making an impact in their careers and communities, but just don’t have the space to publish articles about all of them in *Howard Magazine*. In the next few months, we plan to capture some of these amazing stories and post them on [www.howard.edu/howardmag](http://www.howard.edu/howardmag) under Alumni On the Move. If you have a unique or fascinating story about an alumna or alumnus, please email us at [magazine@howard.edu](mailto:magazine@howard.edu).

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Cover: Choir director James Weldon Norris and his colleagues are celebrating the Department of Music’s centennial as they mentor a new generation of talent.

Front cover photo: Cesar

Back cover: Cesar

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