

# *Individual Biographies of*

## **3 Inspirational Tenors** *and their Accompanist*

### *Harding Epps, Jr.*

Harding Epps, Jr., the accompanist for the group is a native of Brunswick, Georgia. He was an early-admit student at Morehouse College in the fall of 1969. While at Morehouse, Mr. Epps studied biology and chemistry with a minor in music. He was a member of the Glee Club, the elite Glee Club Quartet, and served in the capacity of Student Director and Accompanist. Mr. Epps was one of the select few members of the Glee Club that performed in the premier of Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha* with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in 1972 (in the role of Andy). He took part in the memorable tour of the African continent upon which the Glee Club embarked during the same year. He graduated from Morehouse in 1974.

Upon graduating, Mr. Epps served as the Assistant Choral Director, Pianist, and soloist for the specially-formed U.S. Army Bicentennial Band and Chorus from 1974 through 1976. In the latter year he was a Maryland state finalist in the American Choral Director's Association competition. From 1976 through 1978 Harding continued to perform and travel with the U.S. Army Chorus, on call to perform at various State Department and White House functions. In 1979 he was selected as one of the Outstanding Young Men in America. In the same year he was also awarded the Master of Arts Degree in Choral Conducting from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. where he studied under Janette Wells and Lloyd Geisler. During the 1992 - 1993 academic year Harding served as Interim Choral Director for the Morehouse Glee Club. Under Mr. Epps direction, the Glee Club recorded *One Moment in Time* in Spivey Hall.

Currently, Harding serves as Minister of Music at the Fellowship Group Baptist Church in East Point, Georgia. He resides in Stone Mountain, Georgia with his wife Sherl and their three children: Harding III, Kristyn, and James.

## **Ralph Freeman**

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Ralph Freeman earned his Bachelor of Science degree with concentration in math and physics from Morehouse College. After a successful career with the IBM Corporation, he was inspired to become fully involved in a ministry of music. His Christian witness, through song, has been a vital part of his lifestyle for many years. He sang with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus for five years, under the direction of the late Robert Shaw. Then God opened opportunities for him to sing in a broad range of settings across the United States, and in many other countries. His wife, Julie, three grown children and two young, talented sons bring a lot of joy to his life.

He led the music in a pilgrimage to Israel and sang special solos in Bethlehem, at the Garden Tomb, on the Sea of Galilee, at the Jordan River, in Jerusalem, Jericho and Capernaum. He was the guest soloist at World Methodist Conferences in Honolulu, Hawaii and Brighton, England. He was the featured soloist on Friendship Force tours in Gelsenkirchen, West Germany, Newcastle, England and Seoul, South Korea. He also led the music on Missions tours to Monterrey, Mexico and Ghana, West Africa.

His U.S. opportunities include solo appearances on national television with the First Baptist Church of Atlanta, concerts at the Moody Bible Church in Chicago, the First United Methodist Church of Houston, TX, the Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church in Montgomery, AL, and many other churches that include forty states. He has been a favorite soloist at the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men's retreat for many years. His ministry continues to thrive with a busy schedule, along with four recordings he has produced.

In 1998 God led him to a new horizon when Song Sermon Ministries was founded. It has enabled him to share the "Good News" through a presentation of hymns, scripture and new musical messages he has personally composed. This fresh approach to proclaiming the Gospel has become his primary focus, and is available to churches in worship services, evangelistic meetings and special events throughout the world.

## *Samuel Hagan*

Sam Hagan, a graduate of Clark College and Georgia State University, did not actually plan to be a professional singer. He is a full-time biology and chemistry teacher at Atlanta Metropolitan College, not to mention a skilled gardener, photographer and home renovator. But, frequently all that takes a back seat to a very busy and demanding career as a soloist, not only in his hometown of Atlanta, but around the Southeast United States and beyond.

Mr. Hagan has performed as a featured soloist with some of America's best orchestras including the Atlanta Symphony, Cleveland and Cincinnati, Ohio, and the Flagstaff Festival Orchestra, as well as the world-famous Spoleto Festival (Charleston, South Carolina) under such noted conductors as James Levine, Lorin Maazel, Skitch Henderson, Louis Lane, and Robert Shaw. He has performed in concert tours in England, Europe, Canada and Mexico.

Sam's opera roles in companies in the Southeast and New York include Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly*, Rudolfo in *La Boheme*, and Ferrando in *Così fan Tutte*. He was honored to perform at the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter, and served as cantor for a mass celebrated to honor the late Mother Teresa.

In Atlanta, Mr. Hagan appears regularly with the Atlanta Pops Orchestra and as a soloist at Saint Jude Catholic Church, Corpus Christi Catholic Church.

## **Oliver R. Sueing**

Mr. Sueing is a native Memphian, a graduate of Carver High, Memphis, Tennessee and Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia. He began his formal study of voice at age fifteen under the tutelage of Madame Adria Brunati. Upon entering Morehouse, he was immediately accepted into the Glee Club, initially singing baritone but later moving up to tenor. While at Morehouse he was awarded a Charles E. Merrill Overseas Travel Scholarship to study in Vienna, Austria, where he enrolled in the Institute for European Studies, and was accepted into the Vienna Academy of Music. There he studied voice and performed in Jerome Kern's *Show Boat* with the Vienna Volksoper.

At various times between 1973 and the present, Mr. Sueing has performed solo orchestral renditions with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as well as the Columbus Georgia Symphony Orchestra, and has sung for a number of opera companies. He was soloist in the Brahms Liebeslieder Waltzes concert, Emory University and rendered the solo performance of *The Impossible Dream* with the Atlanta University Center Community Chorus at the Inauguration Ceremonies of President Jimmy Carter in 1976. Later, in compliance with a request which Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, President Emeritus of Morehouse College had made regarding his own funeral services, Oliver again sang *The Impossible Dream*.

From 1977 to 1980 Oliver sang with the Grammy Award winning Bobby Jones and The New Life Singers on the Nashville Gospel Television Show (now nationally-syndicated on BET cable television). Mr Sueing is in great demand as a soloist throughout Atlanta and other locations in the nation. Oliver recently released a recording entitled *The Impossible Dream*, which he has dedicated to the memory of his father, Mr. Charles Sueing, Sr.

For booking information,  
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