

# ★ The Story

*The Good Raised Up* is a dramatic composition for treble chorus, violin, percussion, piano and several narrators. The work is composed in eight sections and recounts a night in the 1850s when a Quaker family in Germantown protected a group of escaped slaves from capture by a band of federal marshals. Each of the eight sections focuses on a particular facet of the event or the historical context.

The first and second sections “Opening” and “There is a Saying” set the stage by outlining how the Quakers came to take their antislavery stance. “People Walked” shines a light on the experience of those who made their way from slavery to freedom using the network of safe houses known as the “Underground Railroad.”

With the next sections, “But in Philadelphia”, “In a House in Germantown”, and “By the Leading of the Light” the narrative focuses on the Johnson family in Germantown who made a bold decision to offer assistance and protection to freedom-seekers.

“Open Up!” is the dramatic climax of the work. When a group of federal marshals appears at the Johnson family’s home to search for escaped slaves, one of the Johnson brothers ingeniously hides the slaves on the roof while the other brother assures the search party that there are no slaves in the house.

The final section, “Indwelling Spirit” reflects on the ideals of the Johnson family and the Quaker faith. The text sung by the chorus echoes the opening narration, a quote by Robert Barclay, a noted Quaker writer and theologian of the 17th Century with the words “I find the evil weakening in me and the good raised up.”



## The Composer



**John Blake, Jr.**  
*Jazz Violinist, Composer*

John Blake, Jr. has been one of the world’s leading jazz violinists for over four decades. In addition to his work as an instrumentalist performing with his quartet and as a featured guest soloist at concerts and on studio sessions, Blake is also an accomplished composer, arranger and producer. He was born in

Philadelphia and began studying violin in the public school system and at the Settlement Music School. After graduating from West Virginia University he did postgraduate work at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Montreux, Switzerland and received a grant to study East Indian music. A four-time winner of the *Down Beat* Critics’ Poll Violinist Deserving Wider Recognition category he was also one of the top two jazz violinists in the 49th, 50th, and 51st *Down Beat* Readers’ Poll.

## The Librettist



**Charlotte Blake Alston**  
*Master Storyteller, Narrator, Singer*

Charlotte Blake Alston is a storyteller, narrator, instrumentalist and singer who performs in venues throughout North America and abroad. She breathes life into traditional and contemporary stories from African and African American oral and cultural traditions. Her solo performances are often enhanced with traditional instruments such as djembe, mbira, shekere or the 21-stringed kora. She brings her stories and songs to national and regional festivals, schools, universities, museums, libraries and performing arts centers and has produced several commissioned works including narrative texts for orchestras and opera companies. Charlotte has received numerous honors including the prestigious Pew Fellowship in the Arts. She was also selected as *Philadelphia Magazine’s* “Best of Philly” and was the recipient of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Artist Of The Year Award.

# ★ The Choirs

## Pennsylvania Girlchoir



Pennsylvania Girlchoir (PG) maintains a repertoire steeped in the classical tradition and enhanced by music from many cultures and time periods. In its eight years PG has grown to nearly 150 young women singing in five choirs. The choirs of PG have collaborated with many important Philadelphia arts and culture organizations and performed in Iceland, the Pacific Northwest, the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Hungary, France, Italy, Russia, Uruguay and Argentina.

[www.pennsylvaniagirlchoir.org](http://www.pennsylvaniagirlchoir.org)

## Keystone State Boychoir



Under the direction of Music Director Joseph P. Fitzmartin and Associate Music Director Steven M. Fisher, Keystone State Boychoir (KSB) consists of more than 150 young men between the ages of eight and 18 who sing an enthralling repertoire from the classical to the contemporary. KSB has sung with the region’s most distinguished ensembles, and has performed internationally on all seven continents. The KSB experience centers on its truly joyful music-making. Today, KSB is counted among the the finest, most successful community-based boychoir choral programs in the country.

[www.keystonestateboychoir.org](http://www.keystonestateboychoir.org)

## Find Your Instrument!



Now in its fourth year at the John Wister Elementary School in Germantown, Find Your Instrument! (FYI!), the choral outreach program of Commonwealth Youthchoirs, seeks to bring choral music education to students who otherwise would not have an opportunity to sing during the school day. The program engages 60-65 children via weekly singing and music-reading sessions over the course of the school year and has expanded to engage fourth and fifth grade students in a new school chorus.

*Pennsylvania Girlchoir and Keystone State Boychoir are member choirs of Commonwealth Youthchoirs*

# ★ The Festival

Witness the world premiere of this powerful new work performed in the space where the drama unfolded.

The performance features renowned violinist and composer, John Blake Jr., storyteller, Charlotte Blake Alston and singers from Keystone State Boychoir, Pennsylvania Girlchoir and *Find Your Instrument!* The afternoon will also feature craft demonstrations, historic actors and more!



Please add  
postage  
here

★ **March 3, 2012**  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

★ **Johnson House Historic Site**  
6306 Germantown Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

★ **For more information**  
call 215-849-1762  
or email [tgru@cychoirs.org](mailto:tgru@cychoirs.org)

## What else is happening?

- Quilt making and demonstration
- “Lest We Forget” Productions and Traveling Slavery Museum
- Displays from the Philadelphia Genealogical Society
- “Puzzles For Us” - cultural edutainment celebrating the rich cultural heritage of people of color from ancient times through the modern era
- Books and story hour
- And much more!

***Bring the whole family!***

Commonwealth Youthchoirs  
35 West Chelton Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

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*A Story of Community, Integrity,  
and the Road to Freedom*

Presented by:

 **arts alive**  
be part of art

**Saturday** ★  
**March 3, 2012**  
**1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Johnson House Historic Site**

★ [www.thegoodraisedup.org](http://www.thegoodraisedup.org)