

AKOMA's 1998 Church Roll

Aeon Baptist Church
 Pastor: Rev. James Cherry
 Debra Bell

Bethel Full Gospel
 Pastor: Rev. Ron A. Domina
 Georgia Prescott

Breath of Life SDA
 Pastor: Conklin B. Gentry, Jr.
 Carolyn Butts
 Evelyn Greenwade-Boltwood
 Cheryl Y. Johnson
 Janet Ruggless Poles
 Darlene Richardson
 Roxanne Richardson

Church of the Covenant
 Pastor: Rev. Willie Davis
 Louise Walker Washington

Community Bible Church
 Pastor: Denis G. Johnson
 Martha Davis-Wileox
 Linda D. Dumas

Faith Covenant National Church of God
 Pastor: Bishop Lewis Brown, Jr.
 Nona Patterson Chambers
 Esther Pinkston

First Church of God
 Pastor: Rev. Dr. Dwight Fowler
 Myrtle Day

Friendship Baptist
 Pastor: Rev. John Crocker
 Rosa Taylor-Payne

Goodwill Baptist
 Pastor: Rev. Albert W. Forbes
 Myla Wright

Grace Episcopal
 Pastor: Father Paul Walker
 Nina Johnson

Graves Institutional C.M.E.
 Pastor: Rev. Madeline Porter
 Rosalind Allen
 Nancy Walters
 Eunice White
 Gloria Wilson

Holy Trinity Missionary Baptist
 Pastor: Rev. Robert Young, Sr.
 Verleria Be'Ans

Immaculate Conception
 Pastor: Father Michael Upson
 Musette Castle
 Ramona Moore
 Rose Stokes
 Mary Wingo

Jefferson Ave. SDA
 Pastor: Dr. James Parham
 Antoinette Barrett
 A. Michelle France
 Faye Hobbs
 Sharon Hurst-Williams
 Marilyn Johnson
 Sandra Moody
 Patricia Swails-Dillard
 Valerie White-Whittick
 Dorothy Wilson
 Kathleen Wright

Memorial AME Zion
 Pastor: Rev. Errol Hunt
 June Johnson
 Ruth Scott

Mt. Vernon Baptist
 Pastor: Dr. Harmon E. Stockdale
 Karen Carpenter
 Cheryl Holloway

New Bethel CME
 Pastor: Rev. Raymond Graves
 Anita Simpson

New Life Fellowship
 Pastor: Rev. Reginald & Dr. Cynthia McGill
 Phyllis Griffin

Rochester Family Mission
 Pastor: Pastor Curtis Ferguson & Pastor Shelby Garfield
 Maggie Moore-Holley

Second Baptist - Mumford
 Pastor: Rev. Dr. Charles A. Thurman
 Marguerite B. Lucas
 Linda Phillips
 Brenda Robinson
 Arlette Miller Smith
 Tamisha Naomi Smith
 Hattie Welch
 Arlene Williams
 Olive Williams

St. Luke/St. Simon's Cyrene
 Pastor: Rev. Gayle Harris
 Ruth Anderson

Zion Hill Missionary Baptist
 Pastor: Rev. Samuel W. McCree, Jr.
 Phyllisa Griffin

Perpetual Praise

AKOMA

The African American Women's Gospel Choir

3rd Annual Nona Chambers Scholarship Concert

*I will bless the Lord at all times:
 His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

Ps. 34:1

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church
 351 Joseph Avenue
 Rochester, New York

Saturday, June 13, 1998
 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Perpetual Praise

AKOMA's Third Annual Concert

" Perpetual Praise "

Ps. 34:1

Saturday, June 13, 1998 - 6:00 pm
Mt. Vernon Baptist Church
Rochester, NY

Introit: On Holy Ground Ramona Moore
Martha Davis-Wilcox

Opening Prayer Katrina Hubbard

Processional: Perpetual Praise* Phyllisa Griffin
Myra Humphrey
Movida Dance Company

PROGRAMME

Part I

Introduction of Mistress of Ceremonies Kathleen Wright

Director of Ceremonies Evangelist E. Marilyn Mathis

My Help A. Michelle France

Glory, Glory*

Take Away Sherri McPherson

Forever and Forever Patricia Dillard

FREEWILL OFFERING** AKOMA Sister Olive Williams
AKOMA Men

*Poetry precedes the song.
**AKOMA is a tax exempt, not-for-profit organization. Checks should be written to AKOMA Scholarship Fund.

Part II

It's Over Now* Tamisha Smith
Darlene Richardson

I Will Sing Praises

Day Star Jeremiah Griffin

SCHOLARSHIP & OTHER SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS Cheryl Holloway

A Place In My Heart Arlette Miller Smith
TRIBUTE TO SCHOLARS Rose Stokes

For Every Mountain Dorothy Wilson
MOTHER NONA'S TRIBUTE Martha Wilcox
Ebony Williams

Instrumental Piano Selection Melvin Bryant

Covered by His Blood Patricia Dillard

All That You Need Linda Dumas
Evelyn Greenwade-Boltwood

Finale

Reflections/He Cares Nancy Walters
Rev. Dr. Harmon E. Stockdale &
AKOMA Members' Pastors
Soloist: Cheryl Holloway

Benediction Rev. Dr. Harmon E. Stockdale
Dr. James Parham

Instrumentalists: Janet Rugless-Poles
Karen Carpenter
Melvin Bryant
Rashawn Northington
Phillip Saulsbury
Philip Holloway
Milladge E. Griffin III

Conductors: Cheryl Holloway
Dorothy Wilson
Janet Rugless-Poles

Readers (Glory, Glory):
Cheryl Y. Johnson Eunice White
Musette Castle Ruth Scott
William Scott

Reader: (It's Over Now):
Arlette Miller Smith

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

NONA PATTERSON CHAMBERS
1998 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

1st Place:

LaTonya Jyll-Iree Dukes
Wilson Magnet HS

Breath of Life Seventh-Day Adventist Church

2nd Place:

Katrina Louise Jones
Spencerport HS
Friendship Baptist Church

3rd Place:

Melanie Terese Williams
Wilson Magnet HS
Mt. Vernon Baptist Church

OTHER RECIPIENTS

Rosalie Caroline Johnson
Northstar Christian Academy
Jefferson Avenue Baptist Church

Stepanie L. Wilson
Caledonia-Mumford HS
Second Baptist – Mumford

Tara Wade
East HS
Mt. Vernon Baptist Church

1998 AKOMA Roster

Arlette Miller Smith
Executive Director
Janet Rugless Poles
Executive Music Director
Karen Carpenter
Pianist/Organist
Dr. Armenta Hummings,
Eastman School of Music
Instrumental Consultant
Olive E. Williams
Chaplain
Cheryl Holloway
Conductor
Dorothy Wilson
Conductor
Nancy Walters
President
Kathleen Wright
Vice President
Ruth Anderson
Secretary
Louise Walker Washington
Assistant Secretary
Myla M. Wright
Treasurer
Evelyn Greenwade-Boltwood
Assistant Treasurer
Rosa L. Taylor Payne
Attendance Clerk
Debra Bell

Historian
A. Michelle France
Finance Chair
MEMBERS
Rosalind Allen
Antoinette Barrett
Verleria Be'Ans
Deseree Bliss
Carolyn Butts*
Musette Castle
Nona Patterson Chambers**
Martha Davis-Wilcox
Myrtle Day*
Linda Dumas
Phyllis Griffin
Phyllisa Griffin
Faye Hobbs
Sharon Hurst-Williams
Cheryl Y. Johnson*
June Johnson
Marilyn Johnson
Nina Johnson
Marguerite B. Lucas
Sandra Moody
Ramona Moore
Maggie Moore-Holley

Linda Phillips
Esther Pinkston*
Georgia Ann Prescott
Darlene Richardson
Roxanne Richardson
Brenda Robinson*
Ruth Scott
Anita Simpson
Tamisha Naomi Smith
Rose Stokes*
Patricia Swails-Dillard
Hattie Welch
Eunice White
Valerie White-Whittick
Arlene Williams*
Gloria Wilson
Mary Wingo

* Sectional Leader
&/or Committee
Chair
** AKOMA mother



About **AKOMA's**
Program Participants

Evangelist E. Marilyn Mathis

Evangelist E. Marilyn Mathis is an associate minister at Christ Temple P.C.A.F. She is also the assistant to the Dean of The Black Church Studies Program at CRDS. Evangelist Mathis is active in both the church and the community where she preaches and sings.

Melvin Bryant, Jr.

Former Rochester resident, Howard University graduate, guitarist, songwriter, and organist all describe musician Melvin Bryant. Currently, Melvin is minister of music at First Shiloh Baptist Church in Buffalo, New York. He has played for several recording artists, including the Winans. Melvin's first album is available for purchase this summer. Melvin is completing a master's degree at the University of Buffalo.

Katrina Hubbard

Katrina Hubbard is active at her church, Second Baptist-Mumford, where she is a Young Adult Ministries leader. She is a sought after gospel soloist in the Rochester area. She is the daughter of sculptor Calvin & educator Evelyn Hubbard.

Movida Dance Company

Movida Dance Company was formed in 1990. The company specializes in African, Brazilian, and Caribbean dance movements. The following Movida members are participating in AKOMA's concert: Char Guess-Bardques, Joanne Gordon, Gloria Matos, and Clenita Thomas. **DATE WATCH:** Movida's Annual Dance Conference will be held November 20-21, 1998 at Nazareth College.

Jeremy Griffin

Jeremy is a 1998 graduate of Syracuse University. Well-known in the Rochester area, Jeremy has won numerous awards and accolades for his vocal and songwriting talents. Recently, he was featured on several CD's produced by Syracuse University. Jeremy also is the son of AKOMA member Phyllis Griffin.

Myra Humphrey

Myra Humphrey is a member of several local choirs and musical groups, including the Corpus Christi Church where she serves as both a soloist and as a choir director. Additionally, Myra uses her vocal ability as a member and principal soloist of Kingdom Bound Young Adults.

Kingdom Bound

Greater Rochester's Kingdom Bound Kids and Young Adults, Incorporated is a non-denominational, multicultural, community gospel choir whose members range from toddlers to teens to young adults. KB is a 1997 REJOICE AWARD gospel music winner. The mission of KB is to provide through the medium of music a wholesome Christian alternative for young Rochesterians.

Sherianne McPherson

Sherri, a 1998 graduate of Gates-Chili High School, plans to attend Clark-Atlanta in the Fall. A 1996 NAACP ACT-SO competition gold medal winner (contemporary music division), Sherri wants to be a singer/actress.

Ebony Williams

Ebony is a member of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church. Ebony also is a gifted young dancer who attends SUNY Brockport.

Other Instrumentalists

Rashawn Northington currently lives in Buffalo, New York.
Phillip Saulsbury is the choral director at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. A sought-after accompanist, Philip also sings and writes his own original compositions.
Philip Holloway is a member of Mt. Vernon's Young Adult Choir, as well as a keyboard & drum.
Milladge E. Griffin is a counselor at the EOC in Rochester. He also is the husband of AKOMA member Phyllisa Griffin.

AKOMA

AKOMA is Rochester's African American women's gospel choir whose Akan name means patience, endurance, consistency and faithfulness. **AKOMA's** Adinkra symbol is the heart which indicates compassion, tenderness and charity.

After a debut performance in August of 1995 for Womenfest, a day-long celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote --- the group of thirty-five women decided to embrace a musical ministry that encompassed both their collective faith and their love for gospel music. Under the direction of Janet Forbes-Poles, executive music director; Cheryl Holloway, conductor/soloist; and Arlette Miller Smith, founder/executive director, the group adopted the name **AKOMA** because it symbolizes their African heritage while highlighting their strong spiritual roots, along with their desire to serve within the Rochester community. In fact, more than 17 Rochester area churches are represented on **AKOMA's** current roster of more than fifty active members.

Although a young choir in Rochester's gospel tradition, **AKOMA**, in its first year, was featured at numerous local programs and concerts, including those at local churches and high schools, the Memorial Art Gallery, the Heavenly Praise Christian Club, Rochester's Summer in the Park Concert series and the Black Church Studies Program at Colgate Divinity School. On June 22, 1996, **AKOMA** made its debut concert and established the Nona Patterson Chambers Scholarship in honor of their elder member and adopted choir mother. In its first year, the Mother Nona Scholarship was awarded to three recipients.

In its second year, **AKOMA** continued to grow in its music ministry. The choir began its year with performances for the Helen Barrett Montgomery Institute at Colgate Rochester Divinity School and a benefit appearance for the Alzheimer Minority Outreach Project. **AKOMA** then was blessed to be asked to sing as the backup vocal group for Grammy award winner Larnelle Harris in his benefit concert for the Rochester Junior Academy. **AKOMA** also performed at the Martin Luther King Day with the Fairport High School Choir and at Roberts Wesleyan College during Black History month. Additionally, **AKOMA** was featured on Channel 13's "Many Voices, Many Visions" television show.

The 96-97 performance year saw **AKOMA's** second annual concert and scholarship presentation and a performance at Strong Museum to commemorate Juneteenth. A concert in Bergen was sponsored by Bergen First Presbyterian, St Brigid's Catholic Church and Bergen First United Methodist Church to raise money for the Nona Patterson Chambers Scholarship, and **AKOMA** participated in the Asbury Revival given by the Asbury First United Methodist Church.

During the fall of 97-98, **AKOMA** members worked on strengthening their ministry of song and service which culminated with their participation in a song fest at the United Church of Christ of Henrietta. In February of 1998, **AKOMA's** shining moment came when the group had an opportunity to provide the music for the program featuring Seattle poet laureate Mona Lake Jones at St. John Fisher College. Dr. Jones wrote the poem, "A Room Full of Sisters", which **AKOMA** has used since the group's inception as its introductory piece.

The third annual concert, *Perpetual Praise*, continues **AKOMA's** commitment to bring praise and honor to God through song and through the awarding of scholarships to deserving young women. **AKOMA** will then move on to a busy summer schedule including participation in the celebration of the 150th anniversary of women's rights at Geva Theater on July 15, 1998, and the Susan B. Anthony Heritage festival on July 19, 1998, (Susan B. Anthony Park). On August 8, 1998, the group will give a benefit concert for the Second Baptist Church (Mumford) at the Brighton Presbyterian Church

The 98-99 year is already beginning to take shape with two concerts scheduled: one in October (Brown's Ave. Church in Scottsville) and the other in November (Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Corn Hill). Further requests for 98-99 performance dates should be directed to Nancy Walters (482-1891) or Arlette Miller Smith (377-9810).

With patience, endurance, consistency and faithfulness to the will of God, the sisters of **AKOMA** believe they have been anointed to share their high level of spiritual energy and the life-changing message that exemplifies their music and oral interpretation.

1998 AKOMA Committees

Scholarship

Cheryl Holloway – *Chairperson*
Ruth Scott
Ruth Anderson
Valerie White-Whittick
Linda Dumas
Rose Stokes
Louise Washington

Public Relations

Arlette Miller Smith – *Co-Chairperson*
Olive Williams – *Co-Chairperson*
Debra Bell
Cheryl Johnson
Martha Davis-Wilcox
Ramona Moore
Marguerite Lucas

Music

Janet Poles – *Chairperson*
Dorothy Wilson
Karen Carpenter
Cheryl Holloway
Kathleen Wright

Technical Support

Esther Pinkston – *Chairperson*
Dorothy Wilson
Anita Simpson
Ramona Moore

Hospitality

Arlene Williams – *Chairperson*

Tenors

Arlene Williams
Eunice White
Faye Hobbs
Debra Bell

Altos

Linda Phillips
Brenda Robinson
Rosa Taylor-Payne
Nancy Walters
Gloria Wilson

Sopranos

Myrtle Day
Marilyn Johnson
Nina Johnson
Louise Washington
Myla Wright

Retreat

Phyllis Griffin – *Chairperson*
Ruth Scott
Rosa Taylor-Payne
Valerie White-Whittick
Rosalind Allen
Nona Chambers

Fund Raising

Rosa Taylor-Payne – *Chairperson*

Carolyn Butts
Hattie Welch
Louise Washington
Arlene Williams
Myrtle Day
Eunice White
Faye Hobbs
Phyllis Griffin

Linda Phillips
Brenda Robinson
Gloria Wilson
Marilyn Johnson
Nina Johnson
Myla Wright
Nancy Walters
Debra Bell

Membership

Dorothy Wilson – *Chairperson*
Kathleen Wright
Payne
Janet Poles
Cheryl Holloway
Louise Washington
Brenda Robinson
Debra Bell

Rosa Taylor-Payne
Karen Carpenter
Myrtle Day
Carolyn Butts
Rose Stokes
Arlene Williams

Finance

A. Michelle France – *Chairperson*
Arlene Williams
Hattie Welch
Myla Wright
Evelyn Greenwade-Boltwood

1998 AKOMA Calendar of Events

February 8	Community Concert	3:00 PM	United Church of Christ 1400 Lehigh Station Rd.
February 25	Concert with Mona Lake Jones	7:00 PM	St. John Fisher College Kearney Auditorium
March 9	Officers Mtg.	7:00 PM	COTC
March 30	Business Mtg.	7:00 PM	COTC
June 13	Annual Scholarship Concert	6:00 PM	Mt. Vernon Baptist Church
June 15	Officers Mtg.	7:00 PM	COTC
June 22	Annual Meeting (Written Reports)	7:00 PM	COTC
July 15	Women's Rights Concert	8:00 PM	Geva Theatre
July 19	Susan B. Anthony Heritage Festival	4:00 PM	Susan B. Anthony Park Madison Street
August 15	Benefit Concert for Second Baptist – Mumford	4:00 PM	Brighton Presbyterian Church East Avenue
October	Music In Scottsville Concert	TBA	Brown's Ave. Church
November	Concert for Immaculate	TBA	Immaculate Catholic Church Glasgow/Douglass Circle

COTC (Church of the Covenant)

