

Akoma

28 YEARS OF PRAISE

AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S GOSPEL CHOIR

Released & Still Here!

Luke 13:12

Delayed 25th Silver Scirée Scholarship Concert

Gloria Brooks, Executive Music Director

Dr. Arlette Miller Smith, Founder & Artistic Director

Saturday, October 22, 2022

6:30 pm

First Genesis Baptist Church

292 Hudson Avenue

Rochester, NY 14605



AKOMA: A HERSTORJCAL CHRONOLOGY

AKOMA HERSTORY 2018-2022

We cannot change the past, but we can change our attitude toward it. Uproot guilt & plant forgiveness. Tear out arrogance & seed humility. Exchange LOVE for hate; [thereby, making the present comfortable & the future promising.] -Maya Angelou

OVERVIEW

AKOMA is Rochester's African American Women's Gospel Choir whose West African Akan name means patience, endurance, consistency and faithfulness. AKOMA's Adinkra symbol, the heart, indicates compassion, tenderness and charity. AKOMA's vocal and spoken word ministry is rooted in the African American sacred song and oral traditions.

After a debut performance in August of 1995 for Woman Fest—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 reflects their diverse faith traditions and love for gospel music. The group adopted the name *AKOMA* because it symbolizes their African heritage, spiritual roots, and desire to serve the Rochester community. Dr. David A. Anderson/Sankofa recommended the name AKOMA, based on research and knowledge of the group's mission. Currently, twenty - two Rochester area churches are represented on AKOMA's roster of thirty-five active sister-members.

On June 22, 1996, AKOMA made her debut concert and established in honor of her elder member and adopted mother, the Nona Patterson Chambers (NPC) Scholarship. Three recipients received the Mother Nona Scholarship in its first year. Since that time and including the eighteen recipients from 2020- 2022, AKOMA has awarded one hundred and fifty (150) young college-bound African American women, a portion of the more than \$200,000.00 collected as a part of the NPC Scholarship Fund.

2020-2022 AKOMA Concert Years

During our twenty-fifth concert year (2020), AKOMA's concert plans were curtailed because of Covid 19; however, Gloria Brooks, our Executive Music Director, scheduled monthly Zoom rehearsals. We are pleased to be back Live this year while offering a concert honoring Saint Francis on Saturday, October 7, 2022 on the Saint Bonaventure campus. Additionally, Akoma presents her annual scholarship concert on Saturday, October 22, 2022 at First Genesis Baptist Church when she also will celebrate her belated twenty-fifth anniversary.

2018-2019 AKOMA Concert Years

AKOMA's twenty-fourth concert year began with a concert—under the direction of Executive Music Director, Gloria Brooks—on the Gospel Exchange Stage at the Clarissa Street Reunion on August 18, 2018. Additionally, under the continuing leadership of Founder/ Executive Director, Dr. Arlette Miller Smith, AKOMA participated in the Episcopal Senior Life Communities' "Music Through the Ages" program. In November AKOMA was invited to sing for a concert benefiting both Asbury First Methodist Church's community programs and AKOMA's scholarship fund; moreover, AKOMA again shared praises with the Voices of Thunder during the City of Rochester's Annual Heritage Concert on February 26, 2019. AKOMA looked forward to her twenty-fourth annual scholarship concert on June 8, 2019 at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church where seven young ladies received the Nona Patterson Chambers Scholarship. On June 23, 2019 the sisters of AKOMA were featured at Sonnenberg Gardens in Canandaigua.

ADDITIONAL CHRONOLOGY (See AKOMA.org for complete herstory)

Since her 1995 inception year, AKOMA has been privileged to sing with Grammy Award winner Larnelle Harris; to appear on a number of local television shows; to provide music for a program featuring Seattle poet laureate Mona Lake Jones who wrote the poem, "A Room Full of Sisters" which AKOMA uses as her spoken word anthem; to provide the music for programs honoring Bishop Desmond Tutu; to sing with the Penfield Symphony at several of their annual holiday concerts; and to be featured at the National Black Catholic Congress Conference in Buffalo, New York. Early in her spiritual life, AKOMA also was blessed to present a commissioned docudrama, "Stirring the Waters, Tending the Pots," written by her founder, Arlette Miller Smith. "Stirring," a suffrage-related drama, was performed at Geva Theatre as a part of the 150th anniversary of the women's rights convention at Seneca Falls.

AKOMA's current Executive Music Director is Gloria Brooks; the Scholarship Commission Chairwoman is Donna M. Jones; the Director of Bookings and Concert Confirmation is Ruth Anderson. The Founder, Executive & Artistic Director is Dr. Arlette Miller Smith.

The herstory of AKOMA's evolution as an organization is the title of the unpublished dissertation: *Speaking the Song, Spreading the Word, Lifting the People---The Reimagination of Community Through Vocal Music Activism* (2005) by Dr. Arlette Miller Smith. Allison Thorp's 2016 dissertation, *Testify, Heal, Empower: A Phenomenological Investigation of Three Urban, socially Identified, Community Choirs*, includes the music, message, and ministry of AKOMA.

For AKOMA concert bookings, please email akomagc@gmail.com; visit our website at www.akoma.org; "like" us on Facebook; and Twitter.

And with my song... will I praise Him. (Ps. 28:7)



*There is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it,
if only we're brave enough to be it.*

~ Amanda Gorman

*Education is the most powerful weapon which
you can use to change the world.*

~ Nelson Mandela



Nona Patterson Chambers

(June 30, 1910—December 24, 2011)

The Nona Patterson Chambers Scholarship was named in honor of our AKOMA mother, Nona Patterson Chambers. Mother Nona's life exemplified the meaning of the word AKOMA because she demonstrated patience, endurance, consistency and faithfulness. As a revered elder of Faith Covenant National Church of God in Christ, Mother Nona encouraged all youth. She served as an example of what it means to be a dedicated and humble Christian. Mother Nona received a third grade education but returned to school as an adult to complete her education. Her quiet manner, Christian beliefs, and steadfast loyalty to her family and choir make it fitting that AKOMA's scholarship is named in her honor.

2022 — 2023 AKOMA SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSIONERS



**Esther Pinkston, Wynndy Turner, Rose Stokes, Emma "Cheri" Miller, Ruth Anderson,
and Donna M. Jones - Chairperson**

If you plan for a year, sow a seed;
If you plan for a decade, plant a tree;
If you plan for a century, educate the people.

~ Dr. Addie Mitchell



2020 AKOMA NPC Scholarship Recipients



Jada Blackmon

Jada Blackmon's parents are Earl and Tracy Blackmon. She graduated from The Charles Finney School and is enrolled at Hampton University majoring in Kinesiology. She aspires to become a Physical Therapist. Her activities include Christian Athletes Club – Vice President, Varsity Soccer - Captain, Basketball, School Musicals, School Nursing

Internship and Worship Band. Jada attends Calvary Chapel of Rochester where she is a Sunday School Teacher's Assistant, a Youth Pastor's Helper, and a member of the Kitchen Staff.



Keniya Burrows

Keniya Burrows' parents are Kenneth and Mary Burrows. She is an Urban League Black Scholar graduate from Rush Henrietta High School and is enrolled at Xavier University of Louisiana with Biology (Pre-Medicine) as her major. She intends to become a Dermatologist or

Plastic Surgeon. Keniya's activities include Royalties Step/Dance Team – Captain, the Explorers Program, and the National Honor Society. She attends Aeon Missionary Baptist Church where she is active in the Performing Arts Ministry – Lead Choreographer, Health Outreach, Youth Choir, Usher Board, and the Girl Scouts of Western New York.



Nasia Crawford

Nasia Crawford is the daughter of Christina Crawford. She graduated from Greece Olympia High School as an Urban League Black Scholar and is enrolled at Hampton University majoring in Entrepreneurship. She hopes to one day own her own business that helps girls

of color live stigma free. Her activities include Black Student Union - Founder, Cheerleading, Prom Committee, and Ignition Mentoring. Nasia attends Aeon Missionary Baptist Church where she serves as an Usher, Vacation Bible School worker and Youth Game Night / Trunk or Treat workers. Nasia also maintained a part time job as she completed high school.



Anaya Dees

Anaya Dees' parents are Jack and Catherine Dees. She is an Urban League Black Scholar graduate from Hilton Central High School and is enrolled at the University of Cincinnati majoring in Psychology. She desires

to become a hospital Psychiatric Physician. Anaya's activities include Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field, Underclass Woman MPV (2019 and 2020), Sportsman Award and Principal Advisory Council. Anaya attends Glory to Glory Christian Fellowship where she serves as a Nursery worker and in the Kitchen Ministry. Miss Dees is an AKOMA Honorable Mention Scholar at her own request. Her selfless willingness to ensure others received scholarship funding is a wonderful example of Christian love.



Raven Drummond

Raven Drummond's parents are Michael and Leslie Drummond. She is a Urban League Black Scholar graduate from Pittsford Sutherland High School where she participated in the Urban – Suburban program. She is enrolled at St. John Fisher College majoring in

Nursing. She aspires to become a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. Raven's activities include Class Council – Secretary, Links Crew, Pre-Med Club, and National Honor Society. She also participated in a program to obtain her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification during her senior year. She attends Bridge Builders Ministries where she is active as a Nursery Volunteer, Youth Praise Team and Teen Ministry participant.



Zaria Gibson-Stevenson

Zaria Gibson-Stevenson is the daughter of Johnathan and Romanda Stevenson. She is an Urban League Black Scholar Cum Laude graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School. She is enrolled at the University of Buffalo majoring in

Animation and Graphic Design. She aspires to create her own cartoon series featuring a young woman of color. Her activities include the Robotics Team, Art Club and Anime Club. Zaria attends Aeon Missionary Baptist Church where she has been active in the Girl Scouts of Western New York from 2nd to 12th grades, receiving the Gold and Bronze Awards. She is also the recipient of the Aeon Academic Excellence Award.

2020 AKOMA NPC Scholarship Recipients (cont'd)



Moriah Mills

Moriah Mills is the daughter of Pastor Mark and Theresa Mills. She graduated from Northstar Christian Academy and is enrolled at Roberts Wesleyan College majoring in Psychology, with aspirations to become a

Clinical Psychologist. Moriah's activities include Varsity Basketball and Track and Field, and Honor Roll. Moriah attends Glory to Glory Christian Fellowship where she serves on the Worship Team, as a Vacation Bible School Assistant Coordinator, and a Nursery Worker.



Aaliyah Pennie

Aaliyah Pennie's parents are Anthony and Lynn Pennie. She is an Urban League Black Scholar graduate of Northstar Christian Academy. She is enrolled at Monroe Community College majoring in Business Management with aspirations of owning her

own business. Her activities include Student Body President, Senior Class President, Varsity Basketball Co-Captain, and Yearbook Committee. Aaliyah attends Glory to Glory Christian Fellowship where she serves as a Nursery Worker, Soundboard Operator, and a Vacation Bible School Volunteer.



Kayla Wilder

Kayla Wilder's parents are Bruce and Marisha Wilder. She is an Urban League Black Scholar graduate from Brighton High School where she participated in the Urban – Suburban program. She is enrolled at Daemon College majoring in Health Promotion on a Pre-Medicine track with aspirations in Obstetrics and Gynecology or Pediatrics. Her

activities include Junior Varsity Softball, Varsity Bowling, and School Musicals. Kayla attends Faith, Hope and Charity Worship Center where she serves in the Armor Bearers, Dance, Drill Team, Health Care, Announcing Clerk and Youth Ministries.



J'Anna Worth

J'Anna Worth's parents are William and Jada Worth. She graduated from World of Inquiry High School as an Urban League Black Scholar and is enrolled at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University majoring in Architectural

Engineering. She hopes to become an Architect that designs a variety of structures. Her activities include Basketball, Volleyball, Bowling, Student Government - Co-President, National Honor Society and the Susan B. Anthony Award. J'Anna attends Aeon Missionary Baptist Church where she serves as a Junior Missionary – Secretary, and a Junior Usher. She also maintained a part time job as she completed high school.

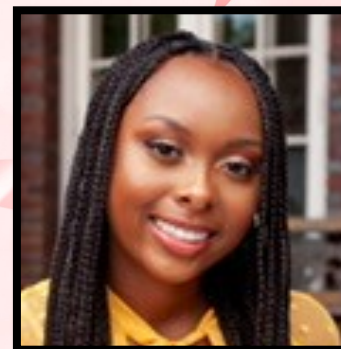
2021 AKOMA NPC Scholarship Recipients



Carys Carr

Carys Carr is the daughter of Marcella Carr. She graduated from World of Inquiry High School as an Urban League Black Scholar and is enrolled at Howard University majoring in Elementary Education. Her High School activities included Varsity Bowling, Varsity Golf, Band and the Mayoral Youth

Advisory Council. Carys attends Genesee Baptist Church where she serves as the Interim Secretary, a Sunday School Volunteer, a Choir Member and in the Health Ministry. She also volunteers her time with Archonette group of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and the Chi Eta Phi Sorority.



Ariyana Fezell

Ariyana Fezell's parents are Jerry Fezell and Primerose Joseph. She is an Urban League Black Scholar who graduated from Greece Athena High School. She is enrolled at Roberts Wesleyan College majoring in Pre-Law with aspirations to become a Certified Family Attorney. Her High

School activities included Track, Debate Club and Orchestra. Ariyana attends Jefferson Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church where she serves as a Youth Usher, Singer and Musician. She also participates in Pathfinders and as a Youth Speaker. Arie also maintained a part time job as she completed High School.

2021 AKOMA NPC Scholarship Recipients (cont'd)



Yaa Kornne

Yaa Kornne's are Kwaku and Akosua Korama-Kornne. She graduated from Penfield High School via the Urban-Suburban program as an Urban League Black Scholar and is enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Rehabilitation Science. She hopes to become an Occupational Therapist. Her High School activities included Class of 2021 Student Council; Treasurer, National Honor Society (Vice President), Black Student Union; Communications Officer, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Math League, Mosaics Club (Racial Diversity Focus). Yaa attends Hope Christian Fellowship where she serves as a Welcome Center and Children's Ministry volunteer and a GLOW (Girls Light Our World for Christ) teacher/helper. She also enjoys ministering via music with her flute.

2022 AKOMA NPC Scholarship Recipients



Shamiyah Johnson

Shamiyah's parents are Lerone and Shoumaine Johnson. She graduated from Aquinas Institute as an Urban League Black Scholar and is attending The University of Albany majoring in Biology / Pre-medicine. She aspires to become a pediatrician. Her High School activities include

Black Student Union (President), Student and Class Council, Women's Leadership Club, Diversity Club and Peer Minister. Shamiyah attends First Genesis Baptist Church where she was active with the Straight from the Heart Outreach, The Flag and Liturgical Dance Ministries and the Youth Ushers.



Nateya Pappin

Nateya is the daughter of Catherine U. Pappin. She graduated from Edison Career and Technology as an Urban League Black Scholar and is attending SUNY Geneseo where she's majoring in Biology / Pre-medicine. She hopes to become a pediatrician. Her High School activities included Varsity Women's Basketball, High Honor Roll and taking several college courses while still in

High School. Nateya attends Immaculate Conception St. Bridget's where she served in the Youth Choir and the Youth Liturgical Dance Ministry. Nateya has also volunteered her time at the St. Joseph House of Hospitality.



Arianna McKnight

Arianna's parents are Ruel and Takise McKnight. She is an Urban League Black Scholar who graduated from Rush Henrietta Senior High School who is attending the University of Chicago with Cellular and Molecular Biology / Pre-medicine as her major. She intends to become a pediatrician.

Arianna's High School activities include Bible Study Club (Founder), Prayer Group Club (Founder), African American Leadership League, Student Council, National Honor Society, Natural Helpers, Tri-M Music Honor Society, MLK Singers, Symphonic and Chamber Orchestras. She attends Faith Church where she is active as a Service Monitor, Greeter, Usher, Children's Church worker and is a Youth Group member. She volunteers as a Student Tutor and is an American Red Cross Youth Leader.



Ajah Wade

Ajah's grandparents are Amos and Carlisa McCullough. She is an Urban League Black Scholar who graduated from Greece Odyssey Academy and is now attending Central Piedmont Community College where she is majoring in Nursing. Her High School activities included Cheerleading (Captain), Senior

Committee Member and High Honor Roll. Ajah attends Faith Temple Apostolic Church where she served as Youth Usher, Vacation Bible School Assistant, Nursery Assistant, and in the Dance Ministry.

2022 AKOMA NPC Scholarship Recipients (cont'd)



Jocelyn Wynn

Jocelyn's parents are Jeffrey and Jill Wynn. She graduated from Allendale Columbia School as an Urban League Black Scholar and is attending The Juilliard School majoring in Dance. She aspires to become a Professional Dancer. Her High School activities included Black Student Union, High Honor Roll, Heritage Dinner Organizer, Chorus, and Community Service Club. Jocelyn attends New Life Fellowship where she participated in youth Choir, Dance and Flag Ministries, as a Children's Church and Food Pantry Volunteer. Jocelyn has also danced the lead role in the Rochester City Ballet's presentation of the Nutcracker.



The 2020—2022 Nona Patterson Chambers Scholarship Recipients have been awarded scholarships based on their grade point average; written essay; school, church and community activities; letters of recommendation; and personal interview. The recipients' biographical information is provided by Scholarship Commissioner Chairwoman Donna M. Jones.

AKOMA's Support Team/Acknowledgements

Officers/Committee Chairs 2021-2022

Founder / Artistic Director	- Dr. Arlette Miller Smith
Executive Music Director	- Gloria Brooks
President	- Ruth Anderson
Vice President	- Carmen Allen
Secretary	- Anita Simpson
Assistant Secretary	- Shelly Fowler
Treasurer	- Donna M. Jones
Attendance Clerk	- Carolyn Butts
Chaplain	- Dr. Gaya Shakes
Herstorian	- Evelyn Greenwade-Boltwood
Scholarship and Finance	- Donna M. Jones
Comm. Chair	- Dr. Twyla Cummings
Website Committee Chair	- Esther Pinkston
Tech. Support Comm.	- Julia Lawson

Conductors

- Gloria Brooks
- Kathy Damann

- Rev. Frederick Dicks

Drummer

- Julius Hicks
- Wardell Lewis

Guest Organist

- Avery Council

Bass Player

Security

- Michael Blythers

- Sam Stewart
- First Genesis Baptist Church Security Team

Ushers

- First Genesis Baptist Church Ushers

Photographer

- Tony Severin

Nurses

Gloria McCullough Rachel McDonald

Other Support

Elwyn O. Jones, III — AKOMA Son
Loretta Armstrong Keerem Hayes
Sherry Ortiz Patricia Starks, Sr.
Porchia Stewart Luvert Walker, II

Video/Audio Technicians

LaTasha Parson Katrina Best

Image Design

Cheryl and Don Olney (Louise's Daughter)

Media

Joanne Gordon Rose Stokes

Layout & Design

Anne Kraft Donna M. Jones
Dr. Arlette Miller Smith

Program Booklet Editors

Ruth Anderson Donna M. Jones
Dr. Arlette Miller Smith

Printing

St. John Fisher College Print Center:
Art Smith

Diamond Affiliate and Website Partner

Phu Concepts

Platinum Scholarship Fund Contributor

St. Bonaventure University
Father Ross Chamberland, O.F.M., Ed.D

“Released & Still Here!”

AKOMA 28 YEARS OF PRAISE

Delayed **25th Annual Scholarship Concert Programme**

Luke 13:12 “And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her,
Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.”

♥♥♥ **Praise, Prayer, Preparation** ♥♥♥

Invocation

Rev. Dr. Frederick Johnson, Sr.

Welcome

SiStar Carmen Allen

♥♥♥ **Part I** ♥♥♥

OPENING SONG:

“When All God’s Children Get Together”

written by Donald Lawrence

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL:

“Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel”

Trio: Dr. Gaya Shakes, Anita Terrell
and Sylvia Walker

Arranged by Moses Hogan

♥♥♥ **2020 Nona Patterson Chambers Scholarship Recognition** ♥♥♥

SELECTION:

“Woman Thou Art Loosed”

Duet: Dr. Gaya Shakes and Anita Terrell
Music by T.D. Jakes

♥♥♥ **Part II** ♥♥♥

Offering

Donna M. Jones: Scholarship Commission
Chairperson & First Genesis Ushers

Offering Prayer

SiStar Esther Pinkston

IN MEMORIAM SELECTION:

“Come Ye Disconsolate”

Duet: Terrilyn (Terri) Hammond and
Gloria Brooks
Music by Ted and Sheri



♥♥♥ Part III ♥♥♥

“Housekeeping” with Harriet Tubman

Reenactor: Magelene Moore

SIGNATURE SONG:
“Get Your House In Order”

Soloist: Magelene Moore
Music by Dottie Peoples

♥♥ 2021—2022 Nona Patterson Chambers Scholarship Recognition ♥♥

CLOSING SONG:
“Hallelujah”

Soloist: Regina (Shelly) Fowler
From “Handel’s Messiah: A Soulful
Celebration”

Special Prayer/Benediction

Rev. Dr. Dwight Fowler
Pastor, First Church of God

Conductors: Kathy Damann and Evangelist Gloria Brooks



Special thanks to Rev. Dr. Frederick Johnson, Sr., Deacon Anthony Redding, and the First Genesis Baptist Church family.

Our grateful thanks to Rev. Dr. Dwight Fowler and the members of First Church of God for the continued use of their edifice for rehearsals and their support over the years.

AKOMA acknowledges and remembers one of our AKOMA Men, Dr. Thomas Cummings who is now resting in his eternal home. A heartfelt prayer is extended to Dr. Twyla Cummings, Dr. Thomas’ wife.

AKOMA also gratefully acknowledges AKOMA Alumna & former NPC recipients; all of her special guests...musical & ministerial, her AKOMA Son; the ushers, the offering collectors; friends of AKOMA and you, our 28th audience of supporters.



♥♥♥ GLORIA ANN BROOKS, Executive Music Director ♥♥♥

Evangelist Gloria Brooks is a Floridian native. She graduated from Stetson University in Deland, Florida with a Bachelor of Music Degree. She came to Rochester, New York to pursue a Master of Music degree from the prestigious Eastman School of Music. After completing the Teacher Certification Program, she became a Music Teacher for the Rochester City School District from which she retired in June 2017.

Evangelist Brooks has served as both a musician and a choir director for a number of churches in the Rochester community including: Full Gospel Tabernacle, Faith, Hope & Charity, United Methodist, Grace United Methodist Church, Church of the Resurrection, Memorial A.M. E. Zion Church, Immaculate Conception Church, and Joint Heirs Kingdom Ministries.

After serving the Rochester City School District as an accompanist, Evangelist Brooks was hired as a full-time music teacher and choir director first at Frederick Douglass Middle School. She continued her career at Dr. Freddie Thomas High School and School of Imaging & Information Technology at Edison High School. Evangelist Brooks also offered private piano instruction to students of all ages. She has been very successful in training students to become both professional and church musicians.

Evangelist Brooks has received numerous honors and awards: the South Lake Black Achiever’s Award in Leesburg, Florida; and the White Rose Friendship Community Service Award from the Rochester chapter of the Links Incorporated.

In 2010, Evangelist Brooks accepted her calling into the Ministry of Evangelism. She was licensed and ordained as an evangelist on February 20, 2011 by her Pastor, Darryl Carter. Evangelist Brooks became the Executive Music Director for AKOMA in September 2012. She also served as the Music Director for the Omega Select Chorus. Evangelist Brooks gives God all the glory for her many accomplishments and is looking for God to do even “GREATER” things in and through her. Not only is she an accomplished musician and director of music, but she is anointed by God. She is a woman of God who is dedicated and committed to ministering healing to the sick, deliverance to the captives and encouragement to the saints through her ministry of music.



Glorious Greetings

The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him.

(Psalms 28:7 NKJV)

U: made our music ministry, more... GLORIOUS. Bliss & Blessings. Dr. A



Phenomenal Musician Gloria

That's you.

As a gifted musician, your music has extended far beyond you can imagine. My wish is that you continue with that God Given Gift and the light of God's Favor.

Blessings and Love Phenomenal Woman of God.

Sharon Chandler

Dear Sister Gloria,

I have had the pleasure of knowing you for well over 40 years! Singing with you and several choirs you directed has been my honor. You are unbelievably talented, persistent, consistent, and steadfast in all the work you do for the Lord. Indeed, everything you do is always with the love of Christ and always with excellence in mind, bringing out the best in whatever choir, school group, or soloist you accompany. What a precious gift you have been to me, and equally to everyone who has come into contact with your gifts over the years.

Gloria, I pray that God will continue to bless you and that whatever your heart's desire is for the future, it will come to fruition.

From your loving friend,

Barb Johnson

Thank you for using your God given musical ability and strong faith to make us all better. It has been a honor to sing with you for the last 7 years.

~Anita Terrell

Thank you for being such an extraordinary role model and phenomenal musician!!!

Loretta Armstrong

Evangelist Glo, thank you for your ministry throughout the years. I miss you but I also admire your commitment to your mother. May you continue to follow the path that God has set

for you.

Sisterly,

Maggie

Thank you for welcoming me into Akoma three years ago. You have kept us going during the pandemic and you will be missed. May god continue to bless you as you continue to be a light in the state of Florida.

Love you,

Norraine Coleman

Gloria, you are truly one of the most inspiring ministers of Music I have ever worked with.

Blessings, Esther.

Manifesting His
S.pirit

God-Fearing
Lovely
Outstanding
Regal
Incredible
Amazing

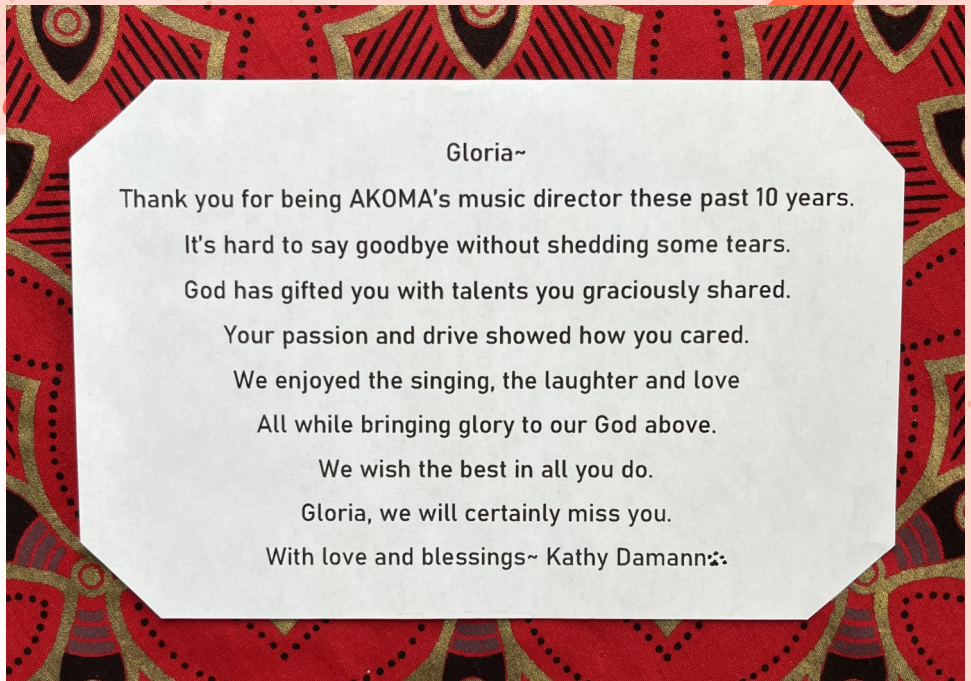


Go in His Anointing!

Much Love, Sister Donna

*Thank you and blessings
always. Peace and love.
Rose Stokes*

*Sister Gloria Welcome Back!
It is so wonderful to have you back in Rochester
and with AKOMA. I can't thank you enough for
how you have kept the sisters together during this
very trying time in the world.
I also thank you for your ongoing prayers and
support during a very difficult period in my life. I
admire your strength and your faith. May God
continue to bless you.
Blessings and Love,
Twyla Cummings*



Dear Gloria:

Thank you for the inspiration that you have been to my family and me over the years, whether it was having dinner with us, shopping, supporting revivals with your music ministry, or bringing an added spiritual dimension to the Attica Prison Ministry, and so many other wonderful things. I reflect on the years when you were the Minister of Music for Full Gospel Tabernacle Church and the Ensemble. We soared to new heights because of your passion for excellence and your heart for God. May God continue to bless you as you move forward into your destiny.

Love your AKOMA SiStar, Pat Starks, Sr.

*Best wishes to you as you start the next
chapter; I love you and I have enjoyed you
as a friend and director. God bless you.
Anita S.*

*Good afternoon my sister Gloria so nice and to
have you home, so looking forward to seeing you.
Be blessed.
Julia Lawson*

Gloria,
**May God continue to bless you as you enter
the next chapter of your journey.
Thank you for all you have done for AKOMA!**
Karen L. Summers

*I love you dearly my sister. You will be missed, but
I know we will see each other soon.
Terrilyn Hammond*

*Miss Glo,
We will certainly miss you and the "bling"! I have so
enjoyed our friendship and our musical time together.
God bless and keep you.
Sisterly, Gaya*

*Dear Gloria, may our Good Lord continue to bless and keep you.
AKOMA SiStar Evelyn*

*Ms Gloria,
Congratulations for using your awesome music talent of leadership
with AKOMA Gospel Women's Choir. May God bless you in
all you do.
Love, Carolyn*

*The Lord has blessed AKOMA with your talents and me with your
friendship. For these blessings I will be eternally grateful.
Ruth*

“Released and Still Here!” Supporters

Luke 13:12

EBAN - (OVER \$1000)

Considerate Contributor
St. Bonaventure University

HYE-WO-NHYE - (\$500-799)

Dr. David and Mrs. Ruth Anderson §
Dr. Twyla Cummings
Fringe Festival †
New Bethel CME Church †
Dr. Arlette and Mr. Art Smith
Mr. Richard and Mrs. Sandy Stein
(In Loving Memory of Myrtle Day)

NSOROMA - (\$250-349)

Mr. Francis J. Clement
Dr. Twyla and Dr. Thomas Cummings §
Mr. John and Mrs. Amanda Darden and Family
Kinecta Bank
Rochester Area Community Foundation §

SANKOFA - (\$200-249)

Ark of Jesus Ministries §
Mrs. Carmen and Mr. John Allen §
Ms. Loretta Armstrong
Breath of Life Church
(In Loving Memory of Désérée Bliss) §
Sharon Chandler
Mr. Francis J. Clement §
Sharyn K. Cole
Mrs. Kathy and Mr. Kevin Damann §
Mrs. Myrtle and Mr. Lonnie Day §
Kristy Jackson
Nina A. Jackson §
Emma Cheri Miller §
Esther Pinkston †
Mr. David and Dr. Gaya Shakes §
Mrs. Rose Stokes §
Ms. Karen Summers §
Rev. Dr. Darryl and Mrs. Dolores Trimiew and Family
(In Loving Memory of Désérée Bliss) §
Ms. Wynndy Turner
Mr. Todd Uthman §
Dr. Benjamin and Sandra Wallace §

BENEFACTOR - (\$150-199)

Mr. Carlie and Mrs. Myrna Cuff — CMC Properties of
Rochester, LLC
The Finger Lakes—Rochester All God’s Children
Collector’s Club
Elder David and Mrs. Patricia Starks §
West Henrietta Baptist Church

SUPPORTER - (\$100-149)

Mr. Frank and Mrs. Jennifer Allen
Josephine Anderson
(In Loving Memory of Désérée Bliss) §
Ark of Jesus Ministries
Betty Bryant (In Loving Memory of Désérée Bliss) §
Ms. Evelyn Greenwade Boltwood
Albert Bowman
Mr. Anthony and Mrs. Tracy Bradley
Ms. Sharon Chandler §
Mr. John and Mrs. Amanda Darden and Family †
Jocelyn Forsgren
Betty Garner
Theresa R. Jackson
Ms. Donna M. Jones
(In Loving Memory of Mr. Zeb Barfield)
Gail Livingston
Mary Janet McElrath §
Ruth Miller
Tamara Lee Minter
Patrica N’Guti
Janice Phillips §
Ms. Susanna Porter †
Mr. Bing and Mrs. Yvette Reaves †
Mr. Forrest and Mrs. Juliette Rhodes-Cummings
Telesta Featherstun Rice §
Mr. Melvin and Mrs. Barbara Roberts §
Virdell Robbins §
Mr. David and Dr. Gaya Shakes †
Ms. Marianne Simmons
Dr. Deborah Stamps
Elder David and Mrs. Patricia Starks
Mr. Vincent D. and Mrs. Evelyn Stroud §
Marilyn Tesdeshi
Rev. Dr. Darryl and Mrs. Dolores Trimiew and Family
Ms. Jacqueline Tyson
Mr. Wayne and Mrs. Thelma Uter
Ms. Gladys Vasciannie
Mr. James M. Walker §
Mr. Luvert Walker, II
Mr. Willard and Mrs. Isabella Walter §
Mrs. Clara Warfield §
Lisa Wilson
Agnes Mae Wright §

(Continued on page 13)

“Released and Still Here!” Supporters

Luke 13:12

(Continued from page 12)

SPONSOR - (\$50-99)

Mrs. Carmen and Mr. John Allen
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Joan W. Anderson §
Mr. Basil and Mrs. Melissa Barrett †
Ms. Evelyn Greenwade Boltwood £
Diane Bredes Nies §
Pastor Roger L. Breedlove §
Mr. Ulysees Breedlove §
Beverly A. Burrell-Moore §
Marquerite Butter
(In Loving Memory of Désérée Bliss) §
Mr. Thomas and Dr. Twyla Cummings †
Betty Garner £
Josetta A. Jackson §
Jennifer Jess §
Ms. Donna M. Jones §
Mrs. Rachel McDonald §
Mr. Bernard and Mrs. Essie (Calhoun) McDavid †
Mary Janet McElrath
Josephine K. Meh †
Sheila Myricks-Crawford §
Virdell T. Robbins
Victoria Schmitt
Mr. Roderick Spratling
Mr. Sam Stewart †
Mr. Willie and Mrs. Carrie Thomas §
Mr. Ronald and Mrs. Millicent Thompson †
Mrs. Judy and Mr. Donald Toyer
Mr. Todd Uthman
(In Loving Memory of Mr. Zeb Barfield)
Maryclaire Vanwie
(In Loving Memory of Désérée Bliss) §
Mr. Luvert Walker, II †
Roxana C. Weber §
Roberta West †
Stella L. Wiley §

PATRON - (\$25-49)

Regina Bradley §
Mariah Brown §
Mildred S. Burgess §
May Clarke (In Loving Memory of Désérée Bliss)
Elise M. Clinkscales §
Emilye Crosby
Mr. Tom and Mrs. Marcia Fugate §
Mr. Curtis Joiner
Mr. Timothy Johnson §
Mrs. Jeanette Lord
Pastor Stephen McKnight §
Ms. Hilda Peterson §
Flora Reynolds §
Kristen Schulmench †
Frances Spicer †
Mr. Sam Stewart
Mrs. Rose Stokes
Judy A. Toyer §
Mr. Willie and Mrs. Carrie Thomas †
Andrea Trammel †
Gail E. Whitcraft §
Mr. Lee and Mrs. Mary Wingo §
Lillie A. Woodard §

FRIEND - (\$10- 24)

Denise Brill §
Maya A. Broady †
Victoria Schmidt †
Marianne Simmons †
Elder David and Mrs. Patricia Starks †

Donation Legend:

2022 Donation: No symbol

‡: 2022, 2021 & 2020 Donation

§: 2022 & 2021 Donation

§: 2021 Donation

£: 2021 & 2020 Donation

†: 2020 Donation

**** AKOMA's scholarship is named in honor of
Mother Nona Patterson Chambers**

Adinkra symbols legend:

Sankofa (sang-ko-fah):

Nsoroma (n-soar-row-mah):

Tabono (tah-bow-no):

Hye-Wo-Nhye (she-wo-n-shee):

Nyame Nti (n-yah-may n-tee):

Eban:

wisdom “Go back and fetch it”
faith & leadership
strength and persistence
forgiveness & durability
by God's grace
love, safety and security
"fence"



~ SISTERS ON THE OTHER SIDE ~

2020-2022



Cheryl Yvonne Johnson
October 17, 1946 – February 17, 2020
Breath of Life SDA
*(Original Member, Co-President and
Section Leader)*

Désérée Elizabeth Bliss
July 8, 1963 – March 24, 2021
Breath of Life SDA
*(Original Member, Co-President,
Wardrobe Manager, and Herstorian)*



Myrtle Day
May 24, 1940 – August 10, 2021
First Church of God
*(Original Member, Treasurer, Assistant
Treasurer and Section Leader)*



📍 263 CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 2
ROCHESTER, NY 14605

☎ 585-232-5952

🌐 WWW.PHUCONCEPTS.COM



**PHU CONCEPTS IS A FULL-SERVICE INTEGRATED
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY.**



RESPONSIVE WEBSITES

We will make sure your website looks great on all types of devices & screen sizes



BRANDING

We will help you define your brand, communicate effectively, & establish market leadership



PRINTED MATERIALS

We will design and create high quality business cards, brochures, banners, & more



APPAREL & SIGNAGE

We are specialists in embroidery, screen printing, custom signage, and more!



MARKETING

We identify our clients needs, create strategies that will make the most of their budgets



PHOTO & VIDEO

We will provide high quality photos & videos that showcase your company & its values



2022 Church Roll

Advent Bible Fellowship
Pastor: Louis Shorter
Cecille Shorter

Ark of Jesus Ministries
Pastor: Bishop David Singleton
Esther Pinkston

Bethel Christian Fellowship
Pastor: Ronald Domina
Tracy Foreman

Breath of Life SDA
Pastor: Lawrence McDonald
Carolyn Butts
Evelyn Greenwade-Boltwood
Rachael McDonald

Bridge Builders Ministries
Pastor: Phil Harlow
Phyllis Griffin

Faith Church
Pastor: Steve & Darla Edlin
Donna M. Jones

First Church of God
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Dwight Fowler
Regina Fowler
Gloria McCullough

Full Gospel Tabernacle
Pastor: Ernest Walker, Jr.
Patricia Starks

Goodwill Baptist
Pastor: Rev. James L. Cuyler
Emma "Cheri" Miller
Michelle Antoinette Miller

Greater Zion Apostolic Faith Church
Pastor: Elder Robert L. Coleman
Norrine Coleman

Greece Assembly of God
Pastor: Patrick Medeiros
Kathy Damann

Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's
Pastor: Father Robert Bradler
Rose Stokes

In Christ New Hope Ministry
Pastor: Roger Breedlove
Sharon Chandler

Jefferson Avenue SDA
Pastor: Hanson Drysdale
Valerie White-Whittick

Joint Heirs Kingdom Ministries
Pastor: Darryl Carter
Patricia Cathey

Memorial AME Zion
Pastor: Rev. Derrill Blue
Carmen C. Allen
Dr. Twyla Cummings
Amanda Darden
Barbara Dukes
Magelene Moore
Ella Reed
Wynndy Turner
Sylvia Walker
Eunice White

Mt. Olivet Baptist
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rickey B. Harvey
Anita Terrell

Mt. Vernon Baptist
Karen Summers

New Bethel CME
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Julius Clay
Anita Simpson

New Life Fellowship
Pastor: Bernard McNeil
Julia Lawson
Georgia Prescott

Parkminister Presbyterian
Pastor: Fritz Longabaugh
Yvonne Lewis-McDonald

St. Luke Tabernacle Community
Pastor: Rev. Dr. James H. Evans
Dr. Gaya Shakes

St. Luke/St. Simon's Cyrene
Pastor: Rev. Keith Patterson
Ruth Anderson

The Father's House
Pastor: Pierre Duplessis
Loretta Armstrong

The Uncommon Faith Center
Pastor: Thomas Ware
Gloria Brooks

Zion Dominion Global Ministries
Pastor: Bishop Rodrick Hennings
Terrilyn (Terri) Hammond