



**“Come Sunday”  
Duke Ellington’s Sacred Music**

***Crest Theater, March 19 – 21***

The spirit of Duke Ellington will fill Sacramento’s Crest Theater from March 19 to 21, when a hundred singers, dancers and jazz musicians converge to celebrate a musical giant’s most personal work. Dr. Ralph Hughes, director of the Sacramento Master Singers, will conduct “Come Sunday,” a program of selections from Ellington’s three “Sacred Concerts”- massive tributes to freedom and religious expression that were inspired by the Civil Rights Movement and performed by Ellington in his last years.

Guest artists for this rarely performed program will include James Wheatley and the Celebration Arts Dance Company, the Capital Jazz Project, the Harley White Jr. Orchestra, the jazz bands of American River College, and award-winning jazz soloists Julia Dollison, Jacosa Limutau, and Owen Myers.

“Come Sunday” will also be an exciting homecoming for dance legend Ardie Bryant, a graduate of Sacramento High School who is recognized internationally as the inventor of modern jazz tap. Bryant worked with Ellington and dozens of other jazz greats, and is still teaching at California State University in Los Angeles. He will spend the evening of his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday dancing at the Crest, as part of a gala concert weekend that has been tagged a “must-see” event by The Sacramento Bee.

**Public performances:** “Come Sunday” will be performed twice for general audiences: Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 3 p.m. at the Crest Theater, 1013 K Street in Sacramento. Tickets are \$20 general seating, \$10 for students. For more information, go to the Sacramento Master Singers web site, [www.mastersingers.org](http://www.mastersingers.org), or call (916) 788-7464. Tickets will also be available through [ticket.com](http://ticket.com).

**Special performance for high school students:** The Ellington concert weekend opens on Friday, March 19, at 8 p.m. with a free performance at the Crest exclusively for high school and church teen groups with advance tickets. The Master Singers are contacting teachers and youth leaders throughout the region with details on this opportunity for teens to experience a phenomenal work of art by a beloved American musician. If the concert engenders some lively classroom discussions afterward about American history and ongoing struggles for freedom, all the better. For information about the high school outreach concert, contact: Julie Jenness, Business Manager, at 916-788-7464 or [smsbusiness@surewest.net](mailto:smsbusiness@surewest.net)

The Sacramento Master Singers, long devoted to arts education, are grateful to the many generous donors who have supported the Ellington project. “Come Sunday” is sponsored by Advancing Sacramento Arts, an initiative of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation made possible by a grant from the James Irvine Foundation.