

BIO FOR Amina Claudine Myers

Amina Claudine Myers, pianist, organist, vocalist, composer, improviser, actress and educator. Ms. Myers has performed nationally and internationally throughout Europe, Africa, North America, Asia and Australia. She is well known for her work including choirs, voices and instrumental ensembles. Ms. Myers' career in music began in her preteens and throughout high school directing choirs, singing and playing gospel and rhythm and blues. Although she was classically trained in piano she began playing and singing jazz while attending Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas where she received a Bachelor's Degree in music education.

After moving to Chicago, Ill. in 1963 Ms. Myers taught music in the public school system for six years. She attended Roosevelt University briefly and became a member of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM).

In 1976 Myers relocated to NYC. She acted and composed music for several Off Broadway productions. She was the Assistant Musical Director for Ain't Mishavin' prior to the Broadway production. Ms. Myers was also choral director at SUNY University at Old Westbury for one year.

There are eleven recordings released under Ms. Myers' name including her latest being SAMA ROU (Songs From My Soul) for piano and voice on Amina C. Records. Her larger works include INTERIORS for chamber orchestra with string quartet, performed by the S.E.M, Ensemble, Peter Kotik Director. THE IMPROVISATIONAL SUITE FOR CHORUS, PIPE ORGAN AND PERCUSSION; WHEN THE BERRIES FELL; A VIEW FROM THE INSIDE and FOCUS. Ms. Myers has collaborated with composer/ vocalist Sola Liu where they combine the Chinese and Afro-American traditions through voice, piano and dance.

Ms. Myers currently performs traditional, gospel and improvisational music on the pipe organ. In 2010 she was commissioned by the Chicago Jazz Institute to compose and direct a composition for The Chicago Jazz Orchestra in honor of the late Mary Lou Williams' 100th Birthday (SWEET MARY LOU). Another commission was for Baritonist Thomas Buckner (I WILL NOT FEAR THE UNKNOWN). In the 90s Myers directed the Symphony Orchestra and chorus at George Mason University, Hampton, VA. and The Western University's, Kalamazoo, MI., Symphony Orchestra and chorus in HOW LONG BRETHREN, a recreated choreographed piece by choreographer Diane McIntyre. These were Negro Protest Songs originally created by choreographer Helen Tamaris.

Myers was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall Of Fame in 2001 and the Arkansas Jazz Hall Of Fame in 2010. She has been awarded six grants: The New York Foundation for The Arts, Meet The Composer and two National Endowment For The Arts, (NEA), Arts for Art's Lifetime Achievement Award, NYC and Jazz Legacy Award from Mid Atlantic Arts, Baltimore, MD. Myers has been named A Jazz Master 2024 with an award with the ceremony at the J.F. Kennedy Center, Washington D.C. in April 2024 by the NEA. The AACM presents her new work "Stay In The Light" with her Trio and special guest playwright, actress, director and vocalist Richarda Abrams on December 18th and a choral workshop on December 17th at The Park Ave. Armory. Myers

recently was honored to receive a 1925 Mellon Foundation Award from The Jazz Foundation of America for her contributions of Jazz, blues and gospel music.