



UWC-USA alumna returns to Vegas to sing

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Courtesy photo

Tanyaradzwa Tawengwa, a UWC-USA Alumna, opera singer, classical pianist and Princeton University graduate, returns to Las Vegas to perform a solo recital at the First United Presbyterian Church on, April 20. It's a 3 p.m. show.

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As director of Meadow City Academy of Music, Ron Maltais was searching for a classical singer to complete our 2018-19 season, and Tanya (as she is called in the U.S.) is a performer he feels can fit the bill perfectly.

Maltais was her vocal coach while she was at the UWC and sensed that Tanya's distinctive voice and acting abilities might garner attention in the professional world.

His prediction has proved prescient.

"We are fortunate to be able to hear Tanya's amazing voice and I am delighted to be accompanying her on a recently donated Steinway grand piano," Maltais said.

Tawengwa will perform songs in French, German, an Italian operatic aria and several English songs/spirituals, including two songs of her own.

In addition to her previous UWC-USA experience, Tawengwa describes herself as "a suburban kid from Zimbabwe," and a member of the post-colonial "born free" generation.

Born in Harare, Zimbabwe. Tawengwa is known as a composer, mbira musician and singer.

Her music has been performed at Carnegie Hall, Yale Repertory Theater (in Danai Gurira's Familiar), Soho Rep., TED and TED Women.

Tawengwa's opera "The Dawn of the Rooster" has toured internationally, and her original musical, "Africa My Beautiful," along with Thuli Dumakude, ran off-Broadway in New York.

Tawengwa is a touring member of the American Spiritual Ensemble and her roles include Queenie from Showboat, Flora from La Traviata, Belinda from Dido and Aeneas, and Lady Billows from Albert Herring.

Tawengwa founded both Mushandirapamwe Trust, a cultural arts organization dedicated to developing vocal talent in Zimbabwe, and Nhanha, Inc., a benefit corporation whose mission is to preserve Zimbabwean culture in the form of books, music and cartoons for children.

Tawengwa earned her B.A. in Music Composition (cum laude) with minors in Vocal performance and French from Princeton University and is currently earning her Master of Music degree at the University of Kentucky.

She is presently a student of Everett McCorvey.

Even before her years at Princeton, Tawengwa was interviewed on Skype and was offered a lead role in the premiere production of Eve Ensler's play "I Am an Emotional Creature" which was originally performed in New York. Tanya later performed alongside Gabourey Sidibe, toured internationally, and was directed by Rosario Dawson.

Tawengwa has released solo albums and previously recorded an anthem "Break the Chain" for the One Billion Rising campaign, which galvanized women's marches across the globe and amassed millions of viewers on YouTube. Coming back to Las Vegas gives music lovers in the area an opportunity to experience her amazing talent.

The First United Presbyterian Church is located at 1000 Douglas Ave. Tickets are \$20; students can attend free.

Due to limited seating, reservations are advisable. E-mail Ronald Maltais at remalt@q.com.