

We Celebrate You, Lenard Starks!

Director's Notes:

About the Jubilee Singers' Music Today



Because today's service is the last for Lenard Starks as director of the All Souls Jubilee Singers, the music was selected to reflect upon the goals of the Jubilee Singers and the All Souls Kuumba Players, two groups with which Lenard spent many hours. The Kuumba Players were steered by Elizabeth Andrews Zitelli (the group's founder), Ben Zitelli, Judith Bauer, Gregory Ford, Anna Hargrave Hernandez, Wendy Carter and Lenard Starks.



There was significant additional overlap of participants between Jubilee, and Kuumba Players, which may be attributable to the orientation of both groups toward the

promotion of social justice ideals. "Thuma Minal/ Shosholozal!" is reminiscent of the long-time relationship between the South African Bokamoso Youth Troupe, the Jubilee Singers and the All Souls Congregation. "Ain'-a That Good News" carries the joy of African American spirituals often sung by the Jubilee Singers.



"The Human Heart" is taken from the musical Once On This Island which was presented by the Kuumba Players. The show expressed the desire and need for inclusivity and community. "Sir Duke" is intended to prompt us all to begin this week

with the energy that we obtain from being together singing and dancing.

How You Can Thank Lenard

- Come to Pierce Hall for a Reception after service for a meal made by our luncheon team to help honor Lenard. There will be cake and coffee too! Suggested donation is \$8, and no one will be turned away.
- Sign a thank you card and our memory book for Lenard! There will be a small table in Pierce Hall after service where you may sign a card for him. We will be giving Lenard a beautiful book filled with our love and well wishes.
- Watch for the slideshow on the screens of images of the Jubilee Singers and Lenard's time with All Souls!

Visit the Jubilee Singers history page: <https://all-souls.org/jubilee-singers-history>



Lenard Starks began directing the All Souls Jubilee Singers in January of 1996. A California native, Lenard began studying the clarinet at age nine, and subsequently played in the Northern California Junior Symphony, the CSUS Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, and Opera Orchestra, and participated as an arranger and woodwind player.

While on active military duty in the U.S. Army Security Agency, Lenard served as bandmaster for two years. In that capacity he was responsible for selecting repertoire, rehearsing, and conducting a 50-piece band in concerts, ceremonies, and parades at Fort Devens, Massachusetts and in cities and communities throughout the New England area.

In his 27 - year tenure at All Souls, Lenard has stalwartly led the Jubilee Singers in hundreds of worship services, demonstrations, and concerts in the DMV area. His work with the children's choirs and KUUMBA Players helped to sustain and build many aspects of the music and arts program. A pioneer in bringing African American music of many genres into UU sacred spaces, the repertoire Lenard introduced has become synonymous with All Souls social justice efforts. For his artistry and his contributions to All Souls and Unitarian Universalism, Lenard has been named a Minister of Music Emeritus.



27 Years of

Music and

Ministry!