



**Jolie Rocke Brown**, native New Yorker and renowned soprano is sharing the gift of song as a featured soloist in opera and concert tours of the USA, Europe and Far North Queensland Australia. Jolie is a featured artist in Joel A. Martin's touring production, *Footsteps of Peace*, which premiered in NYC (July 2014) with subsequent performances in West Palm Beach, Florida; and Bridgeport and Hartford Connecticut. The Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame honored Ms. Rocke Brown in 2012 for her acclaim as a singer and music educator. The Amistad Center for Art & Culture housed at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, honored her with the 2014 Spirit of Juneteenth Award. Ms. Rocke Brown began classical music training at the age of ten and continued at LaGuardia High School of Music and the Arts, University of Hartford's Hartt School, and young artist programs with Houston Ebony Opera Guild and Studio Lirico in Anghiari, Italy. She is a candidate for a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance at the University of Connecticut. After listening backstage in 2012 to the opening act for her "Be A Rainbow in Soemone's Cloud" tour, Dr. Maya Angelou remarked, "Jolie Rocke Brown sings with such passion... and compassion." Hartford Courant writer and critic Owen McNally marveled, "Jolie Rocke Brown a gifted, versatile vocalist who's as much at home soaring on opera arias and celestial hymns as she is getting down with funky blues and earthy jazz, just might, at long last, have the whole world in her hands thanks to her soulful album, "Rock of Ages: Hymns for the Soul." Jolie draws from her total life experience when she takes the stage or works with aspiring young artists. For over 25 years, her passion for music and the desire to pass it on to her students, leads her to produce concerts, direct community arts programs and train aspiring singers as a private voice teacher, coach, and mentor. While her singing career continues to soar, her dedication to training and providing performing opportunities for young artists is unwavering. Ms. Rocke Brown is currently a Visiting Instructor of Music at Texas Southern University in Houston; Instructor of Music at Prairie View A&M University; and Director of Worship at Cathedral of Hope Houston.



American bass-baritone **Marques Jerrell Ruff** has performed across the globe, gracing the stages of the Walt Disney Hall in Los Angeles, Weiner Musikverein in Vienna, the Rudolfinum in Prague, and the Mariinsky Theater in St. Petersburg, Russia. A former member of the Grammy® award-winning ensemble, Chanticleer, Mr. Ruff has traveled to more than 25 countries, performing well over 500 concerts, and numerous masterclasses. As a featured soloist with the Hartford Symphony, Hartford Chorale, and VOCE, Inc., he has distinguished himself as a versatile, dynamic performer who excels in oratorio, musical theater and the music of the African-American experience. Marques Jerrell Ruff has been the featured soloist on several recordings, including a world premiere by the talented young American contemporary classical composer, Nico Muhly, entitled 'Three Moon Songs.' The Hartford Courant marveled, "Ruff has a voice that has power, clarity and brilliant shades of color." Following an international debut at the National Concert Hall in Dublin, Ireland, GoldenPlec Music Magazine wrote, "Ruff steps out front, his voice powerful, acrobatic, and full of soul." In addition to a 2010 recording of a new song cycle, 'Guided Imagery,' composed by Staff Sergeant Daniel J. Campolieta, Marques also appears on 'Sure on this Shining Night' with famed American composer, Morten Lauridsen (both recordings available on all digital music platforms). A graduate of Central Connecticut State University, Mr. Ruff was the University Singers Scholarship recipient, under the direction of Dr. Pamela J. Perry, and is currently pursuing two Masters of Music Degree in Choral Conducting (Dr. R. Paul Crabb) Vocal Performance (Prof. Christine Seitz) in Columbia, Missouri.



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