



SAMF CELEBRATES JUNETEENTH WITH THE RITZ CHAMBER PLAYERS

Sunday, June 19, 2022, 7:30 pm
Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine

Featuring Terrence Wilson, Piano and Kevin Sharpe, Piano

*SAMF Juneteenth Programs are sponsored by Ritz Chamber Players,
the St. Johns Cultural Council, and the Benjamin and Jean Troemel Foundation.*

FRANZ SCHUBERT | Sonata in C minor D.958

- I. Allegro
- II. Adagio
- III. Menuetto: Allegro – Trio
- IV. Allegro

– INTERMISSION –

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUALS Arr. J. JENKINS | James Jenkins, Tuba

JULIUS EASTMAN | Gay Guerrilla

PROGRAM NOTES

FRANZ SCHUBERT (1797 – 1828)

Sonata for piano in C minor, D. 958 is part of the composer's last set of sonatas, written during the last months of his life, between the spring and fall of 1828. At first, Schubert's piano sonatas were dismissed as some thought they were inferior to Beethoven's piano sonatas. By the late 20th century opinion had changed and his sonatas are considered important and part of piano repertoire on concert programs. Schubert's last sonatas are admired for their depth of emotional expression.

JULIUS EASTMAN (1940-1990)

Eastman was an artist who, as a gay, black man, aspired to live those roles to the fullest. He was not only a prominent member of New York's downtown scene as a composer, conductor, singer, pianist, and choreographer, but also performed at Lincoln Center with Pierre Boulez and the New York Philharmonic and recorded experimental disco with producer Arthur Russell. 'Eastman is something of a cult figure among composers and singers,' reads a 1980 press release. Despite his prominence in the artistic and musical community in New York, Eastman died homeless and alone in a Buffalo, NY hospital, his death unreported until eight months later, in a Village Voice obituary by Kyle Gann. He left behind few scores and recordings, and his music lay dormant for decades until a three-CD set of his compositions was issued in 2005 by New World Records. In the years since, there has been a steady increase in attention paid to his music and life, punctuated by newly found recordings and manuscripts, the publication of *Gay Guerrilla*, a comprehensive volume of biographical essays and analysis, worldwide performances and new arrangements of his surviving works, and newfound interest from choreographers, scholars, educators, and journalists. 'The brazen and brilliant music of Julius Eastman... commands attention: wild, grand, delirious, demonic, an uncontainable personality surging into sound,' writes Alex Ross for *The New Yorker*. (Village Voice, May 2, 2018.)