njpac
arts education



gwen moten

the david g. berger master class series

about gwen moten

Gwen Moten is an arts and cultural educator, international concert artist, conductor, entrepreneur and city commissioner with a distinguished career in performance, education and public service. She has served as Supervisor of Cultural Services for the City of Newark, a corporate executive and an international cultural representative for the United States.

Her career spans Broadway, concert stages, universities and major cultural institutions internationally. She is the founder of Theatre World Music Service, which has produced concert performances, educational programs and international cultural initiatives, including contributions to the first International World Peace Tour.

Moten has represented the arts at the United Nations and served as a U.S. American Cultural Specialist in Africa under President Bill Clinton. She has conducted choirs and orchestras at major venues including the White House, the World Trade Center memorials, Riverside Church and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, collaborating with renowned artists such as Harry Belafonte, Tony Bennett, Eartha Kitt and Gregory Hines.

As a cultural leader in Newark, she created and produced numerous citywide arts programs serving tens of thousands of residents and developed nationally recognized youth education initiatives, including The Cotillion Program, which received honors from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Moten is a former executive director of Newark Symphony Hall, where she led a comprehensive revitalisation of the historic venue. Her work in education includes teaching at major institutions and pioneering innovative arts curricula for at-risk youth.

Recognized as a "Living Legend" by the City of Newark, Ms. Moten currently serves as a City Commissioner on the Newark Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission and continues to advocate for arts, culture and community development. Her life and career are preserved in the Library of Congress through the StoryCorps Griot Initiative, and her journey is chronicled in her one-woman show, *From Birmingham to Botswana*.

accolades

- Named "A Living Legend" by the City of Newark
- Appointed U.S. American Cultural Specialist by the United States Information Agency under President Bill Clinton
- Received national recognition from Harvard University and the John F. Kennedy School of Government for The Cotillion Program
- Honored with the distinction of opening NASDAQ in New York City for outstanding contributions to the Muscular Dystrophy Association
- Selected as an invited representative to the United Nations Department of Public Information/ Non-Governmental Organizations
- Featured in the StoryCorps Griot Initiative, with her oral history preserved at the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Received numerous governmental commendations from the White House and international Heads of State across Africa, Japan and Belgium
- Personally invited by President George H. W. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush to present the Newark Boys Chorus at the White House
- Appointed Executive Director of the Newark Performing Arts Corporation (Newark Symphony Hall)
- Appointed City Commissioner on the Newark Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission
- Appointed member of the Newark Park Projects Committee, overseeing cultural and artistic development
- Featured in multiple network and cable television documentaries and interviews, including *NJ History Makers*, *The Morning Show*, *New Jersey Woman* and *Defying Age*

vocabulary

Ambassador
A person who acts as a representative or promoter of a specific activity, cause or idea

Artistic Director
A person who leads the creative output of a performing arts institution

Book Writer
A person who writes the text of a musical

Choir
An organized ensemble of singers who perform vocal music together, typically with more than one singer assigned to each voice part (such as Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass)

Lyricist
A person who writes the words to songs

Music Director
Leads, trains and conducts a musical group (like an orchestra, choir or band) to achieve a cohesive sound

Playwright
A person who creates the story and writes the text of a stage play



"A little boy was watching [*From Birmingham to Botswana*] and said, 'When did this happen? Was this during Lincoln's time?' That made me realize I needed to tell my story ... **They needed to understand that there is someone who experienced those things and have seen some changes**, and now they are with you, and now they can talk about it."

— Gwen Moten

seed questions to consider

1. How do history and music intersect?
2. What are the similarities in writing plays, lyrics, and poems? What are the differences?
3. How has music instruction developed through the years?



resources

Websites
Interview with U.S. Ambassador Gwen Moten
echonewstv.com/post/interview-with-us-ambassador-of-cultural-arts-and-playwright-gwen-moten-on-upcoming-show

Rock Steady Podcast
Gwen Moten Deep Roots in Newark and Beyond
podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/gwen-moten-deep-roots-in-newark-and-beyond/id1533668482?i=1000551184821

Video
Lift Every Voice: Singing and Living with Purpose featuring Gwen Moten
youtube.com/watch?v=64IFL-d5EIU

bring the arts to your school

In-School Residencies
NJPAC teaching artists come right to your school to teach the performing arts to your students. Our super-flexible in-person residencies are designed to meet your needs and you'll have a dedicated program manager to help you every step of the way. It's the perfect program to keep your students creating, connecting and expressing themselves through the magic of the arts.

Professional Development
Calling all educators! Expand your teaching skills, deepen your curriculum and give yourself a creative boost in NJPAC's forward-thinking professional development workshops. Our virtual PD programs are for teachers all the way from pre-K to high school and include hip hop, dance, storytelling, theater, music and more. Not only will you learn something... you'll also have fun and be inspired.

arts training for students

Saturday Programs
NJPAC's Saturday programs are geared towards students at every level — from those who dream of starring on Broadway to those who are still learning their scales. Students work with professional artists to build technique and develop their own creative style in hip hop, jazz, theater, musical theater and symphonic band.

Summer Programs
Want to begin to explore the arts? Or immerse yourself in the study of one genre? Then join us at NJPAC next summer in our immersive programs that spark the creativity in every child through the study of music, dance and theater.

NJPAC Arts Education Berger Masterclass Series team

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contact us!

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please email our team at **artseducation@njpac.org**.
Or visit **njpac.org/education**

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