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## **Keeping a Time-Honored Tradition Alive: University Concert Choir Taking Their Performance on the Road**

**NEW ORLEANS** - The Dillard University Concert Choir is heading to Texas in March to kick off its annual tour. Approximately 38 students will participate in a two-city tour, which starts in Houston on Friday, March 23, at Metropolitan CME Church and wraps up on Sunday, March 25, in Dallas at Friendship West Baptist Church.

“This Dillard tradition is a highly anticipated event,” said S. Carver Davenport, associate professor of Music. “It’s one of many ways that we remain connected and engaged to our alumni network, but also attract new students to our university – which is known for a strong commitment to the arts.”

The tour performances include classic songs such as Roland Carter’s *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, and his arrangement of the Spiritual, *I Want to Die Easy*, as well as *J S Bach’s Come Sweet Death* with contemporary choreography.

There will be a host of soloists performing selections arranged by Moses G. Hogan, who was on the Dillard Music Faculty for 13 years. Hogan’s arrangements of *Give Me Jesus*, *Were You There*, and *Let Us Break Bread Together*, will be performed, under the leadership of Autumn Durgan, ‘15, who has been assisting Davenport since the 2016 academic year.

The tour is sponsored by the Houston Chapter of the Dillard University National Alumni Association – the city with the second largest population of Dillard graduates second only to New Orleans – and the Dallas Fort Worth Alumni Chapter. The students along with faculty will travel by charter bus from New Orleans to the Houston and Dallas corridor.

This year, the tour will incorporate recruitment activities. Students along with alumni will visit local high schools.

“We are beyond proud to have the Choir stop in Houston,” said Dr. Mtangulizi Sanyika, Houston Alumni chapter president. “Not only does it give our alumni chapter members an opportunity to give back to Dillard, it will also give us a reason to get together and celebrate the music that was so central to our development at Dillard. We are honored to have them.”

While the concerts are free and open to the public, the two-day tour is a way for the Music Program to raise money for scholarships for the student body that is roughly 90 percent dependent on federal financial assistance.

*Dillard University, located at 2601 Gentilly Blvd. in New Orleans, Louisiana, is a private four-year liberal arts historically black institution that was founded in 1869. The University’s signature programs include Physics and Film. For more information, please visit [www.dillard.edu](http://www.dillard.edu) and follow us on Twitter, Facebook @DU1869 and Instagram: Dillard University.*

“This is why our role as alumni chapters is so important,” said Ra’mesha Pratt, Dallas/Fort Worth Alumni chapter president. “We are here to support our University and want the world to know the excellence that’s consistency being produced.”

Dillard University is the Tom Joyner School of the Month in March. To donate visit, [bit.ly/Give2DU](https://bit.ly/Give2DU).

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## **Dillard University Concert Choir Houston-Dallas Tour/Performance Schedule 2018**

Thursday, March 22	Dillard contingent travels/arrives in Houston
Friday, March 23	Students perform at Metropolitan CME Church 8955 S. Freeway, Highway 288 at Reed Road, Houston, TX 77051 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 24	Dillard contingent travels/arrives in Dallas
Sunday, March 25	Students perform at Friendship West Baptist Church 2020 West Wheatland Road, Dallas, TX 75232 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

**DILLARD UNIVERSITY IS** *The Tom Joyner Foundation* **SCHOOL OF THE MONTH 2018**



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