

Morning Brown, Inc.

2024 in Review



Commissioning a Major Symphonic Work

In keeping with our mission to develop multicultural artists and audiences in the performing arts, Morning Brown is commissioning a new symphonic work by a leading Black composer to honor the life of Coretta Scott King.

Angela Brown had the honor of meeting and singing for Mrs. King in 1998. This project perpetuates the multifaceted life and work for Mrs. King who was a classically trained singer, global leader, and humanitarian.



Vocal Studio Class at University of Wisconsin, Madison

In March, Angela led a vocal masterclass for the Mead Witter School of Music and was interviewed for their Changemaker video Series.

The video can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVFopsVU-Yk>



Palm Beach Atlantic University Residency

In April, Angela was in residence for a week at Palm Beach Atlantic University for their Distinguished Artist Series.

She presented “Opera...from a Sistah’s Point of View: Generation Next” with vocal students from the university, conducted a masterclass, and held an open Q and A with the students.



PBA DISTINGUISHED ARTIST SERIES PRESENTS

Opera... from a Sistah’s Point of View: Generation Next

Featuring PBA Vocal Performance Majors

April 12, 2024

7:30 p.m.

Vera Lea Rinker Hall



Angela Brown

General admission \$15 | 18yrs and under FREE PBA students faculty and staff FREE

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS



[arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov)

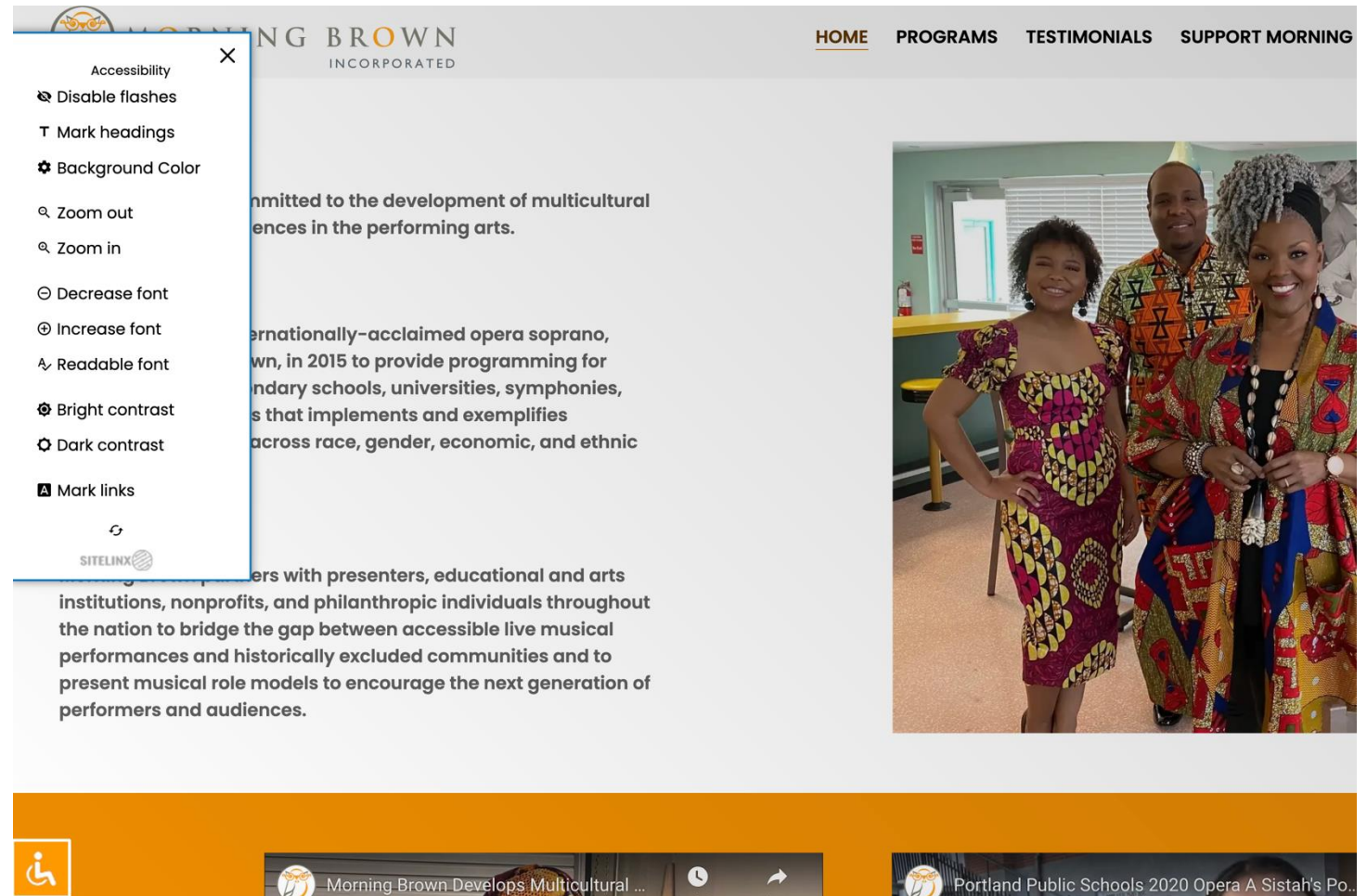
National Endowment for the Arts Grant Recipient

In the Spring, Morning Brown's application for an NEA grant to commission a new symphonic work was approved! The grant will cover the commissioning fees of noted composer, James Lee III, to write a work for orchestra and soprano on the life and work of civil rights leader and soprano Coretta Scott King.

Website Accessibility Update

Our approval for the NEA grant required an upgrade to the Morning Brown website for better accessibility.

We worked with GoDaddy to add an accessibility widget that is ADA approved.



The screenshot displays the Morning Brown Incorporated website. At the top right, there is a navigation menu with links for [HOME](#), [PROGRAMS](#), [TESTIMONIALS](#), and [SUPPORT MORNING](#). The main content area features a photograph of three individuals—two women and one man—dressed in vibrant, patterned traditional African clothing. To the left of the photo, an accessibility widget is open, listing various options: Disable flashes, Mark headings, Background Color, Zoom out, Zoom in, Decrease font, Increase font, Readable font, Bright contrast, Dark contrast, and Mark links. Below the photo, text describes the organization's commitment to multicultural experiences and its role in providing programming for various institutions. The footer includes an accessibility icon (a person in a wheelchair) and a social media bar with a Twitter link for 'Morning Brown Develops Multicultural ...' and a Facebook link for 'Portland Public Schools 2020 Opera A Sista's Po..'

Artist in Residence for the Schmidt Vocal Arts Institute

In June, Angela served as artist in residence at the esteemed Institute of the Schmidt Vocal Arts at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

She gave masterclasses and individual lessons for the participants who are advanced high school classical singers from around the country.



Freedom School of the Children's Defense Fund Indianapolis

In July, Angela presented "Opera...from a Sistah's Point of View" with pianist Michael Conley for Freedom School scholars.

The Freedom School operates during the summer months to keep scholars engaged and learning between school years.

Angela was also a "Read Aloud" guest at the school. She read "When Marian Sang" to the scholars.

Read Aloud Guest: Angela Brown

Angela Brown personifies the ideal soprano: sheer vocal power; luxurious finesse; and shimmering, high pianissimos. She has graced the leading opera and symphonic stages on six continents. She has been presented in solo recitals throughout the United States, Canada, Spain, New Zealand, China, and Africa. She is a featured artist on the two-time Grammy Award winning recording "Ask Your Mama" and is the original voice of the contemporary opera roles of Addie Parker (Charlie Parker's Yardbird) and Cilla (Margaret Garner). She is the founder of Morning Brown, Inc., her nonprofit dedicated to the development of multicultural role models and audiences in the performing arts. The success of her signature show, Opera...from a Sistah's Point of View provided the momentum and cornerstone for an array of outreach and educational programs that have been presented in 22 USA states, under the auspices of Morning Brown, reaching thousands of elementary, secondary, and university students.





Masterclasses for the Indianapolis Opera Resident Artists

One of our faithful community partners is the Indianapolis Opera. We collaborate several times a season for masterclasses, performances, and promotion.

Opera in the Park with the Indianapolis Opera

Morning Brown is proud to partner with Indianapolis Opera. Angela served as host for Opera in the Park in September.



General Operating Grant from Indy Arts Council

Morning Brown was awarded a general operating grant, renewable for three years, from the Indy Arts Council.



WITH SUPPORT FROM

IndyArts
council

AND THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS



Coretta Scott King Commission to Make World Premiere with Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in March 2026

The new work by James Lee III will premiere with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in March 2026. Angela Brown will be the soprano soloist. Look for the announcement in early 2025.

The project also includes classroom curriculum on the life of Mrs. King, how musical works perpetuate history, and general music education on listening to and enjoying symphonic music.

Kala Sisters Fund Sponsors Mosaic Album Re-Release

The Kala Sisters Fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation awarded a grant to support the re-release of the album Mosaic with PARMA Records.

Originally produced by the American Spiritual Ensemble for the Albany Records label, the new release will promote the mission of Morning Brown through awareness and streaming downloads.

The new release is expected in late spring 2025. The photo here was taken during the original recording sessions in 2004 – guitarist Tyron Cooper, soprano Angela Brown, pianist Joseph Joubert.



Smith Fund Underwrites School Curriculum

The Philip and Elizabeth Smith Fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation gave a grant to produce the classroom curriculum for the Coretta Scott King Legacy Project.

Coretta Scott King

A new work for
orchestra to
perpetuate the
legacy of musician
and American Civil
Rights leader
Coretta Scott King

James Lee III, composer

Angela Brown, soprano



Looking Ahead to 2025

The new year holds a residency at "Ole Miss" University of Mississippi, masterclasses with Indianapolis Opera, adjudication of several vocal competitions, curriculum development for the Coretta Scott King Legacy Project, and more!

