

The World Premiere of *Dreamland: Tulsa 1921*

A Choral Work Commissioned by Dallas's Turtle Creek Chorale

Premiere Performance Spring 2022 - Dallas

National Tour to include Carnegie Hall - July 9, 2022

Music: Marques L.A. Garrett ~ Libretto: Sandra Seaton

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre, The Turtle Creek Chorale has commissioned acclaimed African American artists, composer Marques L.A. Garrett and librettist Sandra Seaton to write *Dreamland: Tulsa 2021*, a dramatic chorale memorializing Greenwood, Tulsa's "Black Wall Street."

A performance to remember. A choir of over 100 voices, actors and orchestra, Garrett's brilliant, resounding hymns and Seaton's gripping text with its powerful dramatic interludes will transport you to this historic time that has been out of our public psyche far too long.

Seaton sets the stage on that May 31st, 1921, in a world filled with the excitement of graduation and proms only to end eighteen hours later, on June 1st, when a white mob, enraged by news of an assault by a young Black man on a white woman, destroyed Greenwood's homes and businesses. Thirty-five city blocks of what was once a thriving African American community were burned beyond recognition.

More than 800 Black Tulsans were seriously injured and as many as 300 died. By that next morning, Greenwood stood no longer, its future twice erased: first, physically then from history.

Inspired by *Events of the Tulsa Disaster* by Mary E. Jones Parrish, a journalist who gathered the accounts of those who witnessed and suffered from the violence and by the lives of Bill and Lola Williams, the entrepreneurs who built the Dreamland Theatre complex, Seaton is determined to show the full humanity of the people of Greenwood.

By honoring the memory of those lost in the Tulsa Massacre, *Dreamland: Tulsa 1921* demonstrates the Turtle Creek Chorale's core pillars: To entertain, educate, unite, inspire and demonstrate their commitment to racial equity. "Growing up in Tulsa and attending primary school there, I never learned about the horrific Tulsa Race Massacre – it was hidden from us," said Sean Baugh, TCC Artistic Director and Tulsa native.

Composer Marques L.A. Garrett's soaring themes and Sandra Seaton's riveting text embody the story of a people, who in spite of nearly insurmountable challenges faced by African Americans of that era, were able to build a prosperous, family-centered community. This important and moving performance will insure through text and songs that the strength and resilience of the Greenwood community will never be forgotten.