

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 8, 2015

Contact: Dwight McInvaill, (843) 545-3304

Ron and Natalie Daise to perform “God’s Trombones”

Event part of Lowcountry Rice Culture Forum

On Saturday, September 19, Ron and Natalie Daise will perform “God’s Trombones,” a magical, musical exploration of James Weldon Johnson’s most popular volume of verse. The performance, to be held at 7 pm in the Winyah Auditorium, includes a cappella selections of Gullah spirituals and appeals to lovers of inspirational writing, scholars of African-American culture, and persons who appreciate great poetry.

“God’s Trombones’ was a major part of Black culture at one time,” said Ron Daise. “Children and adults learned and presented the poetry of James Weldon Johnson at church, school, and civic events.

“I saw presentations of “God’s Trombones” by the Henderson Davis Players of SC State College throughout my childhood. The performances were magical, filling the stage with color and energy and life. Then afterwards, the stage would be as bare as it had been before the production started, and the actors would not be the larger-than-life characters they had portrayed. That inspired me early in life to be transformative in onstage presentations!”

Ron and Natalie first performed “God’s Trombones last February at Brookgreen Gardens, to standing ovations. Given the uplifting messages and resonant melodies of the piece, they weren’t surprised at the reaction.

“I enjoy the richness of the language, the musicality of the language,” said Natalie Daise. “How it carries with it, also, memory. I hope people will come away with an appreciation of the role spirituality has played in the African American journey.”

Ron Daise, Brookgreen Garden's Vice President for Creative Education, is an author, performing artist, and cultural preservationist. Natalie Daise is a visual artist, storyteller, and creative catalyst. The husband-and-wife team is a recipient of the 1996 SC Order of the Palmetto and the 1997 State of South Carolina Folk Heritage Award and served as star and cultural consultants of Nick Jr. TV's "Gullah Gullah Island" of the 1990s.

Tickets to "God's Trombones" are \$20, and can be purchased from the Georgetown Library by calling (843) 545-3316.

The Lowcountry Rice Culture Forum will run from Thursday, September 17th through Saturday, September 19th, and will feature lectures, entertainment, tours and exhibits around the county. A sampling is listed below; for full Lowcountry Rice Forum details, visit the library's website:

<http://georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov/programs/Pages/RiceForum2015>