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# Taking It to the Next Level

Dana Pellebon and Wesley Sparkmen Are Running for Dane County Executive



The Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra Releases "Harmonies in Black"

# Breaking New Artistic Ground

By Jonathan Gramling,

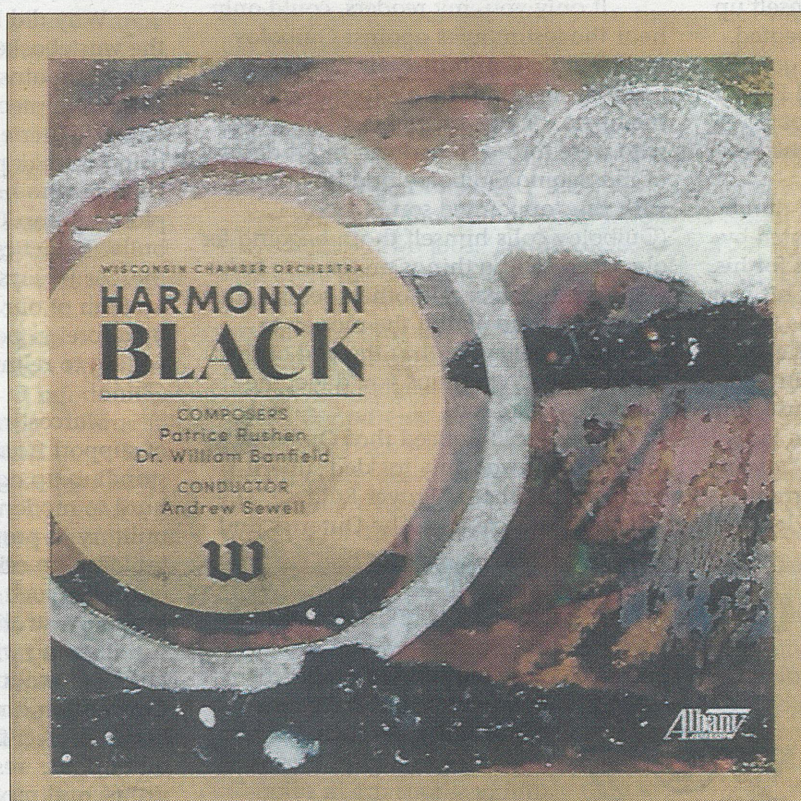
About three years ago, the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra hired Dr. William Banfield its composer-in-residence. Banfield, WCO CEO Joe Loehnis and conductor Andrew Sewell set out on a five-year musical journey inspired by Banfield's "Landscapes in Color: Conversations With Black American Composers" called Musical Landscapes in Color, which will produce five CDs featuring the creative work of Black composers performed by the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra.

The first, Hjarmonies in Black, features "Testimony of Tone, Tune, and Time" and "Symphony No. 8: Here I Stand" by Banfield and Patrice Rushen's "Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory." It was recorded on October 13, 2023 by the orchestra and on March 14, 2024, the CD was released at a party sponsored by American Family Insurance at its Spark Building on the near east side of Madison.

Among the attendees were Banfield, Sewell and Loehnis were some of the creative forces involved in the project. Artist Jerry Butler created the cover art for the CD and Paul Higginbotham performed some of the narrative that is interwoven in Banfield's work. Members of the UW-Madison Odyssey Project, whose class was visited by Banfield and Rushen, were also on hand to celebrate the CD's release.

While the attendees were treated to a complementary CD, CDs are available in both physical format online at [wcoconcerts.org/merchandise](http://wcoconcerts.org/merchandise) and for digital streaming on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music, and YouTube.

On this day, Madison was at the epicenter of innovation in the symphonic music world, making the harmonic music available for everyone. It will remain there for four more enthralling years.



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