PROGRAM

Master of Ceremony             Tony Jamison

The Occasion                   Dr. Carl R. Wells
Assistant Director, Office of Equal Opportunity Programs
Chair, MLK Commemorative Celebration Committee

Greetings                      Dr. Harris Pastides
President, University of South Carolina

Invocation                    James Bailey Sanford
Sophomore, USC Honors College

Personal Essay                 Mazen Cotran
8th Grader, E.L. Wright Middle School Student

Selection                      USC Gospel Choir and the Latta R. Thomas Singers
of Second Calvary Baptist Church
Dr. Carl R. Wells, Director

Reflections                    The Rev. Ronnie Brailsford
Pastor, Bethel AME Church

Performance                    Bethel AME Church Choir
The Rev. Carolyn Brailsford, Director

Personal Essay                 Sharon Nathaniel
8th Grader, E.L. Wright Middle School Student

Performance                    Word of God Church Choir
Frank Levi, Director

Men of Praise

Finale                         Combined Choirs

Closing Remarks                Bobby Gist, Executive Assistant to the President
for Equal Opportunity Programs

Benediction                    James Bailey Sanford

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
CELEBRATION HISTORY

Even before the inception of the national holiday, commemorative activities were held at the University of South Carolina. In January 1983, the USC Black Alumni Caucus sponsored the first university program in honor of King’s birthday, and this event continued until 1986.

In 1986, the Office of Minority Student Affairs, in conjunction with the Black Alumni Caucus and the Association of African-American Students, expanded the program and moved it to the Russell House Ballroom. King’s daughter Yolanda was the 1986 keynote speaker. This commemorative program has since evolved into a three-day celebration. Nationally recognized speakers and native South Carolinians who are leaders in religion, government and politics have been past keynote speakers for the Annual Commemorative Breakfast. The USC Chapter of the Black Law Students Association implemented their Commemorative Law School Program in 1989 to focus on the legal aspects of King’s life and the civil rights movement, and this event is open to the public.

In 1999 then-university president John M. Palms canceled classes and declared a university-wide day of service. This tradition continues today under the leadership of President Harris Pastides. USC’s Day of Service celebrates King’s spirit and our commitment as a university to never forget his contributions to this nation and to the world.

MLK COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Brink
Frenche Brewer
Jerry Brewer
Jim Demarest
Bobby Gist
Theresa Harrison
Michelle Lockhart
Gene Luna
Ella Marshall
Shirley Mills
Scott Rickenbaker
April Ruff
Myra Smith
Charles Waddell
Carl R. Wells (Chair)
Helen Zeigler
MEN OF PRAISE

Men of Praise utilizes gospel as a means to an end: motivating and encouraging at-risk youth. The group’s talent is large and its program inspirational. Dedicated to community service and outreach, the group works throughout the Midlands and the state of South Carolina mentoring and working with at-risk boys. The group has performed at functions such as weddings, concerts and community and civic projects. The leader of Men of Praise got his start with the Hallelujah Singers.

USC GOSPEL CHOIR

Beginning in spring 2011, the “for credit” Gospel Choir (MUSC 130Q) has been listed among other University of South Carolina-sponsored musical ensembles. Offered through the USC School of Music, the course grants one hour of elective credit. The choir is directed by Dr. Carl R. Wells, who recently earned a Ph.D. in Public Health Administration from the Arnold School of Public Health. Wells, assistant director for the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs, also holds degrees in music and divinity. According to Wells, “the course is a major step toward recognizing the genius and the richness of African-American church culture.” African-American forms of discourse, including preaching and music traditions, have served very functional purposes within American culture, and there is much to be learned from studying them.” The making of music, much like preaching within African-American culture, has historically not been “art for the sake of art,” but instead “art for the sake of survival.” The use of art forms as a means of survival and as a sociological expression of the black experience in America is still intact.

Special Thanks

Student Life
Office of the Provost
University Housing and Student Development
Media Relations
Division of Finance and Planning

Special Events
Department of Athletics
University Technology Services
Dr. Harris Pastides, University President
E.L. Wright Middle School

MLK Gospelfest 2013

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Remembered
Through The Songs of Freedom
Sunday, January 20, 2013, 6 p.m.
Koger Center for the Performing Arts

Featuring
The USC Gospel Choir
The Latta R. Thomas Singers of Second Calvary Baptist Church
The Bethel AME Church Choir
Word of God Church Choir
Men of Praise