



**Media contact:**  
Ian Dinkins  
MP&F Strategic Communications  
[idinkins@mpf.com](mailto:idinkins@mpf.com)  
615-259-4000

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC PARTNERS  
WITH TSU FOR SPIRITUAL FESTIVAL**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (Oct 21, 2019)** – The National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM) has been named a sponsor of the fourth annual Harry T. Burleigh Spiritual Festival, hosted at Tennessee State University this weekend. The museum will sponsor several events including a panel discussion on Friday and the closing scholarship concert Saturday night. The scholarship concert is free and open to the public.

With a theme taken from the title of a Burleigh arrangement in the slave dialect, this year’s spiritual festival will explore and dissect the Negro Spiritual’s influence on modern composition and music making, non-African American composers, social justice movements, and hip-hop.

“Even though we are scheduled to open next year, NMAAM has made and will continue to make the effort to educate and engage our local community with education programs like this,” said H. Beecher Hicks III, CEO and president of NMAAM. “So much of the music you hear today has roots going back to Negro spirituals. Along with the Spiritual Festival, the museum wants to be one of the ways that music fans of all ages learn about the connection between the past, the present and the future of the American Soundtrack.”

Tickets are available for purchase [here](#). Tickets include entrance to all sessions, materials and lunch.

**WHO:** Tennessee State University (TSU)  
National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM)

**WHAT:** 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Harry T. Burleigh Spiritual Festival

**WHEN:** Friday, Oct. 25 and Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019

**WHERE:** Tennessee State University Performing Arts Center  
3500 John A. Merritt Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37203

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**About the National Museum of African American Music**

The National Museum of African American Music, set to open in the summer of 2020, will be the only museum dedicated solely to preserving African American music traditions and celebrating the influence African Americans have had on music. Based in Nashville, Tenn., the museum will share the story of the American soundtrack by integrating history and interactive technology to bring musical heroes of the past into the present. For more information, please visit [www.nmaam.org](http://www.nmaam.org).