

## **Casting Call for Non-union, unpaid Staged Reading of new musical**

### **Cataract House**

Book and Lyrics - Kamala Boeck

Music Direction and Composer - Aryian Gidiron

Composer - Criston Moore

Director - Dennis Anthony Wilson

Produced by The Becton International Black Theatre and Arts Consortium, James Edward Becton – Executive Director

#### **Overview:**

Established in 1825 along the banks of the Niagara River, the historic Cataract House was a world-renowned luxury hotel that became one of the most important Underground Railroad locations in the nation. Under the leadership of head waiter John Morrison, its African American wait staff led double lives as secret Underground Railroad agents helping countless freedom seekers escape to safety in Canada.

#### **Seeking:**

7 Black Men

3 White Men

3 Black Women

2 White Women

#### **Auditions:**

Video submissions only. Please prepare a song in the styling of Gospel, Traditional Gospel or CCM and a 2 minute dramatic monologue.

#### **Song Suggestions:**

I Need Thee Every Hour – hymn

How Great This Art – hymn

Thank You Lord – Walter Hawkins

Were You There? – traditional

Praise – Elevation Worship

Holy Forever – CeCe Winans

Redeemer – Nicole C. Mullen

Indescribable – Chris Tomlin

Moving Forward – Israel Houghton

Our God – Chris Tomlin

Might to Say – Jeremy Camp

## **The Characters**

**Catherine Polk** – Pastry Chef, female, Black, age 40. The heart of the Cataract House – surrogate mother, sister to many of the staff. Born in Baltimore, MD. (Vocal Range -Alto or Mezzo Soprano)

**Albert Jones** – Cook, male, Black, age 33. Married to Martha Jones. From North Carolina (Vocal Range- Tenor, Baritone)

**John Morrison** – Head Waiter, male, Black, age 44. The head of the staff, guide, mentor, and hero. Humble in his work, but commands respect from all, including his employers. Originally from Illinois, half Cherokee. Born 1819. Nee Samuel Taylor. (Vocal Range – Tenor, Baritone)

**Louis Hamilton** – Waiter, male, Black, age 35. Efficient, friendly- from Washington, D.C. Eventually opens Hamilton’s General Agency and Intelligence Office. (Vocal Range Tenor, Baritone)

**James Patterson** – Waiter, male Black, age 23. From Tennessee. (Vocal Range – Tenor, Baritone)

**Jerome Jeffrey** – Waiter, male, Black, age 23. From Louisiana. (Vocal Range – Tenor, Baritone)

**Luke Green** – Waiter, male, biracial, age 22. Educated, Deaf and mute. Bilingual French/English – from New Orleans reads/writes.

**Samuel Bonds** – nee Michael Taylor-newest waiter, male, Black, age 20. Served in the Home of Major Taylor-uses the pseudonym of Samuel Bonds. Has left his parents behind. He is John’s nephew. From Illinois. (Vocal Range – Tenor, Baritone)

**Hotel Owner** – Solon Whitney – Owner-male, White, age 34.- Newlywed, female, White, mid 40’s from St. Louis.

**Nancy Berry** – Servant to Mary Berry, female, Black, age 18. From St. Louis MO. (Vocal Range – Mezzo Soprano)

**Mary Berry** – Newlywed, female, White, mid 40’s from St. Louis MO. Married to Henry Cox. Is both fond and jealous of Nancy. She is Older than her new husband. (Vocal Range – Mezzo Soprano, Alto)

**Henry (H.S.) Cox** – Leather Barron from Philadelphia, male, White, 30's newly wedded to Mary Berry.

**Ruth Howland** – Guest of the Cataract Hotel, female, white, age 30's-40's.

**Blackwell** – Guest and slaveholder of Martha, male White, 50's. From North Carolina.

**Martha Jones** – Recently escaped/wife to Albert Jones, female, Black, age 30's. From North Carolina. (Vocal Range- Mezzo, Soprano, Alto)

**Ensemble** – Numerous flexible people who double as waiters (Black), Samuel's Mother (Black) and residents of Niagara Falls (Various races.) (Vocal Ranges Soprano,, Mezzo Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass).

**\*Submissions should be emailed to [dennis.wilson897@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.wilson897@gmail.com). June 27<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Please also include headshot and resume if available and vocal range.**

**NOTE: The staged reading will occur in Niagara Falls, NY on August 1, 2024 at the Niagara Falls High School Performing Arts Center and Niagara Falls, Ontario on August 2, 2024 at The Exchange. Passport and/or Enhanced driver's License is required.**

**Additional Information:** [cataracthousemusical.org](http://cataracthousemusical.org)