



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY
Launches the
RUTH J. SIMMONS
Center for Race and Justice

March 25, 2021 | 2:00 p.m.

A Virtual Experience

About the Center

The mission of the Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice is to address the persistent inequities caused by racism and to propose policies and practices that can help to eliminate those inequities. The Center will host scholarly symposia, house research fellows, and foster outreach programs that are aimed at understanding the complex interplay between racial discrimination and differentiation and conceptions of justice. It will be a convener and facilitator of research-based conversations that help frame national discussions about how we can eliminate racial injustice and foster greater equality in our society.



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*Fighting racism and discrimination
and upholding justice must always
be among our highest callings.*

RUTH J. SIMMONS

Program

MUSIC SELECTION

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Performed by **Vince Anthony**, Recording Artist

Arranged by **Dr. Guthrie Ramsey**

Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Term Professor of Music, University of Pennsylvania

EXCERPTS FROM PRESIDENT SIMMONS' MESSAGE REGARDING THE DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD

Prairie View A&M University Students

REMARKS

Ruth J. Simmons

President, Prairie View A&M University

Melanye T. Price '95

Endowed Professor, Political Science

Director, Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice

Principal Investigator, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation African American Studies Initiative

Prairie View A&M University

KEYNOTE

Farah Jasmine Griffin

Chair, African American and African Diaspora Studies

Director, Institute for Research in African American Studies

William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African American Studies,

Columbia University

CENTER PROJECTS

Melanye T. Price '95

POETRY READING

Nikky Finney

National Book Award Winner for Poetry

John H. Bennett, Jr. Endowed Professor of Creative Writing and Southern Letters,

University of South Carolina

MUSIC SELECTION

"O-o-h Child" by Stan Vincent

(Released in 1970 by The Five Stairsteps)

Performed by the **PV Singers**

Directed by **A. Jan Taylor**

Advisory Board

Leah C. Aden

Deputy Director of Litigation
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

Tanya Debose

Founder
Preserving Communities of Color Initiative

Melissa Harris-Perry

Maya Angelou Presidential Chair at Wake Forest University
Founding Director of the Anna Julia Cooper Center
Editor-at-Large at ELLE.com

Erica R. Hughes '03

Judge of Harris County Criminal Court at Law No. 3

Martha S. Jones

Society of Black Alumni Presidential Professor
Professor of History and the SNF Agora Institute
Johns Hopkins University

Rogers M. Smith

Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Political Science
University of Pennsylvania

Rebecca Traister

Author
Political Commentator
Writer-at-Large for *New York Magazine*

Verrick Walker '94

Principal
Page Southerland Page, Inc.

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Melanye T. Price '95, Chair

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Candace Johnson '02 '05, Co-Chair

Hassan Abbasi

Kristy Bradford

John Briscoe '02 '06

Farrah G. Cambrice

Lisa D. Fields

Rose Hunter '01

Ashley Leiva

Jeffrey J. Hampton '14

Tracey Y. Moore '95

Marco Robinson

Michael Thomas '13

Marchita Shilo