



Drene Ivy began playing the piano at the age of 4 and began formal training in piano at the age of 5; by the age of 8, he was skill-

fully playing classical compositions by Beethoven. He studied piano and theory at the Cleveland Music School Settlement and later at the Cleveland Institute of Music. While still a junior in high school, he was awarded a scholarship to Durham College in North Carolina, where he studied percussion and composition and was a student in the Eastern Music Festival Youth Orchestra in which he skillfully played the timpani. At the age of 16, he began recording and by the age of 21, he had performed on six albums. Drene Ivy served as musician for many years at his home church, Pentecostal Church of Christ, where his gifted musical skills were honed. He was inspired by his pastor, the late Bishop Charles Watkins, to pursue his talent in the contemporary music realm.

Drene Ivy was instructor of jazz composition and techniques, piano, and theory for the Houston Board of Education as well as instructor of Jazz History at Cleveland State University. Drene Ivy has composed over 150 songs. His compositions are comprised of a wide range of genres, including inspirational, gospel, classical, easy listening, jazz, and Latin jazz. His contemporary gospel composition entitled *Standing In The Need Of Prayer*, was reviewed and presented at the National Baptist Convention. In 2002, he was featured artist in concert at Zion First C.O.G.I.C. in Oakland, CA by Watkins Memorial Institutional Church C.O.G.I.C., International, and most recently was Musical Director for a local recording artist at Playhouse Square's Ohio Theater in Cleveland.

In 2004, Drene Ivy was guest clinician at the famed Edwin Hawkins and Walter Hawkins Music and Arts Love Fellowship Conference. In June 2005, he served as staff clinician, teaching keyboard performance. In August 2005, his song composition, *Worship The King*, was selected and presented at the *Gospel Music Workshop of America Convention* in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He just completed an 8-year position as Minister of Music at Mt. Zion Fellowship in Highland Hills, Ohio and currently serves as Minister of Music at his church in East Cleveland, Ohio. Drene Ivy has released his third CD, *With These Hands*, and will re-release his Christmas CD, *We Reverence Your Name*.



Sharon Brown Cheston received a Ph.D. degree in Music Education from Case Western Reserve University, an M.M. degree from Cleveland State University, and a B.M.E. degree from Baldwin-Wallace College Con-

servatory of Music. She pursued additional graduate studies in music theory at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Dr. Cheston studied Suzuki theory curriculum and pedagogy at the Cleveland Institute of Music, with Jennifer Conner, and Suzuki piano teacher training at the Cleveland Institute of Music with Katherine Barley. She studied piano with James Tannenbaum and Robert Mayerovitch; piano pedagogy with Evelyn Gott; theory with Alvaretta West and James Feldman; and ethnomusicology with T. Temple Tuttle. She lectures and performs throughout the United States on the topic of Afro-American Gospel Music Piano Accompaniment Performance Practices, music in worship, and other topics.

As Artist-in-Residence at the Cleveland School of the Arts, she composed music scores for mainstage productions performed in the *Playhouse Square Entertainment Center*, including *Chicken Little*, which received the *Cleveland Critic's Circle Carolyn Reid Award for Educational Theater* and *The Northern Ohio Live Magazine Award of Achievement in Theater*. Her commissioned piece, *Freedom Medley*, was premiered at the 2002 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration in Oberlin, Ohio. Also, she served as Assistant Chorus Master for the Ohio premiere of Dr. Leslie Adams' *The Righteous Man* with the *Ohio Chamber Orchestra*, under the direction of Dwight Oltman.

As choral conductor, pianist, and music educator, Dr. Cheston has held numerous positions in universities, public schools, and churches throughout northeast Ohio, and has served as adjudicator and guest conductor at choral festivals and contests.

Currently, Dr. Cheston serves on the faculty of the Cleveland Institute of Music, Preparatory Division. Also, she is owner of *Tiamoyo Arts and Education*, a multi-dimensional company that provides inspirational and educational products for children and adults through the use of the musical arts and various educational methods, including live performances, workshops, presentations and a variety of published materials (printed music, books, and music CDs). In addition, she serves as Worship Director at her church and teaches Suzuki piano and theory at her busy studio, Tiamoyo Music Academy, in Woodmere, Ohio, where she lives with her husband and their three children.

Drene Ivy...

"Drene is both a virtuoso and a long time friend-over 25 years now. How delightful it was for me...to hear so clearly-only now in a much more mature form-that sparkling mixture of traditional Gospel feeling and complex jazz harmonies. I'm more a fan now than ever!"

Kirk Whalum, Saxophonist and Multi-Grammy Nomination recipient and recording artist on Columbia, Warner Brothers, and Rendezvous Music labels

Dr. Sharon Brown Cheston...

**Freedom Medley for Chorus and Orchestra
Tiamoyo Music 2002**

**Premiered at the 2002 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
Oberlin, Ohio**

"It was so well received that it was also requested for this year's performance. I was very impressed with how Dr. Cheston was able to compose this piece for youth, yet maintaining a maturity and strength that continues to move audiences to tears. She has a unique way of composing music that literally infuses itself into the occasion."

*Alexis Rainbow, Conductor
Oberlin Choristers Concert Choir and Oberlin Community Youth Chorus*

**Praise With Pizzazz, Volume 1
Contemporary Praise Chorus Scripture Songs (Tiamoyo Music 2003)**

"...They are wonderful. Thank you so much. What a gift. I am so excited to share them with the kids...I just praise God for you following His call and writing these. They're just absolutely terrific and lets me get my hands on some chords that I wouldn't think of myself...It is just fabulous..."

Brenda Calovini, M.A., MT-BC, Music Therapist

**Reprinted From
THE CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER, MAY 6, 1984
SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT**

With its jazzy Broadway-quality score, witty book and slick choreography, *Chicken Little* demands professional-level work from its 200 or so students in it.

...Brown's score, for instance, includes intricate musical passages and vocals that stretch the singers. "When I orchestrated the music I had to keep in mind that I had to make it playable for the kids and still make it wonderful," Brown said. "That was the challenge: To make it special and not the usual simple children's music."

Joanna Conners, Theater Critic

**Reprinted From
THE CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER, MAY 12, 1984
'CHICKEN LITTLE' CAST HATCHES TOP MUSICAL**

The music by Betty Eschuk [lyricist] and Sharon-Faye Brown [composer] is a breezy mixture of blues, ballads and Broadway.

Roxanne T. Mueller

**Reprinted From
NORTHERN OHIO LIVE MAGAZINE, MAY 1984**

Chicken Little bounces along to cheery, catchy music (by Sharon Brown...) with rock and jazz overtones.

...it's a very entertaining, flashy, high-stepping musical.

Marianne Evett

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and***

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playing imaginative arrangements
that merge the "classical tradition"
with the sophisticated harmonic
language of jazz and the elaborate
rhythms of the African-American
church...***