



# PSALMIST VANESSA VICTORIA FORD

Worship Leader & Choral Director

Community Care Consultant

Vocal Recording Artist

Vocal Teaching Artist

Voice Coach

## *Her Story*

At a very young age, it was evident that God had anointed Vanessa uniquely. She was born May 27, 1972 and raised in Springfield, Massachusetts. She represents her Mother's Columbian/Panamanian & Father's Costa Rican roots. Vanessa's rich Central American heritage has encouraged her to embrace others in a multicultural responsive way and to find a way to always be of service to those in need. She began singing with her Father, then in the church choir at the age of seven. As Vanessa matured as a Christian, she began participating in various local services. Her gift has blessed the nation as she has sung for military, political ceremonies, funerals and special services all over the country.

Among her many gifts, Vanessa has written and arranged choral and praise and worship songs. She has been honored to minister across the nation, especially in Washington D.C. for a Foster Parent Recognition Ceremony. In 2013, Vanessa's rendition of "God Bless America" was featured as part of the Fireworks by Grucci synchronized Simulcast.


Vanessa currently serves as a music ministry consultant wherever needed. In December 2014, Vanessa launched the release of her original worship song entitled "Great Jehovah". In February 2016, Vanessa had the great honor to sing the National Anthem for Secretary Hillary Clinton presidential rally. In 2016 and again in June 2023, Vanessa was requested by Brigadier General Sean T. Collins to sing for his promotion & pinning ceremony in Washington, D.C. In 2016, Vanessa was also inspired to write and release her song entitled "Stronger Together".

She has sung The National Anthem for her city's Annual Spirit of Springfield events such as Annual 9/11 remembrance ceremonies, The World's Largest Pancake Breakfast, Bright Night's Ball, 4th of July Star Spangled Springfield, Swearing-in ceremonies and retirement ceremonies for First Responders and Commissioners, Mayor Sarno's Inaugurations, Governor Deval Patrick's Western MA Inaugural Celebration, Worcester State University Annual MLK, Jr. Breakfast, The Western MA Police Commissioners, MA Democratic Conventions and numerous Springfield's City Council Inauguration Ceremonies and events for the great city of Springfield that she calls home. She hopes to re-energize appreciation for music & arts and the influence it has in our lives.

Vanessa served as the Music & Recruitment Chair for Springfield Unity Festival under the leadership of the late, York Mayo. She is a member of The Brianna Fund for Children with Physical Disabilities Gospel Planning Team. Vanessa is the founding director of the Springfield CommUnity Chorale where she brings singers and musicians together from all backgrounds, cultures & races to lift up their voices and instruments together. Vanessa is the board president of Blues to Green that hosts the annual Springfield Jazz&Roots Festival and works to preserve the legacy of Charles Neville and strives to make progress that positively impacts social and environmental justice. Vanessa is a member of the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts School Board of Trustees and an enthusiastic and fierce advocate who focuses on empowering the vulnerable and underrepresented. She is a member of Public Health Institute of Western MA Youth Mental Health Advisory Coalition and New England Teaching Artist Collaborative Steering Group.

Vanessa currently serves as Associate Director and voice faculty member of the Community Music School of Springfield (CMSS) . She is the founding Director of Trust Transfer Project, a community based initiative partnered by Springfield Cultural Partnership and CMSS that mobilizes local artists of color to create inspiring works of art to improve community health and wellness. This initiative has gained national attention for it's community impact and response to Covid-19. In 2021, her program model was recognized by Dr. Jill Sonke and included in the CDC field guide for it's strategic plan to build vaccine confidence through an Arts & Culture lens. Vanessa was a 2022 American Alliance of Museums Conference panelist in Boston, MA and a featured panelist at the Association for Science and Technology Centers Capstone Convening in Washington, DC. Under her leadership, the program's mission is to elevate underutilized artists of color, create opportunities for equity and promote innovative and culturally relevant artistic projects that bring hope & healing to the community. In March 2023, Vanessa spoke about the intersection of the Arts & Public Health at the CDC Museum in Atlanta in March.

From 2012-2020, Vanessa proudly served as Director of Operations for State Senator James T. Welch where she managed the district office and staff, maintained the Senator's schedule and was responsible for the oversight of constituent services and community outreach & engagement. She coordinated special events, meetings and town halls. Her desire is to serve those in need and to encourage others to manifest their gifts.

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