



**MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 10, 2021**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR PERFORMANCES OF *NO TEARS SUITE*
PRESENTED BY OXFORD AMERICAN AND FAYETTEVILLE ROOTS**

*Two Live Performances of the No Tears Suite to Take Place in
Fayetteville, AR and Tulsa, OK on September 24 - 25, 2021*

[Link to Images: HERE](#)

WHO: [Oxford American](#) in partnership with [Fayetteville Roots](#), [University of Arkansas Center for Multicultural & Diversity Education](#), [Vernon AME Church](#), and [The Woody Guthrie Center](#).

WHAT: Tickets (free) are now available for **two live performances of the *No Tears Suite***, including a worldwide streaming of Saturday's concert, live from the historic Vernon AME church. The event also includes **a virtual panel discussion featuring musicians and community leaders from *No Tears Suite*, Vernon AME, and the Greenwood community**. All events in Tulsa are made possible by the leadership and guidance of The Woody Guthrie Center.

No Tears Suite, originally commissioned and presented by Oxford American in 2017, was written by Little Rock jazz pianist Christopher Parker and vocalist Kelley Hurt. **The Suite is a monumental ode to the Little Rock Nine and was performed at Central High School National Historic Site in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Little Rock Central High School's integration.** *No Tears Suite* honors the sacrifices and ongoing work of all those who strive to build a more just and equal society. In this reprisal, Parker and Hurt will be joined by five exceptional jazz artists, including GRAMMY-winning jazz drummer Brian Blade, Jamel Mitchell (tenor saxophone), Roland Guerin (bass), Marc Franklin (trumpet and flugelhorn), and Chad Fowler (baritone and alto saxophone).

Tickets (free): The comprehensive event schedule and ticketing details for the performances and virtual panel can be found at fayettevilleroots.org. Limited quantities of tickets are available and are free to reserve.

WHEN: The performances are **Friday, September 24, in Fayetteville, AR at 8 p.m.** and **Saturday, September 25, in Tulsa, OK at 7:30 p.m.** The virtual panel discussion will be available to viewers nationwide on **Sunday, September 26 at 2 p.m. CST.**

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WHERE: **The Fayetteville Public Library will host the Northwest Arkansas performance of the *No Tears Suite* on Friday, September 24,** in the library's Event Center, located at 401 W. Mountain St. in Fayetteville, AR. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the concert will begin at 8 p.m.

Vernon AME Church, will host the second concert on Saturday, September 25. The concert will take place in the historic sanctuary, located at 311 N. Greenwood Ave. in Tulsa, OK. Indoor capacity is limited to 200 people, with a live screening on the lawn outside Vernon AME to allow for overflow capacity and safe social distancing. Doors to the church and lawn seating will open to the public at 6:30 p.m. and the performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday night's concert will also be available for online streaming via fayettevilleroots.org.

During Saturday evening's event, Vernon AME's recently restored Hammond CV organ, historic microphones, and RCA Victor Speaker will also be reinstated in the church's sanctuary. First installed in Vernon AME in 1944, the historic organ has served generations of Vernon AME members through countless traditional hymns and melodies. Fayetteville Roots partnered with Reverend Dr. Robert Turner of Vernon AME to restore the organ and historic microphones.

QUOTES: "I am extremely honored to have these invaluable instruments restored and am deeply grateful to Fayetteville Roots for their kind, most generous donation of time and resources. This Hammond Organ and these microphones delivered the message of hope to the community in the years after the 1921 Tulsa Massacre. I am thrilled they will continue in service. They are yet another reminder and testament of Greenwood's resiliency," said **Reverend Dr. Robert Turner of Vernon AME.**

"Growing up in Tulsa, I encountered the legacy of Vernon AME church as a teen when I first learned about the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921. The legacy of perseverance of Vernon AME and Greenwood captivated and inspired me. I have spent my entire adult life grappling with what the people of my hometown did to the Greenwood community. In the legacy of fellow Okie, Woody Guthrie, I made a lifelong commitment to telling that story through song. Working with this amazing team of community organizers to present the *No Tears Suite* in Fayetteville and Tulsa and to see these historic instruments restored is a dream come true. I feel this project is helping to build an artistic and community bridge between Arkansas and Oklahoma. Our two states share so much. Our region and our shared history is not bound or separated by borders or walls," said **Bryan Hembree, Co-Founder of Fayetteville Roots & Director of Arts & Culture for the UA Center for Multicultural & Diversity Education.**

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SAFETY: In an effort to safeguard musicians and guests, **reduced capacity and social distancing practices will be in place during both performances, and masks are required indoors.**

About the Oxford American Founded in 1992, the Oxford American (OA) is a nonprofit arts organization whose mission is to explore the complexity and vitality of the American South through exceptional writing, music, and visual art. Visit OxfordAmerican.org for more information.

About Fayetteville Roots Fayetteville Roots is a 501(c)3 organization with a mission to connect community through music and food. We produce the Fayetteville Roots Festival, operate the Roots HQ (a historic venue on the Fayetteville Square), foster support opportunities for musicians and the music community, and lead year-round music and food community and educational programming in Northwest Arkansas and beyond. Visit fayettevilleroots.org for more.

About The Woody Guthrie Center® The Woody Guthrie Center, opened in 2013, features state of the art exhibits, an extensive outreach and education program, and a concert series to bring his legacy to Tulsans and those who make the pilgrimage to what is a destination for Woody Guthrie fans worldwide. The center is more than a museum; instead, it is a center of investigation for inspiration. By providing examples of Guthrie's ability to use his creativity as a way of expressing the world around him, we hope to encourage others to find their voices and, through their educational programs, explore the power that lies within the creative process. For more information, please visit woodyguthriecenter.org.

About Vernon AME Church Vernon African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1905. It is the only standing black-owned structure on Historic Greenwood Ave. from the Black Wall Street era and one of the only edifices that remain from the worst race massacres in American history. To this day, Historic Vernon A.M.E Church remains a visual reminder of the Massacre and the reconstruction process.

About the University of Arkansas Center for Multicultural & Diversity Education The Center for Multicultural and Diversity Education at the University of Arkansas is a student-centered, multicultural, intersectional space that affirms difference and explores shared humanity through cultural celebrations, intercultural public events, arts-based community outreach, educational forums, and partnerships that promote diversity education and social justice.

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