



America, America...

America is a nation of great contradiction: slavery & freedom...black & white...rich & poor...joy & pain. Among these, there is none more apparent and at the same time more elusive than that of race. One the other hand, our songs, and the stories that surround them offer vivid insight into the mood of the times and represent a crucial ingredient in movements uniting people in their struggle for progress, unity and betterment. They also highlight our gradual and sometimes spectacular triumphs over racism and class discrimination.

Equal parts live performance and lecture, ***A Change Is Gonna Come: Musical Journeys Through American Race Relations*** is a unique way of experiencing the impact of music on American culture, identity and social progress. Through his wealth of experience working with groups of all ages and his unique blend of ***Down and Dirty Blues, Socially Conscious Soul, and Spirit Fueled Gospel Music***, cultural activist and musician **Eric Dozier** takes you on a journey as he shines a light at the crossroads of music and American race relations by performing songs and discussing key musical figures and themes from the Abolitionists, Civil Rights, labor & anti-war movements, as well as other contemporary voices of change both within the US and internationally. By the end, participants understand what it means to be an active and creative advocate of diversity and equity imbued with a renewed sense of mission and commitment to ***being the change they wish to see.***



Outcomes and Impact

Participants will:

- **GAIN** a greater understanding of *why* race issues are as they are.
- **INCREASE** their knowledge about the impact of race on their personal and work relationships.
- **EXPLORE** personal insights on how popular culture has influenced their own self-concept.
- **EXAMINE** the often overlooked “Other Tradition” of multiracial cooperation and draw inspiration from this dynamic model of social progress.
- **LEARN** to appreciate the role music has played in shaping past and present society by examining the personal and cultural forces that have inspired various artists and their songs.
- **EXPERIENCE** viscerally the unifying force of group songs, not just by hearing them, but by **SINGING** them together!

Bio

Eric Dozier is a music educator, cultural activist, and recording artist who uses music to engage communities in dialogue about racism. Encouraging people in finding and lending their voice to the ever emerging story of humanity lies at the heart of his work. He is committed to “**Uniting The World One Song At A Time.**”

He has served as the musical director for the **World Famous Harlem Gospel Choir**, the award winning **Children’s Theatre Company of NYC**, and has been a featured artists at the **United Nations**. Through these collaborations, he has been honored to share the stage with the likes of **Harry Belafonte, Angeliqe Kidjo, Raffi**, and even **Nelson Mandela**.

He currently serves on the Education Curriculum Development Committee for the forthcoming **National Museum of African American Music** to be built in Nashville, TN and has recently launched the **Young People’s Freedom Song Initiative**, a community supported grassroots music education movement. The Initiative is an interactive exploration of the Freedom Song tradition born during the time of the American Civil Rights Movement, designed to engage young people in revolutionary music making.

He is a graduate of **Duke University** and **Duke Divinity School** and is currently pursuing a doctorate at the **University of Tasmania** researching the effects of Black Gospel Music on communities outside of the Black Church.

