

## Media Contacts

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## Food Drive Begins at Program

*Singer Mary D. Williams at N.C. Museum of History*

**RALEIGH, N.C.** — Singer Mary D. Williams’ powerful voice comes straight from her heart and her intimate knowledge of black Southern culture. She grew up listening to family members singing traditional spirituals, and that music has defined much of her life. Today, Williams travels the country performing and teaching about the music of her childhood, which is the music of her ancestors.

On **Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m.**, hear her during **Music of the Carolinas: Mary D. Williams** at the **N.C. Museum of History** in Raleigh. Come prepared to enjoy and participate. She will ask the audience to join in as she teaches how to sing the songs and use music to understand our shared history. *Free tickets for this concert are distributed while they last beginning at 2 p.m.*

Williams is an authority on the narrative of music and black Southern culture. For example, many spirituals — even Christmas songs — were adapted for the Civil Rights movement. “Go Tell It on the Mountain,” an African American spiritual dating before the Civil War, is a Christmas tradition in numerous churches. Like many spirituals, it was adapted into a Civil Rights anthem.

Williams’ stirring voice is featured on the soundtrack of the movie “Blood Done Sign My Name” (Feb. 2010), based on the book by her friend and colleague Tim Tyson. For a decade, Williams and Tyson, a writer and historian, have educated students, teachers and communities about race through experimental lectures that blend performance, classroom engagement and traditional lecturing. She and Tyson have taught a community-based college course at the Hayti Heritage Center in Durham, N.C. Central University, Duke University and UNC-Chapel Hill. Williams currently serves as an adjunct professor at Duke University’s Center for Documentary Studies.

Sunday’s performance is presented with PineCone and support from the Museum of History Associates and Williams Mullen.

### **\*Canned Food Drive Through December 22\***

**You can help by bringing at least two cans of food to the Dec. 11 program.** PineCone and the Museum of History are collecting canned food for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. PineCone and the museum typically hold a food drive during December’s Music of the Carolinas concert. However, in the wake of Hurricane Matthew, the food drive will be extended through Thursday, Dec. 22, at the museum.

Nearly 650,000 people in central and eastern North Carolina are food insecure, meaning they are unable to consistently access nutritious and adequate amounts of food necessary for an active and healthy life. **One-third of these are children.** Child-friendly items are needed: pop-top cans, cereal bars, fruit cups, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, canned beans and soup, whole grain pasta and rice.

As recovery from Hurricane Matthew continues, nonfood essentials such as hygiene items, household items and paper products are particularly appreciated. For more information about the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, go to [www.foodbankcenc.org](http://www.foodbankcenc.org).

To learn more about the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian-affiliated museum, call [919-807-7900](tel:919-807-7900) or access [ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://ncmuseumofhistory.org) or follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ or YouTube.

**IMAGE** <https://www.dropbox.com/s/kmbyet2z17xr2vo/MaryDWilliams.jpg?dl=0>

**File MaryDWilliams:** Come prepared to enjoy and participate in singing during Music of the Carolinas: Mary D. Williams.

#### **About the N.C. Museum of History**

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 300,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

#### **About the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. Led by Secretary Susan Kluttz, NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit [www.ncdcr.gov](http://www.ncdcr.gov).

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