



## Stories



***“Remembering Howard” An Evening of Music, Poetry and Drama***



***Feature Artist: Curtis E. Scott***



***A Call for Sports Memorabilia***

## About Us

The Amherstburg Freedom Museum is a curated archive that preserves and shares Amherstburg's stories of the Underground Railroad, and the compassion and solidarity it took to make this network possible.

277 King Street,  
Amherstburg, ON N9V 2C7  
Phone: 519-736-5433  
Email:  
[curator@amherstburgfreedom.org](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org)  
[www.amherstburgfreedom.org](http://www.amherstburgfreedom.org)

**April 2019**





## ***“Remembering Howard” An Evening of Music, Poetry and Drama***

On Saturday, March 30th, Board Directors and Staff of the Amherstburg Freedom Museum had the pleasure of attending ***“Remembering Howard” An Evening of Music, Poetry and Drama***, which was an event at the University of Windsor in honour of Dr. Howard McCurdy. The evening included a wine & cheese reception, in addition to entertainment by singer Renee King Jackson and author/poet Dr. George Elliott Clarke. The audience also heard performances by Brenda McCurdy, Khary Mason and Leslie McCurdy. Most importantly, the event kicked off a scholarship fund at the University of Windsor that has been established in Dr. Howard McCurdy’s name. What a great night!



### **The Talking Drum**

The Talking Drum is published monthly by the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. Contributions, story ideas, suggestions and feedback are always welcome. Please contact Mary-Katherine Whelan at [curator@amherstburgfreedom.org](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org)

277 King Street,  
Amherstburg, ON N9V 2C7  
519-736-5433 or  
800-713-6336 toll free

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Philip H. Alexander,  
Director

J. Trisha Bray, Director

Tom Hurst, Director

Dr. Barbara Hughes Smith,  
Director

Gary Jean, Treasurer

Monty Logan, President

Dr. Brenda McCurdy,  
Director

Barbara Porter, Director

David Van Dyke,  
Vice-President

#### **STAFF**

Lorene Bridgen, Assistant  
Curator

Mary-Katherine Whelan,  
Curator/Manager of  
Collections and Research

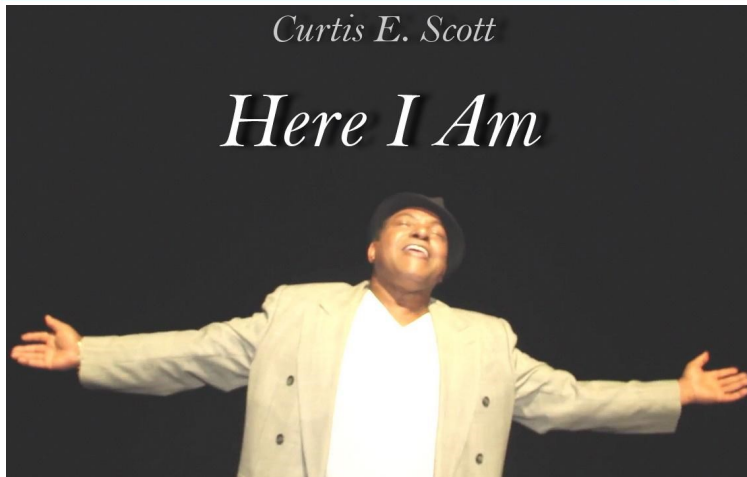
#### **PART-TIME**

Teiana Harris

Darryn Walls



## Feature Artist: Curtis E. Scott



Recently, we were lucky enough to speak with local singer, songwriter and producer, Curtis E. Scott who was born in Windsor. He grew up on Windsor Avenue where, he said, people from all different backgrounds lived and everyone took care of each other. He said "It was a community within a community." When Curtis was 10 years old, he and his family moved to St. Catharines, but Curtis returned to Windsor at the age of 20.

As a singer, songwriter and producer, Curtis wears many hats. When asked what role he

enjoys the most, he said he loves all three, for different reasons. Curtis has always loved singing, even though he does not consider himself to be an extraordinary singer, but he says that if he can spread a message, it's all worth it. "It's more about the message," he said. Curtis started singing at the age of 5 at Tanner A.M.E. Church in Windsor and was chosen as a soloist in the choir, but his love of music moved more toward playing instruments such as the guitar and piano. A self-taught musician, it was Curtis' mother, Delia, who bought him his first guitar. Curtis told his mother, if she bought him a guitar that he would never quit, and he kept his word. He added that his mother was also a singer and she was always his biggest fan. According to Curtis, music producer Barry Gordie wanted to hire Delia, but her mother said no because she was too young. When describing his mother, Curtis said that she was more of an entertainer than a singer which is also how he describes himself. He believes that it is important to entertain people and that is what an audience wants to experience. There is a strong history of music in Curtis' family and he says that in his family, "no matter where you go, you're not getting away from music."

Curtis also loves to write songs and says that this is his primary role. He's been writing poems since he was young and loves the thought of being creative. He starts with a few lyrics not knowing if those lyrics will make it into the finished product, and stresses that it is important for you to be socially conscious of what is going on in your city and the world when thinking about the lyrics. "Your words need to lift up the community." He takes his time when putting together a piece of music and because he is not owned by a record company, he doesn't have to rush the process which allows him to ensure quality. He wants his songs to be meaningful and to engage the audience with the message. He also wants his work to be original which is why he does not listen to the radio because he says it muddles your mind if you listen to other work.

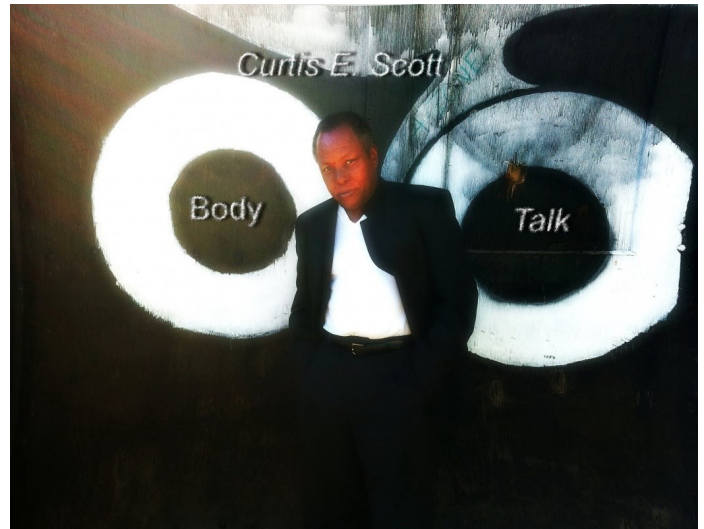
His third role is as a producer and he loves it because "you make something from scratch. You conceive an idea, map it out by playing an instrument and then create something amazing." Curtis says that he's never thought about doing anything other than that and that his advantage is that he can play multiple instruments. He adds that the best thing that you can do for a child is give them an instrument because the child will become a more well-rounded person. Curtis has never trained as a producer, but says he just knows what he likes, how something should be played and where and when to play it.



## Feature Artist: Curtis E. Scott

Curtis loves all genres of music and says that is how you get an ear for music. You are limited with only one type of music. Curtis adds that he enjoys groups such as the Ohio Players just as much as he loves to listen to Led Zeppelin; Dolly Parton just as much as Natalie Cole, etc. He says that living so close to Motown also influenced his musical career a lot, but he also found inspiration from groups like the Beatles. According to Curtis, he sang the song "I Want To Hold Your Hand" on his porch at the top of his lungs.

Curtis' debut was in 2011 with his EP "Falling Again" and it included five songs and featured his cousin Rodney Jones. Curtis says that it took him a bit to perfect the songs and try them out. "Falling Again" went to No. 2 on the UK charts and it was a show called Soul Discovery that introduced it to the public, which made it soar on the Indie charts. Each of his songs went to No. 1 in the Indie music world and he won 5 awards at the international Indie awards, including best R&B producer for Falling Again. He also won for best easy listening producer and best producer of the year. Curtis says that he did not realize how good his songs were and he's still stunned by the success. He's just happy the album was successful, but adds that the success scared him because it was something different and this was the moment he worked so hard for.



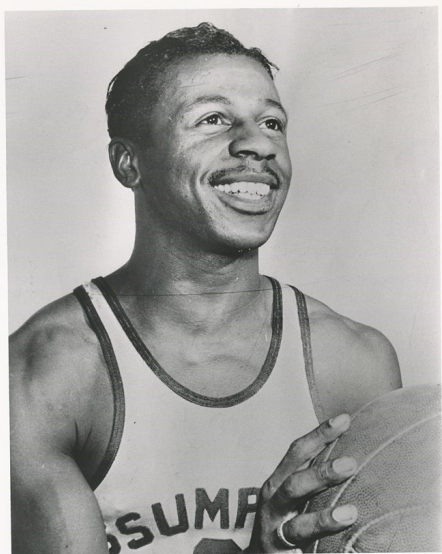
When asked about who he wishes that he could work with, Curtis says that his dream came true when he worked with three-time Juno Award Winner, Liberty Silver on a song he wrote, entitled "My Desire." He approached Liberty Silver on Facebook, asking her to listen to his song and after a lot of asking, it eventually worked. He's admired her for a while and is grateful to her for singing his song.

Curtis says that he has always had an unconventional approach and hears music that is totally different. He says that you can read a million notes, but where's the passion, where's the story? His unconventional approach has not stopped him despite the opinions of others. While in the 9th grade, his music teacher said to him, "if you never take music again, I will pass you." His teacher did not understand how Curtis' mind worked and it is a good thing that he was not discouraged. He believes that "The only person that can stop you is you" and this advice has served him well because he has accomplished a lot and still has more to give. He's currently working on projects with Liberty Silver, James Baylis and Rodney Jones. His hope is that Windsor opens up more to different music from persons of colour because there is no market for them in the city. He wants more chances for youth so that they don't have to go through what he went through, such as going to the US so that he could create and share his music. He wants the format to change because there are so many talented young people in this area and no one would know it because it's hard to get your music played if you're not in a specific genre like country or rock and roll. If there is no opportunity, young people leave the area for a place that does offer something to them. He doesn't want the next local talent to be chased away and he is trying to help the next generation of musicians however he can.





## A Call For Sports Memorabilia



Did you know that Canada is home to countless trailblazing Black athletes? The Amherstburg Freedom Museum would like to honour their achievements by creating an exhibit that highlights their contributions to the field of athletics, but we would like you to be involved. Do you have a family member



who was involved in sports and would also be willing to loan the museum sports memorabilia that celebrates their accomplishments? Do you have information that you would like to share about Black athletes in Canada? Or, is there a Black athlete that you would like to see recognized in our exhibit? Let us know and they could be featured in the exhibit which will be on display this summer. This is a great way to put your family's history in the spotlight and celebrate athletes who created a path for future generations. To loan an item for the sports exhibit, please call 519-736-5433.

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

Amherstburg Freedom Museum is still closed to the public for renovations in the permanent gallery. Please visit our



website or Facebook page to receive updates on when the museum will reopen. **We thank you for your patience!**



## Making It Awkward: Challenging Anti-Black Racism

On Friday, March 22nd, the Amherstburg Freedom Museum participated as a vendor at an event held at the University of Windsor's School of Social Work, hosted by the organization "Making It Awkward: Challenging Anti-Black Racism." At the event, participants discussed systemic oppression and listened to a diverse collection of panelists. We participated with a booth discussing Black History in Canada and answered questions from visitors.



Telling our stories through the arts

The Artists of Colour present our 12th Annual Art Exhibition

# ILLUMINATION 2019

May 3-12, 2019

Mackenzie Hall Cultural Centre 3277 Sandwich Street West  
Windsor, Ontario

**Opening Night Reception- Friday May 3, 7- 10 pm**

\$5 admission to opening night reception, free admittance to the exhibit throughout the week.

**Show hours: Tuesday-Sunday 10am-5pm (public)**

for more information visit our sites

[www.theartistsofcolour.com](http://www.theartistsofcolour.com)

[www.facebook.com/TheArtistsOfColour](https://www.facebook.com/TheArtistsOfColour)





## Subscribe Today!



### Your Subscription Benefits include:

- Monthly "Talking Drum" Newsletter
- Free Admission to the Museum (including temporary exhibits)
- Free Guided Tour (by appointment only)
- Name published in monthly list of subscribers (with permission)
- Invitation to Annual Community Meeting
- Access to genealogy research library

*Please note that as of January 2014, we cannot provide a tax receipt for subscription dues. Should you prefer a tax receipt, please indicate that you wish to make a donation instead. Subscription privileges will not apply.*



### Subscription Form

Please return to:

Amherstburg Freedom Museum

277 King St.

Amherstburg, ON, N9V 2C7

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: \_\_\_\_ Adult (\$35)

\_\_\_\_ Senior (\$30)

\_\_\_\_ Student \$20)

\_\_\_\_ Family of Five (\$75)

\_\_\_\_ Non-Profit (\$75)

\_\_\_\_ Business (\$85)

Enclosed please find my cheque for:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_ I prefer to phone 519-736-5433 and pay by credit card.

\_\_ I will renew online at  
[www.amherstburgfreedom.org](http://www.amherstburgfreedom.org)

\_\_ You have my permission to print my name in a list of subscribers in the TALKING DRUM newsletter

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## Our Supporters

Nancy Allen  
Gayle Allinotte  
Elsie Bishop  
Charlie Bray  
Joan (Trisha) Bray  
Janisse Browning-Miller  
Terryll Chase

Marlene Crepp  
Irene Moore-Davis  
Lloyd Dean  
Leroy Gray  
Locketa Gray  
Donald Harris  
Janice Harris  
Edith Helm  
Paul Hertel  
Ute Hertel

Raquel Hurst  
Ivy Johnson  
Milo Johnson  
Sheila Johnson  
Thomas Karle  
Carol Laforet  
Dileana Larkin  
Lois Larkin  
Brian Lennie  
Richard B. Leveque

Florence Logan  
Linda Logan  
Wayne Logan  
Hazel MacDonald  
Cleata Morris  
Reuben Munday  
Colleen Peddie  
Richard Peddie  
Shirley Pulley  
Colleen Reid  
Joyce Robbins  
Carolyne Rourke  
Donna Scott  
Claudia Shreve Allen

Frank Simone  
Allen Simpson  
Frieda Steele  
Norma Sutherland  
Marilyn Sutton  
Mable Thomas  
Harlis Thompson  
Sharon Thompson Anderson

Rebecca Underwood  
Glendora Watkins  
Gary White  
Janet Willoughby  
Debora Wynn

### Group Subscriptions:

Caesars Windsor  
Distinguished Women of International Services  
Hour-A-Day Study Club  
James H. Sutton Funeral Home  
Meloche's No Frills  
Past Masters in Hair

### Family Subscriptions:

Bridgen, Ruth and Sam

Dipasquale Family

Gbadamosi Family:

Babatunde, Mojisola, Oiuwadamilola,

Goldin Family:

Harold, Shirley, Ephraim, Malique, Phyllis Oppen

Hurst Family:

Maynard, Marva and Monique Hurst

Taylor Family:

Ronald Taylor, Judith Taylor, Andrea Taylor-Butts, Tim Taylor,

**To renew your subscription, please call the Museum at 519-736-5433. Subscription dues support exhibitions and the daily expenses of operating the Museum. Whether you visit once a month or a few times over the year, you enjoy the benefits of subscription and your support helps to ensure that this incredible Museum will remain a vital source of history, culture and inspiration for generations to**