

MLK Community Performances 2023

Senior Serena Kim performed “What kind of Asian are you?” by spoken-word poet Alex Dang. The poem highlights the journey of Asians, who have been diminished into objects and stereotypes.

Junior Angela Ye sang “Colors of the Wind,” delving further than our childhood education of our history into a realization of the forced labor and abuse that Indigenous people have endured and the toll of human greed, as well as bringing attention to the need to care for Mother Nature.

The LC Orchestra performed “Lyric for Strings,” composed by George Walker. Walker was the first Black composer to win the Pulitzer Prize in music. Walker dedicated this piece to his grandmother, a formerly enslaved person, who passed away shortly before its completion.

Junior Anuva Kolli (voice), Jaleen Kairys (voice), and Calvin Pan (keyboard) performed “What the World Needs Now is Love.” Originally sung by Jackie DeShannon, the song evokes the empathy, kindness, and love needed to be a guiding center for our humanity. Martin Luther King Jr. once stated, “Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

The Loomis Chaffee Chamber Singers sang “Precious Lord, Take My Hand,” written by gospel musician Thomas Andrew Dorsey in response to losing his wife and infant son during childbirth. The song was sung at Dr. King’s funeral and was often sung at civil rights rallies.

Sophomore Isaac Garcia performed “Jirah,” by Maverick City Musicians. A reference to the Old Testament, “Jireh” means the one who provides for our most important needs.

Princess Davenport performed a dance drawing attention to the unseen hurdles of race, religion, sexuality, and gender differences that have influenced social conscience.

Sophomore Iris Sande performed his original spoken-word piece “Our ‘We the People.’” Iris wrote the poem to celebrate the successes of their community along with the fight for justice, to embody and reclaim the beauty of the Black voice in America, and to affirm that they are included in the U.S. Constitution. “Our ‘We the people’” seeks to reclaim the promise of liberty and justice for all.

Dance Company and Dance Ensemble performed an original piece to “Hands Up” by Daye Jack, a song that was composed at the height of “Black Lives Matter” protests against police brutality. The dance of contemporary and hip-hop choreography signified that all people are responsible for working toward equity, not just those who have been denied it.

Senior Inari Barrett sang “Golden” by Jill Scott, which speaks to remembering the beauty and privilege of life as we continue to fight for a world that will appreciate all life as valuable and worthy of health and equitable care.

The MLK LC Steppers performed. Stepping has evolved into performance art, but it is so much more than mere entertainment; it is a window into Black culture. Stepping originated in West Africa as a form of communication after slave masters forbade enslaved people to communicate through drums.

A Solidarity Video was played highlighting the diversity of Loomis Chaffee through students from various countries.

