

**Biographical Sketch**  
**Dr. Jerome Symonette**

Dr. Jerome Symonette received his early musical training under the tutelage of Ms. Mayna Hepburn. His first church music experiences were encouraged and guided by his father, the Rev. John Symonette of Nassau, Bahamas. Dr. Symonette then continued his studies in piano with Dr. Charlotte Rhodes of the Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee. He also studied piano performance and music theory with Ms. Enid Katahn and later Mr. Ronald Shinn at Blair Academy of Music of the George Peabody College. Simultaneously, he studied the pipe organ with Ms. Jenny Estes.

During these early educational endeavors, Dr. Symonette began his extensive music ministry in churches in the Bahamas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, and Florida. These experiences include 32 years of performances in almost every imaginable church music venue, across denominational and national lines. As a conductor, pianist, organist, clinician, artistic director, preacher, and lecturer, Dr. Symonette has been invited to perform across the United States, the Caribbean, Africa, France, Germany, Spain, Holland, and the Netherlands.

He has also served as Director of a Family Life Center, Assistant Administrator and Dean at a Christian Academy, Supervisor of Counseling Substance Abuse and HIV/AIDS. Moreover, he served as a Music Coordinator for Dance Classes at the University of Louisville's Dance Academy.

Among the many honors and awards that Dr. Symonette have received are the Scholar of the Year (Florida Memorial University, Humanities Division); Outstanding Young Men of America; Who's Who in Religion; Who's Who Among America's Teachers; Models of Excellence (Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Ft. Lauderdale; Outstanding African-American Men (Zeta Phi Beta Sorority). His biography has also among the International Man of the Year (Cambridge, England).

Dr. Symonette matriculated at the Jefferson Community College, Louisville, Kentucky. He graduated from the University of Louisville, with a Bachelors in Music Education; the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Masters of Church Music. He received a Doctor of Ministry degree with an emphasis in pastoral studies and biblical theology from the Luther Rice Seminary (University) in Atlanta, Georgia.

Currently, he is pursuing a PhD in Education from Walden University, with a research interest in ethnocentrism and its adverse effects on African-American religious music pedagogy.

Dr. Symonette is now serving as a Visiting Professor of Music at the Florida Memorial University in Miami, Florida and also Senior Pastor of the Restoring Grace Community Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.