



# **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CONVOCATION 2024**

**Friday, January 26, 2024  
11:00 a.m.**

Blackburn College Campus  
Bothwell Auditorium

**Blackburn** COLLEGE

## ABOUT THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Galen Abdur-Razzaq** is an extraordinary flutist and spoken-word artist with an extensive performance career. He is also a riveting speaker on the topic of jazz, and has performed domestically and internationally for over thirty years.

Galen's sound can absorb and transform an audience like few artists can. Born in New Jersey, Galen was given his first flute at the age of ten and has been playing ever since. He studied at the Berklee College of Music and holds a master's degree in fine arts and education from Rutgers University. A recording artist, composer, arranger and educator, his performance portfolio includes such greats as Billy Taylor, Sonny Phillips,

Gwen Guthrie, Jimmy Heath, Melba Moore and Sun Ra.

In addition to his stellar musical background, Galen is a riveting speaker on the topic of jazz and its historical significance. Because of his love of teaching, he always finds a way to incorporate instruction and direction for students who someday would like to develop a career in music. Today, he is considered one of the most popular artists on university and college campuses in the country -- his performances always result in a demand for an encore.



# MLK JR. CONVOCATION

## PROCESSION

**Dr. Greg Meyer**, President  
**Mr. Bill Link**, Alderman, City of Carlinville  
**Mr. Hector Delgado**, Student Marshal  
**Dr. Michael Cummings**, Chief Diversity Officer,  
Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging & Title IX Coordinator  
**Mr. Logan Elliott**, Director of Housing & Residence Life  
**Ms. Aryanna Harris**, BSU President  
**Ms. Annamarie Cosenza**, Blackburn and Beyond Student Success Professional  
**Julianna Tabian**, Resident Director of Challacombe (North) Hall

## WELCOME

**Dr. Michael Cummings**

## “LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”

*By James Weldon Johnson*

**Dr. Joseph Welch**

Piano

*Please stand and join. Lyrics on back.*

## PROCLAMATION

**Mr. Bill Link**

## STUDENT PERSPECTIVE,

*I am able to Dream because he had a Dream*

**Ms. Julianna Tabian**

## NEURODIVERSITY PERSPECTIVE,

*To Be or Not to Be*

**Ms. Annamarie Cosenza**

## MLK LEADERSHIP AWARD

**Mr. Logan Elliott**

## INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Ms. Aryanna Harris**

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Mr. Galen Abdur-Razzaq**

## “THE BLESSING”

**Blackburn College Choir**

## CLOSING

**Dr. Greg Meyer**

## RECESSION

*Please remain seated until stage guests have exited the stage*

## **“LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING” LYRICS**

Lift every voice and sing,  
'Til earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers died.  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
'Til now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.

**Blackburn** COLLEGE

**WHERE LEADERS RISE**