



**Renowned conductor and music director, Norfolk native
Thomas Wilkins
speaks at Father Joseph N. Green, Jr. Lecture on January 24!**

Thomas Wilkins, famed Music Director and Conductor, will speak at the Father Joseph N. Green Lecture on January 24 at the Attucks Theatre. This will be the first of multiple free community events as part of the Attucks at 100 Celebration.

About Thomas Wilkins

Thomas Wilkins grew up in Norfolk and attended Booker T. Washington High School. As a child in Norfolk he attended a Virginia Symphony Orchestra performance and was inspired to pursue music. His career reflects his passion and dedication to music, and a life devoted to learning and sharing his knowledge.

A famed music director of multiple orchestras and sought-after guest conductor, Thomas Wilkins is music director of the Omaha Symphony, and also serves as principal conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and holds the Germeshausen Family and Youth Concert Conductor chair with the Boston Symphony. He has led orchestras throughout the United States, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Atlanta Symphony, and the National Symphony in Washington, D.C., among many others.

Devoted to sharing his own life-long enthusiasm for music, Thomas Wilkins brings energy to audiences of all ages; he's hailed as a master at communicating and connecting with people. Following his highly successful first season with the Boston Symphony, the *Boston Globe* named him among the "Best People and Ideas of 2011."

After his speaking engagement at the Attucks Theatre on January 24, Thomas Wilkins will be conducting the Virginia Symphony Orchestra January 25-27; for more information visit virginiasymphony.org.

About Father Joseph N. Green, Jr.

A longtime community advocate, the Honorable Reverend Joseph N. Green, Jr. has had a profound influence on the City of Norfolk and Hampton Roads. He served as pastor of Norfolk's Grace Episcopal Church from 1963 to 1993, and in addition to his pastoral accomplishments, Father Joseph Green served on the Norfolk School Board; served on the city council of Norfolk for 20 years (10 years as Vice-Mayor); and has worked tirelessly to foster civil rights for African-Americans and justice and peace for all people. Through his leadership, The Crispus Attucks Cultural Center was founded and led to the reopening of the historic Attucks Theatre in October 2004. An annual event, the Father Joseph N. Green Jr. Lecture showcases speakers who reflect issues and ideals of the Norfolk community.

About Attucks at 100

Attucks at 100 is the year-long celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Norfolk's historic Attucks Theatre. Designed by architect Harvey Johnson and completed in 1919, this Norfolk icon is the oldest theater in the U.S. that was built, financed, and operated by African Americans. It was named in honor of Crispus Attucks, an African American who was the first patriot to lose his life in the fight for American independence, in the Boston Massacre of 1770.

Located on bustling Church Street, one of the oldest thoroughfares in the city and home to a proud African American community, the Attucks Theatre was often referred to as the "Apollo Theatre of the South." Through the years, the Attucks showcased a host of legendary performers including big band hit-makers Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Cab Calloway and Billy Eckstine; chart-topping singers including Ella Fitzgerald, Dinah Washington, and Nat King Cole; pioneering artists like operatic star Marian Anderson and blues queen Bessie Smith; jazz royalty including Dizzy Gillespie, Sarah Vaughan, Louis Armstrong, Lionel Hampton and Errol Garner; comedians Redd Foxx, Slappy White and Moms Mabley; R&B trailblazers Smokey Robinson, Sam Cooke, and The Flamingos; and such homegrown stars as Norfolk's Gary U.S. Bonds and Portsmouth's Ruth Brown. Today, the Attucks is home to great performances of all kinds, including concerts, dance performances, theater, comedy and more.

Stay tuned for more announcements of performances and special community events as the yearlong celebration of Attucks at 100 continues!

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