



**WASHINGTON  
PERFORMING ARTS**

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**Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Award**  
Denyce Graves, Inaugural Recipient

Tuesday, February 28, 2023  
Washington, D.C.

In 2021, Washington Performing Arts established The Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Award and Recital, as an annual celebration of the late Supreme Court Justice's life, legacy, and passion for music. It is especially appropriate that the very first recipient of the Award, and co-curator of the Recital, is Justice Ginsburg's great friend, and a Washington Performing Arts Ambassador of the Arts, Denyce Graves.

She not only "exemplifies" – as the Award stipulates – "both the musical excellence Justice Ginsburg cherished and the principles to which she was dedicated," but those qualities were recognized and admired by Justice Ginsburg herself over the years. They include Denyce's commitment to music as a way of uniting people. Nowhere has that been more evident than in her performances at important, nationwide public events – including the 9/11 memorial service at Washington National Cathedral, the second inauguration of President George W. Bush, and the opening ceremony of the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the Smithsonian Institution.

She continues to embody the twin values of musical excellence and public service with her commitment to new works and to the training of young artists at the Peabody Conservatory.

In a most fitting tribute to the life and legacy of the late Supreme Court Justice, it is an honor for Washington Performing Arts to present the inaugural Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Award to her friend and ours, Ms. Denyce Graves.

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