

PROGRAM READERS

JAMES SMITH (husband of NYPD officer Moira Smith)

James Smith is a retired New York City Police Officer and husband of NYPD officer Moira Smith. On the morning of September 11th, Moira was working in Precinct 13 when she responded to the attacks and ran into the South Tower. She is survived by James and their daughter, Patricia, who was two years old at the time. James, now retired after 21 years with the NYPD, remarried in 2007. He and his wife, Christine, have two sons, James and Christopher.

In 2006, James spoke at the September 11th commemoration ceremony with Patricia. James and Patricia, who is now 12 years old, will be speaking again today.

PETER NEGRON (son of Pete Negron)

Peter Negron lost his father, Pete Negron, who worked on 88th Floor of North Tower. Peter was 11 years old at the time, and learned of the attacks while sitting in class. He and his family lived in New Jersey, but moved to Florida four years ago with his mother and younger brother, Austin. Peter attends Indian River State College and is studying to be a forensic scientist

Peter read a poem on behalf of his father at the 2003 September 11th commemoration ceremony. He was 13 years old at the time and now, at 21 years old, he will be speaking again today.

DEBRA EPPS (sister of Christopher Epps)

Debra Epps lost her brother Christopher Epps, who worked for Marsh & McLennan on the 98th Floor of the North Tower. Christopher was the youngest of family's seven siblings. At time of the attacks, Debra lived in the Bronx and worked not far from the World Trade Center. Today, Debra lives in Long Island and works for the design company, Coach.

Debra read at the 2010 September 11th commemoration ceremony. She is here to read again today on behalf of her brother.

(more)

ENTERTAINMENT

BROOKLYN YOUTH CHORUS

Founded in 1992, the Brooklyn Youth Chorus is comprised of over 300 students and is led by Artistic Director and Founder Dianne Berkun. The Chorus has performed at the White House, Lincoln Center, Madison Square Garden, Radio City Music Hall, across 12 states and overseas to Russia, the United Kingdom, Austria, Canada and Germany. Brooklyn Youth Chorus has also performed with New York, Los Angeles and Brooklyn Philharmonics; with Lou Reed, Judy Collins, Andrea Boccelli, Sir Elton John, John Legend and Ray Davies. They have recorded with Grizzly Bear, Talib Kweli, Holy Ghost and Laurie Berkner and sang on the soundtrack for Philip Glass' film, *Undertow*.

ENSEMBLE

BENJAMIN PILA (Guitarist)

Benjamin Pila is the only classical guitarist that has been chosen to be a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. Pila has performed in Alice Tully Hall, Avery-Fisher Hall and the Kaplan Penthouse in New York City's Lincoln Center, at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and in Harris Concert Hall in Aspen, Colorado. He has played alongside Bonita Boyd of the Eastman School of Music and Grammy Award winning artists David and Philip Ying. Mr. Pila was also invited to perform at the 2007, 2008 and 2011 September 11th Commemoration Ceremonies in New York City.

Benjamin received his Master's degree from The Juilliard School and his Bachelor's degree from Florida State University. He is currently pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Southern California under Scott Tennant of the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet.

FREDERICK ZLOTKIN (Cellist)

Frederick Zlotkin is an internationally recognized cellist, and winner of the International Music Competition at Geneva. Among the highlights of his wide musical career are solo engagements with *l'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande*, the Minnesota Orchestra, the New York City Ballet, National Symphony Orchestra and the St. Louis Symphony, chamber music appearances as member of the Lyric Piano Quartet, guest artist with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Aspen Music Festival, Chicago's Ravinia Festival and the Minnesota Sommerfest, and his post, for over 30 years, as Solo Cellist for the New York City Ballet at Lincoln Center. Zlotkin has performed at the September 11th Commemoration Ceremonies in New York City for the past eight years.

Zlotkin earned his doctor's degree from The Juilliard School. A member on the faculties of Manhattan School of Music, Queens College, Hoff-Barthelson Music School and the Brooklyn College of Music, he has also served as Adjunct Professor at SUNY-Purchase and as Music Director of the Montauk Chamber Music Society.

EMI FERGUSON (Flutist)

Emi Ferguson is the 1st Prize winner of the 2009 New York Flute Club Young Artist competition, the 2009 Juilliard Concerto Competition, and the 2009 J.C. Arriaga Chamber Music Competition. She has been featured as a soloist with the Juilliard and Art Symphony Orchestras, AXIOM, New Juilliard, and New England String Ensembles, playing solos ranging from Vivaldi to Berio. Equally at home amidst an orchestra as well as in front of one, Ms. Ferguson has played Principal Flute with The Juilliard Orchestra, the New Juilliard Ensemble, and the Arcos Chamber Orchestra, playing under Maestros James Levine,

Pierre Boulez, Jeffrey Milarsky, Zhang Xian, Joel Sachs, Federico Cortese, Alan Gilbert, and James Conlon.

Ms. Ferguson received her Master of Music Degree in Historical Performance and Bachelor of Music Degree from The Juilliard School where she is currently completing a second Master's degree in Flute Performance. In her time away from the flute, Ms. Ferguson is extremely passionate about the HIV/AIDS epidemic and is pursuing her interest in Epidemiology at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. Born in Japan and raised in London and Boston, she now resides in New York City.

BAGPIPERS

FDNY

What started as an organization of 17 in January of 1962, today stands strong at over 100 members, three of whom are charter members; roughly 25 members are a part of the prestigious competition band. Today, the FDNY "Emerald Society" Pipes & Drums has the distinguished honor of being the largest fire service pipe band. The band continued to make appearances at promotional parties, non-fire department events, marching engagements and Line of Duty funerals. The band is perhaps best known throughout the world for service to their fallen brothers after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, playing at over 450 funerals in a two-year time period.

NYPD

The Pipes & Drums of the Emerald Society of the NYPD is comprised of 112 members who play the great highland bagpipes or the drums. The band is currently celebrating their 50th anniversary year, and specializes in playing Irish tunes such as "Minstrel Boy", "Wearing of the Green" and "Irish Eyes Are Smiling".

PAPD

The Port Authority Police Pipes & Drums was formed in 1979 and made its first public appearance in 1980 to welcome home the Americans that had been held hostage during the Iranian Hostage Crisis. Since that time, the band has performed in many parades and celebrations in the New York metropolitan area as well as other locations across the country from Maine to Washington D.C., and as far south as New Orleans; winning awards and trophies for many of their appearances. The members consist of police officers and civilians of the Port Authority and have offered the opportunity to other law enforcement and emergency service personnel and civilians from outside the Port Authority to participate in the band.

PERFORMERS

PAUL SIMON

Paul Simon is an American singer-songwriter and guitarist. Simon is best known for his success, beginning in 1965, as part of the duo Simon & Garfunkel, with musical partner Art Garfunkel. Simon wrote most of the pair's songs, including three that reached number one on the US singles charts, "The Sound of Silence", "Mrs. Robinson", and "Bridge Over Troubled Water". In 1970, at the height of their popularity, the duo split, and Simon began a successful solo career, recording three highly-acclaimed albums over the next five years. In 1986, he released Graceland, an album inspired by South African township music that helped fuel the anti-apartheid movement. Besides music, Simon wrote and starred in the film One-Trick Pony in 1980 and co-wrote the Broadway musical The Capeman in 1998.

Through his solo and collaborative work, Simon has earned 13 Grammys, including the Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2001, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and in 2006 was selected as one of the "100 People Who Shaped the World" by Time magazine. Among many other honors, Simon was named the first recipient of the Library of Congress's Gershwin Prize for Popular Song in 2007.

JAMES TAYLOR

As a recording and touring artist, Taylor has set a precedent to which countless young musicians have aspired. His warm baritone is among the most recognized voices in popular music and his distinctive style of guitar-playing has been enormously influential. He has sold more than 50 million albums throughout his career, beginning in 1968 when he was signed to The Beatles' Apple Records.

James Taylor has earned 40 gold, platinum, and multi-platinum awards and five Grammy Awards for a catalog that runs from James Taylor (1968) and Sweet Baby James (1970) to Hourglass (1997) and October Road (2002). His first Greatest Hits album earned the Recording Industry Association of America's elite Diamond Award, given for sales in excess of 10 million units in the United States. The year 2000 saw Taylor's induction into both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the prestigious Songwriters Hall of Fame. In March 2011, he was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama in a ceremony at the White House. The medal is the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence recognizing "outstanding achievements and support of the arts."

James Taylor has received honorary doctorates of music from Williams College and the Berklee School of Music. Raised in North Carolina, he lives in western Massachusetts with his wife Caroline and their sons Henry and Rufus.

YO-YO MA

Yo-Yo Ma is a French-born American cellist, virtuoso, orchestral composer of Chinese descent, and winner of multiple Grammy Awards, the National Medal of Arts in 2001 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011. He is one of the most famous cellists of the modern age.

Ma currently plays with his own Silk Road Ensemble, which has the goal of bringing together musicians from diverse countries all of which are historically linked via the Silk Road, and records on the Sony Classical label. His discography includes over 75 albums (including 15 Grammy Award winners) and reflects his wide-ranging interests. Among his most popular recordings are *Hush* with Bobby McFerrin, *Appalachia Waltz* and *Appalachian Journey* with Mark O'Connor and Edgar Meyer and two Grammy-winning tributes to the music of Brazil, *Obrigado Brazil* and *Obrigado Brazil - Live in Concert*.

He has received numerous awards, including the Avery Fisher Prize (1978), the Glenn Gould Prize (1999), the National Medal of the Arts (2001), the Dan David Prize (2006), the Sonning Prize (2006), and the World Economic Forum's Crystal Award (2008). Appointed a CultureConnect Ambassador by the United States Department of State in 2002, Yo-Yo Ma has met with, trained and mentored thousands of students worldwide including Lithuania, Korea, Lebanon, Azerbaijan and China. He has performed with and conducted master classes for members of the Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra. In 2006, Secretary General Kofi Annan named him a U.N. Messenger of Peace and in 2007 Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon extended his appointment.

Ma received his bachelor's degree from Harvard in 1976. In 1991, he received an honorary doctorate from Harvard.