

Dear Friend: If you are interested in covering the event, please contact Emily Miller at LancasterHistory. The panel discussion will begin at 6:30pm on Friday, February 3, followed by the performance. Additionally, there will be a staging of the opera during the day on February 3 for school groups. Please let us know if you have any questions!



## For Immediate Release

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## Penn Square Music Festival, LancasterHistory to Present *Sanctuary Road* Performance

*Modern Opera and panel discussion on Underground Railroad*

**LANCASTER, Pa.** – *Sanctuary Road*, an opera based on the writings of **William Still**, often referred to as the "Father of the Underground Railroad," will be presented by Penn Square Music Festival on Friday, February 3 at 7:30 p.m. and February 5 at 3 p.m. at the Gardner Theater on the campus of Lancaster Country Day School.

The February 3 performance will be preceded by a panel discussion at 6:30 p.m., in partnership with LancasterHistory, featuring **Fergus Bordewich**, author of *Bound for Canaan*, which was selected as one of the American Booksellers Association's, "10 best nonfiction books" in 2005; as the Great Lakes Booksellers' Association's "best non-fiction book" of 2005; as one of the Austin Public Library's Best Non-Fiction books of 2005; and as one of the New York Public Library's "10 books to remember" in 2005.

Joining Bordewich on the panel are scholar **Dr. Leroy Hopkins Jr.**, composer **Paul Moravec**, and librettist **Mark Campbell**.

The modern opera is based on the writings of William Still, an Underground Railroad conductor who helped nearly 800 enslaved people as they made their escape to freedom. It tells the courageous story of freedom seekers, and illuminates the secret network of people, routes, and safe houses used by enslaved peoples to escape into free states and Canada during the early-to-mid 1800s.

*Sanctuary Road* honors the courage and humanity of those escaping to freedom while celebrating the inspired prose of William Still's memoir.

First staged in March 2022 by the North Carolina Opera, the Lancaster performance will be only the second full staging of the opera.

"*Sanctuary Road* is a powerful reminder of the courageous sacrifices made by enslaved African Americans to secure their freedom, as well as the efforts of free people to support that quest," President and CEO of LancasterHistory, **Dr. Thomas Ryan**, said. "We are honored to play a small part of bringing this story and opera to our community."

Tickets for *Sanctuary Road* are on sale for \$30 and can be purchased through the [Penn Square Music Festival website](#).

### **About LancasterHistory**

*LancasterHistory is a community-based, not-for-profit organization established to educate the public on the history of Lancaster County and its place in the history of Pennsylvania and the United States, to advance the missions of regional historical organizations, and to promote the acquisition, preservation, and interpretation of resources representing the history of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania within the broader context of state and national history, including the life and legacy of America's 15th president, James Buchanan, and to preserve and maintain Wheatland, his home.*

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