FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 30, 2019

LONE TREE, CO – The unsettled West of the 1860s provides a new life and new dreams for Blue, a runaway slave, who escapes to Texas to become one of America’s first Black Cowboys. Composed by and featuring jazzman Allan Harris, written by Allan and Pat Harris, and directed by Regge Life, this compelling musical tale of freedom integrates fiction with historical fact, and each song presents a different page in this complicated chapter of American History. The staged concert, Cross That River: A Concert About The Black West, plays the Lone Tree Arts Center on Saturday, January 18 at 8pm.

Cross That River was nominated for four Audelco Awards for Excellence in Black Theater. Cross That River is a nine-piece ensemble that has been featured at the Kennedy Center, Theater Aspen, Mass MoCa, ASCAP Musical Theater Festival, Lyrically Speaking-Aspen Writer’s Foundation Festival, The O’Neill Theater Center, Theater Aspen, and New York Musical Theater Festival, and is a winner of the Chamber Music America Residency Grant. Music from Cross That River has been licensed by the State of Oklahoma for their national education video to tell the history of the Black West in Oklahoma.

Over the past 20 years, Allan Harris has steadily developed his reputation as one of the finest vocalists of his era. Brooklyn-born and Harlem-based, he has forged his sterling credentials through his ten previous albums, covering a broad range of contexts, all netted together within the rich territory of the jazz tradition. Aply described by the New York Times as a “protean talent,” Harris has won numerous awards including the New York Nightlife Award, which he won three times, the Backstage Bistro Award, the Harlem Speaks Jazz Museum of Harlem Award, and the DownBeat Critic’s Poll Award. In the theater
world he has appeared in *Cafe Society Swing* at 59E59 Theater, the Price Chopper House of BBQ commercial, Maxie’s at the York Theater, and *Search: Paul Clayton* at the Triad. Allan Harris is a D’Angelico Guitar artist.

Featured artists include Joseff McKenneth (vocals), Maya Azucena (vocals), Carolyn Leonhart (vocals), Alan Grubner (violin), Arcoiris Sandoval (keyboard), Seth Johnson (guitar), Shirazette Tinnin (drums and percussion), Nimrod Speaks (bass and vocals).

**Cross That River: A Concert About The Black West**

Saturday, January 18 at 8pm  
Tickets: $34-$50

Tickets may be purchased by calling 720-509-1000, Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm or at www.LoneTreeArtsCenter.org.

Bellco is the Lone Tree Arts Center’s 2019-2020 season sponsor. This presentation is sponsored by U.S. Bank and is made possible in part thanks to the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District, Colorado Creative Industries, National Endowment for the Arts, and Westaf. The hospitality sponsor is Hampton Inn Denver/South-Ridgegate.

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