

Robert Darden, M.A.

Professor, Journalism, Public Relations and New Media at Baylor University

Waco, TX, US

Darden is a professor in the department of journalism, PR & new media. He directs Baylor's Black Gospel Music Restoration Project.

Biography

Darden is the author of two dozen books, most recently: *Nothing But Love in God's Water, Volume II: Black Sacred Music from Sit-In to Resurrection City* (Penn State University Press, 2016); *Nothing But Love in God's Water, Volume I: Black Sacred Music from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement* (Penn State University Press, 2014); *Jesus Laughed: The Redemptive Power of Humor* (Abingdon Press, 2008); *Reluctant Prophets and Clueless Disciples: Understanding the Bible by Telling Its Stories* (Abingdon Press, 2006); and *People Get Ready! A New History of Black Gospel Music* (Continuum/Bloomsbury, 2004).

He founded the Black Gospel Music Restoration Project, the world's largest initiative to identify, acquire, digitize, categorize and make accessible gospel music from gospel's Golden Age (1945-1970). The BGMRP provides the gospel music for the Smithsonian's new National Museum of African American History & Culture.

At Baylor, he has won numerous teaching and research awards, including The Cornelia Marschall Smith Award as Outstanding Professor; the Baylor University Diversity Award; Outstanding Research Professor, College of Arts & Sciences Award; and Baylor Centennial Award.

He is a popular speaker for seminars, conferences and events. His writings have appeared in publications ranging from *The New York Times* to the *Oxford American*. He has been featured in hundreds of radio and television programs, including *Fresh Air with Terri Gross* (NPR), *1A with Joshua Johnson*, *All Things Considered* (NPR), *CSPAN*, *BBC World Service*, *BBC Outlook*, *Austrian Public Broadcasting*, *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation* and the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation*. He has also been published in *The New Grove Dictionary of American Music*, *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, the *World Book Encyclopedia*, the *National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress* and is a frequent contributor to *Huffington Post* and *Christianity Today Online*.

Darden spent 20 years as the Senior Editor for *The Wittenburg Door* and another 15 years as Gospel Music Editor for *Billboard Magazine*. In 2016, he created the radio insert "Shout! Black Gospel Music Moments" for KWBU-FM Waco. Darden researches, writes, and records the weekly show, which now appears on eight NPR stations, including KERA-FM Dallas.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning

Areas of Expertise

African-American Gospel Music, Civil Rights Movement Music on B Sides of Gospel Recordings, African American Museum in D.C., Black Gospel Music Restoration Project, Journalism, Music, Public Relations, New Media

Education

University of North Texas

M.A. Journalism

Baylor University

B.A. Bachelor of Science in Education (Journalism/Art)

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