

# **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.

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## **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.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Education/Learning

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## **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

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## **Education**

**University of North Texas**

M.A. Journalism

**Baylor University**

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

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