



PRESS KIT

Andre “Chief” Dowell

Chief Programming Officer, Sphinx Organization
FatherFirst · Speaker · Cultural Architect

BIO

Andre Dowell is a strategic arts administrator and thought leader who helps drive national programming and conversations around diversity in classical music. He currently serves as **Chief Programming Officer for the Sphinx Organization**, the nation’s leading arts organization dedicated to transforming lives through the power of the arts. With his organizational career spanning back to 2000, Andre’s leadership has propelled the national partner network to encompass **over 200 programmatic collaborators**, benefiting **more than 1,200 alumni**, with a digital reach exceeding **100 million people worldwide**.

Beyond his role at Sphinx, Andre has been recognized as one of **Musical America’s “The Resilient Warriors.”** He serves as a board member for the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Third Coast Percussion, the River Raisin Ragtime Revue, and the Classical Connections Committee within the Association of Performing Arts Professionals. He is also an Artistic Advisor for Intersection Music. **FatherFirst** is the brand and platform he leads, built for fathers who want to show up and know it takes work.

A native of Trenton, Tennessee, Andre’s musical foundation was laid in the Southern Black Baptist Church. He completed Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Percussion Performance at the University of Michigan, and resides in Ypsilanti, Michigan, with his children and more handmade Bows by Dre bow ties than he probably needs.

SPEAKING TOPICS

- **Diversity in the Arts.** How national arts organizations actually move the needle on representation.
- **Cultural Strategy & Organizational Design.** Building national networks and convenings that scale impact without losing the human texture.
- **Modern Fatherhood & Leadership.** What raising kids teaches about leading institutions, from a single Black father at a national arts org.

SELECTED PRESS & RECOGNITION

- Musical America’s “The Resilient Warriors”
- CanvasRebel · *Meet Andre Dowell* (profile)
- Coregami · *Poker, Percussion, and Not-So-Perfect Bow Ties* (feature)
- PBS American Black Journal · multiple appearances
- Between Two Stands podcast · *Inspiring Change, One Bowtie at a Time*

CONTACT

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FATHERFIRST BRAND

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HIGH-RES ASSETS

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