

## **SPIRITUALITY AND SURVIVAL: THE ENDURING POWER OF GOSPEL MUSIC**

Ken Anderson, Lecturer, Department of Music; Director, UCSD Gospel Choir

Ken Anderson is a musician and a choir director in the gospel music tradition. Through lecture and demonstration, he will share the history of Negro spirituals – code songs that facilitated the rescue efforts of the Underground Railroad. Negro spirituals are the root of many types of popular music in America, including rag, swing, jazz, blues, rock and of course, gospel. They are the only slave songs in the history of the world to outlive the movement and become popular music.

Anderson serves as director of the University of California, San Diego Gospel Choir, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Choir San Diego, and the Grossmont College Gospel Choir. He also serves as an associate pastor and choir director of Grace San Diego in the North Park neighborhood of San Diego.