

# Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Music cont'd from pg 8



PHOTO BY BRENNAN SCHNELL CC BY 2.0 VIA COMMONS

Lauryn Hill performing at RBC Royal Bank Bluesfest, in Ottawa in 2012. Hill's song, "Black Rage," released two weeks after the killing of Mike Brown, is part of a growing musical movement in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

When famous musicians don't speak out, some people are critical. A few years ago, singer, actor and

civil rights activist Harry Belafonte called out two of today's biggest musicians, Jay-Z and Beyoncé, saying that they "turned their back on social responsibility." To Belafonte, those two megastars and other popular artists are at fault for not using their influence to have a positive impact on their fans.

As a young person, I agree with Belafonte: it's a waste of influence when famous musicians don't speak up. While it doesn't necessarily affect whether or not I will continue listening to their music, I personally wish that they would speak at times when there needs to be some action.

Hip hop artist Yasiin Bey, formerly known as Mos Def, put it best in his monologue addressing the happenings in Ferguson: "I think many of us are becoming even more aware of where we are, and [there is] urgency to change this miserable condition on this Earth, [as] Malcolm X said." (Listen to the full audio below.)

If all artists spoke up, I truly believe that it could wake up many more young people to demand change and join causes.

"I think music can play an important role in sparking the motivation in wanting to do something," Tandoc said, while adding, "The long term organizing is where the true power is."

*Deonna N. Anderson writes for Voice-Waves, a youth-led community news website and trilingual print publication serving Long Beach, Calif., and founded by New America Media.*

## States

cont'd from pg 3

ia and Wyoming, are taking big budget hits due to falling oil, natural gas and coal revenue. But tax cuts could be on the agenda in more than a half-dozen other states, including Arizona, Florida and Maine.

States' general revenues are expected to grow by about 2.5 percent in 2016, according to the National Association of State Budget Officers. As they prepare their next budgets, "states are still going to be very pinched" to meet rising costs for K-12 schools, Medicaid and core services, said David Adkins, executive director and chief executive of The Council of State Governments.

Added to the mix will be several emerging issues, such as how to quell a rise in opiate addictions and overdoses, and whether to extend regulations to online fantasy sports and to individuals renting rides or lodging through the "sharing economy."

Some states also will be wrestling with unique local issues, including flood recovery in South Carolina, whether to keep the Confederate emblem on the Mississippi flag, as well as ethics overhauls following political scandals in New York, Missouri and New Mexico.

Influential national groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Family Research Council are preparing for a new round of legislative debates after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that states must allow same-sex marriage. Their focus now is on the effect of that ruling.

There are 22 states with laws barring discrimination based on sexual orientation and 21 with laws limiting the government's ability to burden the free exercise of religion. But just four states — Connecticut, Rhode Island, Illinois and New Mexico — have both.

The ACLU will be seeking to expand the list of places barring discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. It's targeting at least a half dozen states — Arizona, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania — that have Republican-led legislatures and also may be pivotal in presidential elections.

The Supreme Court's decision "certainly provides momentum on the issue," said Pennsylvania Rep. Dan Frankel, a Democrat from the Pittsburgh area who has been unsuccessfully sponsoring gay rights bills for more than a decade.

He said challenges remain and pointed to a November referendum in which Houston voters rejected a city ordinance extending nondiscrimination protections to gay and transgender people.

The Family Research Council, which opposed the Houston ordinance, is supporting state measures that would grant broad protections "from government discrimination" against people "who have a sincere belief — religious or not — in natural marriage," said Quena Gonzalez, the group's director of state and local affairs.

*Associated Press reporters in all 50 states contributed to this report.*

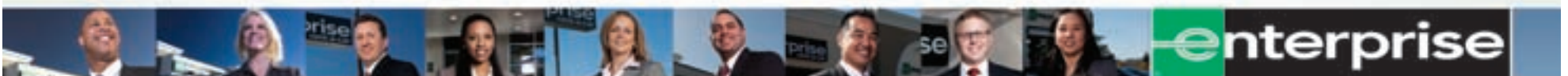
*Follow David A. Lieb at: <https://twitter.com/DavidALieb>.*

### The Enterprise Way

# Staying true to the differences that make us unique.

Every one of us has something special to offer. With diverse backgrounds, every voice and every action brings an individual's perspective to play. At Enterprise, we embrace this thinking by being an inclusive company. Everyone has the opportunity to make a contribution — and a world of difference.

*Proud supporter of The Skanner Foundation.*



We'll pick you up.®

Pick-up subject to geographic and other restrictions. ©2015 Enterprise Rent-A-Car 112115 1212 JP