

NIA LEWIS was the first recipient of The Belinda S. Womack Memorial Music Scholarship.

Credit/Citation:

Retrieved online from <https://www.wssu.edu/about/news/articles/2019/05/wssu-commencement-2019-10-boldest-moments.html>

### **A Song of Freedom**

The University Choir, performing "Freedom," a song co-written by Valerie R. Harris and Stacey V. Gibbs, took a bold stand in their opening number. The song featured spoken word by sophomore Danita McDuffie, who recited portions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1969 "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech.

The second number, "I Believe God," showcased the talents of graduate Nia Lewis. In her finale as a WSSU student, Lewis performed a solo with the choir. Lewis, a music business major from Accokeek, Maryland, received standing ovations from her fellow classmates as she belted out her final note, which lasted for 12 seconds.



**Nia Lewis, a music major, performs her final solo as a member of The Singing Rams during commencement.**



*From The BSW Music Fund Archives:*

**Mrs. Nia Lewis-Lattimore** (2023) continues to be productive in the performing arts, stating, "...Right after graduating in 2019, I worked at Mercy Hill Church in Greensboro, NC as the worship director at their Clifton Campus. I learned so much in my time there and am grateful for the experience. Since transitioning from that role, I have been pursuing my own path in music, delving more into recording and producing. Some of my work can be found on my YouTube channel:

<https://youtube.com/@nialewislattimore>

These include both arrangements and original songs.

Currently I lead worship at Emmaus Church, located in Greensboro, NC. I also enjoy collaborating with other local creatives and providing vocal recordings for other projects. Here are some of my favorite collaborations:

<https://www.vaniaclaiborne.com/inherent-glory>

<https://open.spotify.com/track/2n7vflP6YOqgV064okvL2Q?si=qS7FN5U7QL6CldzCpbDtVA>

While music is such an important part of my life, I recently have found deep fulfillment in being a mom. My daughter was born in December of 2022 and since then, I have taken on the role of being a stay at home mother. It has brought me great joy and I am appreciative that in this season of life I am able to be fully present with her. My husband and I enjoy playing guitar together and singing with her each night before bed.

I'm not sure what the future has for me but I look forward to putting out new music in the coming year of original pieces in which I have composed and recorded.

I will forever be thankful for you and everyone that has made this scholarship possible..."