



DAWNN J. LEWIS, B.M. '82

President and chief executive officer,
Morning Jewel, Inc.
Founder and chief executive officer,
A New Day Foundation

Dawnn Lewis is president and chief executive officer of Morning Jewel, Inc., a multi-platform production company, and a Grammy Award-winning singer, songwriter, and actor. She is also the founder and chief executive officer of A New Day Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization that provides financial and programmatic support to underprivileged youth and grassroots community-based nonprofits.

Lewis's work has been recognized with the Trumpet Award, Grammy Award, multiple NAACP Image Awards, and BMI and ASCAP Awards, and her music has been used in film and television soundtracks for Disney, ABC, NBC, HBO, and WIGS Films. Morning Jewel Music, her record label, released her solo CD *Worth Waiting For* in 2006. Lewis has recorded with or composed for Patrice Rushen, Quincy Jones, Nancy Wilson, Take 6, and Grover Washington, Jr., to name a few. She received the Frost School of Music Distinguished Alumna Award in 1994, and was inducted into the Women Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2021.

A film, television, and stage actor and TV series creator and producer, Lewis appeared on *A Different World* and co-composed the show's theme song. A partial list of her TV credits includes *Veronica Mars*, *Hangin' with Mr. Cooper*, *This Is Us*, and the new Netflix animated series *Karma's World*. She recently guest starred in the Amazon series *The Boys* and alongside Angela Bassett in the Fox series *911*. Lewis has voiced animated characters, including several in the Fox series *Housebroken* and Captain Carol Freeman in *Star Trek: Lower Decks*, for which she won the Women's Image Award 2021 for Best Voice Actress and an NAACP Image Award 2021 nomination for Best Voice Actor. She is currently co-starring in the Broadway hit *Tina—The Tina Turner Musical* (12 Tony Award nominations).

Lewis was the founder and first graduate of the musical theatre program at the University of Miami, and is an emeritus member of the President's Council. She has served for several years on the national advisory board of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) National Board of Directors, and as chair of the SAG-AFTRA Singers Committee, and currently serves as a trustee for the SAG Pension Plan. In 2019, Lewis received an honorary doctorate in humane letters from

Next Dimension University for her more than 40 years of unwavering service and support to underserved youth and communities across the county and abroad.

www.DawnnLewis.com

www.ANewDayFoundation.net

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