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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NANM (The National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc.) celebrates its 90th Anniversary in Chicago, the city of its founding, from July 25-30, 2009. The annual meeting will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel Chicago Magnificent Mile, 300 East Ohio Street. President David E. Morrow has announced this year's theme: "Tipping our hats to the past, rolling up our sleeves for the future."

Festivities will begin with a pre-conference benefit concert for NANM on Saturday evening, July 25, at 7:00 p.m., featuring Donnie Ray Albert, baritone, and Marquita Lister, soprano, in "A Grand Night for Singing" with friends: Evan Bowers, tenor; Angela M. Brown, soprano; Alfreda Burke, soprano; Rodrick Dixon, tenor; Joseph Joubert, piano; Mark Rucker, baritone; Sadie Rucker, piano; and Louise Toppin, soprano. This evening of operatic arias, duets, musical theater excerpts, and spirituals will take place at Greater Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, 5301 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago. Tickets to this event may be purchased at www.nanm.org or at the Hyde Park Suzuki Institute, 5500 South Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, on Mondays through Thursdays from 2:00 until 7:00 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please call 773-643-1388 to confirm availability.

The conference officially opens on Sunday, July 26, with a Mass Meeting at 3:00 p.m. at First Baptist Congregational Church, 1613 West Washington Boulevard, Chicago. In the evening, the annual national scholarship competition will take place at the DoubleTree Hotel at 7:30 p.m. This year's instruments are winds and mallet percussion.

Monday's highlights include the Winds Master Class, conducted by 2009 Gala Artists, Imani Winds; the first Convention Chorus rehearsal, led by 2009 chorus master D'Walla Simmons Burke; the Piano Master Class, facilitated by pianist-educator Karen Walwyn; a basic conducting class taught by Robert A. Harris; and a workshop, "The Jubilee Song," featuring Delano O'Banion. The week's first Vesper Concert will feature the Chicago Community Chorus, directed by founder/artistic director Keith Hampton. The evening's attraction is the 2009 Gala Concert at 7:30 p.m., featuring Imani Winds in the Grand Ballroom of the DoubleTree Hotel.

Tuesday's focus is Chicago, the birthplace of NANM. In the morning, composer Dolores White will present "New Music by Composers Hale Smith and Dolores White." Her session will feature tenor Cornelius Johnson, soprano Kimberly Jones, and pianist Diana White-Gould, daughter of the composer-presenter. In the afternoon, the William Warfield Voice Master Class will be led by Simon Estes, world renowned bass-baritone. The topic for this year's Sylvia

Olden Lee Roundtable Discussion is “Nora Douglas Holt and Chicago Founders of NANM.” The leader for this session is Loñieta Thompson Cornwall, who, during her childhood, was mentored by NANM co-founder Nora Douglas Holt. Other panelists include Raoul Abdul, music reviewer for New York’s *Amsterdam News*, and Earl Calloway of the *Chicago Defender*. Tuesday’s Vesper Concert features compositions by Chicago native Robert L. Morris. In the evening, the “Chicago Night” concert includes performances by pianist Jeremy Jordan, SugarStrings, the Voices of Maurice Collins, and TreDiva—sopranos Jonita Lattimore, Anisha McFarland, and Elizabeth Norman.

Wednesday morning’s feature is a performance of *Naomi in the Living Room*, a one-act opera by composer Jonathan Bailey Holland, with the Opera Theater of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Composer Holland will also reveal insights concerning his work during this period. (This session is made possible by the Ruth S. Holmberg Professorship in American Music at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.) Another morning feature will be “The Music of Thomas Dorsey, the ‘Father of Gospel Music’ and His Niece, Lena J. McLin,” presented by composer-educator Lena J. McLin. In the afternoon, Marvin Lynn, founder of the South Shore Opera Company, will present “Mary Cardwell Dawson and Black/African American Opera Companies,” along with performances by members of this newly organized company. Maestro Estes will also offer career advice to collegiate students. The Youth and Junior concert, followed by the Collegiate Concert, will complete the afternoon. On Wednesday evening, the Annual Awards Banquet will be held in the DoubleTree Grand Ballroom at 8:00 p.m. 2009 honorees are: Maestro Simon Estes (lifetime achievement); Maestro Stan Ford (Professor of Piano at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria—international honoree); Mrs. Isabelle Brazier (Chicago church leader and arts advocate); Dr. Toni-Marie Montgomery (Dean of the Bienen School of Music, Northwestern University); and Maestro Charles G. Kendrick (“Dean of Chicago Organists,” Organist and Choirmaster, St. Mark United Methodist Church, Chicago).

Thursday morning offers a choral reading session, sponsored by GIA Music, and led by pianist-composer Joseph Joubert; the Convention Chorus concert, led by Maestra Burke, and the annual closing luncheon.

Illinois music and performing arts teachers may earn CPDU credits for attending this conference. For more information on this and other NANM 90th Anniversary Annual Meeting offerings, please visit www.nanm.org or contact Marilyn Thompson, NANM Public Relations, nanmnews@aol.com.