



TEMPO PRESTISSIMO



Volume 5, Issue 1

Monday, July 30, 2007

Today's Events

8:00 a.m.
Registration (East Desk)

8:30 a.m.
Continental Breakfast
(Royale 2)

9:00 a.m.
General Session (Royale 2)

10:30 a.m.
Jazz Workshop—Woody Woods
(Royale 3)

12:00 Noon
Life Member Reception
(Skyboxes 207-208)

12:00 Noon
Collegiate Forum: "New Steps"
(Top of the Riv)

1:30 p.m.
Workshop: "Diction for Singers"
Dr. Willis Patterson
(Royale 4)

3:00 p.m.
Convention Chorus Rehearsal
Dr. Robert Morris
(Royale 2)

4:45 p.m.
Banner Parade
(Royale 2)

7:30 p.m.
International Choral Festival
Marietta Simpson, Mezzo Soprano
(Royale 2, 3, 4)

Mass Meeting Celebrates Talents of Youth and Seasoned Performers

Dr. David Morrow, First Vice President of NANM, Inc., officially declared open its 88th Annual Meeting in the Top of the Riv Ballroom of the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Sunday afternoon, July 29. After the introduction of officers and board members, the Western Region Mass Choir performed Beethoven's "Hallelujah" from *The Mount of Olives*, directed by Dr. Claire Hart. Chaplain Glenn Jones delivered the invocation.

Dr. Charles Cannon, Central Region Director, introduced the Williams Trio, from Chicago, who played "Rondo from Masterpiece Theater" by Jean Joseph Mouret, arranged by John O'Reilly. This was followed by their performance of Bach's *Concerto for Two Violins in d minor*. (Please see related story on Page 2).

Dr. Arthur Jones, Director of the Rocky Mountain Region, introduced soprano Courtney Brown, third-generation member of the Spirituals Choir, of Denver. She sang two songs by Undine Smith Moore: "Come Down, Angels"

and "Watch and Pray."

Western Region Director Byron Smith introduced bassist Jonathan Richards, a student at the University of Southern California, who played the first movement of Bottesini's *Concerto No. 1*.

Jowanda Jordan, Director of the Southern Region, introduced soprano Laura English-Robinson, noted vocal educator and director of the NANM Collegiate activities. She sang "My People," a setting of a poem by Langston Hughes by Ricky Ian Gordon, and "Every Time I Feel the Spirit," arranged by Robert Morris.

Cecilia Tucker Myers, Director of the Eastern Region, introduced veteran contralto Carline Ray Russell, of New York, who sang Duke Ellington's "Come Sunday" and a traditional rendering of "I Want to be Ready."

Chaplain Glenn Jones memorialized NANM members who have passed during the past year. From the Eastern Region: Henry Smith of the David I. Martin Branch, Carol Thomas of

Agenda for Today's General Session

Continental Breakfast
Call to Order
Board Meeting Report
Nominating Committee Report

Special Presentations:

Roamie Minor, Curator
Azalia Hackley Collection

Aaron Dworkin, Founder
Sphinx Organization

Recess

the Thomas Music Study Club, James East of the W. Russell Johnson Branch, and Raymond Toomer of B-Sharp (Long Island). From the Central Region: J. Bernice Campbell and Joan Smith of the R. Nathaniel Dett Club of Music and Art, and Charles Essex of the Detroit Musicians Association. From the Southern Region: Florietta Taylor of the Metropolitan Atlanta Musicians Association, ValMarie Davis of Nu Arts Musique, and Serita Lattimore of the Dallas Metroplex Musicians Association. From the Western Region: Sarah Burks of the George Robert Garner Branch.

President Roland M. Carter acknowledged Joseph Joubert, conference accompanist, and clinicians for the week.

After the Mass Choir's performances of the "Acclamation" and "Sanctus" movements of Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass*, the session was adjourned.

**"Never Turn
Back, Move
on Up a
Little Higher"**

Tempo Prestissimo

Editor: Marilyn Thompson

Violinist Marie Elise McNeeley Named First Place Scholarship Competition Winner in Strings

The 2007 Scholarship Competition in Strings was Inc. held on Sunday evening in the Top of the Riv Ballroom. Four regions were represented. Dr. Marvin Curtis, Scholarship Chair, presided.

Nashira Thomas, violist, of the Edna Hammett Porter Branch in Los Angeles, California, representing the Western Region, played the first movement of *Sonata No. 1 in f minor* (Brahms) and "Carmela" (Bambelele and Espen Gade Sections) by William Grant Still. Ms. Thomas is matriculating at the University of Southern California, where she is majoring in music performance.

Kyle Wiggins, cellist, of the Dallas Metroplex Musicians Association and the Southern Region, played George Walker's *Sonata for Cello and Piano* and the first movement of Franz Josef Haydn's *Concerto in C Major*. He is a junior at Harvard University, majoring in history and literature.

Marie Elise McNeeley, violinist, of the Detroit Musicians Association and the Central Region, played the second movement of William Grant Still's *Suite* and Bach's "Chaconne" from *Partita No. 2*. She is a senior, majoring in music performance at the University of Michigan.

Aaron Dworkin Reveals Sphinx's NY Plans

Sphinx Organization Founder and President Aaron Dworkin commented on last night's performances by NANM Scholarship Competition participants: "I was blown away by the talent. . . All have tremendous promise. . ." He expressed his pride in first place prize recipient, Marie Elise McNeeley, a fellow Detroit native, Sphinx alumna and laureate.

"How can we make sure that the resources are there for these young people so they may build great careers in music?"

Ed Kelly Sanford, violinist, of the Alphonse Robinson African American Musicians of Denver and the Rocky Mountain Region, played the third movement of William Grant Still's *Suite* and the first movement of Felix Mendelssohn's *Concerto in e minor*. He is a music major matriculating at the University of Denver.

After a brief period of deliberation by judges, awards were presented. Marie Elise McNeeley was named first place recipient, Nashira Thomas won second place, Ed Kelly Sanford was third place recipient, and Kyle Wiggins won fourth place.

The evening's judges were violinist-educator Rachel Barton Pine, also a clinician on Thursday morning; revered violinist-educator Lesa Terry, this week's strings master class facilitator on Tuesday; and David Robinson, cellist, music educator, NANM Youth Director and director of the Still Waters Sinfonia of the Kemper Harreld Youth Branch in Metropolitan Atlanta.

Dr. Louise Toppin assists Dr. Curtis on the Scholarship Committee. The repertoire for next year's scholarship competition in Organ is listed in this week's souvenir journal.

he asked. Dworkin's work through the Sphinx Organization has yielded major progress in the cause of promoting diversity among American symphony orchestras. Many of the nation's younger African American and Latino orchestral players have matriculated in Sphinx.

Dworkin announced a second annual Sphinx Gala Concert in Carnegie Hall on September 25. This performance will fea-

The National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc.

Officers

President: Roland M. Carter

First Vice President: David Morrow

Second Vice President: Glenn Jones

Executive Secretary: Ona B. Campbell

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Williams Strings: Pride of Chicago Music Association

Attendees at Sunday's Mass Meeting were mesmerized by the trio introduced as the Williams Sisters. Dr. Barbara Wright-Pryor, President of the Chicago Music Association, informs that the young ladies are actually first cousins—the daughters of three sisters. They are: violinist and concert mistress Adé Williams, age nine; violinist Mira Williams, age nine; and cellist Ayanna Williams, age 15. The trio comprises half of the Youth members of CMA attending this week's annual meeting. The Williamses began studies with Lucinda Ali, Junior/Youth director of the CMA, also executive director and founder of the Hyde Park Suzuki Institute. In 2005, Adé Williams was first prize winner of the William Warfield Scholarship, sponsored by the Music Institute of Chicago.

ture the Sphinx Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Chelsea Tipton, the Harlem Quartet, and noted soloists. Also featured will be a work by composer Michael Abels, especially arranged for the Sphinx Chamber Orchestra. A concert at the Apollo Theater is planned for later in Fall 2007. For more information, please visit www.sphinxmusic.org.

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From the Editor

If you have information that you would like to include in an issue of *Tempo Prestissimo*, please submit it in writing by 6:00 p.m. preceding the day of desired publication. Submissions received after 6:00 p.m. will not be considered for the next day's edition.