



TEMPO PRESTISSIMO



Volume 5, Issue 3

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Today's Events

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

8:00 a.m.
Branch Presidents' Meeting
(Skyboxes 207/208)

9:00 a.m.
General Session
President's Address
(Royale 2)

10:30 a.m.
Workshop: "Arranging Spirituals"
(Royale 3)

12:00 noon
Sylvia Olden Lee Roundtable
(Top of the Riv)

1:30 p.m.
Convention Chorus Rehearsal
(Royale 1)

3:00 p.m.
Youth/Junior Concert
(Royale 2)

7:30 p.m.
Awards Banquet
(Top of the Riv)

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

"I challenge you to push yourselves to the next level. . .Never be satisfied where you are."
—Marietta Simpson (to singers in Tuesday's master class.)

Tempo Prestissimo

Editor: Marilyn Thompson

Research Presentations Reveal Insights on Clara Ward and R. Nathaniel Dett

Tuesday morning's research session focused on aspects of the contributions of gospel singer, Clara Ward and composer-conductor-pianist, R. Nathaniel Dett, whose 125th birth anniversary is being celebrated during this year.

Kimberly Wood, a doctoral student at Shenandoah Conservatory in Virginia, described the manner in which Gertrude Ward, the mother of Clara and Willa Ward, introduced gospel music to the secular world. The elder Ward used flashy coifs and costumes to establish an unforgettable image. The Ward Singers were known for their breakthroughs in Las

Vegas, on television, and in film. They managed to achieve celebrity in a gospel music world that had been dominated by male quartets.

Ms. Wood was assisted by tenor Michael Forest, who sang "Honor, Honor," and by Ms. Dorothea Taylor, who sang "Something's Got A-Hold of Me."

President Roland M. Carter led a reading session of portions of Dett's choral works. He explained how the composer's works in this genre are not merely spiritual arrangements, but anthems, or folk-song derivatives. Dr. Carter demonstrated

how the composer often used portions of spirituals, then composed sections with totally new material. The melody in Dett's "Son of Mary" is strikingly similar to "I've Been 'Buked."

Marietta Simpson Demonstrates Fine Skills as a Vocal Arts Educator

Yesterday's William Warfield Voice Master Class, facilitated by Maestra Marietta Simpson, provided a wonderful opportunity for singers and those in the audience to witness the mezzo soprano's teaching style, combining home-style humor with a no-nonsense approach to tackling vocal issues.

Because of space limitations, the participants

and their repertoire will be described in the next issue of *Tempo Prestissimo* or *Reverberations*.

Ms. Simpson encouraged the young, aspiring artists to pay attention to detail in their preparation for performances and auditions. Singers must be accurate in music and text. She reminded them of the fierce competitiveness in the performance arena.

Agenda for Today's General Session

Call to Order

Video Presentation—
Matthew Kennedy

President's Address

Committee Breakouts:

Membership Campaign 2007

Youth Partnerships/
Collaborations

Marketing Strategies

Constitution Committee

Time and Place—2010, 2011,
2012

Recess

Mission Statement

NANM promotes, preserves, and supports all genres of music created or performed by African Americans.

Collegiate Young Artists Shine in Tuesday Afternoon Concert

The Collegiate Young Artists were featured in a varied program on Tuesday afternoon. The performers displayed a wealth of talent and promise in their presentations.

Jarrett O'Neal, tenor, of Morehouse College, sang "In native worth and honor clad" from Franz Haydn's *Creation* and "Amazing Grace" by Leslie Adams.

Allison Jones, soprano, of East Carolina University, sang "Green" from *Ariette Oubliée* by Claude Debussy and "Ain't-a That Good News," arranged by Moses Hogan.

Franklin Jamar Willis, baritone, of the University of Memphis, performed "Die Lotosblume" by Robert Schumann and "Deep River," arranged by Moses Hogan.

Kimberly Wood, soprano, of Shenandoah Conservatory, sang Micaela's aria, "Je dis, que rien ne m'épouvante" from Georges Bizet's *Carmen*.

Taylor Glanton, soprano saxophonist, of Morehouse College, played *Sonata in E Flat Major* by J.S. Bach.

Deborah Nansteel, mezzo soprano, of East Carolina University, sang "Schmerzen" from Richard Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder* and "O mio Fernando" from Gaetano Donizetti's *La Favorita*.

Joanne Jennette, soprano, of the University of Nevada Las Vegas, sang "Watch and Pray" by Undine Smith Moore and "Ain't it a pretty night?" from *Susannah* by Carlisle Floyd.

Jonathan Richards, bassist, of the University of Southern California, played Duke Ellington's "It Don't Mean A Thing."

Accompanists for the afternoon were Joseph Joubert, Ella Lewis, and Byron Smith.

Ms. Laura English-Robinson, Coordinator of the Collegiate Young Artists, presented to each participant a copy of the "NANM Sings Spirituals" compact disc, encouraging them to continue dreaming and working toward fulfillment.

President Carter announced Ms. English-Robinson's resignation as collegiate coordinator and presented her with a certificate of appreciation for her 15 years of service. Past President Uzee Brown recounted in detail the establishment of the Collegiate Young Artists, citing it as the brainchild of President Willis Patterson in 1993. Ms. English-Robinson was extolled for her diligence in advancing the prominence of collegiate artists during the annual meetings through the years. Dr. Daniel

The National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc.

Officers

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Second Vice President: Glenn Jones

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Recording Secretary: Denise Williams

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Washington has been announced as the next Coordinator of Collegiate Youth Artists. Ms. English-Robinson pledged to continue her commitment to the cause of the collegiates.

New NANM Branch in Arkansas

NANM welcomes the Marlene M. Smith Branch, of Little Rock, Arkansas, which was organized earlier this year and received its charter in Monday morning's business session.

Sugar Strings

Chicago Music Association President Dr. Barbara Wright Pryor informs that Adé, Mira, and Ayanna Williams are known as "Sugar Strings." Their mothers wanted them to experience ensemble playing while young. Adé's instrument and bow are on loan from the Rachel Elizabeth Barton Foundation. Please visit their website, www.sugarstrings.com, for their performance schedule other information.

Faculty Vacancy

Associate/Full Professor of Piano
Jackson State University
Jackson, MS

For complete information, please contact:

Dr. Karen Laubengayer
Piano Search Committee Chair
Department of Music
Jackson State University
Post Office Box 17055
Jackson, MS 39217

profmewsic@aol.com

Branch and Regional Scholarship Competition Chairs' Meeting

Dr. Marvin Curtis, National Scholarship Competition Chair, is hosting a meeting for all branch and regional scholarship chairpersons today at 1:30 p.m. in Royale 2.

The National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc.

Post Office Box 43053
11551 South Laffin Street
Chicago, IL 60643
Phone: 773-568-3818
Fax: 773-785-5388

Nashira Thomas Updates

Mrs. Mary Y. Napoleon, of the Golden Gate Branch, wishes everyone to know that **Nashira Thomas, violist**, and Sunday evening's second place scholarship competition winner, earned the B.M. in Performance at Oberlin Conservatory. She is pursuing the M.M. in Performance at the University of South California.

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.