



TEMPO PRESTISSIMO



Volume 6, Issue 1

Monday, July 28, 2008

Today's Events

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

8:30 a.m.
General Session
(Plaza)

9:30 a.m.
Annual Banner Parade
(Plaza)

10:30 a.m.
Choral Reading Session
Dr. Rollo Dilworth
(Plaza)

12:05 noon
Concert at Noon
Ann Marie McPhail, soprano
Pamela Dillard, mezzo soprano
Second Presbyterian Church

2:00 p.m.
William Warfield Voice Master
Class
Marquita Lister, soprano

3:30 p.m.
Convention Chorus Rehearsal

5:00
Regional Meetings
Plaza and East/West Rooms

6:45
Shuttle Service to Roland Hayes
Concert Hall

7:30 p.m.
GALA CONCERT

“Advocacy and Partnerships: Walk Together Children”

Mission Statement

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

Tempo Prestissimo

Editor: Marilyn Thompson

89th Annual Meeting Begins With Well Paced, Musically Rich Opening Session

President Roland M. Carter called to order the 89th Annual Meeting of NANM, Inc., at precisely 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 27, in historic First Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tennessee. To reinforce the week's theme, the congregation was led in the singing of the spiritual, “Walk Together Children.” Dr. David Oliver of Morehouse College played the organ prelude. After the invocation, Convention Chorus Director Damon Dandridge conducted the audience in an enthusiastic rendition of President Carter's arrangement of “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” Bryant Lowery, President of the host branch, the Society for

the Preservation of African American Song, welcomed delegates and guests to the “Scenic City.

The Wendell P. Whalum Community Chorus of Atlanta, Georgia, was the afternoon's featured ensemble. They are directed by Dr. David Morrow, NANM First Vice President. The chorus sang “I Was Glad” by Michael Jochen and “Praise to the Lord” by Charles Coleman, accompanied by Adrian Ford with trumpeters Kadir Muhammad and Anthony Wiley.

Greetings were extended by Representa-

Agenda for Today's General Session

Call to Order
 Invocation
 Roll Call
 Presentation of New Charter
 Nominating Cmte. Report
 Strategic Plan Report
 Banner Presentations
 Recess

tive Tommie Brown of the Tennessee 28th Congressional District, and by Dr. Phil Oldham, Provost and Vice Chancellor at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Regional representatives performed during the next portion of the program. From the Rocky Mountain Region, Melissa James, soprano, and Arthur Jones, tenor, sang a duet version of John Work's “This Little Light of Mine.”

(Please see “Opening Session” on Page 2)

Lee Wright Wins 2008 Scholarship Competition in Organ

Organist Lee Wright, representing the Eastern Region, was named first place winner of the 2008 NANM Scholarship Competition in Organ. Mr. Wright was second place winner in the 2003 scholarship competition in Los Angeles. His repertoire included Prelude and Fugue in G minor (BWV 541) by Johann Sebastian Bach, Allegro from *Symphony IV* by Charles-Marie Widor, and Air from *Suite No. 1 for Organ* by

Florence B. Price. The first place prize is \$2,500.00.

Maurice Draughn of the Central Region and Collin Richardson of the Southern Region tied as second-place winners. Their prize is \$1,250.00.

Mr. Draughn's repertoire included J.S. Bach's Prelude and Fugue in C minor (BWV 549), Cesar Franck's Chorale No. 3

in A minor, and Partita on Detroit by David Hurd.

Mr. Richardson played J.S. Bach's Prelude and Fugue in C minor (BWV 546), Prelude and Fugue on B-A-C-H by Franz Liszt, and “Joshua Fit de Battle ob Jericho” by Fela Sowande.

Arthur Omura of the Western Region was named third-place winner. His prize is \$1,000.00. His repertoire included Trio Sonata

(Please see “Organ Competition” on Page 2)

Opening Session Moves With Precision

(Continued from Page 1)

Norman Fisher, bassoonist, representing the Southern Region, performed Sonata for Bassoon and Piano by Georg Telemann.

Sakura Myers, pianist, from the Eastern Region, performed Ballade No. 2 in B minor by Franz Liszt.

Carmelita Guse, soprano, of the Central Region, sang two songs by Gustave Mahler: "Hans und Grethe," text also by Mahler, and "Ich atmet' einen linden Duft from the Rückertlieder.

The Western Region was represented

by a women's ensemble from the Georgia Laster Branch, performing Byron J. Smith's setting of "The Storm is Passing Over," with the composer at the piano.

President Carter made announcements and introductions of some of the week's honorees and clinicians. He also acknowledged the significant contributions of Mrs. Ona B. Campbell, longtime NANM Executive Secretary. The Wendell P. Whalum Community Chorus sang Uzee Brown, Jr.'s arrangement of "Hold On!" and Anthony Pattin's "Hallelujah is

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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the Highest Praise." Second Vice President Glenn Jones pronounced benediction. This was one of the most efficiently executed opening sessions in convention history.

Organ Competition Yields High Level Performances from Contestants

(Continued from Page 1)

IV: Un poco allegro by J.S. Bach, Psalm—Prelude III by Herbert Howells, and Fantasy and Fugue on "My Lord What A Mourning" by Ralph Simpson.

Judges for the evening were Karla

Fowkes, Director of Music/Organist at Christ Episcopal Church in Chattanooga; Mary Ellen Meloan, retiring Director of Music/Organist at Christ Episcopal Church in Chattanooga; and Dr. Robert Owens, currently Director of Music at St. Matthews United Methodist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina,

and former Chair of the Department of Performing and Fine Arts at Fayetteville State University.

Dr. Marvin Curtis, National Scholarship Chair, presided over the evening's proceedings.

Spotlight on Sakura Myers: A NANM Youth All Grown Up

For NANM members who have attended recent annual meetings with regularity, it was certainly a pleasure to witness the growth and maturity of pianist Sakura Myers, who thrilled the audience with her performance of Franz Liszt's Ballade No. 2 in B minor in yesterday's opening session. We have certainly watched her grow up. She is blossoming into a fine artist with a bright future ahead of her. Sakura has been attending NANM conferences since age 12, in tow with her mother, Eastern Region Director and accomplished soprano Cecilia Tucker Myers.

The pianist is completing her master's degree at Manhattan School of Music, where her piano teacher is Phillip Kawin, a friend and classmate of Joseph Joubert, who insisted that she study with him. Sakura completed undergraduate studies at Spelman College and at the College of Charleston. She will actually complete her M.M. degree in December of this year.

When she first landed at the Manhattan School, Sakura says she felt intimidated. It took some time to gain her bearings. "My teacher prodded me—I had some technical skills to work on," she remembers. Her work obviously paid off, and for the past few summers, she has played and studied at festivals in Italy, Russia, and China.

At Music Fest Perugia, Sakura gained her first opportunities to play concerti with orchestra. In 2006, she played Mozart's Piano Concerto in G Major (K. 453). In 2007, she played Beethoven's

Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37.

Sakura credits her rich experiences at NANM conventions for helping her to foster a "love and organic curiosity for music." She remembers late night sessions with friends, reading through scores, and rich social interactions. These are among her most enjoyable experiences. "Coming back and seeing [NANM] friends vs. the conservatory crowd has boosted my confidence and self-esteem," she says. "NANM is to my music what Spelman was to my personal growth and development.

When asked about goals after graduation, Sakura mentioned applying for a Fulbright fellowship "for study in Paris, Moscow, or maybe somewhere in Germany." Another goal is to work to revitalize the standard piano recital. She wants to make it more interesting and accessible to broader populations.

Let's look forward to hearing more from Sakura Myers.

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