

REVERBERATIONS

SPECIAL POST-MEETING EDITION

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEGRO MUSICIANS, INC.

Detroit Symphony and Soprano Jessye Norman Provide Grand Finale to Detroit Meeting

“KEEP THE LAMPS TRIMMED AND BURNING”

85th Annual
NANM Meeting

Detroit, MI

August 1-6, 2004

Detroit Marriott
Renaissance Center



Jessye Norman, Soprano

On Friday evening, August 6, the 85th Annual Meeting of the National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc., concluded with a gala concert in Detroit’s Orchestra Hall. Featuring the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Thomas Wilkins, Associate Conductor, and

legendary soprano Jessye Norman, the performance provided a sumptuous ending to a glorious week-long festival of music making, learning opportunities, exchanges of ideas, and strategic planning.

The evening ended with the presentation to Ms. Norman of a Lifetime Achievement Award by President Roland M. Carter.

The DSO began the program with the Overture to Carl Maria von Weber’s opera, *Der Freischütz*, followed by William Grant Still’s *Symphony No. 4, (Autochthonous)*.



Dr. Barbara Wright Pryor, Dr. Robert Harris, mezzo soprano Marietta Simpson, and Dr. George Williams after the Awards Banquet in Detroit (Photo courtesy of Dr. Charles Cannon).

Ms. Norman’s offerings after intermission included two songs from Richard Danielpour’s *Spirits in the Well*. These were followed by sacred songs of Duke Ellington

Long-Awaited NANM History Debuts



Former President Uzee Brown presents plaque and flowers to Dr. Doris McGinty, editor of NANM History during the opening program. Former Presidents Willis Patterson and Brazeal Dennard look on, with President Roland Carter (back to audience). First Vice-President David Morrow is at extreme right (Photo courtesy of Dr. Charles Cannon).

A Documentary History of the National Association of Negro Musicians, edited by Dr. Doris McGinty, has recently been released. This eagerly anticipated volume chronicles the events of our organization, from its founding in 1919 until 2002.

This book is a must-have, not only for every member of NANM, but for anyone interested in African American music and history. Dr. McGinty

guides her audience through the decades via various documents—from newspaper articles that appeared in African American publications, such as the *Chicago Defender*, the *Washington Bee*, and the *New York Age*. The book evinces painstaking research begun by the late Dr. Eileen Southern. Also utilized are official minutes and correspondence, personal papers and notes of NANM officers and other key personnel.

The history includes highlights from business meet-

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“...my music is directly related to the struggle in that it aspires to inform, motivate, and humanize my fellow men in their aspirations.”

—Olly Wilson

From the Editor

If you have information that you wish to include in the next issue of **REVERBERATIONS**, please submit it to Marilyn A. Thompson (nanmnews@aol.com)

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National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc.

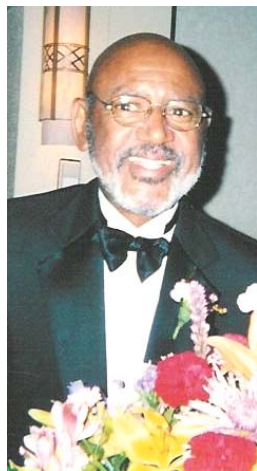
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The Brazeal Dennard Youth Chorale with director, Nina Scott, after the Youth Night performance. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Charles Cannon.)

From the President's Pen



President Roland M. Carter after the Awards Banquet. (Photo courtesy of Ms. Loñieta Conwall)

Dear NANM Family,

No doubt you are still savoring some pleasant reflections from our meeting in Detroit in August. We celebrated, we witnessed some breathtaking performances and informative workshops. We renewed old friendships and, hopefully, made some new ones. Now we are back at

home, dealing with reality on a day-to-day basis, and we must face the issues that loom largely before us.

First of all, I wish to extend a personal thank-you to Ms. A. Maxine O'Keefe and all of her committees for hosting a wonderful meeting. We realize the magnitude of efforts expended in the planning and execution of all of the week's events and we heartily applaud the Detroit Musicians Association and all parties involved who joined forces to make our Motor City visit such a rich and enjoyable experience.

Now, back to basics—We need your immediate response to the issues that I outlined in my keynote address so that we may begin to resolve our fiscal challenges. **PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES IMMEDIATELY!** We also need for every branch to launch an aggressive membership drive that will yield hundreds of new members by next year's annual meeting.

Celebrate American Music Month in November

November is American Music Month. In 1985, the United States Congress designated the first full week of the month as American Music Week, but

this was expanded to the entire month beginning in the year 2000.

The period is set aside to recognize and celebrate this country's rich musical diversity. All genres of American music are included.

This is an appropriate time to commemorate the final weeks of the **Undine Smith Moore** centenary year.

**Audrey Miller-Sydney
Soprano
Kelly Wyatt, Piano**

In recital, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, New York City. Saturday, November 20, 2004. Music by Purcell, Wolf, Moore, King, Hairston, Brahms, Rachmaninoff. Call 718-655-9034 for information.



This is your opportunity to sell the NANM story to your friends and colleagues. We need new, fresh faces, along with their new, fresh ideas, with, of course, the accompaniment of the necessary financial support.

As you embark on your fall activities, please be mindful of the needs of NANM and our commitment to survive and to thrive. Keep the lamps trimmed and burning with vigilance and zeal as we work to overcome our current adversities. May you also keep the lamps trimmed and burning in the quest for excellence in all that you do.

Have a great year! We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,
Roland

nanm@rolandcarter.com

**Don't forget to vote on November 2!
Exercise your power!**

NANM History Debuts
(Continued from Page 1)

ings, scholarship competitions, performances, workshops and lectures, and presidents' addresses.

The comprehensive history is a publication of which we can all be proud. It is available through the Center for Black Music Research (www.cbmr.org) for \$39.95 (includes shipping).

Brava to Dr. McGinty for this important contribution to African American culture!

“The slaves named them ‘spirituals’ to distinguish them from their worldly, ‘everyday’ songs. Also, their musical style of performance was very special. It cannot be accurately notated but must be studied by imitation.”

—Hall Johnson

Our Own Thing Chorale Performs Afternoon Postlude

The Our Own Thing Chorale, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, under the direction of Past President Willis C. Patterson, performed an Afternoon Postlude concert on Wednesday, August 4. The varied program included familiar compositions and arrangements by John Work, Hall Johnson, and Undine Smith Moore, also including spiritual arrangements and contemporary gospel songs by Glenn Jones, Joseph Joubert, Charles Lloyd, Glenn Burleigh and Richard Smallwood.

The Chorale was founded in

1968 by Patterson. He refers to it as a "multi-racial, multi-cultural, cross-generational community chorus. Among the outstanding soloists were University of Michigan alumni Brenda Wimberly, Elliot Marshall, Alice Tillman and Karen Johnson. A special treat was the appearance of Cedric Dent, pianist, accompanying the chorale in Smallwood's "Total Praise."



Composer, Dr. Adolphus Hailstork with Reverberations editor, Marilyn Thompson and soprano, Alfrelynn Roberts. (Photo courtesy Ms. Loñieta Cornwall.)

Join NANM today! For membership information, visit www.NANM.org!

All Branches Urged to Contribute to Organization's Website

NANM's official website, www.nanm.org, while still a work in progress, is an excellent way for branches to keep the nation informed of all activities of interest. Visitors may learn of the breadth of branch musical involvement and the impact being made in respective

communities. Darryl Chamberlain, our webmaster (darryl@gloryworks.com), is eagerly waiting to receive news to post. Each branch has been designated its own page and may present itself as creatively as it dares. Please take advantage of this public relations opportunity.

Branches needing assistance in preparing their copy may contact Marilyn Thompson, the *Reverberations* editor, (nanmnews@aol.com). Help is available in developing layout and editing strategies.

Calling All Branches: Launch Your Own Grassroots Advocacy Program!

All branches of NANM are urged to become activists and join other arts organizations in making your voices heard through arts advocacy. You may then influence local, state and national policy in matters of arts projects that directly affect your children's education, as well as arts programming in your communities.

You are invited to visit www.artsusa, a website that may be helpful in providing advocacy information. This site presents details on how to contact your legis-

lators at the state and national level, so your voice may be heard. Your congressman's voting records on arts issues are also contained.

In this election year, the site is helpful in providing candidates' positions on the arts. You may also access other resources, including research information, funding sources, "how-tos" on writing public service announcements, organizing within a community, contacting the media, and network-

**Support NANM!
Please pay your dues!**



Composer, Dr. Leslie Adams, one of this year's honorees, with Shaw University's Loñieta Cornwall after the Awards Banquet. (Photo courtesy of Ms. Cornwall.)

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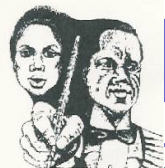
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**"I want to bring new members into an organization that functions effectively, is open to new ways of doing business, and is among the leaders when it comes to sharing our musical heritage and history."
—Roland M. Carter**



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEGRO MUSICIANS, INC.

A Historic Organization Since 1919

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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IN MEMORIAM: NATHAN CARTER, ZENOBIA POWELL
PERRY AND ARTHUR THOMPSON



Dr. Nathan M. Carter

Nathan M. Carter, 68, famed conductor of the Morgan State University Choir and noted composer-arranger, died at his home in Baltimore on July 15 after a lengthy illness. Carter, who was also Chairman of the Department of Fine Arts at Morgan, elevated the choral program to world-class status during his 34-year tenure there. He was previously choral director at Knoxville College.

At Morgan, Carter's choirs traveled the world, most recently completing a week-long tour of Russia in January 2004.

A native of Selma, Alabama, Carter com-

pleted undergraduate training from Hampton Institute, a master's degree from the Juilliard School, and the Doctor of Musical Arts from the Peabody Institute.

On Friday, September 17, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the Morgan State University Choir joined forces in the Murphy Fine Arts Center on Morgan's campus to celebrate Carter's contribution to the musical arts. Under the direction of Yuri Temirkanov, the orchestra's Music Director, and Eric Conway, current Chair of the Department of Fine Arts (and Acting Director of the Choir), the first half of the concert included Carter's choral compositions and arrangements. The second half featured excerpts from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, spotlighting alumni soloists.

Zenobia Powell Perry

Composer Zenobia Powell Perry died earlier this year on January 14 in Xenia, Ohio. Perry, age 95, was a pioneer among African American composers. She was educated at Tuskegee Institute, Colorado State Teachers College, and Wyoming University. Her works included numerous compositions for voice and piano and chamber ensemble. For many years, she was on faculty at Central State University. Survivors include her daughter, soprano Janis-Rozena Peri.



Arthur Thompson

Arthur Thompson, internationally acclaimed baritone, died on Saturday, August 21. In a career that spanned over 25 years, Thompson performed dozens of roles with the Metropolitan Opera. He also appeared with the New York City Opera, London's Covent Garden, and the Santa Fe Opera. As an orchestral soloist, he sang works with the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics, the Cleveland Orchestra, the symphonies of Chicago Cincinnati, St. Louis, San Francisco, Milwaukee, and Jerusalem, under some of the world's most renowned conductors, including Bernstein, Levine, Leinsdorf, and Conlon.

Thompson received his education at the Hartt School of Music and the Juilliard School. A private service was held in New York.