



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Department of Music

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY CHORAL DIVISION

BLACK HISTORY CONCERT

featuring

SCHOLA CANTORUM

Special Guest Speaker:

AUNDREA SELF
WCBI ANCHOR

Phillip Stockton, *conductor*

André Ferguson, *countertenor*

Anne-Katherine Ragsdale, *collaborating accompanist*

Lauren Barr, *collaborating accompanist*

February 7, 2023
First Baptist Church, Starkville

CHORAL EXCELLENCE, HEALING, & COMMUNITY

statesings.com

msuchoir@msstate.edu

Program

SCHOLA CANTORUM MUSIC OF LIFE

music by B.E. Boykin
text George Parsons Lathrop

*Music is in all growing things;
And underneath the silky wings of smallest insects there is stirred.
A pulse of air that must be heard.
Music is in all growing things.
Earth's silence lives, and throbs, and sings.
If poet from the vibrant strings of his poor heart a measure flings.
Music is in all growing things.
Laugh not that he no trumpet blows, it may be that heaven hears and knows,
His language of low listenings.
Music is in all living things.*

THE MOON BRIDGE

music by Florence B. Price
text Mary Rolofson Gamble

*The moon, like a big, round ball of flame Rose out of the silver bay,
And built a bridge of golden beams, where the fairies came to play.
I saw them dancing in jeweled robes on the wave let's rhythmic flow,
And I longed to stand on the magic bridge, in the moonlight's mystic glow.
But over the sky a veil of mist, thin, soft as a web of lace, was drawn, then parted,
Then came again, with easy coquettish grace;
And the moon put on a sombre mask, and frowned on the ripping wave,
And the beautiful bridge went under the sea nor a beam could the fairies save!
I wondered if this would end their plan, and if, as the bridge went down,
They would lose their jewels so frail and fair, and their queen her diamond crown!
But she glided away in mercy mood, to their home in the rose tree's bowers,
And there they danced on the dewy grass, till the "wee small" morning hours.*

André Ferguson, tenor
Anne Katherine Ragsdale, piano

NIGHT

music by Florence Price
text: Louis C. Wallace

Based on text by Louis C. Wallace and published in *The Crisis* (the official journal of the NAACP) in 1930, "Night" exemplifies several aspects of the understated beauty and richness of Florence Price's style. The text symbolically equates the rich, dark beauty of the nighttime sky with the beauties and riches of Black culture. Yet even though the glittering brilliance of the stars is what most poets have commented on, Wallace's poem and Price's music adopt a warm and embracing tone which ultimately affirms that the beauty of blackness and night are what will always endure, always return — and Price's decision to end with a sustained high note on the word evermore emphasizes the importance of that persistence in preserving and celebrating Black beauty. ~ John Michael Cooper

*Night comes, a Madonna clad in scented blue.
Rose red her mouth and deep her eyes,
She lights her stars, and turns to where,
Beneath her silver lamp the moon,
Upon a couch of shadow lies
A dreamy child, the wearied day*

SPECIAL THANKS

Mr. Danny Davis, voice faculty

Dr. Garrett Torbert, voice faculty

Danielle Gaudé – choral administrator

Dr. Tom Jenkins, Director of Music FBC, Starkville

Ms. Cori Reece, voice faculty

Dr. Roza Tulyaganova, voice faculty

Mrs. Sara Horan, voice faculty

Emily Washburn, First Baptist Tech

Anne Catherine Ragsdale, collaborative piano faculty

Dr. Jeanette Fontaine, coordinator of voice

Ms. Rachel Wood, collaborative piano faculty

Mr. Peter Infanger, voice faculty

Dr. Sophie Wang, collaborative piano faculty

MY SOUL'S BEEN ANCHORED IN THE LORD

arr. Florence Price
text: Traditional

Price composed more than 300 works and was friends with many renowned musicians and poets. As a result of friendship with Margaret Bonds, Florence was introduced to Marian Anderson and Langston Hughes, two individuals who would later become important to her success as a composer. Anderson sang Price's arrangement of "My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord" at the historic concert at Lincoln Memorial in 1939. The song focuses on the singer's commitment to Christian life. Meaning, they are committed to the Lord and will not stray from it. Hence, the anchor, so that the individual is planted, rooted, steady, and unmoving.

~ Richard Heard

*In the Lord, in the Lord,
My soul's been anchored in the Lord.
Before I'd stay in hell one day,
My soul's been anchored in the Lord;
I'd sing and pray myself away,
My soul's been anchored in the Lord.
I'm going to pray and never stop,
My soul's been anchored in the Lord;
Until I've reached the mountain top,
My soul's been anchored in the Lord.*

AUNDREA SELF, WCBI ANCHOR

WORDS FOR A SPIRITUAL

music by Florence Price
text: Capricorn (Chicago Tribune, August 20, 1948)

The text of "Words for a Spiritual" was taken from the Chicago Tribune and is attributed to the *nom de plume* "Capricorn." The poem first appeared in the August 20, 1948, issue of the Tribune. The use of black vernacular spelling indicates the author's attempt to evoke the spiritual topic, as well as an attempt at authenticity. The speaker's repeated pleas to "Slow me down Lawd" serve as an anaphoric gesture that precedes the verses. The desire to truly see one's brother and to be aware of the "heav'nly atmosphere" that God brings hearkens to the evangelical tone resonant in the sermons of black ministers. This sermon, though, is not spoken to a congregation of believers. Rather, it seems to speak to the everyman—specifically an African American—who is beset by the trials and tribulations of this world and has forgotten their spiritual roots. ~ Marquese Carter

*Slow me down, Lord. Ah s a goin too fast; Ah can t see mah brother when he s walking past. Ah miss a lot a good things day by day;
Ah don t know a blessing when it comes my way.
Slow me down, Lord. Ah want to see
More o the things that are good for me.
A little less o me an a little more a You,
Ah want the heavenly atmosphere to trickle through.
Let me help a brothuh when the goin s is rough; When folks work together it ain t so tough.
Slow me down, Lawd, so ah can talk with some a Yo angels. Slow me down to a walk. Slow me down.*

RESIGNATION

music by Florence Price

"Resignation" is known as a "sorrow song" in the African-American spiritual tradition. The text, also written by Florence Price, is a first-person narrative of suffering and enslavement, but is also clearly an allegory for the tribulations of centuries of black women before her. As noted by musicologist Misty Dupuis, Price may have been inspired by another, similar sorrow song entitled "City Called Heaven." Price is known to have been familiar with the latter spiritual: the piece was sung at a concert in Michigan in 1940—alongside the premiere of Price's Symphony #3, as well as a performance of Piano Concerto in One Movement, for which Price was both the composer and soloist.

~ Magen Solomon

*My life is a pathway of sorrow; I've struggled and toiled in the sun
with hope that the dawn of tomorrow would break on a work that is done.
My Master has pointed the way, he taught me in prayer to say: Lord, give us this day and our daily bread."
I hunger, yet I shall be fed. My feet, they are wounded and dragging; my body is tortured with pain;
My heart, it is shattered and flagging, what matter, if, Heaven I gain.
Of happiness once I have tasted; 'Twas only an instant it paused
tho brief was the hour that I wasted, for ever the woe that it caused I'm tired and want to go home.
My mother and sister are there; They're waiting for me to come where mansions are bright and fair.*

THERE IS A PLACE

music by Rosephanye Powell
text: Adapted from Psalm 85:10

*There is a place where Truth and Mercy will meet.
There is a place where Justice and Peace shall kiss,
Please take us to this place and reveal to us a vision,
A vision of Shalom that prevails in our world.
Make us ambassadors of just peace.
Shalom*

SCHOLA CANTORUM PERSONNEL

Soprano 1

Margaret Boyd
Natalie Brown
Abigael Childs
Taylor Clark
Ivory Dorsey
Sarah Heard
Rachel Hosp
Emily Jennings
Kyneesha Joseph
Laurel Matthews
Annie Ng
Zoe Nunn
Sarah Randolph
Cecily Rolfe
Brianna Smith
Shannon Symon
Caera Taylor
Maria Timberlake
Sommer Williams

Soprano 2

Gabriella Arbesfeld
Kendall Bjornseth
Deanna Cotts
Emily Crane
Emily Crunk
Genesis Edmond
Taylor Haney
Mabry Keyes
Kylie McGinnis
Aniyah McKissic
Taylor Moore
Kylie Russell-
Evangelista
Marie Schemitsch
Makayla Smith
Elizabeth Spangler
Emma Van Epps
Rebekah Vaughn
Anne-Hale Winter

Alto 1

Katie Allen
Savannah Bishop
Anna Booth
Christa Brewster
Rebekah Carruth
Jasmine Chaney
Yasmine Davis
Elizabeth Dulaney
Alyna-Marie Janus
Samantha Land
Bronwen Maddox
Kimberly Martin
Lorie McEachern
Madison Meek
Kayla Taylor
Za'Kiya Tynes
Riley Young

Alto 2

Trinity Adzobu
Mary Alexander
Jesse Baird
Bethany Crane
Cassandra Harbison
Elexxus Richardson
Christina Rochette
Janiya Rutherford
Zion-Nahzir Scott
Jessaca Shepherd
Katherine Trinque
Jasmine Williams

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit www.statesings.com for more details

Saturday, March 4, 2023	Mozart Coronation Mass with SSO Featuring Cantaré, SSO Community Chorus, Starkville High Chamber Singers	First Baptist Church - Starkville
Monday, March 20, 2023	“Seven Last Words of the Unarmed” Featuring MSU Tenor-Bass Voices	MSU Music Building Recital Hall
Thursday, March 23, 2023*	“Seven Last Words of the Unarmed” Featuring MSU Tenor-Bass Voices	MS Music Educator’s Conference Hattiesburg, MS
Friday, March 31 2023	Spring Choral Concert Featuring Cantaré & TrebullDawgs	MSU Music Building Recital Hall
Friday, April 14, 2023	Spring Choral Spectacular Featuring: Schola Cantorum, OPUS & State Singers	First Baptist Church - Starkville

*Denotes a ticketed event as part of the Music Educator’s Conference. You must be a registered attendee of the conference to attend the concert.