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MUSICAL MOMENTS

African, Afro-Brazilian folksongs, told own story

By ADAH K. JENKINS

William Brown scored another success in his career as one of our leading tenors and musicians, in a concert last Friday in the Baltimore Student Activity auditorium of the University of Maryland.

S.R.O. was the order of the evening for a warmly appreciative audience that attended the "Program by All Black Composers."

Concerts of this type, which are increasingly popular in universities and colleges over the world, can be more a lecture-demonstration than a concert.

Brown is too highly skilled and gifted an artist for this to have been the case Friday evening. It proved to be an event of rare artistry, displaying masterly vocal attainment and most compelling and sensitive musicianship.

Wisely, the soloist refrained from an abundance of explanation, but let the music, aided by excellent program notes, speak for itself.

And, eloquently it did: from plaintive African and powerful Afro-Brazilian folk songs, spirituals, and work songs of this country to contemporary art songs and a cantata for voice and piano.

His group of spirituals, arranged by Roland Hayes and Hall Johnson, offered a richly emotional experience and not merely a foot-tapping repetition.

Facial expression, posture and handling of the voice were expert in conveying the authentic style of the spiritual, which the singer may have first heard in his native Mississippi.

"Lil Boy" and "Witness," both narrative spirituals, were outstanding. In the former, as well as in the African songs, Roland Hayes, international black concert artist, collaborated with the soloist in preparing the concert.

Accompanying himself on the guitar, Brown offered a stunning interpretation of blues and work songs, of which "Timber" was notable.

In the area of art songs, the tenor sang three by the contemporary Coleridge Taylor, Perkinson, whose work was commissioned by George Shirley, black Metropolitan opera star.

"The Faithless Shenerdess" and "A Child's Grace" were especially pleasing, with engaging piano accompaniments.

Concluding the evening was a cantata by John Carter, now on the faculty of the Federal College in Washington. Having heard the composition presented by Carter and Brown at a summer concert with the Baltimore Symphony, in Druid Hill Park, we were happy to have a second hearing.

Adopting the classic form of the suite (collection of pieces), Carter has made use of four spirituals. Prelude "Peter, Go Rem dem Bells;" "Rondo — Let Us Break Bread;" Air — "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child;" Recitative and Toccata "Ride on King Jesus."

The tenor gave a compelling, stimulating rendition, ably partnered by Ronaldo Reyes, his highly skilled accompanist of the evening.

William Brown in this concert, contributes notably to the understanding appreciation of important areas of the black man's contribution to folk and art music.

NATIVE BALTIMOREAN, Professor Mark Fax, is the author of 'Til Victory Is Won,' an opera from which excerpts were taken for a concert Saturday at Morgan.

An aria from "Hiawatha," Coleridge-Taylor's beautiful cantata, would be a welcome addition to this valuable project, which should be heard in many universities and colleges.

William Brown, whose mailing address is 3704 Calloway Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21215 is an artist in residence at Augustana College, Illinois. During the current season he is appearing in the Worcester Festival, Mass. and with the Erie and Brooklyn Philharmonic as soloist.

WHO'S WHO: Everett Lee, black conductor, who directs the Baltimore Symphony at the Saturday Pop concert Feb. 7 is principal conductor of the Norrkeping (Sweden) Symphony and recently joined the conducting staff for the Swedish Royal Opera in Stockholm. An American, Mr. Lee fulfills an active schedule of conducting with major orchestras in Europe and this country, having recently received great critical acclaim for appearances with the Cincinnati and Atlanta Symphonies.

Bass-baritone George Goodman, also appears on the Saturday concert, with the Morgan State College Choir, directed by Nathan Carter, has developed a widely diverse career in Europe as a film and television actor and as an opera, lieder and folk singer, appearing in London, Paris, Stockholm and Cologne.

A native of North Carolina, he attended Brooklyn and Manhattan Schools of Music and later won the Marian Anderson, John Hay Whitney and "Joy of Singing" Awards. He studied in Germany on a Fulbright grant.

The concert Saturday and also at the Northeast Symphony Society sponsored event at Morgan State College, Feb. 11 include excerpts from "Til Victory Won," an opera by the Baltimore-born composer, Mark Fax and Robinson's "Ballad for Americans."

Mark Fax, graduate of local schools and Howard University, where he is a professor in the music department, early established an enviable reputation as a pianist.

His opera "Til Victory Won" was commissioned to commemorate the centennial of Howard University.

Herbrette Clinton, soloist in the Schumann Concerto with the Maryland Symphonette at Morgan State College, Feb. 15, is a senior at Morgan and in Music Education and a pupil of Mrs. Carol Blanion Diggs.

Formally a student at Howard University, with Miss Camile Nickerson and Mrs. Alfreda Tappin, she won second place in the Omega Psi Phi Music Competition and the 1969-70 Baltimore Shriners award.

Frances McCullough, a native of Frankfurt, Germany, now lives in Maryland. Beginning her studies of the flute at the age of 11, she continued at the Conservatory of Music in Orleans, France and at Strasbourg, where she won numerous awards.

At present she is working for a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Maryland and studying the flute with Mr. Montgomery.

CALENDAR: Sunday, narrator. No charge.

Wednesday, Feb. 25 at Feb. 8, in Shriver Hall, Johns Hopkins University, at 8:30 p.m. "Music from Marlboro," in Series A, Baltimore Symphony conducted by Comissiona, with David Oistrakh, violinist.

Saturday, Feb. 21 at 8:30 p.m. at the Lyric Pop Concert with Arthur Fiedler conducting.

Monday, Feb. 23 at 8:15 p.m. in Murphy Auditorium, artist recital, with Robert Jordan, guest soloist.

Sunday, Feb. 15 at 8:30 p.m. in Stephens Auditorium, Towson State College, world premiere of "Magritte," by Alcides Lanza, presented by the Lyric Theatre.

Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 8:30 p.m. in the Peabody Concert Hall "An Evening with William Russo and the Peabody Jazz Workshop," in Candlelight Series.

Sunday, Feb. 8 at 4 p.m. at Arena Playhouse, Baltimore Fellowship Choir, in benefit concert of gospel music.

Saturday and Monday, Feb. 14 and 16 at the Lyric, opera "Don Pasquale" with Baltimore Civic Opera.

Three indicted by Grand Jury

Indicted by the Grand Jury this week after special presentments were:

Irving Westley Williams, 2800 block Garrison Blvd., for the murder of Amos Johnson on Nov. 17.

Ben A. Jensky, 3000 block Remarie Ct., for allowing a man to use his name to take the examination for qualification in Life Insurance given by the State Insurance Dept. of Maryland.

Gordon Jenkins, 16, 2400 block Etting St., for shoplifting at Mondawmin and taking a $24.95 blackskin vest from Sears on Dec. 27.

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MEETING OF ROYALTY — The Temptations, called in many quarters the royalty among entertainment acts, are greeted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Michael Ramsey, at Lambeth Palace. The audience took place during the Temptations' two-week stay at the Talk of the Town, London night club. With the Primate are, left to right, Paul Williams, Dennis Edwards, Melvin Franklin, Otis Williams and Eddie Kendricks.

Dianne Bellamy places first in talent show

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Diane Bellamy, a senior at Reynolds High School won the classical section of the Omega Talent Hunt at Winston-Salem State University last Sunday. She sang "The Bird And The Rose."

The Talent Hunt Contest was sponsored by Mu Epsilon (Undergraduate) and Psi Phi (Graduate) Chapters of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

The contest was divided into a popular section and a classical section. Groups and individuals competed in the popular section which was held on Saturday night in Fries Auditorium. Competition in the classical section was confined to individuals.

• • •

Miss Lois P. Hauser, a pianist, also of Reynolds High School, placed second in the classical section. She played "Hungarian Rhapsody, No. 2" by Liszt. Third place went to Sharnon Cofer of Children's Home on "Give God The Father Praise," a vocal solo.

Miss Bellamy will represent the chapters in a District Contest to be held at Myrtle Beach, S.C. in March.

Miss Carlotta Samuels of Anderson High School won first place in the popular division. Second place in the popular division went to Pamela Gore of Wiley Junior High School and Waleria Mack of Anderson won third place.

• • •

Leading the groups in the popular contest was the Orlettes. Second place went to the Soulettes and third place to the Soulerettes.

The Dance Group from Anderson High School performed twice during the popular contest. Mrs. Gwenolyn Goodwin, a former winner of the Talent Hunt and Miss Sharon Boone, a ninth grader at Wiley Junior High, were guest performers at intermission during the classical division.

Rudolph Boone was master of ceremonies for the classical division and Calvin Crisp MC'd the popular division.

Judges for the popular division were Emery Jones and John Thomas, music students at Winston-Salem State University. Dr. James A. Dillard, head of the University's music department, served as judge for the classical section.

Bertrand Russell sought peace until day of death

PENRHYN, Wales (UPI) — Bertrand Russell's last plea for peace outlived him. He wrote it two days before he died and it was released one day after.

The statement was read to parliamentarians from five continents Tuesday in Cario, imploring Israel to stop bombing Egypt and to improve its treatment of Arab refugees.

"The first step toward the settlement of the conflict in the Middle East should be the withdrawal of Israel from the territories it occuped in June, 1967," Russell's statement said.

The 97-year-old pacifist, author, mathematician and philosopher collapsed and died Sunday. Private nonreligious funeral services were held Thursday. His body will be cremated.

Tributes and condolences poured into his country home, more from the pacifists who tried to grasp the range of Russell's thought than from politicians and statesmen who disagreed with his peace philosophy.

"I am sorry to learn of the death of Lord Russell, whose distinguished contribution to 20th century thought is recognized throughout the world," wrote Queen Elizabeth.

Prime Minister Harold Wilson said Lord Russell can justly be called the British Voltaire and, like Voltaire, his conversation was even more brilliant than his writing."

The London Times said "part of Russell's greatness, and one of the qualities which endeared him to all generations, was his refusal to accept as final the idiocy which he saw all around him."

A family spokesman said Russell' "could not have been more specific" in his wishes for the funeral — no flowers, no cortege, no big crowds, no religious ceremony.

"His wish will be honored," the spokesman said, Lady Russell, the pacifist philosopher's fourth wife, will decide the area over which his ashes will be scattered.

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MELBA MOORE she's Purlie's love life

New Ossie Davis play to Broadway March 15

NEW YORK — "Purlie" went into rehearsal here Friday. "Purlie" has a book by Ossie Davis, Peter Udell and producer Philip Rose.

Davis wrote the original Broadway comedy "Purlie Victorious," on which this musical is based and Rose produced it for a 261-performance run. The music was written by Gary Geld and lyrics by Peter Udell, a duo which has written individual songs with great success in the folk-rock field. "Seal It With a Kiss," "Save Your Heart for Me," and "Ginny Come Lately" are theirs.

Melba Moore, the first black actress to play the role of "Hair," portrays the pert, funny love of Purlie's life, Lutibelle. The title role is being played by Cleavon Little, who received accolades for his performance as the scuba diver in "Scuba Duba," as well as his Broadway performances in "Jimmy" and the most recent, "The Ofay Watchers."

The choreography is by Louis Johnson.

"Purlie" will start previewing at the Broadway Theatre February 19 prior to an opening March 15.

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