MUSICAL MOMENTS:

Evolution in song given by chorale

By ADA K. JENKINS

Under the direction of the founder of the ensemble for which it is named, the Joseph Eubanks Chorale presented the cantata, "Whence We Came and Where We are," at Sharon Baptist Church last Sunday.

The occasion was the annual musical given by the Constance H. Moore Memorial Scholarship Committee, of which Dr. James L. Moore is director.

It was especially appropriate that a young student of Connie Moore's stature should be memorialized by a program featuring the cantata written by David R. Williams, a graduate of Morgan, where Miss Moore attended.

"Whence We Came and Where We Are," with music by Mack Statham, is a story of "the evolution of black Americans in song." It was premiered at the Lyric in 1963.

In five episodes, it depicts the black American from his African ancestry, through slavery and emancipation to the present with its new pride.

Mr. Statham, a native Baltimorean and graduate of Hampton, employs effectively African and black American musical idioms. Both he and the writer of the script put their fertile imaginations to impressive use and "they tell it as it is."

Musically, the melodic lines of solo roles were rewardingly written and expressively sung, with Hazel Smith, Jeane Raine and Sondra Blake responsible for the soprano assignments.

Charles Bagley, baritone, and Alan Blackwell, tenor, made much of the dramatic "Charlie Man" and the appealing spiritual type of "Thanka de Lord."

Having heard the cantata at its premiere and one subsequent performance, we feel that Mr. Eubanks has developed in his choristers a definite appreciation for the complete work.

His timing has tightened considerably, which is important in a work with much repetition. Improvement in enunciation, particularly by the chorale would make the entire opus more intelligible.

Barbara Amason and Mr. Statham at the organ and piano, ably met the requirements of the accompaniment.

The composer, who took courses in composition at the University of Connecticut this year, is interested in a performance of the cantata in the near future in costume and with ballet.

The memorial scholarship award for students in the field of physical therapy is given each year at the Morgan commencement.

The Eubanks Chorale was hosted at tea by the Concert Committee:

Mesdames Emery Boddie, Esther Brooks, Alice Ford, Patelle Harris, Frances Johnson, Elaine Page and Dr. J. L. Moore.

* * *

The Music Department of Morgan State College, Dr. Clarence A. Faulcon, chairman, presented Dr. Emerson Myers, professor of music at Catholic University, and lecturer on "Electronic Music" in the Murphy Fine Arts Building, Morgan State College, Wednesday afternoon.

Dr. Myers is a teacher, concert pianist and composer who has participated actively on the Washington musical scene.

Morgan State College concert band, conducted by Michael Mark, was heard in concert in the Murphy auditorium Thursday afternoon.

The program included excerpts from Wagner's "Meistersinger," an overture by Schumann and semi-popular Broadway favorites.

* * *

Conductor Mark is a professional woodwind player, with degrees from Catholic University, George Washington and Michigan Universities. He is in charge of the Morgan marching band, which performs for all football games and often travels with the team.

The symphonic band plays for campus events and official college functions.

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CALENDAR: Friday, Feb. 21, 8:15 p.m. in the Murphy Auditorium, Morgan State College, William Tyrone Evans, pianist in senior recital with works by Bach, Galuppi, Mozart, Schumann, Debussy, de Benedictis and Greig. He is a student with Mrs. Carol Diggs. No charge.

Monday, Feb. 24, 8 p.m. Morgan State College, Natalie Hinderas, renowned concert pianist, in concert, playing Haydn, Chopin, Berg, Ravel, Granados, Albeniz and Prokofiev. No charge.

Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 11 a.m. in Room 305, Murphy Fine Arts Building, Miss Hinderas will lecture on "The New Awareness — New Horizons — The Black Musician." Open to the public, free.

Sunday, March 2, at Goucher College at 8:30 p.m. the Baltimore Choral Arts Society, directed by Theodore Morrison, will present the first local performance of Britten's Cantata Misericoridum," the Mozart "Requiem" and Hindemith's "Trauermusik" (Music of Mourning).

Thursday, March 6, at 8:30 p.m. at Mt. St. Agnes College, Mt. Washington, Mariano Parra, Spanish choreographer and dancer, with his company in 18th century, contemporary and Flamenco numbers. Free parking on the campus; tickets at 664-4000.

Sunday, Feb. 23, at 8:30 p.m. in Shriver Hall, Johns Hopkins University, the Smetana String Quartet in the third concert of the "A' series.

Sunday, Feb. 23, at 6:30 p.m. in Philarmonic Hall, New York, a concert by the New York Concertante of the Symphony of New York and the New York Rock and Roll Ensemble, soprano Nancy Chase, and reciters Diana Sands, Hermione Ringold and James Earl Jones.

Feb. 27, Mar 1, 3 at the Lyric at 8:15 p.m. promptly, Puccini's oer "Manon Lescaut," presented by the Baltimore Civic Opera.

Saturday, March 1 at 8:30 p.m. at Shriver Hall (Homewood Campus), the Israel Chamber Orchestra conducted by Gary Berini, Kean Pierre Rampal, flutist and Robert LaCroix, harpsichordist.

Wednesday and Thursday, March 5 and 6 at 8:30 p.m. at the Lyic, the Baltimore Symhony, conducted by Sergiu Comissiona, with Philippe Entremont, pianist.

Sunday, March 9 at 3 p.m. in the Murphy Auditorium, Morgan State College, William Tyrone Evans, pianist in senior recital with works by Bach, Galuppi, Mozart, Schumann, Debussy, de Benedictis and Greig. He is a student with Mrs. Carol Diggs. No charge.

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2 tbsps. each: prepared mustard, prepared horseradish
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