The Georgia Laster Branch of The National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc.

Presents

The Thirty-Eighth Memorial Concert

In Memoriam

Ethelyn Norma Henderson
Sylvia Olden Lee
Cecil Lee Doty

Sunday, November 11, 2007
3:00 p.m.

Holman United Methodist Church
3320 W. Adams Blvd
Los Angeles, California 90018

Rev., Dr. Henry L. Masters, Pastor
GLB Memorial Concert

Organ Prelude
  *Toccata on “Amazing Grace”*  
  James Calhoun, Organ

Invocation
  Rev., Dr. Henry L. Masters, Pastor  
  Holman United Methodist Church

Greetings
  Mamie Henry, President

Hymn (See insert)
  “God of Our Fathers”  
  Danellen Joseph, Director

**Program**

Soon Ah Will Be Done  
Witness  
It Is Well With My Soul
  Methodist Men’s Chorus  
  Perry Hayes, Director

Great is Thy Faithfulness Medley
  Arr. Michelle Love

Trio: Lift Thine Eyes
  *From the Oratorio “Elijah”*  
  F. Mendelssohn

Betty A. Harbison, *Soprano I*  
Betty N. Harbison, *Soprano II*  
Doris Dyer, *Alto*  
Dr. Don Lee White, *Piano*

Impromptu C Sharp Minor, Opus 28, No. 3  
  H. Reinhold

Marvin Brown-King, *Piano*

2005 1st Place Scholarship Winner

Offering
  Nathaniel Riddick, Treasurer

My Mother’s Eyes
  Jacquelyn Levy, Entertainer, Theater & Film

*In memory of her Aunt, Nellie Lutcher, Legendary Jazz Vocalist & Composer*
The Memorial Litany (see insert) ................................................. Patti E. Anderson, Vice President

*The silhouette shown throughout our program is Soprano Georgia Laster for whom our branch was named.

In Memoriam

Ethelyn Norma Henderson

The Spoken Memorial .......................................................................................... Henry Charles Johnson

Memorial in Song

“Sovereign” James Calhoun, Baritone

Sylvia Olden Lee

The Spoken Memorial .......................................................................................... Eve Lee

Memorial in Song

“Chi il bel sogno” from the opera La Rondine G. Puccini

I Gotta Lie Down Arr. H. Johnson

Yolanda Mitchell West, Soprano

Dr. Don Lee White, Piano

Cecil Lee Doty

The Spoken Memorial .......................................................................................... Robert Ball

Memorial in Song

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” Arr. M. Williams

GLB Symphonic Chorale

Mrs. Dorothy Jackson-Hayes, Director

Announcements & Remarks .................................................................................. Mamie Henry, President

Benediction ........................................................................................................... John Mayes, Chaplain

Closing Hymn (See insert) “Let There Be Peace on Earth” J. Jackson & S. Miller

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The National Association of Negro Musicians’ Inc. is an organization that had its beginning on May 3, 1919 in Washington, D.C., at a temporary initial conference of Negro musicians. It is an organization supported by people of cultural ideals and music groups of high standard, all of whom care deeply for the fine art of music and for musical culture throughout the country. They lend their gift of music to people of all ages who come together to participate in the total experience of music.
God of our Fathers

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor thru the skies,
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Organ Interlude

Thy love divine hath led us in the past,
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thou our ruler guardian guide, and stay,
Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

Organ Interlude

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,
Lead us from night to never ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine!

Let There Be Peace On Earth

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
The Memorial Litany

Litanist: Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.

Litanist: Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men.

People: For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Litanist: Thou carriest them away as with the flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up;

People: In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down and withereth.

Litanist: The days of our years are threescore and ten; and if by reason and strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

People: So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Litanist: O satisfy us early with Thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

People: Make us glad according to the days wherein Thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil.

Litanist: Let Thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.

Unison: Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us: yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

Litanist: Let Thy work appear unto Thy servants, and Thy glory unto their children.

Unison: And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yes, the work of our hands establish Thou it.
Ethelyn Norma Henderson was born to Edna Woods Sanders and Norman Sanders August 5, 1919 in Lockhart, Texas. She was raised in Lockhart and attended elementary and high school there. After high school, she attended Tillotson College in Austin, Texas and received a Texas Teaching Certificate. Ethelyn became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in Texas in 1939, and became a member of the Delta Sigma theta sorority, South Bay Alumni chapter after moving to Southern California in the period from 1943 to 1947.

Ethelyn’s mother owned and operated a restaurant and catering service. This venture prepared Ethelyn for a career as waitress and cook and, assisted her in developing her cooking, catering and communication skills. In doing, so she was able to meet and talk with a host of celebrities such as Joe Louis, Pearl Bailey, Paul Robeson, Lena Horn, and Alex Haley.

In the Summer of 1947, Ethelyn met and fell in love with her husband of forty-eight years, Albert Henderson, Jr. They were united in marriage on July 5, 1946 in Yuma Arizona - after knowing each other only ten days. A long and happy life awaited them until his passing in January, 1995. Her church membership was established at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Austin Texas. Upon moving to Los Angeles she became a founding member of the Miracle Missionary Baptist Church. She taught Sunday School, one of her many passions, and enlightened and shared the Gospel with the youth of her church. She was well placed in this activity becoming a role model for many younger Sunday School Teachers.

Ethelyn’s desire for knowledge led her to advanced study at California State University, Los Angeles where she received a Lifetime Teaching Credential. This endeavor was followed by earning a Masters Degree in Multicultural Education from Redlands University in 1979. Employed by the Los Angeles Unified School District, she worked at 96th Street School as a Language Arts Specialist and later, added Music to the list of teaching disciplines.

After serving as Organist at Miracle Missionary Baptist Church for many years, Ethelyn collaborated with a dear friend, Gwendolyn Lightner, becoming the Organist at Bethany Baptist Church. Ethelyn continued to develop musically in this new capacity collaborating with both Gwendolyn Lightner and Fannie Benjamin. She played for a number of renowned artist such as Mahalia Jackson. She returned to her home church, Miracle Missionary Baptist church, in 1976, where she continued her membership until her transition.

Music was always a major love in Ethelyn’s Life. She used music to connect to all areas of her public and private life. Ethelyn shared her talents with many organizations, giving a major portion of her time to the following organizations: Willowbrook Jarvis Center and “His sheltering Arms” Center for Battered Women and Children, the South Bay Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, the Southeast Symphony and the National Association of Negro Musicians - Georgia Laster Branch.

Her generosity to everyone, young and old was apparent, even to animals, especially dogs. She offered her charity with both hands open, be it food, music, her time poetry, scripture or positive advice. Sharing her accomplishment is both a blessing and memory for us all.
Sylvia Olden Lee was born into a musical family. Her mother, Sylvia Ward Olden was a voice and piano graduate of Fisk University. Her father James Clarence Olden was a minister. Her grandfather George Olden, born a slave, was a member of the Fisk Quartet and studied classical singing. The Quartet included notables Roland Hayes, Charles Wesley, and Lemuel Foster.

Sylvia began a ten-year study of piano at age five with her mother. At age eight, she accompanied her father in German Lieder and played French and Italian arias for her mother. Her first recital was given at age ten and her first public recital at age eleven. In 1933 at Howard University, she studied piano and organ under the tutelage of William Duncan Allen. It was by recommendation of William Duncan Shaw that she was recruited by Dean Frank Shaw as a scholarship student to Oberlin Conservatory. In 1935 in her senior year, she was inducted into the Pi Kappa Lambda Honorary Fraternity.

After graduation Sylvia accepted a position teaching organ and piano at Talladega College, Talladega, Alabama. In 1942 she was invited to teach at Dillard University in New Orleans. It was during this period that she toured with Paul Robeson throughout the South. In this same year, she was invited to play at the White House for Eleanor Roosevelt. At this event, she accompanied Contralto Carol Brice, the first African-American winner of the Naumburg Music competition.

In her professional activity, she met and married violinist/conductor Everett Lee. She continued her career accompanying and preparing vocalists for the New York and Metropolitan Operas. Sylvia assisted her husband in preparing opera performances for his Cosmopolitan Little Symphony (the first interracial symphony), and for the Columbia University Opera Workshop.

On the horizon awaited a Fulbright Scholarship awarded to Sylvia in 1952 at the Santa Cecilia Academy in Rome, Italy. Some years later in 1956, they (Sylvia and Everett) received a grant from the German government to study music at the Munich Conservatory of Music. Sylvia was requested by the U.S. Information Agency (later known as USIS) in 1957 to prepare an African-American program for a recital tour of Negro Spirituals throughout Germany. This became a program of the Negro’s Contribution to Music in America.

The year 1963 brought additional fortune when she and her husband moved to Sweden. Together, she as soloist and he as conductor, performed with the Norrköping Symphony throughout Scandinavia and Germany. In addition, she produced and staged productions of both full and concert versions of various operas (i.e., Porgy and Bess, La Traviata, and La Serva Padrona).

In 1970 she was invited to Curtis Institute of Music, by Maestro Max Rudolf, to be professor in the Opera and Voice Department and the first African-American member of that faculty during these years. She received numerous invitations to colleges and universities to give Master Classes for opera, Lieder and Spirituals; a few are the University of Minnesota, University of Michigan, Bethune-Cookman College, Lincoln University, Spellman College.

In 1979 James Levine of the Metropolitan Opera invited Sylvia to coach the singers for the premiere of Porgy and Bess. The following year 1980 she was inducted into the Women’s Hall of Fame.
Cecil Lee Doty

It was a special day, September 10th when a king was born to the union of Vera and Darius Doty. The proud parents were blessed with a son named Cecil Lee. Religious principles, integrity, and goodwill were primary components of his home training. These traits, like the ever-present shadow, always followed Cecil.

Cecil’s elementary and high school education was completed in the public schools of McKinney, Texas. He attended Texas College receiving his Bachelor of Arts Degree. He sang in the college choir and Men’s Glee Club, in addition to studying voice with Dr. L. B. Ross and Doris Novel. While in the Air Force, he continued his voice training.

After completing his military duty, he made his home in Los Angeles, California, where he met and married his wife, June of forty-nine years. Upon joining People’s Independent Church, he met the renowned musicians, Fannie Benjamin, organist, and Albert Mc Neil, Music Director. These events announced a new beginning for his musical involvement. During this period, he studied voice with several teachers. Of note was Dr. Arthur Wolf at the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music.

Cecil’s musical background was so profound that he understood, enjoyed, and performed all genres of music with the highest degree of proficiency. While singing with Dr. McNeil’s church choir, the choir performed Brahms' "Requiem". The solos were rendered by Soprano Georgia Laster, and Baritone Cecil Doty. Cecil also had the honor of serving as baritone soloist under Leola White at Wesley United Methodist Church where the choir performed several oratorios, including "Elijah." When Nick and Edna Stewart opened the Ebony Showcase theater on Crenshaw Boulevard, Cecil Doty starred in the musical "Lost in the Stars," singing the role of Stephan Kumalo. One musical critic wrote, "Doty’s seasoned operatic bass shakes your heart as well as the rafters." Another critic states, "Cecil Doty wracks emotions with high voltage and brings about moving compassion in both singing and acting."

He appeared at the Greek Theater in the musicals Carmen Jones and Showboat and the movie Porgy and Bess. Cecil sang the role of the black Mikado in an adaptation of Gilbert and Sullivan’s Mikado and Jester Hairston played the role of Coco. Cecil Doty enjoyed membership in the Chambray Chorale, the El Camino College Community Choir, and choirs directed by Dr. Don Lee White, Gwen Wyatt, David Bowick, A.C. Bilbrew, and Dorothy J. Hayes.

Cecil was a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, initiated in the Theta Chapter, Wiley College in 1942 and was a member of the Texas Alumni Association Los Angeles Chapter. He was one of the founding members of the Georgia Laster Branch Symphonic Chorale in which he sang numerous solos. The Georgia Laster Branch is proud to have had a king like Cecil Doty as one of its dedicated and performing members. His legacy made an indelible mark in our memories that will last eternally.
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