



The National Association
of
Negro Musicians, Inc.

Georgia Laster Branch

Presents

**15th Annual
SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH
Talent Showcase**

**Sunday, December 30, 2012
3:00pm**

**Crenshaw United Methodist Church
3740 Don Felipe Drive
Los Angeles, 90008
Rev. Dr. Derrick Lewis Noble, Pastor**

**Dr. David Morrow, National President
Arvis Jones, Western Region Director
Mamie Henry, Branch President
Dorothy Jackson-Hayes, Scholarship Chairperson**

Georgia Laster Branch of NANM, Inc. gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution made by the BEEM Foundation and The Bette Cox Scholarship Fund to support The Spotlight on Youth Concert.

Georgia Laster Branch of NANM, Inc. also gratefully acknowledges the Crenshaw United Methodist Church Members, Pastor Smith, his successors, and the present Pastor, Dr. Derrick Lewis Noble, for making the church available for the Spotlight on Youth Concert.

Program

Invocation	Rev. Dr. Derrick Lewis Noble, Pastor
“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”	Yolanda West
Welcome	Betty A. Harbison
Purpose	Gloria Lindsay
Introduction of Chair and Co-Chair	Mamie Henry
	Dorothy M. Jackson-Hayes
	Gloria Lindsay
Presentation of Scholarship Participants	Frederick Johnson
	Robert Ball
	Gloria Lindsay

Princeton Parker, Jazz Pianist

“Body and Soul” Johnny Green

Vivian Aljean Ridgway, Musical Theater Vocalist

Accompanist: Mary Au

“Home” from *The Wiz* Charles Smalls

Sarah Johnson, Jazz Flautist

Accompanist: Jonathan Richards

“What is This Thing Called Love?” Cole Porter

Sarah Johnson, Alexandra Isley, Jonathan Richards

(Trio)

“Straight, No Chaser” Thelonious Monk

Ashley Faatoalia, Tenor

Accompanist: Douglas Sumi

“Una Furtiva Lagrima” Gaetano Donizetti

Victor Ekpo, Classical Violinist

Accompanist: Vernon Humphries

“Meditation” from *Thais* Jules Massenet

Mahesh Balasooriya, Jazz and Classical Pianist

An Original Work

Mahesh Balasooriya

Offertory

Nathaniel Riddick

Selections by Princeton Parker

Acknowledgment of The BEEM Foundation

Dera Tatum

Mrs. Bette Cox, Founder

Mr. Donald K. Wilson, Esq., President

Jordan Daniels, Classical Pianist

“Hungarian Rhapsody, No. 2”

Franz Liszt

Alexandra Isley, Jazz Vocalist

Accompanist: Jonathan Richards

“I Thought About You”

Jimmy Van Heusen

Jennifer Lindsay, Classical Lyric Soprano

Accompanist: Mary Au

“Jewel Song” from *Faust*

Charles Gounod

Jonathan Richards, Jazz Bassist

Accompanist: Alexandra Isley

“Just Friends”

John Klenner

Annelle K. Gregory, Classical Violinist

Accompanist: Valeria Morgovskaya

“Violin Concert, Movement 3”

Peter I. Tchaikovsky

Acknowledgements

Dorothy M. Jackson-Hayes & Gloria Lindsay

Remarks

Mamie Henry, GLB Branch President

Presentation of Stipends (Photos)

Henrietta Fortson & Joel Graham

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Derrick Lewis Noble, Pastor

Please join us for a ‘Meet & Greet’ of our Artists, and refreshments in Jesse James Hall

Mahesh Balasooriya, Jazz and Classical Pianist, and Composer, has a Bachelor's Degree in Music from USC's Thornton School of Music. In addition to winning First Place (past awards) in both Georgia Laster and BEEM competitions, he has won numerous music awards. He has been selected as one of two pianists worldwide entering the Henry Mancini Institute Program, and has worked with Jazz greats Christian McBride, Roy Hargrove, John Clayton, Hubert Laws, Eddie Daniels and Patti Austin. He has opened acts for Quincy Jones, Ray Charles, Phil Ramone, performed for President Bill and Mrs. Hilary Clinton, and performed at The Hollywood Bowl. He has produced major projects at Paramount Studios, Universal Music Productions, Sony Studios; played a show with Wayne Shorter at LACMA, as well as with other great artists in and around LA, while expanding his classical, jazz, and world music improvisational sounds. Lately, Mahesh has been on tour with six-time Grammy Winner, Arturo Sandoval.

Jordan Daniels, Classical and Jazz Pianist, is a sophomore at UCLA, majoring in Piano Performance and Pre-Medicine. Jordan studies under Professor Antoinette Perry and does collaborative work with Professor Kanae Matsumoto. His past accolades include the following: a 2011 First Place NANM Georgia Laster Winner, a Winner in the Inland Empire Piano Festival, the Rotary Club of San Bernardino Piano Competition, a Jester Harrison Scholarship First Place Winner, a Finalist in the Redlands Bowl Young Artists Audition, and a Finalist in the NAACP Classical Piano Competition representing the San Bernardino Division. He was awarded Student of the Year by the NAACP San Bernardino Branch and the city of San Bernardino for his dedicated work and community service as a pianist. Jordan is also working on becoming a composer for new age piano music.

Victor Ekpo, Classical Violinist, is a senior at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. He has performed with such outstanding musicians as Yo Yo Ma, The Black Eyed Peas, and various musicians from the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He also performed at the NANM Western Region Conference, performed for the unveiling of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s statue in Washington DC, and performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic in their opening number at the Hollywood Bowl. Victor played a violin accompaniment with Mr. Darryl Taylor, Counter Tenor, at the Georgia Laster Fundraising Concert October 19, 2012. In addition, he is the Georgia Laster Third Place Winner in the May 2012 High School Music Scholarship Competition. Victor plans to major in music in college and become a teacher for beginning violinists. He hopes to either attend The Julliard School of Music, or the USC Thornton School of Music upon his high school graduation in 2013.

Ashley Faatoafia, Tenor, is a versatile and inspirational singer. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Voice from Chapman University, and has been writing music and performing throughout Southern California. Ashley's most recent engagements include his debut as "Jesse" in Crescent City with the Industry, his concerts with the California Philharmonic at the Historic Hollywood Bowl, the Festival Play of **Daniel** with the Los Angeles Opera, his debut performance with the San Francisco Opera as "The Crab Man" in **Porgy and Bess**, his debut performance with the San Francisco Lyric Opera as "Don Ottavio" in **Don Giovanni**, and his performance with the Opera Festival di Roma as "Tamino" in **Die Zauberflote ("The Magic Flute")**. Ashley strives to take his listeners on a journey through the power of song.

Annelle K. Gregory, Classical Violinist, performed at Carnegie Hall with Sphinx Virtuosi in 2010. She has won First Place in many competitions including the 2012 Georgia Laster NANM's High School Scholarship Competition, the 2012 NAACP ACT-SO String Competition, the 2012 Jester Hairston competition, the 2012 Bellflower Symphony Concerto, the 2012 LA Music Teachers Assoc. of California Orchestral Instrumentalists competition, the 2012 San Diego Music Teachers Association of California Competition, the 2011 Torrance Symphony Concerto, the 2011 National Sphinx Competition. On Nov. 11, 2012, she was the Grand Prize Winner of the Concerto Competition in the 41st Long Beach Mozart Festival, 2012-2013. Annelle soloed with the California Institute of Music International Festival Orchestra at Welkersheim Castle in Germany in the summer of 2012. She was a guest violinist at the AT&T 150th Anniversary Emancipation Proclamation Concert, and she was a guest soloist at the Georgia Laster Fundraiser Concert, October 19, 2012 accompanied by the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles. Annelle plans to become a concert violinist.

Alexandra Isley, Jazz Vocalist, is a graduate of UCLA with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Jazz Studies. She has received numerous awards for jazz performances, including “Best Jazz Vocalist,” in *Downbeat Magazine’s* 2005 Student Awards. She is also a winner of both NANM and BEEM music competitions. Alexandra integrates Rhythm & Blues and Jazz together as a recording artist. She will continue to make career advancements and hopes to sign with a major record label as an R & B Singer and Songwriter in the near future. In February 2012, she performed with Sarah Johnson, Jonathan Richards and Princeton Parker in the NANM Negro Spiritual Concert, “When The Saints Go Marching In.”

Sarah Johnson, Jazz Flautist, graduated from the Berklee College of Music in 2012 with a BA in Music Business and Management. In 2012, Sarah graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a Masters’ Degree in Flute Performance and an emphasis in Doubling Woodwinds. For the past eight months, Sarah Johnson has been touring across the United States and British Columbia, Canada with The Siberian Surf Rokenrol Band Igor & Red Elvies. In this band, Sarah played key board flute, tenor saxophone, background vocal, and lead vocals. She will be touring in Russia in March 2013 with the Red Elvies Band. Sarah also performed with Alexandra Isley, Jonathan Richards and Princeton Parker the closing selection in the Negro Spiritual Concert, February 2012, “When The Saints Go Marching In.” She will also be playing a solo showcase aboard The Crystal Cruises in June, 2013.

Jennifer Lindsay, Lyric Soprano, Violinist, Composer, Software Engineer, Essence Award Recipient, holds a BS Degree in Mathematics from Harvey Mudd College, an MS Degree from Columbia University in Operations Research, and an MS Degree in Computer Science from Johns Hopkins University. She is a National Merit Scholar, a member of MENSA, and her life story has been featured on ABC, CBS, Hour of Power, Trumpet Awards, Fox Entertainment, NBC, and on local CBS 2 and KCAL 9. She is a past First Place Georgia Laster and BEEM Winner, A National NANM First Place Winner in Violin, and a National NANM Third Place Winner twice in Classical Voice. She has performed in Carnegie Hall and The Wilshire Ebell Theater. Jennifer presented her first CD, *Songs in the Dark* to the public as a performer, composer, lyricist and music arranger. She is Concertmaster of the Bellflower Symphony. This summer, she composed three musical selections for the world premier Chinese Musical **I Ching**, and arranged the remaining thirteen musical selections in the show, which was performed in San Gabriel and Santa Monica in September, with Jennifer as the only non-Chinese composer. On November 15, 2012, she performed a full vocal concert in Los Angeles. She continues to compose music and sing in the local areas.

Princeton Parker, Jazz Pianist, Licensed Minister, and Writer, plays the piano, drums, and the B3 Hammond Organ. He is a sophomore at USC, with a major in Communications. He is the Assistant Director, Musician and Chaplain of the USC Saved by Grace Gospel Choir. In addition to music, Princeton is a public speaker, and he also writes a weekly blog for the Huffington Post, Black Students’ Edition. One of the many awards he won in high school included receiving the Most Outstanding Vocal Soloist Award at the Monterey and Reno Jazz Festivals. Princeton was a member of The Hamilton Jazz Combo A Group, which won First Place at the Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival in April 2011, and the group played at the Monterey Jazz Festival in September 2011. In February 2012, Princeton played his drums for the Georgia Laster Negro Spiritual Concert, and ended the program performing with Sarah Johnson, Jonathan Richards, and Alexandra Isley, the musical selection, “When The Saints Go Marching In!”

Jonathan Richards, Jazz and Classical Bassist, received his Bachelor of Music Degree from the USC Thornton School of Music. At USC, he studied classical and jazz bass with John Clayton and Nico Abondolo. In the past, he has won honors from the Georgia Laster NANM Competition, the BEEM Foundation, and the NAACP-ACT-SO Local Competitions. Jonathan performs regularly at the Catalina Bar and Grill, The Jazz Bakery, The Blue Whale, and The House of Blues. He has made appearances at The Monterey Jazz Festival, The Dorothy Chandler Music Center, and Walt Disney Concert Hall. He has shared the stage with Jazz Artists Eric Reed, Terell Stafford, Barbara Morrison, Alan Harris, and others. Jonathan has also been on the ABC Pilot Lime Light, The Gilmore Girls, and NBC's Chuck Television programs.

Vivian Aljean Ridgway, Vocalist, is a senior at Orange County School of Arts. Her versatile vocal style range includes Jazz, R & B, Musical Theater, Pop, and Opera. At her school she performed the leading role of "Mama Euralie" in the hit musical, **Once on This Island**, which won her the Best Female Vocalist from The Macy Awards. In the spring of 2012, she was in the cast ensemble in the Orange County High School of Arts production of **Les Miserables**. She also soloed in the school's production **With Their Eyes** and was cast in the mass production **Gala**, with Broadway Star, Krista Rodriguez, from the musical, **Adams Family**, and with Television Star, Matthew Morris, from the hit TV Show, **Glee**. In November, she played Glenda, the Good Witch, in the school's production of **The Wiz**.



NANM invites the professional artist, the educator, the student, the amateur, the lover of music – YOU – to become a part of this organization's "PRIDE IN A CULTURAL HERITAGE." Your membership in this organization will help to ensure that talented musicians, especially those of African descent, will always be included in the mainstream of the arts.

About Our Organization

Founded in Chicago in 1919, the National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc. is the country's oldest organization dedicated to the preservation, encouragement and advocacy of all genres of the music of African Americans. In *A Documentary History of the National Association of Negro Musicians* (2004, Center for Black Music Research), Dr. Doris Evans McGinty (1924-2005) cites in "The Significance of NANM" (p. 54) how the benefits of membership in the organization have remained constant during its almost nine-decade existence:

The founding of NANM in 1919 came as an island of opportunity for the African-American musician. For an annual membership fee of \$5, music teachers and musical performers had the chance to meet and compare notes with their counterparts from other parts of the country; to hear concerts from familiar and unfamiliar musical literature; to become acquainted with the new teaching techniques that were discussed in the workshops; to benefit from exposure to high standards of musicianship; to discuss mutual problems and strategize solutions; and to enhance the status of the private music studios by allowing prize students to compete for scholarships. Here, too, was an opportunity for young musicians to benefit not only from scholarships but also from the attention of professional musicians and to enjoy the fellowship of other young aspiring musicians. Here was the chance for the church or community choir singer to blend his or her voice with the NANM convention choir, perhaps in the singing of a choral masterwork, directed by a renowned conductor. For the aspiring artist, here was the opportunity to be heard by peers and to see, even meet, recognized performers. And here, within the NANM meetings, was a platform for the seasoned artist to perform. In short, by providing a critical mass of African-American musicians at its annual conventions and sustaining a network of communication throughout the year, NANM offered opportunities for growth as well as for fraternization with fellow musicians.

NANM, Inc., since its inception, has provided encouragement and support to thousands of African American musicians, many of whom have become widely respected figures in music and have contributed significantly to American culture and music history. The organization has awarded scholarships to scores of talented young musicians throughout the country. A list of them would include such luminaries as Marian Anderson (first scholarship award recipient in 1919), William L. Dawson, Florence B. Price, Margaret Bonds, Warren George Wilson, James Frazier, Julia Perry, Grace Bumbry, Leon Bates, Joseph Joubert, Awadagin Pratt, and many, many others.

Over the years, many international personalities have been presented in performances, including: Lena Horne, Todd Duncan, John W. Work, R. Nathaniel Dett, Marian Anderson, Edward Boatner, Camille Nickerson, Clarence Cameron White, Margaret Bonds, Florence B. Price, Etta Moten, Betty Allen, Natalie Hinderas, Adele Addison, Kermit Moore, Simon Estes, George Shirley, Robert McFerrin, Shirley Verrett, Jessye Norman, Sanford Allen, Derek Lee Ragin, the Uptown String Quartet, Esther Hinds, Ruby Hinds, Wilhelmina Fernandez, the Hinds Sisters, William Warfield, Benjamin Matthews, the Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers, Harolyn Blackwell, Billy Taylor, Delphin and Romain, Gregory Hopkins, and Martina Arroyo.

Noted clinicians have included Carl Diton, Warner Lawson, Frederick Hall, Kemper Harreld, Wendell Whalum, Eileen Southern, Doris McGinty, Alain Locke, Grace Bumbry, Sylvia Olden Lee, James Cleveland, Raoul Abdul, Geneva Handy Southall, Sowah Mensah, Robert Ray, Willis Patterson, Roland Carter, Brazeal Dennard, Robert Harris, Shirley Verrett, and many other musicians, educators, scholars, and lovers of music who constitute the musical fabric of the organization. These include NANM's Junior and Youth divisions, and Collegiate Branches, comprised of young artists and scholars from all over the country. These young people participate in workshops and are presented in performances throughout each annual meeting week.

Spotlight on Youth Committee



Dorothy M. Jackson-Hayes, Chairperson
Gloria Lindsay, Co-chairperson

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Henrietta Fortson	Edward Lindsay*
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