

The Summer Lyceum Series

SAINT AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE

Presents

AMERICA'S FIRST FOLK MUSIC  
THE NEGRO SPIRITUAL

(A musical drama depicting the spontaneous  
development of the Spiritual)

by

The Ligon High Jubilee Singers  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Emery Fine Arts Center

July 15, 1968

8:30 P. M.

It is with delight that we present to "Singing America" these arrangements of the traditional Negro Spiritual. These are a collection of slave melodies that had their origin in the life of an oppressed, yet hopeful, people.

To the Negro, song was the sole means of expressing his emotions and feelings in a particular circumstance. From his song one may form the truest judgment of his character and disposition.

The old chants, known as Spirituals, were pure soul, their sadness untouched by vindictiveness. After the release from slavery, bitterness crept into his songs. Later, as times changed, self-assertion, lofty aspiration and only a scattered cry for vengeance appear in the Negro music. As the black man grew in culture, there came expressions of deep consolation of resignation.

Naturally, sadness is the note most often struck; but the frequently expressed joy, carefree, overflowing joy, reveals what an enviable creature the black man is in his happy moods.

Even in the most despairing of his "sorrow songs", there floats out a triumphant note expressive of the black man's faith and hope in a better day.

Because of their great number, their flowing melodies, compelling rhythms, and deeply religious content, the Negro Spirituals continue to be one of the finest bodies of folk songs in the world.

Program

I

Narrator: Rape of the Continent and Early Struggles to Survive  
African Influence in Early Chants . . . . . "Kumbaya"

Leader: Fred Carrington

Slaves On the Market . . . . . "Is Massa Gonna Sell Me?"  
Dramatic Interpretation: Carolyn Gill & Barry Saunders

Spontaneous Outbursts . . . . . "Sorrow Songs"  
Mary Holloway, Andrew Cowan, Loraine Bailey, Jacquelyn Jones

Rally for Freedom . . . . . "Signal Songs"  
Lamont Upperman, Lovelace Burwell, Jimmy Yarborough

Expressions of Faith and Determination . . "Freedom Songs"  
Dianne Adams, Weldon Egerton, Penelope Lockley, Carolyn Gill

Revival Campaigns in the South . . . . The "Shouts"  
Isaac McLearn, Richard McInnis, Barry Saunders

\* \* \* Brief Intermission \* \* \*

## II

Narrator: Building A New Nation

Plantation Song . . . . . "Cotton Needs Pickin' "

Railroad Song . . . . . "I've Been Workin' On de Railroad"

Mining Song . . . . . "Dis Ole Hammer"

Riverboat Song . . . . . "Michael, Row de Boat Ashore"

\* \* \* Audience Participation \* \* \*

## III

Narrator: Black Faces Appear on the Stage

The Minstrel Show Act . . . . . "Hambone"

Barry Saunders

Broadway Productions

"Old Man River" from "Show Boat"

Andrew Cowan, Bass

"Summertime" from "Porgy and Bess"

Shirley Lane, Soprano

\* \* \* Intermission \* \* \*

# IV

Narrator: The "Slave Songs" Develop Into Concert Pererertoire

In 1871, the spiritual was made famous by the Fisk Jubilee Singers who toured throughout Europe and the United States singing this form of music in an effort to raise money for their college.

The character of the spiritual has somewhat changed as the new Negro has achieved in the social, educational, and industrial world of the white man; however, the strife has left unspoiled the native gift of song.

- Rockin' Jerusalem . . . . . arr. John Work
  - Set Down Servant . . . . . arr. Fred Waring
  - My Lord, What A Mornin' . . . . . arr. H. T. Burleigh
  - Ride the Chariot . . . . . arr. William Smith
  - Daniel, Servant of the Lord. . . . . arr. Undine S. Moore
  - Gonna Journey Away . . . . . arr. Noah Ryder
  - I Hear A Voice A-Prayin' . . . . . arr. Houston Bright
  - Done Made My Vow to the Lord . . . . . arr. John Work
  - Elijah Rock . . . . . arr. Jester Hairston
  - Hold On! . . . . . arr. Jester Hairston
- The J. W. Ligon Jubilee Singers

Narrator: The "Slave Songs" Developed Into Concert Performances

## Twentieth Century Development . . . . . The Gospel

"Peace Be Still" (As recorded by James Cleveland and the Angelic Gospel Singers)

Leader: Isaac McLean

Pianist: Jimmy Yarborough

The Ligon Jubilee Singers and directress are grateful to the Saint Augustine's Lyceum Committee for the opportunity to present this pageant. During the Fall the group will be available for use in civic and religious functions. Please contact us ! !

Gonna Journey Away . . . . . arr. Noah Ryder  
I Hear A Voice A-Preyin' . . . . . arr. Houston Bright  
Done Made My Vow to the Lord . . . . . arr. John Work  
Eliza Rock . . . . . arr. Jester Hairston  
Hold On! . . . . . arr. Jester Hairston  
The L. W. Ligon Jubilee Singers

Soloists

Soprano

Bailey, Loraine  
Bryant, Jean  
Holloway, Mary  
Holt, Linda  
Jones, Jacquelyn  
Lane, Shirley

Alto

Adams, Dianne  
Flagg, Gail  
Gill, Carolyn  
Lockley, Penelope

Baritone

Carrington, Fred  
Lassiter, Bernard  
Upperman, Lamont

Tenor

Egerton, Weldon  
McInnis, Richard  
McLearn, Isaac  
Yarborough, Jimmy

Bass

Burwell, Lovelace  
Cowan, Andrew  
Saunders, Barry

Accompanists

Logan, Vivian  
Keith, Gwendolyn

Student Conductors

Flagg, Gail  
Hargrove, James  
Lassiter, Bernard  
Yarborough, Jimmy

Director

Mrs. Ann Hunt Jones