Seeds Planted for National Music Conservatory Movement

The seeds for a “National Conservatory of Music Movement” in honor of Marian Anderson were planted in Washington, D.C. by the Schiller Institute, with a concert on May 27, followed by an all-day conference on Saturday at Howard University’s Rankin Memorial Chapel.

The two-hour concert featured four of the nation’s leading African-American artists performing a unique combination of African-American Spirituals, German lieder, oratorio, and opera arias at the “Verdi” or “scientific” pitch of middle-C = 256 Hz. The conference was keynoted by Lyndon LaRouche, and included several hours of master-class vocal coaching by the artists, as well as discussion of the principles of bel canto singing and the effects of the lower, “Verdi” pitch on musical performance.

The first National Conservatory of Music, which is the inspiration for this movement, was conceived and initiated one-hundred years ago by Jeanette Thurber, working with the great Czech composer Antonin Dvˇ orak, who sought to create in the United States a school of Classical music composition, combining bel canto singing with American themes, to recreate here the scientific counterpoint of Beethoven and Brahms.

As the program for the weekend’s events indicates, the new National Conservatory of Music is proposed—not as a building—but as an idea, whose purpose is to “rid the arts of the rule of the cultural (and countercultural) Philistines” through a movement composed of mass choruses, educated through seminars, concerts, and symposia, “intended in these troubled times to bring back into focus the need to reestablish the arts as the center of our lives.”

Performing works by Handel, Schubert, and Verdi, as well as numerous Spirituals, were baritone Robert McFerrin, who in 1955 was the first Black male artist to perform at the Metropolitan Opera; baritone William Warfield, past president of the National Association of Negro Musicians (1985-90); tenor George Shirley, the first Black tenor at...
the Met, now professor of voice at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and an internationally celebrated performer; and Sylvia Olden Lee, pianist and vocal coach, the first Black professional musician at the Met.

**Music Is Scientific**

“Music is a serious business, a scientific business, not recreation,” Lyndon LaRouche said in his keynote address. LaRouche started by discussing how his interest in music had been a byproduct of his work beginning in 1947 to refute Norbert Wiener and the exponents of information theory. Wiener et al. wanted to reduce the content of ideas to statistical procedure, to dehumanize people.

Refuting Wiener, LaRouche continued, required proving that he was wrong in a field other than economic science. So, said LaRouche, he chose music. He began a broad-based study of composers, beginning in the 1780’s through to Brahms, including the best composers as well as competent bad ones, like Reichert and Hugo Wolf.

Music and scientific principles are identical, he concluded. “Music and science complete you. Music is intelligible, communicable. If the student is taught to sing beautifully, then the music is communicated.”

---

**Schiller Institute Ad Says: “Stop the U.N.’s Killer Conference”**

A full-page ad appeared in the Washington Post on June 29 under the title “Stop the U.N.’s Killer Conference.” The ad, whose text appeared in the last issue of Fidelio, demands that the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (I.C.P.D.), which is to take place in September in Cairo, Egypt, be stopped, “because it is part and parcel of a larger game-plan to make the United Nations the centerpiece of a new world empire.”

The goal of the I.C.P.D., states the ad, “is to set the stage for an intensified campaign to drastically reduce population levels, especially in the developing sector. The Cairo conference is also designed to further consolidate the United Nations’ emergence as a global government, a new Roman imperium that will rule with savage brutality over the shards of former nation-states, and reduce their living standards to the level of animals.”

The ad carries the endorsement of hundreds of leaders worldwide, including dozens of top leaders of Christian and Muslim religious bodies from around the world. From the Roman Catholic Church, whose Cardinals have separately denounced parts of the I.C.P.D. draft document, twenty-one Archbishops and Bishops have endorsed the Schiller Institute’s statement; dozens of Muslim leaders have endorsed, including Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad, National Spokesman for Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam, and Imams of several American mosques; and dozens of leaders in the Protestant churches have endorsed, including the acting president of the Lutheran Confession Evangelical Church of Brazil.

From the political realm, endorsers of the ad include the former President of Argentina; the former Deputy Prime Minister of post-communist Czechoslovakia; eight members of the Armenian Parliament; three Venezuelan Congressmen; and dozens of state and local officials from the United States and around the world.