

Frederick Douglass, Marian Anderson Honored National Conservatory Movement Meets

The National Conservatory of Music movement held its second annual conference in Washington, D.C. on Memorial Day weekend. This year's program, held at the Lincoln Congregational Temple and the Francis Cardozo High School, celebrated the contributions to universal culture of the African-Americans Marian Anderson and Frederick Douglass.

Featured events of the weekend were the performance of the play *Through The Years*, written by Schiller Institute vice-chairman Amelia Boynton Robinson, and a Classical concert, including African-American Spirituals, in which artists including William Warfield and Sylvia Olden Lee participated. The performance of Mrs. Robinson's play featured readings from the autobiography of Frederick Douglass, interspersed with scenes from the play.

Douglass, the 100th anniversary of whose death occurs this year, embodied the struggle for literacy which marked the African-American experience in the aftermath of the Civil War. Lincoln Congregational Temple, the site of the concert, had in the late 1860's and 1870's housed what began as guarded barracks for the education of African-Americans. Douglass' grandson, the concert violinist Joseph Douglass, once performed there.

Classical Concert

Mezzo-soprano Elvira Green and baritone William Warfield demonstrated the principle of "isochronicity" in the different forms of musical expression of the African-American Spiritual and European polyphonic music. Their juxtaposition, without break, of Perotin's *Conductus*, written in France in the 13th century, and the Spiritual "A City Called Heaven," illustrated the identity of musical thought-process of composers who were otherwise separated by continents and centuries.

The dramatic high point of the first half was the "Aida-Amneris" duet, sung by Green and soprano Elizabeth Lyra-



Left to right: soloists William Warfield, Elizabeth Lyra-Ross, Monica Spencer, Elvira Green, Reggie Bouknight, and Aaron Gooding.

William Warfield and Elvira Green demonstrate musical "isochronicity," juxtaposing 13th-century Conductus and African-American Spiritual.



Ross. Monica Spencer opened the concert with Schubert's "Ave Maria," Marian Anderson's signature-piece, accompanied by Raymond Jackson.

The highlight of the second half was the "Life of Christ" song cycle of Spirituals arranged by the legendary tenor Roland Hayes, sung by tenor Reggie Bouknight, Green, Warfield, and bass Aaron Gooding, and accompanied by Sylvia Lee. Preceding the cycle, Warfield delighted the audience by reading three poems by Paul Laurence Dunbar (1870-1906): "Deacon Jones's Grievance," "Prometheus," and "When Malindy Sings." This helped launch a subsidiary

project of the Conservatory, resurrecting the lost art of poetic recitation.

Through the Years

The Rev. James Cokely and Aaron Gooding also assisted this process by their dramatic readings from the life of Douglass during performance of the play. Author Amelia Robinson addressed the audience at Cardozo High School, which is named for the South Carolina legislator and educator who fought for Classically based curricula in Washington, D.C.: "It is imperative that everyone here take responsibility for the children, and for our

young men. It is imperative that we understand that you must not let other people make up your mind for you as to with whom you should associate, or what you should think. People tried to tell me what to think about Martin Luther King, that he was a communist. I didn't listen, and the result was the battle of Selma and the March on Montgomery," which resulted in the August 1965 passage of the Voting Rights Act.

Two choruses aided the weekend's activities. The Schiller Institute Community Choir, comprised of D.C.-area residents, supplied the choral renditions of Spirituals for *Through The Years*, and the Institute's Children's Choir performed two selections at the May 26 concert, "Jubilate Deo" and Schubert's "Der Lindenbaum."

Unyielding Concentration

Lyndon LaRouche, the author of the Institute's initiative to restore the tuning of musical instruments at an A no higher than 432 cycles/second (the "Verdi A"), addressed the musicians and cast. He cited the rigorous *bel canto* voice-training of the St. Thomas Church Boys Choir in Leipzig, which he had recently observed, to discuss proper standards for training young voices.

When asked how such a standard could be replicated in the U.S., LaRouche said that first, one must understand and appreciate what the teachers and singers of St. Thomas (Johann Sebastian Bach's church) are doing, and have been doing for 800 years. "The important thing to understand is that music is performed in the head first," he said, and then by the body and the body's extensions, the instruments. It is the ability to develop an absolute, unyielding concentration on the perfection of every technical aspect that yields complete transparency of the voices. This can be achieved with children as young as seven, and would give each child the basis for the intellectual discipline required to master any area of scientific or artistic inquiry posed to him or her in later life.

An interview with Dr. Warfield appears on page 67 of this issue.

Washington, D.C. Conference

'Time to Reimpose The American System'

The ongoing collapse of the global financial system is unstoppable, Lyndon LaRouche told an audience in Washington, D.C. on May 17, in his keynote address to a Schiller Institute conference on global economic development. The conference was attended by elected officials, diplomats, and Schiller Institute supporters from across the U.S. and around the world.

The collapse will continue, said LaRouche, until the patient collapses—or until remedies are introduced equivalent to a Chapter 11 bankruptcy. LaRouche said the measures he has proposed for ending the global financial crisis, which derive from the American System of political economy, must be adopted soon, or humanity itself will be at risk.

His wife, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, a former candidate for German Chancellor and the founder of the Schiller Institute, gave a second keynote speech, reporting on the growing awareness of the nature of the crisis in Europe. We can revive the world economy, she said, with the methods the Americans used after World War II, to rebuild Germany from a rubble field into one of the world's strongest economies.

Shape Public Opinion

The challenge to policy-makers, most importantly President Clinton, LaRouche stressed, is whether they are dominated by opinion polls, or shape public opinion.

Speaking directly to the policy-makers in the audience, which included many state legislators, LaRouche urged them to "not ask what the public thinks; instead, ask what the media has done to brainwash them." The public is illiterate, he said, watching television news programming that is worse than soap opera.

Congress is perhaps even worse, he

said, and more divorced from reality than politicians at the state level. A typical Congressman is looking for \$10,000 a day to finance his next election campaign. He hires a media consultant, or hitman, who says, "You have to talk to the money." But those with money are engaging in speculation, so the agenda of the media consultant is the same as Phil Gramm and Newt Gingrich. They tell the Congressman, "you must stroke these money sources as an ant strokes an aphid to get the milk."

"We must go against prevailing public opinion," LaRouche said, to provide real leadership, of the sort given by the best American Presidents: Washington, Lincoln, FDR, Kennedy. As Kennedy discussed it in his *Profiles in Courage*, we require leaders of people with the courage to *shape* public opinion, not follow it.

President Must Lead

LaRouche underscored the fact that the solution to the economic crisis lies in President Clinton's leadership. What we're asking the President to do, LaRouche said, in a period of great crisis and with little support even in his own party, is to stick his neck out; to come to a conclusion that corresponds with reality, not the opinion of CNN or Rush Limbaugh. We're asking it because he's President, and only from that office can leadership be provided to solve this crisis, as Roosevelt did in World War II, and as Kennedy did in his short tenure.

Our job, LaRouche stressed, is to see that President Clinton is well advised and supported in these matters. He has to do the job. And if he does it in the U.S., it would be welcomed and supported in Russia, Ukraine, China, Japan, and throughout Africa and South and Central America.