

UTICA COLLEGE LUNCH HOUR SERIES

MUSIC for BLACK HISTORY MONTH

12:30 p.m. Wednesday February 17, 2021

Society for New Music (49th season)

HOST: Andrea Scheibel, SNM board member, percussionist/steel pan virtuoso

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791) Concerto No. 3 in G major

Gregg H. Welcher (b. 1997) Isolation, 2020 (2nd performance)

Rosee Head, violin Sar Shalom Strong, piano

Florence Price (1887-1953) Song to the Dark Virgin, 1941 (Langston Hughes)

Coleridge Taylor Perkinson (1932-2004) A Childs Grace (Robert Herrick), 1977

Charles Lloyd, Jr. (b. 1948) Compensation (Paul Laurence Dunbar), 1977

Gregory Sheppard, bass-baritone Sar Shalom Strong, piano

Mark Olivieri/Kyle Bass Scenes from Libba Cotten opera, 2020

Composer/librettist Introduction (Libba singing and playing)

Scene 1: Prologue – An Invocation [“Here this Day”]

Scene 2: Do Lord

Scene 7: [In the Seeger’s kitchen. There’s a white guitar.]

Scene 8: Come Away from the guitar Libba

(A Black Baptist church. The Preacher and the Choir are full of the Spirit and soul-saving righteous fire.)

Cast: Elizabeth “Libba” Cotten: 95 years old – DOES NOT DOUBLE (not in the scenes today)

A Greek Chorus of 6 represents Libba’s guitar “Stella” [strings: E1, E2, G, A, B, D] and all other characters.

Commissioned by the Society for New Music E 1 = Jessica Montgomery B = Danan Tsan

G = Noa De Rosa Anderson D = Steven Stull A = Gregory Sheppard

The libretto has an episodic structure which moves backwards in liminal time.

Leslie Adams (b. 1932) Heart of a Woman (Georgia Douglas Johnson)

Prayer (Langston Hughes) (both from Nightsongs, 1961)

‘Doctuh’ Michael Woods An Expensive Truth, 2020 (sneak preview)

SOCIETY PLAYERS

Sonya Stith Williams, violin John Friedrichs, clarinet & soprano saxophone

Heidi Hoffman, cello Rob Auler, piano

Margaret Bonds (1913-1972) Minstrel Man (from 3 Dream Portraits, 1959) (Langston Hughes)

Ezekiel saw the Wheel (Spiritual, arr. Bonds)

Billy Taylor (1921-2010) I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free, 1963