

Con Brio A News Letter

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Frank Suggs, Editor

From The Desk of the President



Mark Phillips
NASPAAM President

It is my pleasure to greet you as you read this Spring 2009 edition of the NASPAAM newsletter! I am proud to report the outstanding success of our first NASPAAM National Music Symposium held at the Chesapeake Convention Center on February 19 –21, 2009. The success of the Symposium was due in no small part to the hard work of Symposium Chair Elizabeth Eccles and the Virginia Symposium Host Committee, later inducted as the Tidewater Chapter of NASPAAM. I extend my warmest thanks to them for their planning and tireless dedication to their first major undertaking for our organization.

Workshops, performances, and other offerings of the Symposium were well-received by music teachers and others in attendance. I extend special thanks to all of the clinicians who provided their skills and expertise. Clinicians included Rollo Dilworth, David Eccles, Rene Boyer, Marsha Kendall-Smith, C. Dianne Mack, Joyce Bassette, Robert Jefferson, Harold Haughton, and Alfred Davis. Music used was generously donated by Hal Leonard and William Owens Publishing Company.

Many individuals contributed to the success of the instrumental music workshops, including band students from Norfolk State University and my students from Virginia State University who assisted with the instrumental sight-reading session, and Jerry Bracey, conductor of the Hampton University Orchestra, whose students served as the demonstration group for the string instrumental session. I extend my heartiest appreciation to each of them.

The Friday night HBCU College Night Concert showcased the talents of students from Elizabeth City State University, Hampton University, and Virginia State University Concert Choir, with students from The Governor's School for the Arts as special guests.

HBCU College Night Concert



Amber Garrett, Soprano, (Hampton University) singing Leo Edward's *Lullaby* from the opera *Harriett Tubman*. She is accompanied by Dr. Carl G. Harris, Jr.

The tone of the Awards Luncheon that ended the Symposium was set by the beautiful music provided by the "Strolling Silver Strings Ensemble," comprised of students from Norfolk Public Schools, directed by Heidi Kirby, who played throughout the luncheon. The large attendance of individuals from the Tidewater communities was another indication of the diligent efforts of the local Host Committee. Brief remarks by Barbara L. Geer, President of the Music Educators National Conference, included words of commendation to NASPAAM and a recommitment to the shared goals of our two organizations. Our stellar list of honorees

included individuals from the local and national communities who have made noteworthy contributions to the advancement of African American music. All are pictured on page 6 of this issue.

We are greatly encouraged by the success of this first Symposium, and now turn our attention to planning for our 2011 biennial event. Members of the Board of Directors will meet in Houston, Texas for the annual board retreat in June, at which time we look forward to working with the local committee currently forming under the leadership of John Ella Fowler, retired supervisor of music for the city of Houston, Texas as we explore that city as the possible locale for NASPAAM's 2011 event. Look for details in future issues of *Con Brio*.

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