

Con Brio A News Letter

Volume 7, No. 2 Spring 2009

Frank Suggs, *Editor*

From The Desk of the 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.



Mark Phillips
NASPAAM President

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*.

A CHANGE OF FOCUS

The novel, “*Things Fall Apart*” by Chinua Achebe describes the rise and fall of a man achieving power and prestige in Ibo society only to fail later due to his inability to adapt to change and provide hope. President Obama has inherited a global economic crisis – military conflicts in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and North Korea; a health care crisis, global warming, a housing crisis and escalating unemployment. These monumental problems are daunting for a first term president. The differences in leadership style of Achebe and Obama are one of a change in focus, a plan of action, and a platform for hope. President Obama’s strategic plan is based on achieving set goals within specified time periods. This strategy allows for controlled business, and economic and financial growth. Napoleon Bonaparte once said “a leader is a dealer in hope”. Do you have any doubt that President Obama’s administration’s change in focus will succeed and provide hope for the nation?



Frederick Taylor
Executive Secretary

It is imperative that NASPAAM provide hope and change for its membership as they move toward retirement age. Retired members may feel uneasy that the best part of their lives are behind and passion for teaching and learning diminished.

This is a time in life where there has to be a “change of focus” providing hope for the future. For retirement age members, this change involves freedom to experiment with hobbies, new occupations, travel, attendance at family gatherings, grand parenting, and donation of services to charitable organization. NASPAAM members should consider giving money to the organization through planned giving and donating time.

Chinua Achebe’s inability to adapt to change and provide hope caused him to fail miserably in later years. YOU and President Obama can be successful in pursuit of excellence because “Yes, We Can Change” and provide HOPE for future generations.

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THANK YOU!

*We could not have published
without you.*

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Ina Allen

NASPAAM President Elect

NASPAAM Needs YOU!

Ina Allen

A major goal of my tenure as I assume the presidency of this historic organization will be to "trumpet" the benefits of membership and active involvement as adjuncts to professional development of music educators at all stages of the profession. Founded in 1972 in Atlanta, Georgia as the National Black Music Caucus in protest of exclusion from the core activities of the Music Educators National Conference, the later name change to National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music (NASPAAM) encompasses our goals and purposes as a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, performing, and preserving all facets of African American music. Membership is comprised of music educators at all levels, from public school instruction through higher education, as well as non-professionals. Installation of student chapters at historically black institutions in recent years underscores our goal of student membership as a viable adjunct to undergraduate preparation for the music profession and as future leaders of NASPAAM.

Our recent National Music Symposium is one indication of NASPAAM's tradition of involving music professionals and non-professionals in advancing its goals of broader participation in all aspects of African American music. In the Chesapeake Symposium as in previous national conferences, members of the local community were actively involved in planning and in all Symposium events. The traditional community-wide closing program recognized the local committee's contributions to the success of the Symposium, and included members of the local community among individuals honored for their contributions to advancing and preserving African American music. The Chesapeake Symposium Planning committee was installed as the first regional branch of NASPAAM, which we plan to continue with future local organizing committees as we broaden our membership base.

NASPAAM has had the good fortune from its formation of counting among its membership outstanding musicians and music educators whose vision and leadership have been significant in building the foundation of NASPAAM as professional music organization, and in forging linkages with organizations that share our goals of advancing African American music. Through its varied publications, national conferences, and other activities, NASPAAM has played an active role in disseminating knowledge of our African American musical heritage, and about leading figures in African American music, past and present: composers, arrangers, performing artists in all genres, music educators, and music historians. We note with pride that many in our membership are represented in all these categories of musical accomplishments, including one each as anthologist and publisher of African American music. Many of them have been honored at the Annual NASPAAM Breakfast and membership meeting held in conjunction with the biennial National Music Conference of the Music Educators National Conference. My goal is to continue the tradition in the future in a revised format as a result of changes to MENC.

2009 Music Symposium *Chesapeake, Virginia*



LUNCHEON HONOREES

Help us to
maintain
the
music.

We need
you!!

NASPAAM Honors African-American Music. This includes the composers who create it; the musicians who perform it; the scholars who study it; and the teachers who "pass it on" to the young.

NASPAAM EXPANDS MEMBERSHIP

With Collegiate and Regional Chapters

Gwen Carroll



Gwendolyn Carroll, *Coordinator
Collegiate and Regional chapters*

During the Summer of 2004, a Board Retreat planning meeting was held in Houston, Texas for the officers and Board of Directors. Gwendolyn J. Carroll, twelfth president and current secretary, created a plan to involve students in the music departments in Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU'S). These students would be required to have interest in working at the undergraduate collegiate level and later move into the graduate membership level. After graduation, they should carry on the rich legacy and mission of this organization, which was founded in 1972.

The plan was well received by the Board of Directors. A committee was formed and given the approval to proceed with full speed. The first business centered on the selection of the institutions and determine if they would be the sites in which future NASPAAM conferences and/or symposiums could be held. In addition to organizing and establishing collegiate chapters, the need to also establish regional chapters in the states in which these HBCU'S were located was a great concern. We felt that a wider

population of individuals, in all areas of music, could come together and form graduate chapters in the name of NASPAAM.

Our primary goal is to keep NASPAAM going strong in our mission to teach, promote, preserve, and present African -American music in our communities and the global society. We feel that the legacy and tradition of our music left by our African- American ancestors and contributors is one that must be kept alive and not be left in the hands of someone else to keep it going.

Today, we happily report our efforts thus far. Five collegiate NASPAAM chapters have been chartered and they represent Langston University, Hampton University, Jackson State University and more recently, Norfolk State University and Virginia State University. Each institution has an impressive history and tradition and is the first of a long list yet to be invited for membership.

One regional chapter representing the Virginia state area was chartered in February 2009, at the first **NASPAAM Music Symposium** held in Chesapeake, Virginia. This regional chapter takes the name NASPAAM Chapter of Hampton Roads. The chapter represents members of the local host committee who planned and hosted the Music Symposium. The Hampton Roads chapter joined with Norfolk State University and Virginia State University in an installation and chartering ceremony on Saturday morning, February 21, 2009.

From this start, we are certain that we have organized and secured the future membership of NASPAAM. Our efforts will be expanded in 2011, when we plan to concentrate in other states, regions and include more HBCU institutions.

**Two Collegiate and one Regional
NASPAAM Chapter were installed
during the February 2009 Symposium**



Norfolk State Collegiate Chapter



Virginia State Collegiate Chapter



NASPAAM of Hampton Roads Regional Chapter

For Inquiries and interest in how to establish NASPAAM Collegiate and Regional chapters, please contact Gwendolyn J. Carroll, Coordinator at (516) 759-5244 or GwenJCarr@aol.com

Professional Music Symposium

Thursday, February 19 - Saturday, February 21, 2009



Elizabeth Eccles
Symposium Chairperson

Elizabeth Eccles

During my tenure as president of NASPAAM, I often concluded my statements with the following words:

The world is made of three kinds of people:

**Those who watch things happen,
Those who make things happen,
Those who ask, What happened?**

The first NASPAAM National Music Symposium held in Chesapeake, Virginia, February 19-21, 2009, was a success due to a committed and hard working local host committee that 'made things happen.' Additionally, the assistance of the local music community (*i.e. public school, university demonstration/performance groups; Virginia Symphony orchestra administrator and string quartet*) and the endorsement of local, national and International

clinicians resulted in a positive experience for those who attended the event as expressed verbally and indicated on session evaluation forms. The success of the symposium also was determined by the amount of revenue generated due in part by the activation of at least 15 new NASPAAM memberships and the more than 160 closing awards luncheon attendees. With the selection of the Marriott Chesapeake Hotel and the Chesapeake Conference Center as venues, the organization accomplished its goal to provide an enriching and rewarding, symposium for all.

In the past, NASPAAM has sponsored **National Biennial Music Conferences**; however, the NASPAAM Executive Board members made the arduous decision to sponsor a symposium in 2009 due to the current economic status of the country and the manner in which it has impacted its citizens.

Even on a smaller scale, a NASPAAM standard of excellence was the premise upon which the symposium was designed. Therefore, paramount in the planning were topics relevant to teacher motivation, preparation and performance. The focus of the change from a conference to a symposium format included progress and vision as support reflected in the 2009 Symposium theme, *"Preserving African-American Music in the 21st Century: Building on a Tradition.*

International Award to Armenta Adams Hummings



Armenta Hummings Jesse McCarroll Mark Phillips

Partners In The Arts



Joseph and Debra Newton

AWARDS

PRESERVING AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC IN THE 21ST CENTURY: *Building On Tradition*

.....continued..... from p. 5.....

The effort of NASPAAM to make changes and adjustments during these current times reflects a renewed commitment of the organization's board and its membership to providing continued support to the music education community. Also, NASPAAM anticipates an enhanced partnership with MENC (*The National Association for Music Education*) in the future, as it remains one of the auxiliary organizations of MENC which also is experiencing a redesigned approach to America's music educators.

As chairperson, I am appreciative for a cooperative NASPAAM President, Dr. Mark Phillips, a supportive NASPAAM Executive Secretary, Dr. Frederick Taylor, and the encouragement of NASPAAM Board Members in the planning and implementation of the first NASPAAM National Music Symposium. We request the continued support of future NASPAAM events by current and prospective national, local, and collegiate members.

NASPAAM Awards Luncheon Speaker



Barbara Geer, President
Music Educators National Conference (MENC)
NASPAAM is an MENC Affiliate

NASPAAM SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

Elementary Music



Clinician Rene Boyer (*Macmillan/McGraw-Hill*) helping children (*R. O. Nelson Elementary School, Newport News, VA*) experience jazz through creative body movement and storytelling. Arlissa Powell is the teacher.

Choral Techniques and Literature



Clinician Rollo Dilworth (*Hal Leonard*) helping the Woodside High School Choir (*Newport News, VA*) increase their interpretation of a choral composition by relating dynamics to body movement. Jason Dungee is the choral director.

Music Education



Clinician Robert Jefferson demonstrating, to symposium participants, his new method of teaching music reading

Instrumental Reading Session



Clinician Alfred Davis introducing the Hampton University band to the compositions of William Owens.

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National Association For The Study and Performance Of African - American Music

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Frank Suggs, *Editor*

1201 Mary Jane • Memphis, TN 38116

Preserving, Promoting and Advancing the Tradition of African-American Music



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jackson State University is seeking a Music Department Chair.

Dr. Jimmie James has retired.

Send information to
Dr. Johnny Anthony
at Johnny.anthony@jsums.edu

NASPAAM Board Meeting

Thursday, June 25 - Saturday June 27, 2009

Crowne Plaza River Oaks,
2712 Southwest Freeway
Houston, TX
Hotel Phone:
(713) 523-8448

National Association for the Study and Performance of African-American Music

Preserving, Promoting and Advancing the Tradition of African-American Music

Con Brio is a quarterly publication with an emphasis on African-American Music. It reaches urban school systems; Historical Black Colleges and Universities; African-American Non Profit Music Organizations; Professional African-American Music Educators; teachers, composers and arrangers; and end users of African -American music related products.	Rates		Please send copy and payment to: Frank Suggs , Con Brio Editor 1201 Mary Jane Avenue Memphis, TN 38116 Phone: (901) 396-2913 E-Mail: fsuggs1@comcast.net
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