

Houston Ebony Opera & Chorus

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Press Release #2

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Arias, Art Songs and Spirituals to be featured in Ebony Opera's Concert

What did Marian Anderson, Paul Robeson, Roland Hayes, Leontyne Price and the other barrier-breaking African American artists *really* sing? To find out, attend Houston Ebony Opera's OPERA GEMS concert on Sunday, November 8 at 4p.m. in Zilkha Hall of the Hobby Center.

The stunningly varied program will feature operatic excerpts along with Spirituals and other great American music. **This concert is a special salute to the NAACP as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.**

According to concert director Jason Oby, "Through singing accompanied by narration and visual imagery, Houston Ebony Opera will seek to both entertain and re-tell the story of African America over the past 100 years. The concert presentation will be centered around a series of critical episodes in Black America's artistic, social and political history."

Concert Performers

The roster of performers for the OPERA GEMS Concert includes the following

Soloists (five singers):

Imani Anderson, soprano

Nicole Heaston, soprano

Joan Bolden-Hubert, mezzo soprano

Jason Oby, tenor

Leon Turner, bass

Ebony Opera Chorus conducted by Calvin Fuller

Pianists: Jayne Perkyns and Vicki Seldon

Summary of Houston Ebony Opera's OPERA GEMS Concert details:

Who: Houston Ebony Opera's soloists and chorus

When/Where: Sunday, November 8, 2009 at 4 p.m. at the Hobby Center-Zilkha Hall, 800 Bagby Street in Downtown Houston's Theater District

How: *Tickets are available through the Hobby Center Box Office at 713-315-2400 or online at www.thehobbycenter.org. **For additional information**, please call 713-335-3800 or visit www.houstonebonyopera.org*