



# **White Rock Concerts *Presents***

**The Nathaniel Dett Chorale**

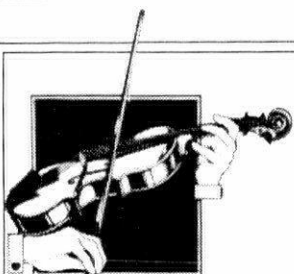


*Friday, April 6, 2001*

*Our Opening Concert  
for Next Season:*

***Pacific Baroque  
Orchestra***

*Friday, October 26, 2001*



**White Rock  
Concerts**

**2001 - 2002 Season**

**You may renew at this Concert or by mail  
Remember to Renew Early to avoid disappointment**

**We expect another sold – out season**

**We can only guarantee that renewals received  
prior to April 15th will be honoured**

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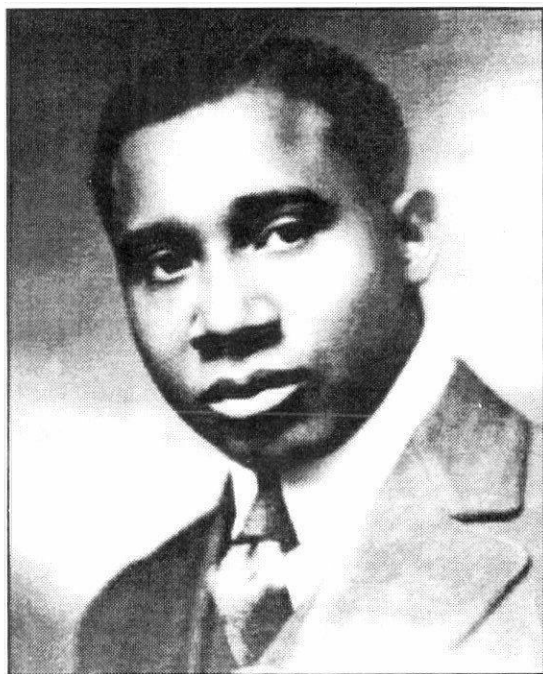
# Programme

## Tonight's selections will be drawn from the following:

And Still We Sing suite	Joe Sealy
Journeys	
The Gift	
And In Sunday Ritual	
To Be Free	
Still We Sing	
Ave Maria	R. Nathaniel Dett
Baptism	R. Nathaniel Dett
Battle of Jerico ,The	Moses Hogan
Breaths	Ysaye M, Bamwell
Child of God	Salli Terri
Deep River	Roy Ringwald
Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel	Moses Hogan
Dust and Ashes	R. Nathaniel Dett
Elijah Rock	Moses Hogan
Ezekiel Saw de Wheel	William Dawson.
Fix Me Jesus	Jacqueline B. Hairston
Follow Me	R. Nathaniel Dett
Gently Lord, O Gently Lead Us	R. Nathaniel Dett
Give Me Jesus	Wendell Whalum
Go Down Moses	Adolphus Hailstork
Go Not Far From Me, O God	R. Nathaniel Dett
Hew Round the Tree	R. Nathaniel Dett
Ho Everyone that Thirsts (solo)	R. Nathaniel Dett
Hold On	Jester Hairston
I'll Never Turn Back No More	R. Nathaniel Dett
I'm Gonna Sing 'Til the Spirit Moves In My Heart	Moses Hogan
Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveler	R. Nathaniel Dett
Listen to the Lambs	R. Nathaniel Dett
Magnolia Suite (piano solo)	R. Nathaniel Dett
Mother to Son	Undine S. Moore
O Holy Lord	R. Nathaniel Dett
On that Sabbath Morn	R. Nathaniel Dett
Precious Lord	Thomas Dersly
The Chariot Jubilee	R. Nathaniel Dett
The Cloths of Heaven	Adolphus Hailstork
There Is a Balm In Gilead	William Dawson
Wade In the Water	Rosephayne Powell
Wake Me Up Lord	Uzec Brown. Jr.
We Shall Arise	W ayne Marshall
Witness	Jack Halloran
Word Was God., The	Rosephayne Powell
Worthy to Be Praised	Byron J. Smith

## Programme Notes

### R. Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943)



Celebrated composer Nathaniel Dett was born in Drummondville (Niagara Falls), Ontario on October 11, 1882. He died on October 2, 1943 in Battlecreek, Michigan. Dett studied piano as a child and was church organist in Niagara Falls, Ontario (1898-1903). During this period he composed numerous works, including the better known *The CakeWalk* and *After The Cake Walk*. Among his other works are *Listen to the Lambs* (1914), an eight part anthem which was recorded by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; *Juba Dance* (1913), a piano solo which has appeared in the Royal Conservatory of Music syllabus and was a favourite of his friend Percy Grainger; and the oratorio *Ordering of Moses* (1937).

Dett earned several degrees at various educational institutions including Oberlin College (Bachelor of Music, 1908; Masters of Music, 1926); Harvard University (Honourary Doctorate of Music, 1924); and Rochester's Eastman School of Music (Master of Music, 1932). Dett studied piano in Paris with internationally renowned Nadia Boulanger and performed at prestigious concert halls, such as Carnegie Hall and Boston's Symphony Hall. Dett also performed for two American presidents, Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Dett taught at several distinguished schools, including Lane College, Jackson, Mississippi (1908-11), Hampton Institute, Virginia (1913-32), Samuel Houston College, Austin, Texas (1935-37), and Bennett College, Greensboro, N. Carolina (1937-42).

Nathaniel Dett was dedicated to the cause of black music, winning the Bowdoin and Frances Boott prizes in 1920 from Harvard University for his paper *The Emancipation of Negro Music* and for his motet *Don't Be Wary Traveller*. Dett also explored and promoted black music by editing collections of spirituals and folk songs and was President of the National Association of Negro Musicians from 1924-1926.

Retired music teacher and librarian, Arlene E. Gray, stumbled across a vast collection of material on the Canadian-born musical genius, Robert Nathaniel Dett, when she visited the public library in Niagara Falls, New York, in the early 1970s. A native of the city herself, she made it a labour of love over the next five years, sorting and cataloguing the collection, some 690 items in all, which had been acquired after the death of Dett's brother.

Successive librarians gradually added to the collection whenever possible, and in 1984, Gray compiled a small catalogue of the collection. She called it "Listen to the Lambs" -the title of one of his famed musical pieces. From the mass of music scores, notes, clippings and programs she was able to reconstruct much of the story of the life of R. Nathaniel Dett, once among the most celebrated musicians and musical theoreticians of his day. It is of note that Mr. Dett has his own entry in the *Oxford Companion to Music*.

Dett is scarcely remembered in Canada or even in the United States, where much of his fame was achieved -- but that is something which should soon be changed through the efforts of Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, who is determined to see that the memory of the Canadian genius receives the recognition it deserves.

Tonight's programme will feature selections composed by Mr. Dett, as well as jazz, gospel, folk and classical compositions by a number of composers and arrangers.

**The Nathaniel Dett Chorale would like to gratefully acknowledge the following organisations for their donations and support:**



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# The Nathaniel Dett Chorale

The Nathaniel Dett Chorale is Canada's first professional choral group dedicated to Afrocentric music of all styles including classical, spiritual, gospel, jazz, folk and blues. The Chorale is comprised of 20 classically trained musicians and will provide a forum for promoting public awareness of, and interest in, original works of Afrocentric composers, past present and future.

The Nathaniel Dett Chorale has been created with an expressed mandate to perform Afrocentric music both in its Toronto home and on tour. It will also develop an active musical commissioning program, curriculum for use in schools, lectures, demonstrations and master classes.

## Brainerd Blyden-Taylor Founder & Artistic Director

Brainerd Blyden-Taylor is an internationally respected conductor, clinician and adjudicator who has made his reputation in Canada and the United States over the past 24 years. He is currently in his 12th season as Artistic Director the *Orpheus Choir of Toronto* and the *Orpheus Chamber Choir*. He serves as co-chair of the Music Committee of the Toronto Arts Council. He also acts as a Master Teacher to two Boards of Education.

Born in Trinidad and moved to Canada in 1973, Brainerd assumed the duties of Music Director at Oakwood Wesleyan Church and has held similar positions in two other prominent Toronto churches. He has also been director of several university, youth and concert choirs. Inspiring and compassionate, Brainerd is a mentor and teacher to many young professional singers and conductors. Serving as Music Director, Brainerd has been involved in a variety of events, some of which include the *Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute* (Symphony Nova Scotia), *Canada 125 0 Canada Project*, *International Gospel Festival* (Halifax, Ontario) and *New Brunswick Choral Federation Youth Sing* and *Georgian Bay Children 's Choir Afrocentric Festival*.

## THE CHOIR

### SOPRANOS

Nicole Jordan  
Carolyn Williams  
Lisa Prescott  
Shadell  
Permanand

### TENORS

Mark Rainey  
Jaimie Hillman  
Bramwell  
Pemberton  
Dylan Bell  
Justin Bacchus

### ALTOS

Suba Sankaran  
Mosa Neshama  
Gillian Stecyk  
Gillian McMillan  
Ali Garrison

### BASSES

Marque Smith  
Dave Yung  
Stephen Roe  
Tom Lillington  
Daryl Huggins

## A Message From Your Executive

The popularity of White Rock Concerts has been demonstrated again by the enormous response we have had already to the opening of subscription renewals for next season. To date, over five hundred out of a total of eight hundred subscriptions have been purchased. There has been no advertising to the general public so far, and there will be none until after the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month. The executive has been approached already by many people who have learned of our local treasure by word of mouth and who want to be a part of it for next season. In order to give our existing subscribers priority to renew, we ask that you do so by the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. After that date we cannot guarantee that your seat can be held.

We can, of course look forward to five excellent concerts next season.

We begin the year in October with the Pacific Baroque Orchestra, led by Marc Destrube, one of the world's leading exponents of baroque violin music.

Next, we can look forward to Canadian lyric tenor Marc Dubois, singing a mixed program of lieder, opera, operetta and folk songs.

In February, Vancouver's own harp virtuoso Rita Costanzi and ensemble play the Introduction and Allegro by Ravel.

The world renowned Vogler Quartet, from Berlin, follows. On their own, they would make for a remarkable concert. We have been fortunate to team them with the acclaimed Canadian pianist, Angela Cheng, on the same program.

Concluding the season we feature the IMAX of choirs, the Elmer Isler Singers.

The volunteers in the lobby will be available both before the concert and at intermission, to take your renewals.

We look forward to sharing this music with you next season.

## Meet your Executive Committee

Erika Bennedik, President  
Rick Gambrel, Vice President  
George Zukerman, Artistic Director  
Doreen Harvey, Treasurer  
Anne Helps, Secretary  
Emerson Reid, Membership  
Martha Gambrel, Publicity

### Board Members:

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