

CULTURAL EXPLORATION LECTURE-RECITAL

National Association of
Teachers of Singing

55th NATIONAL CONFERENCE



*"From Old Creole Days: Sampling
the Afro-Creole Folk Song
of Louisiana of the
Late Nineteenth through the
Mid-Twentieth Centuries"*

PRESENTER:

Phyllis Lewis-Hale, soprano
Assisted by Karen Laubengayer, piano

*Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada
Saturday, June 23, 2018
Partargas 123
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.*



W. T. Francis

(1867–1912)

Afro-Creole Dialect or Patois

- The Afro-Creole patois evolved under the domination of French and Spanish colonists.
- Slaves had different languages and diverse tribal customs among them.
- Desperate need for communication.
- Orally constructed a language or patois.
- Pronounced as classic French.

Afro-Creole Folk Song of Louisiana

- African-American cultural and musical contribution unjustly neglected.
- Unlike the Negro spiritual, many of these songs have yet to be encountered by concert audiences.
- Afro-Caribbean rhythmic elements foreshadow traits found in many current genres.

Afro-Creole Folk Song Characteristics

- Short and simple.
- African, French and Spanish elements.
- Attractive melodies and evocative, syncopated rhythms.

Subject Matter:

- Feelings of sorrowful love.
- Dances
- Lullabies
- Satire and ridicule.

Decline in Usage of Afro-Creole Dialect

- Louisiana Purchase of 1803.
- English became dominant language.
- Demise of the Afro-Creole language.
- Loss of unique, historical elements.



Efrem Zimbalist, Sr.

(1889–1985)



Mina Monroe and Kurt Schindler

(c.1880–c.1965)

(1882–1935)



Julien Tiersot

(1857–1936)



Camille Lucie Nickerson

The "Louisiana Lady"
(1888-1982)

Research, Perform and Preserve

- Worthy repertoire choices for students and professional artists.
- Should be preserved and continue to be performed with standard recital repertoire.
- Reach a larger audience by promoting new compositions from this historically overlooked genre.

CULTURAL EXPLORATION LECTURE-RECITAL

National Association of
Teachers of Singing

55th NATIONAL CONFERENCE



*"From Old Creole Days: Sampling
the Afro-Creole Folk Song
of Louisiana of the
Late Nineteenth through the
Mid-Twentieth Centuries"*

PRESENTER:

Phyllis Lewis-Hale, soprano
Assisted by Karen Laubengayer, piano

Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada
Saturday, June 23, 2018
Partargas 123
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.