

NATS 55th NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada



CULTURAL EXPLORATION LECTURE-RECITAL

“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

Saturday, June 23, 2018
4:00-5:00 p.m.

Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas
Partargas 123

PROGRAM

Zozo Mokeur (1887)

W. T. Francis
(1867-1912)

Selection from *4 Creole Songs* (1914)

Efrem Zimbalist, Sr.
(1889-1985)

Michié Preval

Selection from *Bayou Ballads* (1921)

Mina Monroe and Kurt Schindler
(c. 1880 – c. 1965) (1882-1935)

Ah, Suzette, chère

Selections from *Chansons nègres* (1933)

Julien Tiersot
(1857-1936)

Aurore Bradère
Compère Lapin

Two Unpublished Selections

Camille Nickerson
(1888-1982)

Gué, Gué, Solingaie
Mam'zelle Zizi

Selections from *Five Creole Songs* (1932)

Dansé Conni Conné
Lizette, Ma Chère Amie

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Abstract:

This lecture-recital will highlight selected arrangements of Louisiana Afro-Creole folk songs of the late nineteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries that utilize a Creole patois. These songs reveal a distinct, yet diverse approach to the ethnomusicological heritage of the African experience in the New World. The study explores selected songs of Camille Nickerson, Efreim Zimbalist, Julien Tiersot, W. T. Francis and Mina Monroe (with Kurt Schindler), while noting various societal influences shaping the subject matter and compositional elements they employ. The main objective is for this lecture-recital to introduce and critically discuss specimens from this little discussed repertory, both published and unpublished, thus helping to define a neglected corner of Afro-American song. The lecture-recital also serves as a performer’s guide, providing information helpful to others seeking to explore the diversity of historical Afro-American cultural contribution.

Dr. Phyllis Lewis-Hale, a native of Jackson, Mississippi, is currently an Instructor of Music and the Director of the Opera/Musical Theatre Workshop at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. She is the recipient of the 2011 Mississippi Humanities Teacher and Scholar Award. She is the Mississippi District Governor of the National Association of Teachers of Singing) and also serves as the Vice President of Collegiate and National Competitions for the Mississippi Music Teachers Association (MMTA). Dr. Lewis-Hale has presented lecture/recitals at numerous colleges and universities and at the National Association of African-American Studies National Conference, the National Association of Teachers of Singing National Conference, the Super Regional Conference of the College Music Society, as well as, the College Music Society’s National Conferences. Dr. Lewis-Hale received the Bachelor of Music Education degree from Jackson State University and the Master of Music and the Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in Ohio. She has appeared as a guest soprano soloist in Italy, Japan, Taiwan, Germany, Austria, Bermuda and throughout the United States. Some highlights in her career include receiving several performance awards, such as the winner of the IBLA Grand Prize in the International “Monteverdi/Bellini” Vocal Competition held in Italy, a winner in the New Jersey Association of Verismo Opera Vocal Competition held in New York and the recipient of an Encouragement Award from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Awards.

Dr. Karen Laubengayer, recently retired pianist and Professor of Music at Jackson State University, has performed in Europe at the American Academy of the Arts in Verona, Italy and the L’Ecole Hindemith in Vevey, Switzerland. In the United States she has performed at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC and the International Art Song Festival in Cleveland, OH. She has appeared as guest pianist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, The St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra, the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra in Jackson, MS and the Meridian Symphony Orchestra in Meridian, MS. In addition she has presented lecture recitals on the National and International stage at the National Convention of the College Music Society in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Atlanta, Georgia and Portland, OR; The National Convention of NATS in Salt Lake City, UT; International Conferences at the University of London Institute of Education and at Churchill College, University of Cambridge, England. She has studied and coached with many renowned artists and pedagogues including Jane Allen, William Schatzkamer, Claudio Arrau, Dalton Ballwin, Warren Jones and Sandra Rivers. Dr. Laubengayer holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Stephens College in Columbia, MO and the Masters and Ph.D degrees from Washington University in St. Louis, MO.