

Silver Spring Church Plays Host to World Renowned Composer

By T. Allen

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The Washington Chorus Education Outreach partners with Silver Spring church to host lecture highlighting Langston Hughes poem and African American baritone Stephen Salters.

(SILVER SPRING, MD) “Gospel Cha Cha” is one of Langston Hughes’ last poems written during the Harlem Renaissance. He wrote many others, but this one in particular must have inspired world renowned composer and educator Elena Ruehr. She has taken the African American legend’s work, set it to music and will talk about the creative process, along with the historical, religious and social relevance of the music of our time in a lecture spearheaded by Oprah Winfrey’s “The Color Purple” past Associate Music Director Victor Simonson and hosted by Clifton Park Baptist Church, 8818 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring, MD on Friday, March 11th, 2011 from 7:00pm to 8:00 pm, where he currently serves as the Minister of Music.

“This is a way for the church to meet classical music in a fresh new way”, stated Simonson. Sponsored and presented by the Grammy® Award winning The Washington Chorus, the lecture is in anticipation of a concert “New Music for a New Age” with Ruehr’s compositions in April and featuring African American baritone Stephen Salters along with The Washington Chorus conducted by Julian Wachner. Co-sponsored by the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA), an arts organization dedicated in helping to “Bring Color to the Classics!” the lecture and concert is suitable for all ages.

Simonson also stated that the first 30 attendees at each lecture will receive FREE tickets to see the upcoming concert featuring Ruehr’s works including the Hughes poem along with other works by Emily Dickinson “Cricket, Spider, Bee” and “Averno”, a world premiere with text by Louis Gluck at National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC on Sunday, April 3, 2011 at 5:00 pm! A complimentary reception immediately following. Contact 301-434-2456.

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