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### Lisa Edwards-Burrs, soprano and Michael Carl Simpson, piano

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

Lisa Edwards-Burrs, *soprano*  
Michael Carl Simpson, *piano*

assisted by Leslie Savoy Burrs, *flute*

*February 28, 1993, 3:00 PM*  
*North Court Recital Hall*

*PROGRAM*

- Dancing in the Sun                      John W. Work, Jr. (1901-1968)
- Soliloquy                                      John W. Work
- A Child's Grace                      Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson (b. 1932)
- Grief                                      William Grant Still (1895-1978)
- Rise Up, My Love                      Leslie Savoy Burrs (b. 1952)
- The Barrier                                  Charles Brown (b. 1940)
- from Five Black Songs                      Mark Fax (1911-1974)  
    Love
- Three Dream Portraits                      Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)  
    1. Minstrel Man  
    2. Dream Variation  
    3. I, Too

*INTERMISSION*

- Improvisation for Bamboo Flute  
    Leslie Savoy Burrs, flute
- Watch and Pray                      arr. Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989)
- Oh, Freedom                              arr. Hall Johnson (1888-1970)
- I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray                      arr. Hall Johnson
- We Shall Overcome                      traditional  
    assisted by Leslie Savoy Burrs, flute
- Oh, Didn't it Rain                      arr. Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)
- Weepin Mary                              arr. Harry T. Burleigh
- His Name So Sweet                      arr. Hall Johnson
- Honor, Honor                              arr. Hall Johnson
- Ride On, King Jesus                      arr. Hall Johnson

*Lisa Edwards-Burrs* is one of the most sought-after vocal artists in the area. Her performances in recitals, oratorios and operas have been enjoyed by many. Her complete roles include Monica (*The Medium*), Mariane (*Tartuffe*), Despina (*Così fan Tutte*), Madame Altina (*La Divina*), Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*), Treemonisha (*Treemonisha*), Adina (*L'Elisir d'Amore*) and Poppea (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*). She has performed on numerous occasions with the Richmond Symphony, George Manahan and Thomas Wilkins, conductors, and with the Petersburg Symphony Orchestra, Ulysses Kirksey, conductor. Last year, she performed the role of Clara in Opera Roanoke's production of *Porgy and Bess*, Victoria Bond, conductor, and also appeared with Dalton Baldwin in recital at the University of Richmond. Several of her performances have been broadcast on public radio, most notably a July 4 concert with conductor Keith Brion, which was heard in fifty states. Her last faculty recital of works by African-American composers in collaboration with pianist Russell Wilson was considered to be the best of the 1990-91 season by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. She also has several world premieres to her credit, having performed them with CURRENTS, the new music ensemble at the University of Richmond.

Her recent engagements were as guest artist at Christopher Newport University for their American Music Festival and as soprano soloist with the Williamsburg Symphonia for two performances of Handel's *Messiah*, Thomas Wilkins, conducting. Upcoming engagements include soprano soloist in Dvorak's *Te Deum* with the Richmond Sinfonia and Petersburg Festival chorus and a host of other recital and concert appearances in the area.

Ms. Edwards-Burrs was a semi-finalist in the 1992 Washington International Competition at Catholic University and a finalist and subsequent Second-Place Winner in the 1992 National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Award (NATSAA) competition in Boston. Ms. Edwards-Burrs is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University and an adjunct professor of Voice at the University of Richmond.

Praised by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* for her "innate vocal warmth and natural beauty" and considered "one of the most respected singers in the state" by the *Progress Index*, Ms. Edwards-Burrs continues to move her audiences with her elegant stage presence and command of diverse repertoire.

*Michael Simpson*, a native of Richmond, was graduated *summa cum laude* with honors in music from the University of Richmond in 1974. He was awarded the Roy Jesson Prize as an outstanding music alumnus in 1978. He has served on the staff of Ginter Park Baptist Church in Richmond as organist since 1970 and as Minister of Music since 1975. He is currently director of the Richmond Renaissance Singers and performs recitals both as a solo performer and as an accompanist.

*Leslie Burrs* has appeared as a guest soloist and composer with the Atlanta, Louisville, Syracuse, Alabama and Saginaw, Philadelphia and Charleston Symphony Orchestras, the Duke Ellington Band, Peter Nero and the Philly Popps, Southeast Symphony of Alaska, and the Moers Jazz Festival. His piece, *The Geron Fantasy for Orchestra*, was commissioned by the Charleston Symphony and received its world premiere in October, 1992. He was commissioned by drummer Max Roach to write a new work,

which Burrs entitled *Song for Winnie*, (dedicated to Ms. Mandela), which was recorded on Philips Records by the Uptown String Quartet and has been performed internationally. He was again commissioned by Max Roach in 1991, in which *Selma* was written.

Leslie Burrs has played live and recorded with Grover Washington, Jr. on his *Live at the Bijou* gold album. He has also shared concert programs with the late Sarah Vaughan and recently produced and recorded a collection of original works entitled *Blue Harlem, Black Knight* available on Encounter Records.

Mr. Burrs was the recipient of the 1991 Pennsylvania Council of the Arts Fellowship Grant. A native of Philadelphia, he appears in performances throughout the country and Europe. In May of 1988, six compositions orchestrated by Burrs for strings and woodwinds enjoyed world premieres in Germany, with a live broadcast on West German Radio of this performance.

He served as artist-in-residence for the University of New Hampshire's Select Summer Program, Emory University in Atlanta, the University of California at Santa Cruz, University of Pennsylvania, Clemson University, Buffalo State College, and numerous others. He has also been the artist-in-residence for many arts councils, including Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Federated Arts Council of Richmond and the Arts Councils of Jacksonville, Tampa, and Miami, Florida.

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Next: Guest Artist Recital  
Newband  
Music by Harry Partch  
March 17, 1993, 8:15 PM  
Cannon Memorial Chapel