

Deep River

THE POWER OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN ART SONG

March 3, 2021

WELCOME

READING

Excerpt from "From the Dark Tower"

Countee Cullen (1903-1946)

The night whose sable breast relieves the stark, white stars is no less lovely being dark, and there are buds that cannot bloom at all in light, but crumple, piteous, and fall; so in the dark we hide the heart that bleeds, and wait, and tend our agonizing seeds.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST ARTIST

ART SONG

Serenity Prayer

by Jerrell Gray

Kaswanna Kanyinda, mezzo-soprano

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make things right if I surrender to His will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever and ever in the next. Amen.

ART SONG

The Negro Speaks of Rivers

by Margaret Bonds

Kaswanna Kanyinda, mezzo-soprano

I've known rivers: I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins. My soul has grown deep like the rivers. I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young. I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep. I looked upon the Nile and raised the pyramids above it. I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln went down to New Orleans, and I've seen its muddy bosom turn all golden in the sunset. I've known rivers: Ancient, dusky rivers. My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

CONVERSATION WITH THE ARTIST

DISCUSSION *What do you hear in the songs? What do they have in common? How do they differ?*

CLOSING REFLECTION AND PRAYER

