

Deep River

The Power of African-American Art Song

March 10, 2021

WELCOME

READING

Let Me Not Lose My Dream

Georgia Douglas Johnson (1880-1966)

Let me not lose my dream, e'en though I scan the veil with eyes unseeing through their glaze of tears, let me not falter, though the rungs of fortune perish as I fare above the tumult, praying purer air, let me not lose the vision, gird me. Powers that toss the worlds, I pray! Hold me, and guard, lest anguish tear my dreams away!

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST ARTIST

ART SONG

Prayer

from *Nightsongs*, by H. Leslie Adams (b. 1932)

Poetry by Langston Hughes

Nicole Joseph, soprano

I ask you this: Which way to go? I ask you this: Which sin to bear? Which crown to put upon my hair? I do not know, Lord God, I do not know.

ART SONG

The Foundling

by Hall Johnson (1888-1970)

Nicole Joseph, soprano

Left on a door step, hungry and cold, young as your birthday, already so old. Nothing to know you by, nameless, alone; Who brought you here to stay? Who are your own? Who is your father? Who is your mother, poor little stranger, fresh from above? Who could not want you? Who could not love you, poor little stranger, seeking for love? Rosebuds for fingers and diamonds for eyes. What are you telling me, looking so wise? Clutching my fingertip, holding my eyes, tell me this mystery straight from the skies. "I know my Father, I know my Mother. I am no stranger, here or above. God is my Father, Life is my Mother, I am no stranger, I'm at home now, in love."

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

