

# Deep River

## The Power of African-American Art Song

March 17, 2021

### WELCOME

### READING

Common Dust

Georgia Douglas Johnson (1880-1966)

*And who shall separate the dust what later we shall be: whose keen discerning eye will scan and solve the mystery? The high, the low, the rich, the poor, the black, the white, the red, and all the chromatique between, of whom shall it be said: Here lies the dust of Africa; here are the sons of Rome; here lies the one unlabelled, the world at large his home! Can one then separate the dust? Will mankind lie apart, when life has settled back again the same as from the start?*

### INTRODUCTION OF GUEST ARTIST

#### ART SONG

Dream Variations

by Brandon J. Spencer

Poetry by Langston Hughes

Jaime Sharp, mezzo-soprano

*To fling my arms wide in some place of the sun, to whirl and to dance till the white day is done. Then rest at cool evening beneath a tall tree while night comes on gently, dark like me-- that is my dream! To fling my arms wide in the face of the sun, dance! Whirl! Whirl! Till the quick day is done. Rest at pale evening...*

*A tall, slim tree...night coming tenderly black like me.*

#### ART SONG

Difficulties

from Songs of Love and Justice, by Adolphus Hailstork

Based on texts of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jaime Sharp, mezzo-soprano

*It is difficult to like some people. Like is sentimental. It is difficult to like someone bombing your home; it is difficult to like someone threatening your children! It is difficult, so difficult, to like some people. But Jesus says: "Love them," for love is greater than like.*

### 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

