Symphony Orchestra

Violin I
Christina Riegert
Alyson Maddalon
Sandro Ladu
Brandie Frias

Violin II
Zachary McBride
Malvyn Barlaw

Viola
Izzy Trinkle
Kyle Milleret
Vatheral Carter
Gerardo Polanco

Cello
Mauricio V. Diaz
Courtney Waldron
Rob Chavez
Alyssa Ledesma

Bass
Blake Riley

Flute
Carmella Cao
Asuka Kawashima

Oboe
Alex Hayashi

Clarinet
Kanade Ot
Abi Oshima

Bassoon
Eric Foote

Trumpet
David Shepard
Kevin Early

French Horn
Fred Stone
Michael Villarréal
Evan Crockett

Trombone
Russell Koester
Paul Munger
Dustin Stevens

Percussion
Deborah Carpi

Choral Ensemble

Soprano
Amanda Mura
Martha Banks

Alto
Sarah Fulco
Kamrin Harbin
LaMia Porter

Tenor
Jahmaul Bakare
Michael Hughes

Baritone
Ben Lunn
Devon Hale
Jonathan Morales

UNLV
College of Fine Arts - Department of Music

Presents

The Spiritual
Walter Biggham

A Senior Project
with
Nancy Porter, piano
Katharine Jensen, Conductor

Friday, October 16, 2009
5:30 pm
Beam Music Center
Doc Rando Recital Hall
John Rosamond Johnson (1873–1954), an American composer and singer during the Harlem Renaissance. Johnson was respectfully known for writing “Lift Every Voice and Sing” which is known in the United States today as the “Black National Anthem.” James Weldon Johnson, a poet, and the brother of John Rosamond Johnson wrote the lyrics of the famous piece. Johnson was trained at the New England Conservatory and then studied in London.

Harry Thacker Burleigh (1866–1947), Burleigh was an African American classical composer, arranger, and professional baritone. He was accepted to study music at the National Conservatory of Music in New York. Burleigh was a member of the National Conservatory’s symphony orchestra, where he played the double bass. In 1893, Burleigh assisted and studied composition with composer Antonín Dvořák. Most of the work that Burleigh did for Dvořák consisted of transferring the manuscript of Dvořák's 9th Symphony for the parts for various instruments. Burleigh introduced Dvořák to African American folk music. Dvořák was deeply inspired by the music of the Negro spiritual. Dvořák stated “the Negro spiritual was some the greatest American music and from this music it could inspire a whole new school of musical study.” Dvořák was so inspired by the spiritual, that in 1893 he used the melody from “Goin' Home” by H.T. Burleigh to write one of his greatest symphonic works. Dvořák's New World Symphony played this new work. It was the first time this had happened for an African-American composer

William Henry Smith
Composer and arranger of the many Negro spirituals. There is little known about this composer but his arrangements are part of the standard choral and solo for performing groups and artist throughout America.

William Grant Still (1895 -1978) was an African-American classical composer. He wrote more than 150 compositions. Still was the first African-American to conduct a major American symphony orchestra, he was also the first African American composers to have a symphony of his own performed by a leading orchestra known as the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in Berlin, Germany. Mr. Still’s symphony was called Symphony No. 1 “Afro-American” (this was his first symphony). Mr. Still was also the first African American to have his opera entitled “Troubled Island” performed by a major opera company (The New York City Opera). Mr. Still was also the first to have an opera performed on national television. William Grant Still is often referred to as “the dean” of African-American composers.

Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904), A composer of romantic music, Dvořák was the director of the National Conservatory of Music from the year 1892 to 1895 in New York City. In Dvořák’s years of being the director of the National Conservatory, He met with Harry Burleigh, one of the earliest African-American composers. Burleigh introduced traditional American Spirituals to Dvořák. In the year of 1893, while in New York, Dvořák wrote Symphony No. 9, “From the New World” Harry Burleigh assisted Dvořák as one of his well-respected composition students.

Walter Biggahm is a student of Dr. Alfonse Anderson. This recital is offered in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Music.