

NARRATIONS FOR 1/31 LIVESTREAM MCC BENEFIT CONCERT: “STILL DREAMING: A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO MLK”

#1 -- (1:30):

“Hello. My name is Cynthia Harmon, and I’d like to welcome you to today’s livestream benefit concert produced by Milton Community Concerts in collaboration with Courageous Conversations for Racial Justice, and presented on Sparrow Live. Today we are honoring the life and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a one-hour program entitled ‘Still Dreaming: A Musical Tribute to MLK’. You are invited to view the program and song texts by clicking on _____ . All net proceeds from today’s concert will go to support the Neponset Neighbors Together Fund through the United Way. The performers you will be hearing are sopranos Brianna Robinson and Mary Johnston Letellier, baritone Philip Lima, and pianist Timothy Steele. Our recording engineer is Eric Miller. This concert is taking place at First Parish Church of Milton-UU in Milton, MA, Rev. Lisa Ward, minister.

Our first musical selection is a Song Without Words: “Clear Water”, by New Orleans native Nadine Shanti. This African-American singer-songwriter often brings elements of jazz, pop, and folk into her music. This particular art song is smooth and hauntingly beautiful. It will be performed by soprano Mary Johnston Letellier and pianist Timothy Steele, accompanied by a photo montage designed by Gabriel Raines.

#2 – MLK historical information (especially Boston connections at Boston University and New England Conservatory), thoughts on song texts for next set of songs. (4:00) This will conclude with:

“Soprano Brianna Robinson will now join Timothy Steele in four songs by one of our preeminent African-American composers, Adolphus Hailstork: “Songs of Love and Justice”, to the words of Dr. King.” (4:00)

#3 – MLK legacy, relevance to today, and his assassination. (4:00) This will conclude with:

“We will now hear songs by three Black American composers: Cedric Adderley, David N. Baker, and Thomas Kerr, Jr. The texts are by Mari Evans, Langston Hughes, and Paul Laurence Dunbar. They will be sung by soprano Mary Johnston Letellier with Timothy Steele at the piano.”

#4 – I Have a Dream speech and the March on Washington, 1963 (3:00). This will conclude with:

“Composer Lee Hoiby set the complete text of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech for baritone and orchestra, but performed it numerous times with piano, as you will hear it

here today. Baritone Philip Lima joins pianist Timothy Steele in this rousing musical presentation.”

#5 – “Before we hear the final piece on our program today, we would like to tell you more about the important charity you are supporting by attending today’s concert. The Neponset Neighbors Together Fund through the United Way is a COVID-19 fund to support individuals and families here in Massachusetts in the communities of Milton, Mattapan, Hyde Park, and Dorchester who are adversely impacted by the current health situation, with a focus on our most economically vulnerable neighbors. This fund assists with basic needs such as rent, food, utilities, internet connectivity for families with school-aged children, essential supplies and medications, and other basic needs. If you would like to make additional donations to this fund, you can do so by _____. We thank you for your support and your attendance at today’s concert. For more information about future Milton Community Concerts you can visit miltoncommunityconcerts.com. We close today’s program by bringing back baritone Philip Lima and pianist Timothy Steele to perform “Lift Every Voice and Sing”. Written in 1900 for a Lincoln’s Birthday celebration, it was designated by the NAACP in 1919 as the ‘Negro national anthem’. The music was written by New England Conservatory graduate J. Rosamond Johnson on a poem by his brother James Weldon Johnson.” (3:00)

