

The Suite

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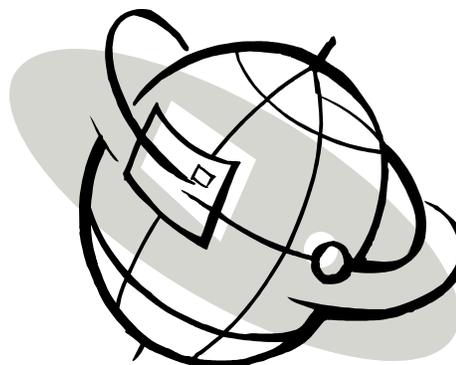
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Movement I

The May 2014 experimental collaboration between Cultural Pursuits and MÁS - Movimiento Afrolatino Seattle was such a success it will be repeated in 2015. You may recall this was a project that presented for the first time in the Pacific Northwest the spiritual music of the African Diaspora in the Americas. A week-long workshop was conducted for youth by master musicians and cultural historians from Brazil, Cuba, the Garifuna of Central America, Puerto Rico, and the United States. The evolution of the spiritual music of African descendants in the other countries was explored and compared to that of the Negro Spiritual in the United States. The youth participants were then privileged to perform in a public concert with the teachers. The objective of this experiment was to develop a model by which separation by tradition can be replaced with cooperation through recognition of the unifying power of cultural values derived from common heritage. The success of the project is best expressed in a poem written by a Garifuna youth who participated in the workshop and concert:

"I'm From the Place That No One Knows"
by Rony Nunez...

"I'm from the place that music is all around from the beat of our hearts that sounds like a drum



I'm from the African sound that beats loud the language that is mixed with that sound and where culture is inspired by God

I'm from the coast where the drum is our phone from where dance is our special art

I'm from the place for spirituality is always felt and where we are proud of being descendants of slaves

I'm from a place of freedom from the place that love is felt as if everyone was a brother or sister from the place where sea breeze is the solution to your problem

I'm from a place where Africa is our beginning and will always be in our souls

I am Garifuna from Guatemala but I will always have Africa in my Garifuna heart"

...and a couple of comments from the concert audience:

"Inspiring program that illustrates uplifting sense of community within groups as well as between groups - model especially for young people to see as a possibility"

"This was a very educational and inspiring experience."

Watch for this collaboration to be bigger and better in June 2015.

The Civil-Rights Struggle in the Seattle-area review is currently underway. Cultural Pursuits is currently engaged in the first phase of a project designed to illuminate the civil rights struggle for African Americans here in the Puget Sound region. It will culminate in a stage-play or musi-drama based on the real-life stories of African Americans in the Seattle-King County area. Process Recap – Phase 1: (a) Selected youth interviewing community elders/activists and cultural

historians; (b) youth conducting documentary research; and (c) youth developing a public reading performance based on the interviews. The results of Phase 1 will be digitally documented and used to seek funding for Phase 2 in which youth will further develop the reading into a stage play, a musical for performance or a documentary film. It is anticipated that 20 youth will develop practical life and employment skills during the course of this project.

Movement II

Have you ever heard of the Mason-Dixon Line?

It was drawn by two surveyors named Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon between 1763 and 1767, reportedly to resolve a border dispute between several of the British colonies in Colonial America; all of which were located east of the Mississippi River. It is significant because it served as a cultural boundary between the North and the South prior to the passage of the 13th Amendment which officially abolished slavery (with one circumstantial exception) throughout the United States. There are those who argue that the Mason-Dixon Line was replaced by the passage of the Missouri Compromise in 1820 which purportedly

regulated slavery in the territories west of the Mississippi River. Today, some assert that the Mason-Dixon Line simply moved north and is now the border between the countries of Canada and the United States of America. *For you history buffs out there, the first two correct respondents to the following question will each receive two free tickets to The Sound's season opening concert on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014.* Why is the Congressional action in 1820 called the Missouri Compromise? Send your responses to hueyray@gmail.com or leave your response with your name at 425.687.3190.

Movement III

On February 22, 2015, the Seattle Theatre Group will present a cantata entitled "Fortune's Bones," *The Manumission Requiem* in downtown at The Moore Theater with full orchestra, a 150-voice choir (The Sound + 100 other voices), eight soloists, and African drums. Fortune was an enslaved African who died in Connecticut in 1798. His bones were stripped of flesh and remained in the family of his legal owner, a medical doctor, used for study and ultimately put on display in a museum until his true story

uncovered and captured in a book-length poem written by poetess Dr. Marilyn Nelson. Finally, his remains were properly buried in September 2013. The cantata, composed by Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell, is based on the poem by the same name and both Dr. Nelson and Dr. Barnwell will be in Seattle to participate in several related events in February. In anticipation of this event, Cultural Pursuits in conjunction with a number of organizations will offer to the broad community a diverse series of activities/events designed to spark a community-wide discussion of cultural values and medical

ethics that are presented by Fortune's story. Starting in October with an art exhibit at the LUCID Lounge in the University District, there will be several activities and events in the greater Seattle community sponsored by public and community partner organizations including the University of Washington's Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity, the Seattle Public Library, the Northwest African American Museum, CDForum, the Burke Museum, the Langston

Hughes Performing Arts Institute, and the Seattle Art Museum. All of these activities/events will be offered to the public at free or reduced costs. The art exhibit will be on display Oct. 3 - 30, 2014. It is free. For descriptions and a calendar of other activities/events, go to:

www.seattlefortune'sbonesproject.com.

Movement IV

Nov. 9, 2014 – 3pm The Sound of the Northwest in a pre-season appearance, *Giving Thanks*, a musical and awards program with guest artists, Bridget Bazile, internationally-famous soprano and Tedde Gibson, organ virtuoso First AME Church, 1522 14th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122

Nov. 15, 2014 – 2pm The Sound of the Northwest's season opening concert, *The "P" in 3D (Past, Psalm and Praise)*, with special guests JudahSong directed by Cora L. Jackson and Vania Bynum, world-class choreographer-dancer Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute (LHPAI), 104 17th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98144

Jan. 17, 2015 – 2pm Cultural Pursuits presents *The Civil Rights Struggle in the Puget Sound Region* a reading by youth based on interviews with elders, activists and cultural historians in the greater Seattle community LHPAI

Feb. 22, 2015 – 4pm The Sound of the Northwest joined by the Seattle Pacific University Gospel Choir and others in *Fortune's Bones: The Manumission Requiem* at The Moore Theater, 1932 2nd Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101

June 2015 - Cultural Pursuits presents *Spiritual Music of the African Diaspora in the Americas*, Cultural Pursuits presents The Sound of the Northwest together with MÁS - Movimiento Afrolatino Seattle, in a concert after a week-long workshop conducted by master musicians from six countries. The Sound will be joined by youth workshop participants and the master musicians. LHPAI

September **2016** – The Sound of the Northwest will go to the continent of Africa. By invitation, The Sound will participate in the Republic of Botswana's 50th anniversary of independence. Watch for more details in future newsletters.

Getting Involved

Volunteer opportunities

There are many ways in which volunteers can be involved in carrying out the mission of this organization. To name a few: these opportunities include but are not limited to ushering and assisting with box-office and merchandising functions at concerts. In addition, persons with computer, marketing and promotional expertise, graphic design, and grant-writing skills are needed for ongoing operations. Please call 425.687.3190 to let us know of your interest and availability.

Giving Opportunities

Cultural Pursuits (CP) is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization; federal ID number is 91-1969491. To keep the cost of concerts by The Sound affordable to as many people as possible, neither the director nor members of The Sound are paid. Contract musicians are paid when needed on a program. CP has no paid staff; thus, administrative costs are for the bare necessities e.g., music, facility rentals, printing, mailing and postage, phone and Internet services, insurance, etc. Ticket sales do not cover all of these ongoing expenses which is why it is critical to have your continuing support. Starting in December 2014, you will be able to contribute automatically. If only 100 people commit to give \$10/month, i.e., (34 cents/day/30 day month), the ordinary expenses of the organization would be covered. Donations may be made by check or on-line by bill-pay, credit card or PayPal. Donations may be for general operations or designated for specific projects; e.g., the Civil-Rights Struggle project is expected to need \$26,000 by the middle of January 2015. This project got off to a late start in September but \$3,000 has been raised so far. Future editions of this newsletter will include a status report.