

The Program

Concert by baritone Stephen Salters" with VCE and pianist Linda Osborn

"Blacks in Saratoga Springs: Then and Now" lecture by Prof. Myra Young Armstead

Pre-concert talk by Prof. Jean Snyder, author of *Harry Burleigh: from the Spiritual to the Harlem Renaissance*

Photography exhibition in the Zankel lobby, by local artist Daesha Devón Harris

The Historical Exhibit

This exhibit was researched in Fall 2016 by students in Elizabeth Macy's 2016 *Blues and African-American Musical Heritage* class.

Timeline & Biography: K. Davies, J. Freeman, J. Wiedemann

African-American Musical Roots: W. Bresee, J. Eisele, S. Joseph

African-Americans in Saratoga: L. De Jesus Oliveira, T. Magner, K. Schimmel

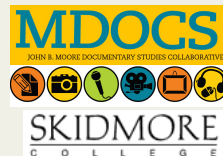
Burleigh in Saratoga: O. Cox, T. Fohrhaltz-Burbank, J. Koslow

Thanks to:

MDOCS' Jordana Dym and Jesse Wakeman provided additional research, planning, set-up, and Michael Zhou, '17 for poster design. Skidmore Music Department and Zankel Music Center. Jamie Parillo, Saratoga Springs History Museum, and the George S Bolster Collection, Library of Congress; Saratoga Springs Public Library, Saratoga Room; Special Collections, Scribner Library; Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division; New York Public Library, Digital Collections, and Rubenstein Library, Duke University.

For more information from the exhibit see the Skidmore Saratoga Memory Project website:

<http://ssmp.skidmore.edu>



Harry T. Burleigh 150th year Commemoration



2016

Skidmore College Department of Music Presents:

A Historic Concert & Celebration

November 30 – December 2

Arthur Zankel Music Center

Harry T. Burleigh

TIMELINE

May
1888

Burleigh joined Fisk University Jubilee Singers of New Orleans, with whom he traveled for eight months.



Fisk Jubilee Singers, 1888. (Burleigh not pictured). Wikimedia.

Summer
1892

Burleigh spent the summer in Saratoga Springs, NY, working as a waiter at the Grand Union Hotel. He immersed himself in the music culture, including performing at services at the Young Men's Christian Association.



Members of the United States Hotel, Saratoga Springs, NY, 1892. United Photo Agency, Inc. Library of Congress, Print and Photograph Division.

1898

Married poet Louise Alston on February 9.

1900

Burleigh became the first African-American soloist in Temple Emanu-El's choir in New York City.



Temple Emanu-El (1900). United, New York City.

1906

Burleigh sang at the African American Council Convention for delegates from 20 states.

1916

Burleigh released the first of a series of arrangements of "Deep River", one of his most famous works.

1919

George Broome, a friend of Burleigh's, established the first black recording phonograph recording company, Broome Special Photograph Records. Burleigh sang his own arrangement of "Go Down, Moses" for Broome, which was his only commercial recording.

1924

Burleigh made his radio debut on a broadcast celebrating his 30th anniversary as the baritone soloist at St. George's Church.



St. George's Church, 1913. U.S. GPO: 1913. New York City, NY. Library of Congress, Print and Photograph Division.



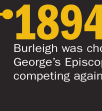
December 12
1886

Harry Thacker Burleigh was born in Erie, PA to Henry and Elizabeth Burleigh.



December
1891

Burleigh moved to New York City to study at the National Conservatory of Music on a full scholarship.



1894

Burleigh was chosen as a soloist with the choir at St. George's Episcopal Church in New York City after competing against 60 others.

1899

Alston Waters Burleigh, Harry T. Burleigh and Louise Alston Burleigh's son, was born.

1914

Burleigh helped to found the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP).

1917

Burleigh's original composition, "Little Mother of Mine" was made famous by opera singer Enrico Caruso.



1949

Harry T. Burleigh died of heart failure at age 82, in New York City.

Harry T. Burleigh, 1943. Digital Library of Pennsylvania.

Burleigh in Saratoga

"I have a warm spot in my heart for Saratoga Springs and for its people. I'll never forget the start I received there. It gave me encouragement to strive higher." – Harry T. Burleigh, as quoted in *The Saratogian*, 1964.

Harry T. Burleigh may or may not have been discovered by the classical music world in Saratoga Springs. However, during the summers of 1892 and 1894 he was in the Spa City. The published record confirms the young singer's dedication to work, worship and song which would mark his later life and career in New York City.

The Historical Record

Although lore has it that Burleigh was in Saratoga Springs as early as 1880, area newspapers first report on a service he sang at the new YMCA Offices on Phila Street in 1892, and a return visit to sing a concert at a private house in 1894.

The new rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association were occupied yesterday for the first time for a Sunday service. The Rev. Dr. F. A. Nettle of Chicago presided, and the Rev. Dr. Merrick Johnson of Chicago delivered an address. Harry Burleigh, colored, of Erie, Pa., assistant head waiter at the Grand Union, sang "I'm the Child of a King."

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North Broadway Cottages

In a visitor's cottage on North Broadway, Burleigh gave a private concert in August 1894. *Photo courtesy of Prints and Photograph Division, Library of Congress.*

