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-Americans in Saratoga: L. De Jesus Oliveira, T. Magnier, K. Schimmel
Burleigh in Saratoga: O. Cox, T. Fohrhaltz-Burbank, J. Koslow

Thanks to:

For more information from the exhibit see the Skidmore Saratoga Memory Project website:
http://ssmp.skidmore.edu

Harry T. Burleigh 150th year Commemoration

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 the newly formed Jubilee Singers of New Orleans, with whom he traveled for eight months.

**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 world, attending concerts and performances at the Young Men's Christian Association.

**1898**
Married poet Louise Aston on February 9.

**1900**
Burleigh became the first African-American member of George Eastman's choir in New York City.

**1906**
Burleigh sang at the African-American Council Convention for delegations from 20 states.

**1914**
Burleigh helped to found the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP).

**1916**
Burleigh released the first of a series of arrangements of “Deep River,” one of his most famous works.

**1919**
Burleigh’s original composition, “Little Mother of Mine” was made famous by opera singer Enrico Caruso.

**1924**
Burleigh made his radio debut, broadcasting his 30th anniversary and the Jubilee concert at St. George’s Church.

**December 12 1886**
Burleigh performed at the White House for President and Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes.

**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**
Aston Waters Burleigh, Harry T. Burleigh and Louise Aston Burleigh’s son, was born.

**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.

**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.*