

Thank You Mr. Paul Robeson



Lecture & Recital

Russell Saint John, *baritone*, Douglas Drake, *piano*

Sunday, February 11, 2024 | 1:30 PM

The Riverside Church, Assembly Hall

MUSIC
at
RIVERSIDE



Lecture



I. Paul Robeson: 1923-1927

II. The Negro Spiritual and the Negro Folk Song

III. The Paris Concert of 1927

Bureau de Concerts : Marcel de VALMALETE, 46, rue La Boétie, Paris, 8^e
Tél. : Elyées 06-73 Télégrammes : Valmalete-Paris R. C. Seine 511-027

MAISON GAVEAU (Salle des Concerts), 45-47, Rue La Boétie-8^e
SAMEDI 29 OCTOBRE 1927 à 21 heures
(Observatoire des Ponts à Neuf, 5-6)



**Le
Célèbre
Duo**

**Paul
ROBESON**
Baryton

**Lawrence
BROWN**
Ténor

dans un Programme entièrement consacré à la
MUSIQUE NÈGRE
(Personnel Direction : Walter K. VARNEY)

Programme

<p>I. SPIRITUALS</p> <p>Wade in De Water On Ma Journey Go Down Moses Ezekiel Saw De Wheel</p> <p>II. FOLK SONGS</p> <p>Water Boy Didnt It Rain Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child Little David</p>	<p>III. SPIRITUALS</p> <p>Swing Low, Sweet Chariot By and By Deep River Every Time I Feel De Spirit</p> <p>IV. SPIRITUALS</p> <p>Were You There ? I Know De Lord's Laid His Hands On Me Nobody Knows de Trouble Ive Seen Joshua Fit de Battle Of Jericho</p>
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PiNNO GAVEAU

PRIX DES PLACES : Parterre, 30 fr. ; Loges, 40 fr. ; Premières, 28 fr. ; Parterres Balcons, 1^{er} Stue, 35 fr. ; 2^e Stue, 25 fr. ; Parterres, 15 fr. ; Deuxième Balcons, 1^{er} Stue, 30 fr. ; 2^e Stue, 15 fr. ; Parterres, 10 fr. ; Promenoirs, 7 fr. (places debout) (billets compris).

BILLETS : Maison Gaveau — chez Durand, 4, place de la Madeleine — 29, Guisot-Billet, 20, avenue de l'Opéra — 88, Bureau Municipal, 50, Rue Tranchet — à la Secrétairerie Paris, 21, Rue de Valenciennes — chez Bussard-Lesclap, 40, Boulevard Malesherbes — chez Esling, 48, Rue de Rome — chez Senart, 24, Rue de Rome — Bouillon, Lander, Magasin Musical.

Recital

I. NEGRO SPIRITUALS

Wade in the Water

On My Journey

Go Down Moses

Ezekiel Saw the Wheel

arr. Henry Thacker Burleigh

arr. Edward Boatner

arr. Burleigh

Traditional

II. NEGRO FOLK SONGS

Water Boy

Didn't It Rain

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

Little David

arr. Avery Robinson

arr. Boatner

arr. Lawrence Brown

arr. Roland Hayes

III. NEGRO SPIRITUALS

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

By and By

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Deep River

arr. Brown

arr. Burleigh

arr. Brown

arr. Burleigh

IV. NEGRO SPIRITUALS

Were You There?

I Know the Lord Laid His Hands on Me

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho

arr. Burleigh

arr. Brown

arr. Brown

arr. Brown



Program Notes

This performance is dedicated to honoring the exceptional voice and enduring legacy of a truly remarkable individual. Today's concert, featuring Russell Saint John as the Baritone and Douglas Blake as the Accompanist, is a fitting tribute to the unforgettable rendition of Negro Spirituals and Folk Songs by Paul Robeson at The Salle Gaveau Concert Hall in Rue de la Boétie, Paris, France, on October 29, 1927, at 9 p.m. This event also commemorates the Quasquicentennial Year (125th) of his birth on April 9, 1898.

Paul Robeson was not only an extraordinary artist but also a dedicated humanitarian. He recognized his talents as gifts from a higher power and, driven by his faith, he continued to share his abilities despite facing persecution and oppression. Despite enduring the hardships imposed upon him due to his unwavering commitment to democracy, he remained steadfast in his tireless advocacy for the rights of marginalized communities.

We express our deepest gratitude to Paul Leroy Robeson for his artistic contributions and relentless pursuit of civil liberties. His spirit endures, and we are committed to ensuring that his influence on the journey towards a better world is never forgotten.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters for joining us in this celebration. May you be blessed abundantly, always.

About the Artists



Described as possessing... “an assured, soothing baritone” by John Perelas, of the New York Times, **Russell Saint John’s** lyric voice and compelling interpretations of the solo, operatic and oratorical repertoire have brought him critical acclaim in the United States and Europe.

He has worked with some of the great conductors of our day including Zubin Mehta, Andrew Litton, Willie Waters, John DeMain, David Gilbert, Julius Williams, and James Levine of the Metropolitan Opera. He has also been featured in recitals and as soloist with orchestras in many international music festivals including Il Gran Teatro La Fenice, Théâtre du Châtelet, the Ruins of Pompeii Festival in Sicily and the Salzburg Festival in Austria.

His large repertoire is diverse, ranging from Lieder, Art Songs and Spirituals to the great oratorical and major concert works of Bach, Handel, Mozart, and Mendelsshohn. Operatic roles include DiLuna in *Il Trovatore* (Verdi), Rodrigo in *Don Carlo* (Verdi), Amonasro in *Aida* (Verdi).

A major exponent of new music, he actively performs the works of living composers and has given the world premieres of *Death* by Luis Andrei Cobo, and The Dance Theaterformen Harlem’s ‘Spiritual Suite’ composed by Tonia León, narrated by Levar Burton and the legendary Marion Anderson.

Mr. Saint John has been fortunate enough to have worked with Betty Allen, Kathleen Battle, Jessye Norman and Grace Bumbry.

We look forward to sharing the music from this historical event which was performed 97 years ago at the Salle Gaveau, in Paris, France.

Contact email: saintjohnrussell@gmail.com

About the Artists



Douglas Drake is currently Music Director Emeritus of Broadway United Church of Christ in New York City. As chapel organist for St. Hilda's & St. Hugh's School, he plays daily chapel services for students and faculty, and he also serves as organist at Eighth Church of Christ, Scientist. Mr. Drake was also associate musician at St. Michael's Church, Manhattan, for ten years, where he helped to organize and perform in a series of all-Bach recitals on the church's famous Rudolf von Beckerath organ. It was on that occasion that the New York Times commented upon his "lucid touch." Mr. Drake has performed in Merkin Concert Hall and a variety of New York City's houses of worship. A graduate of the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, he studied organ with David Mulbury.

Upcoming Events

Turn the World Around

Sunday, February 25 | 3:00 PM

Come and join the Inspirational Choir as we revive songs that have inspired and gratified your soul. We dedicate our annual concert to Harry Belafonte, Leonard de Paur, and other foot soldiers who have fed the hungry, marched for justice, and continue working to ensure equal rights for all. Join us as we make a joyful noise, touch someone's heart, heal someone's pain, and celebrate the songs our trailblazers brought to our lives.

Riverside Inspirational Choir
Nedra Olds Neal, conductor



Metropolis

Tuesday, March 5 | 7:00 PM

Filmed in Germany, Fritz Lang's classic 1926 science-fiction masterpiece about oppressive leadership and social division nonetheless has a great deal to tell us about our current political climate. The year is 2026. In the futuristic city of Metropolis underground workers toil to keep the city operating while urban planners reign from above in their high-rise tower complexes. The son of the city's mastermind falls in love with Maria, a working class prophet who predicts the coming of a savior to mediate their differences.

Peter Krasinski, organ



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

490 Riverside Drive | 91 Claremont Ave. | trcnyc.org

The Riverside Church is an interdenominational, interracial, international, open, welcoming, and affirming church and congregation. Whoever you are: You are safe here. You are loved here. You are invited into full participation in our life together.

Rev. Adriene Thorne, *Senior Minister*
Alan Montgomery, *Interim Director of Music*
Charles Semowich, *Carillonneur*
Matthew Hommez, *Director, Riverside Rising Voices & Youth Choir*
Nedra Olds Neal, *Director, Riverside Inspirational Choir*
Daniel Potter, *Director, Riverside Ringers*
Kristina Giles, *Riverside Community String Ensemble*
Angela Haddock, *Administrative Assistant*

The Riverside Church is a member of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. and the United Church of Christ and cooperates with the Council of Churches in the City of New York, and with the New York State, National and World Council of Churches.