

Dr. Lourin Plant

Rowan University

Dr. Lourin Plant holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Wittenberg University, Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Choral Conducting from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. He has served on the voice faculties of Sinclair College and Humboldt State University of California.

Now in the twenty-second year of his appointment at Rowan University, he has served as coordinator of the vocal/choral division, conductor of the Rowan University Chamber and Concert Choirs, as well as director of Collegium Musicum (early music ensemble). His choirs have appeared in regional Music Conventions, four appearances at the NJ State Legislature, and three times at Carnegie Hall.



Dr. Plant is a member of the Marian Anderson Guild of the National Association of Negro Musicians, the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), the American Choral Directors Association, and New Jersey Music Educators Association. He has served as an adjudicator and clinician, conducted the All-Region II Chorus for the Central Jersey Music Educators Association, and has presented numerous vocal workshops and choral adjudications for New Jersey State Teen Arts Festivals.

Dr. Plant appears as both countertenor and baritone throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Mid-West states. He has performed with the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati May Festival, Dayton Opera, Amherst Early Music Festival, Philadelphia Classical Symphony, Philadelphia Ancient Voices, *Voces Novae et Antiquae*, Piffaro, Jim Thorpe Bach Festival, and in the touring ensembles of Michael Crawford, Russell Watkins, and Barbra Streisand. He has performed in numerous *comprimario* roles with the Opera Company of Philadelphia, in ensembles with The Philadelphia Singers Chorale in the Philadelphia Academy of Music, the Philadelphia Regional Arts Center (Kimmel Center), and in Carnegie Hall.

Dr. Plant's conducting, renaissance harp playing, solo and choral singing are featured on the recent CD "*Magdalene and the Other Mary: Songs of Holy Women*," distributed by Church Music Publishing. He has completed a successful tour of Ukraine, by way of Kiev, completing recital programs of African-American spirituals given at conservatories in Kharkiv, Poltava and Sumy. In Fall 2007 he appeared in the New York City Opera premiere production of the Richard Danielpour/Toni Morrison opera, *Margaret Garner*. In Spring 2008 he conducted the Central New Jersey Music Educator's Region II Women's Choir. In the 2008 and 2009 seasons, he directed Britten's *Noye's Fludde* and Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* for the Northern Lights

Music Festival (Minnesota). He appeared in recital at the Philadelphia Cathedral in February 2009, and the William Way Center in April 2009. In February 2010 he presented a workshop on “Ethical Challenges in Music Consciousness” at the New Jersey Music Educator’s Conference in New Brunswick. He conducted Orff’s *Carmina Burana* in July 2010 for the Northern Lights Music Festival, appeared as *il Notaio* in their *Gianni Schicchi* in 2011, Tonio/Taddeo in their 2012 productions of *Pagliacci*, and as Benoit/Alcindoro in *La Bohème* in 2013, as Noye in *Noye’s Fludde (Noah’s Flood)* and Dancairo in *Carmen* in 2014 and Kromow in *The Merry Widow* in July 2015. He will appear in Opera Philadelphia’s 2015-2016 productions of *La Traviata*, *Cold Mountain* (premiere), and *L’elsir d’amore*.

Dr. Plant’s presentations on African-American spirituals have been featured in state, regional and international conferences, and his articles have appeared in *Classical Singer Magazine* and the National Association of Teachers of Singing *Journal of Singing*. In them he traces the central history of the spiritual, its role in the witness and transcendence of African American slaves, its continuing presence in advancing the civil rights movement, as well as how spirituals greatly shaped American musical traditions.

Plant Materials on Spirituals:

“**Spirituals:** Whose Songs Are They? And Why Aren’t We Singing Them?” by Dr. Lourin Plant, *Classical Singer*, Nov 2003.

“**Spirituals:** How We Can Make Them A Part of Our Performing Lives?” by Dr. Lourin Plant, *Classical Singer*, January 2004.

“**Singing African-American Spirituals:** A Reflection on Racial Barriers in Classical Vocal Music,” presented by Dr. Lourin Plant at the Second Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts & Humanities, January 2004.

“*Singing African-American Spirituals: A Reflection on Racial Barriers in Classical Vocal Music,*” By Dr. Lourin Plant, National Council for Black Studies 28th Annual International Conference, March 2004.

“*Singing African-American Spirituals: A Reflection on Racial Barriers in Classical Vocal Music,*” by Dr. Lourin Plant, presented at the Eastern Regional Conference of the National Association of Negro Musicians, April 2005.

“*Singing African-American Spirituals: A Reflection on Racial Barriers in Classical Vocal Music,*” by Dr. Lourin Plant, (NATS) *Journal of Singing*, May/June 2005.

Magdalene and The Other Mary: Songs of Holy Women: A CD of choral & solo music featuring the Lady Chapel Singers (Lourin Plant solo singing, conducting spirituals, and playing Renaissance Harp), October 2005, distributed by Church Music Publishing. This music was presented in concerts on tour at Christ the King in Frankfurt, Germany; the Evangelical Church in Bergen-Eckheim, Germany; the Washington National Cathedral; Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City, MO; Christ Church, St. Joseph, MO; St. Mark’s, Medford, OR; St. Paul’s, Salem, OR; and on tour in Frankfurt, Germany, Rome, Tastevere, Santa Dorotea,, and Roccasecca, Italy, April 2005.

“**Singing African-American Spirituals:** A Master Class for all Singers,” by Dr. Lourin Plant, presented at the Marian Anderson Guild Conference of the National Association of Negro Musicians, March 2006.

“Classic African-American Spirituals in Concert.” A series of solo recitals performed at the Northern Lights Music Festival in Northern Minnesota with Dr. Lourin Plant, baritone, and Veda Zuponic, piano, featuring African-American spirituals arranged by Hall Johnson, H.T. Burleigh, William Grant Still, Margaret Bonds, John Work, William Lawrence and Moses Hogan. July 2006.

“Singing African-American Spirituals: A Master Class for all Singers,” by Dr. Lourin Plant, presented at the Marian Anderson Guild Conference of the National Association of Negro Musicians, in Haddonfield, New Jersey, March 2007 (repeated).

“Classic African-American Spirituals in Concert.” A series of solo recitals performed in Ukraine with Dr. Lourin Plant, baritone, and Veda Zuponic, piano, featuring African-American spirituals arranged by Hall Johnson, H.T. Burleigh, William Grant Still, Margaret Bonds, John Work, William Lawrence and Moses Hogan. These recitals were given at Eastern conservatories in Kharkiv, Poltava, and Sumy, March 2007.

Classic African-American Spirituals: Lourin Plant, baritone, and Veda Zuponic, piano. A vocal recording of classic African-American spirituals documenting articles, workshops and concerts on African-American spirituals for students and teachers in this vanishing art form. This CD recording featuring African-American spirituals arranged by Hall Johnson, H.T. Burleigh, William Grant Still, Margaret Bonds, John Work, William Lawrence and Moses Hogan. Recitals were given in Minnesota, New Jersey, and Ukraine. September 2007.

African-American Spiritual Workshop/Master Class, Marian Anderson Guild, Haddonfield Grace Episcopal Church (March 2008-2012).

Classic African-American Narratives Poetry & Spirituals — Recital at The Episcopal Cathedral Church of the Savior, Philadelphia. February 2009.

“Ethical Challenges in Music” — A Session Presentation at the New Jersey Music Educator’s Conference. A brief look at several controversial ethical challenges within the music world, including: Music As A Weapon; Hate Music; File Sharing; Banned/Censored Music; The Castrato; Subjugation of Women In Serious Opera; Blackface Minstrelsy; The Wisdom of African-American Spirituals. February 2010.

Classic African-American Narratives Poetry & Spirituals — Recital at The Episcopal Cathedral Church of the Savior, Philadelphia. February 2010.

They Slice The Air: A Reflection on African-American Spirituals, Narratives, Poetry and Dance. A Collaborative Reflection on African-American Spirituals, Slave Narratives and Poetry.” The evening’s meditation included spirituals (arranged by Johnson, Burleigh, and Bonds), reflective dance, and the recitation of historic slave narratives and poetry. (Lourin Plant, baritone; Paule Turner, dancer; Alexander Timofeev, piano; James Osby & David Bollar, readers). February 2011

College of College—Exploring the Minstrel Show—Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts, April 2011.

New Directions in Sacred Choral Jazz @ Bucks County Choral Society, Directed by Thomas Lloyd, Lansdale & Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral Church, October 2011.

They Slice The Air: A Reflection on African-American Spirituals, Narratives, Poetry and Dance. A Collaborative Reflection on African-American Spirituals, Slave Narratives and Poetry.” The evening’s meditation included spirituals (arranged by Johnson, Burleigh, and Bonds), reflective dance, and the recitation of historic slave narratives and poetry (Lourin Plant, baritone, Paule Turner, dancer; Alexander Timofeev, piano; James Osby & David Bollar, readers). Woodbury Juneteenth Celebration, June 2013.

They Slice The Air: A Reflection on African-American Spirituals, Narratives, Poetry and Dance. A Collaborative Reflection on African-American Spirituals, Slave Narratives and Poetry.” The evening’s meditation included spirituals (arranged by Johnson, Burleigh, and Bonds), reflective dance, and the recitation of historic slave narratives and poetry (Lourin Plant, baritone, Paule Turner, dancer; Alexander Timofeev, piano; James Osby & David Bollar, readers). Rowan University, February 2012, 2014.

They Slice The Air: A Reflection on African-American Spirituals, Narratives, Poetry and Dance. A Collaborative Reflection on African-American Spirituals, Slave Narratives and Poetry.” The evening’s meditation included spirituals (arranged by Johnson, Burleigh, and Bonds), reflective dance, and the recitation of historic slave narratives and poetry (Lourin Plant, baritone, Paule Turner, dancer; Alexander Timofeev, piano; James Osby & David Bollar, readers). Woodbury Juneteenth Celebration, June 2014.

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