

The Negro Artist Series

SPONSORED BY

First African Baptist Church

OF SAVANNAH, GA.

(Oldest Negro Church in North America)

DR. RALPH MARK GILBERT, Pastor

**Featuring Some of the Negro race's
Most Gifted Artists**

EIGHT OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES

EIGHT EVENINGS OF PLEASURE AND PROFIT

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

SEASON TICKETS (all 8 performances).....	each	\$5.00
EACH INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE (Except "The Peasant of Galilee").....	each	\$1.00
"THE PEASANT OF GALILEE" (A local production).....	each	.50

You will save \$2.50 by purchasing the season ticket. Those buying two or more season tickets will be listed on the PATRONS' LIST on all of the printed programs. Further details on inner pages.

WILSON LEE HARDY

Tenor, of New York City

We are bringing this young artist from New York City, just on the eve of his stepping into prominence as a singer of exceptional beauty of voice, and whose training bids fair to lift him into the realm of the immortals.

This young man, still in his early twenties, has not yet achieved fame. But he is well on his way. When that day comes, Savannah will be able to say, "We heard him while he was on the way up."

Mr. Hardy will open our series, on
WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 24th, 1945



VICTOR HUG GREEN

Famous Negro Baritone of Concert, Stage, and Screen

Acclaimed for his performances in "Green Pastures,"
"Cabin in the Sky," and many other shows.

EASILY ONE OF OUR PRIZE ATTRACTIONS
FOR THE SEASON

Born in Atlanta, Ga., and educated at Atlanta University, the Boston Conservatory of Music, and the University of California, Victor Hugo Greene started his career at an early age with a dramatic role in "Shuffle Along."

Roles in many other shows followed, and he also became a headliner on the vaudeville stage. During this time, a tour of France, Germany, Australia, and South America won him international acclaim.



In 1939, he gave his first concert recital in New York City, and was a sensational success. Since then, Mr. Greene has appeared in concert throughout the country, appeared in leading roles in "Green Pastures" and "Cabin in the Sky," and played in several motion pictures. He has been featured frequently on network radio programs. All of which proves that Victor Hugo Greene is not only one of America's most notable singers, but a decidedly popular one as well!

Mr. Greene will appear in this series, on
MONDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 19th, 1945

THE RESURRECTION SCENE from THE NEGRO PASSION PLAY,
entitled, "PASSION AND TRIUMPH" Written and Directed by
Dr. Ralph Mark Gilbert

WILL BE THE FEATURE OF THE

Sunrise Easter Service

on Easter Sunday Morning, 7 A.M.

ADMISSION TO THIS WILL BE ABSOLUTELY FREE TO ALL WHO
PRESENT THEMSELVES EARLY ENOUGH TO GET INTO THE
MAIN AUDITORIUM OF THE CHURCH

NO TICKETS OF ANY KIND ARE NEEDED FOR THIS PERFORMANCE. THIS IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SEASON TICKET.
ABSOLUTELY FREE ADMISSION!

EASTER SUNDAY MORNING AT SEVEN O'CLOCK

Olyve Hopkins

BRILLIANT SOPRANO,
OF NEW YORK CITY

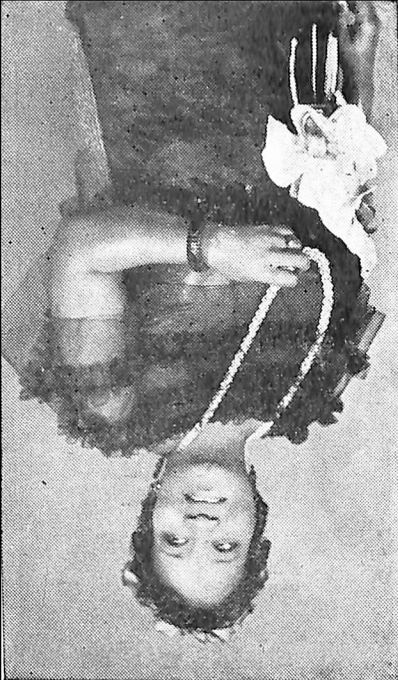
One of the Best Known of Negro Sopranos.

Giving a Varied Program Ranging from the Arises to
Spirituals.

Pleasing to the ear, stimulating to the mind, inspiring
to the soul.

Miss Hopkins will close our series, on
WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 8th, 1946







A History-Making Event!

THE
NEGRO
DRAMA
GROUP

A Negro Repertory Theatre—Under the direction of

POWELL LINDSAY

THE NEGRO DRAMA GROUP, under the direction of
Powell Lindsay.

Comprising Powell Lindsay, Alma Forrest, Jimmy Wright, Muriel Gaines, and Grafton Trew, presenting a distinguished selection of dramatic successes, unrestricted and ungoverned by racial tradition.

RECENTLY ADDED TO THIS COMPANY ARE ROMONA LOWE AND FANNY PEELE. Ramona Lowe has appeared in such New York productions as "How Come Lawd?" "Run Little Chillun," and "You Don't Want to Be Free." Fanny Peele has made New York appearances in "Sweet Land," and the delightful comedy, "Horseplay."

ALMA FORREST studied dramatics at the New Theatre School of New York, and made her debut in New York in "BIG WHITE FOG," and drew enthusiastic acclaim from the critics as a fine emotional actress. She recently filled an engagement at New York's Roxy Theatre, and is often heard on radio programs.

JIMMY WRIGHT scored his first dramatic success in "WALK TOGETHER LITTLE CHILDREN," then in "Haiti," and then in the Orson Welles-directed "Macbeth." He played opposite Ethel Waters in "Mamba's Daughters," and has recently appeared on several radio shows, most notable being "NEW WORLD'S A'COMIN'," authored by Roi Ottley.

MURIEL GAINES has toured in Europe and South America, and was a member of the first Negro USO unit. Last season she appeared in Broadway's "Early to Bed," and recently filled a nine months' singing engagement at New York's celebrated "Village Vanguard."

GRAFTON TREW won his fame when he had his big chance in John Waxley's much-discussed play, "THEY SHALL NOT DIE." He appeared in minor roles in several productions, but has had his greatest opportunity in the THEATRE GUILD.

POWELL LINDSAY, the director, is recognized as an outstandingly talented director and actor. He studied at Yale School of the Drama, and organized the famous Theatre Progressive of Connecticut. Under his able and sensitive direction, this group won coveted first place in the Yale Drama Tournament. After writing and directing several plays, Mr. Lindsay helped organize the Playwrights Company of New York and directed their first production, "BIG WHITE FOG." His marked ability was lauded by dramatic reviewers.

THIS PRODUCTION IS A MUST!
Presenting

The Negro Drama Group will appear in this series on
MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 7th, 1946

Kemper Harreld

CELEBRATED VIOLINIST

For many years in charge of all music at the famous Morehouse College, of Atlanta, Ga.

Director of the Morehouse College Glee Club and Orchestra, which has been heard in Savannah upon several occasions.

A top-ranking violinist, using one of the oldest instruments in the world, and making that instrument virtually sing.

Mr. Harreld will be the sixth to appear on this series, and will bring us his recital on

MONDAY EVENING FEB. 4, 1946



"The Peasant of Galilee"

The New Gilbert Play—
Based Upon the Life of Christ

DR. RALPH M. GILBERT,
Author and Director

Dr. Ralph Mark Gilbert, author and director of the biblical drama, and pastor of the sponsoring church, is regarded as the Negro race's outstanding religious dramatist. He is author of several religious plays, some of which, "PASSION AND TRIUMPH" (The Negro Passion Play), "WHICH MAN WAS RICH," "THE GUIDING STAR," and "JUDAS ISCARIOT," have been seen by tremendous local audiences.

Dr. Gilbert personally trains large casts for these productions, and many of the young people appearing therein have been with him now for eight years. "JUDAS ISCARIOT" broke all attendance records at the Municipal Auditorium.

"THE PEASANT OF GALILEE" becomes the connecting link in Dr. Gilbert's "LIFE OF CHRIST SERIES." Enacted by a cast of over 200 players, and supported by a chorus of like number, under the baton of Prof. Peter Smalls, this promises to be one of Dr. Gilbert's major triumphs.

Some forty-odd other churches and organizations are joining hands with the First African Baptist Church in the sponsorship of this gigantic spectacle, which will be presented from the stage of the Municipal Auditorium.

(Holders of Season Tickets will be admitted to this production upon presentation of said Season Ticket)

MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 18th, 1945

Single Admission - - - - - FIFTY CENTS

Remember - - - AT THE MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM





A History-Making Event !

THE NEGRO DRAMA GROUP

A Negro Repertory Theatre—Under the direction of

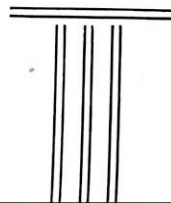
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POWELL LINDSAY studied dramatics at the New Theatre School of New York. He made her debut in New York in "BIG WHITE FOG," and drew widespread acclaim from the critics.



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Dr. Ralph Mark Gilbert, author and director of the play.

MARGARET WALKER

A PART OF THE NATION SPEAKING

Winner of the Yale Series Prize for Younger Poets.
Presenting Readings From Her Book of Poems.

"FOR MY PEOPLE"

"To hear Margaret Walker read from her book of poems 'For My People,' is a moving experience . . . I shall not forget for a long time. Miss Walker reads without trying for effects. What impresses is her complete sincerity . . . The ways of living in cities and on the land, the labor 'in the valley of cotton and cane and banana wharves' left its mark on her thinking. With her roots deep in the South, she rises above regionalism to understand the issues in American social adjustment. Best of all, she knows her people."

—Harry Hansen, The First Reader,
in the New York World-Telegram.



Margaret Walker was born in Birmingham, Ala., receiving her early education in Meridian, Miss., Birmingham, and New Orleans. Began writing at the age of 13, and during her school days attracted attention with her remarkably sincere power of expression. Graduated from Northwestern University in 1935, took her A.M. at the University of Iowa in 1940, became Professor of English at Livingstone College, Salisbury, N. C., and is now a member of the Department of English in West Virginia State College.

In 1942 her book, "For My People," inspired by an original poem of exceptional brilliance of the same name, was selected as Volume XII of the Yale Series of Younger Poets.

Miss Walker will be the third to appear in this series, on

MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER THIRD, 1945

ROBERT HARRIS

Heard last year in Savannah by an audience that was captivated by his incomparable performance.

A touch and execution which you are permitted to hear from only one artist in a life-time.
Though not out of his twenties, he already ranks with such great artists as Paderewski, Brauer, and others.

To present him as one of the leading pianists of our race, would be misstatement and an understatement of fact. ROBERT HARRIS IS ONE OF THE FEW GREAT PIANIST OF OUR TIME IRREGARDLESS OF RACE.

Mr. Harris will appear in this series on

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17th, 1945



Some Things That You Should Remember About This Series

1. THE NEGRO ARTISTS SERIES, which this year consists of one Tenor, one Baritone, one Poet-Reader, one Pianist, one out-of-town dramatic group, one violinist, a locally prepared and authored religious pageant, and one Soprano, is the most ambitious series of local entertainments ever to be presented to the public of Savannah by any of this city's Negro groups. As such, we need your support and encouragement, so that in the future we may be enabled to bring you an even more impressive array of fine Negro artists.

2. There is a substantial savings in purchasing season tickets, for you will receive \$7.50 worth of entertainment, if purchased event by event, for the sum of only \$5.00.

3. ALL OF THESE ENTERTAINMENTS SHALL BE GIVEN IN THE MAIN AUDITORIUM OF THE FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH, with the exception of "THE PEASANT OF GALILEE," which will play from the stage of the MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM, on Monday evening, March 18th, 1946. If for any reason there should be a change of place, ample notice will be given the public through the newspapers, and by mail.

4. Provision will be made for those purchasing SEASON TICKETS to have their names placed on our mailing list, so that we might send a reminder to them a week to ten days before any given event shall take place.

5. Tickets for these performances may be secured, or ordered, by phoning the office of the FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH, 36597, or the Pastorium of that church, 3-6045, or by coming by the church office, 23 Montgomery Street, any day between 10:30 A. M. and 6 P. M. Mail orders will be filled. Make checks payable to THE NEGRO ARTISTS SERIES.

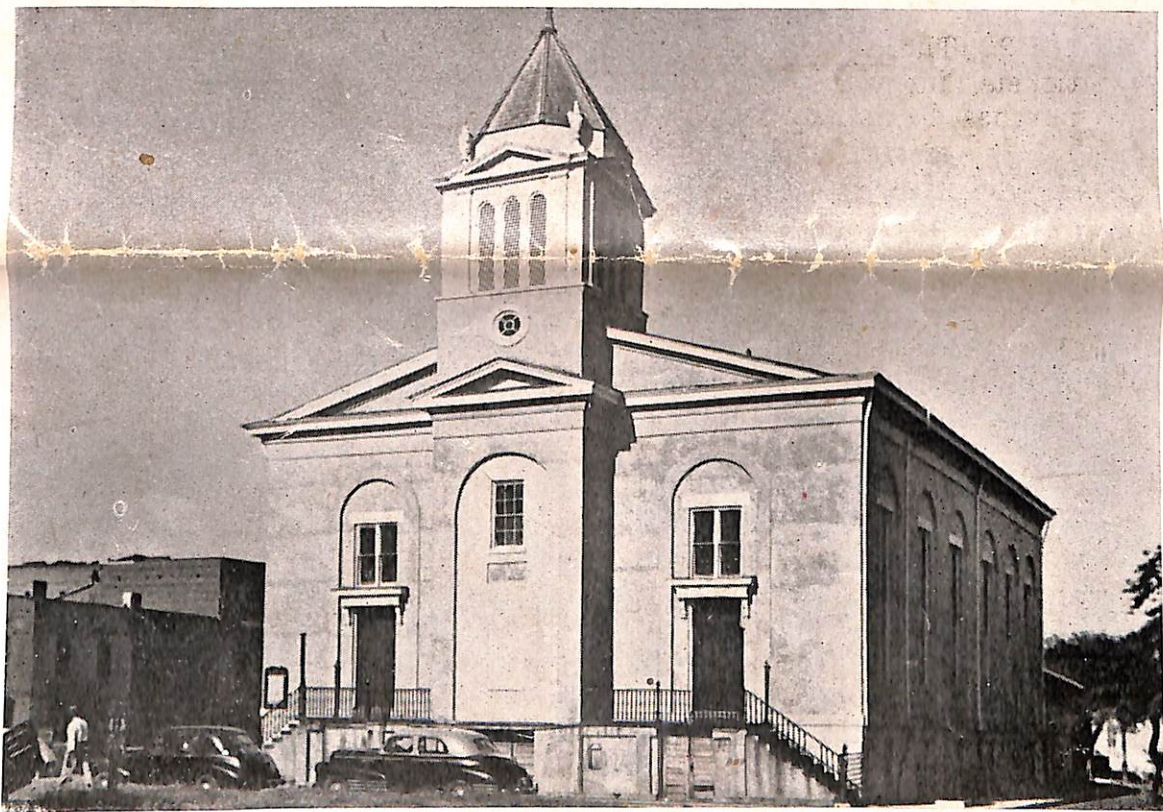
Tickets Are Now On Sale

For The Enrichment of Our Community

The First African Baptist Church of Savannah, Ga.

Presents

THE NEGRO ARTISTS SERIES



Please read this Folder and
Pass it along to some interested friend