

0:00:02.669,0:00:04.738

Hello, I am Uzee Brown,

0:00:04.740,0:00:08.000

Professor and Chair of the Department of Music at Morehouse College.

0:00:08.000,0:00:14.314

And I would like to say a little bit about a project that has been near and dear to me,

0:00:14.314,0:00:16.816

really for the whole of my life.

0:00:16.816,0:00:19.219

Especially, since having come to Morehouse.

0:00:19.219,0:00:22.620

And that is, an interest in collecting

0:00:22.620,0:00:26.660

and capturing, in some way, including by way of arrangement

0:00:26.660,0:00:28.380

and compositions

0:00:28.380,0:00:31.031

that music that was idiomatic of...

0:00:31.031,0:00:35.769

my region of birth and the Coastal region of South Carolina.

0:00:35.769,0:00:39.260

I am from the Piedmont region of South Carolina,

0:00:39.260,0:00:41.775

from a little town called Cowpens.

0:00:41.780,0:00:45.100

It is an historic Revolutionary War town,

0:00:45.100,0:00:51.160

and when I was a child it was rich with music that was still being done in the folk way.

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And that is delivered by way of oral transmission...

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in the churches, in community gatherings, and social and otherwise.

0:00:58.300,0:01:01.140

And so I became fascinated with a number of different music types,

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particularly after entering Morehouse College...

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and coming under the influence of the late Dr. Wendell P. Whalum,

0:01:08.427,0:01:10.770

who was certainly my mentor in this.

0:01:10.770,0:01:13.820

He made me realize the true value of this music,

0:01:13.820,0:01:17.080

that otherwise may have been neglected in terms of...

0:01:17.080,0:01:21.020

what I knew and understand... understand this music to be now,

0:01:21.040,0:01:27.280

and its placement in the whole of the African American folk music experience.

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I spent hours and hours of time

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in the Piedmont region of South Carolina collecting data in two primary ways.

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One was by personal interview with elders in the community,

0:01:39.686,0:01:43.636

and the other was to collect recorded materials.

0:01:43.636,0:01:48.420

And two of the most valuable and rich resources for me were my mother

0:01:48.420,0:01:52.200

and father who were both, themselves, amateur musicians

0:01:52.200,0:01:55.148

and made music all the time around the home of different kinds.

0:01:55.148,0:02:00.053

My mother played the piano, my father played the guitar and the harmonica...

0:02:00.053,0:02:06.793

and these folk music types were ones that were sung in my church and in the surrounding communities.

0:02:06.793,0:02:12.632

And interesting to me was to do a comparison of the music of the Piedmont region of South Carolina...

0:02:12.632,0:02:17.337

to the music from the lower part of South Carolina in the Coastal region.

0:02:17.337,0:02:21.975

I found some interesting similarities in that some of the music from the Coastal region...

0:02:21.980,0:02:27.800

involved the same kind of melodies and tunes that I had heard in the Piedmont region of South Carolina.

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Others, interestingly enough, had similar text with different tunes, or similar tunes, but different texts.

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So there was always this... this balance of what happens when something moves through region to region...

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and it's sort of like the word game where you pass the word on.

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And by oral transmission they evolve to take on a life of their own depending upon communities.

0:02:49.740,0:02:56.460

As a result of having collected this data, which represents any number of hours of recorded material...

0:02:56.460,0:03:02.500

on the music of the old tradition, to include the spirituals, the lining out...

0:03:02.540,0:03:09.420

shaped-note singing, singing of various other kinds of songs that were lullabies and play songs in the community...

0:03:09.420,0:03:12.800

a compilation of my spirituals were done.

0:03:13.120,0:03:18.700

These are arrangements effected by that oral experience, by my choir.

0:03:18.700,0:03:22.700

The Uzee Brown Society of Choraliers

0:03:22.700,0:03:29.100

And the title of this set is 'My Lord's Gettin' Us Ready for That Great Day'

0:03:29.100,0:03:34.840

The music of Uzee Brown, sung by the Uzee Brown Society of Choraliers.

0:03:34.840,0:03:38.480

And among these pieces are some of the most well known

0:03:38.480,0:03:45.580

And, in my experience, cherished pieces that are very rare and have seldom been heard

0:03:45.580,0:03:48.500

in the body of music from the oral experience.

0:03:48.500,0:03:56.220

So this is why I chose, particularly, to collect and set these particular songs, of which there are 18.

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And I have any number of others that I have collected over the years

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that may find their way in to publication as well.

