MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE PRESENTS

Music for the New Millennium ...

... from Middlebury to Manhattan to Madrid to Moscow

Featuring

François Clemmons, tenor
(Alexander Twilight Artist-in-residence)
David Pearl, piano

The Middlebury College Choir
François Clemmons, director Dick Forman, accompanist

Friday, April 11, 2003
8:00 p.m., Mead Memorial Chapel

Patrons are requested to turn off all signal watches, cell phones and beepers prior to the performance. Flash photography and the use of audio or video equipment are prohibited without the express permission of the artist.
A Note from the Maestro Middivo:

From Middlebury to Manhattan to Madrid to Moscow...

Over the past two years I have been carried away with my exploration of music from several genres. Last April, I had the honor of going to Madrid, Spain, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Middlebury College Spanish School. This involved researching Spanish composers such as Manuel De Falla, Eduardo Nin, Joaquin Nin, Obrados, and others. I discovered that during the early years of the twentieth century, musicians of several nations such as Spain, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Finland, and indeed America, were fully immersed in a full dialogue and experimentation of folk music in the ‘traditional’ classical performance arena.

In addition, I’ve had the extreme joy of exploring and singing music from the Broadway theatre ranging from My Fair Lady, Man of La Mancha, The Fantastiks, Camelot, Guys & Dolls, to South Pacific.

I am now exploring the great musical traditions of Russia. While perusing through songs by Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Mussorsky, Prokofieff and other Russian composers I am struck by the similarity to the deep spiritual feeling and exploration of human suffering that I find in American Negro Spirituals. In my tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in January, I sang for the first time in concert, songs associated with the devotional, healing services of the Black Southern Baptist church tradition.

In my fourth year as conductor of the Middlebury College Choir, I am proud to say that we continue to defy easy categorization with our ever-growing repertoire of Bach, Brahms, Mozart, Dvorjak, Sibelius, as well as a growing array of American composers. We’ve added to our repertoire of American Negro Spirituals some old favorites like Hold On, Witness, Ride Duh Chariot, and Mary Had a Baby. In the future we look forward to adding selections from the American Musical Theater such as Camelot, Carousel, South Pacific, and West Side Story.

It’s a lot to pull together in one evening of music making, but it adds up to the sum total of my inner exploration of ‘the artist as musician’ at this time in my life. Bravissimo to my total artistic exploration in Vermont!!!” And kudos to the Middlebury College Choir!!!

With love,

François S. Clemmons