“Here Come the Honey Man”

Alexander Twilight Artist-in-Residence
François S. Clemmons, Tenor
Dick Forman, Pianist

presenting songs from
“Porgy and Bess”

Friday, November 7, 2003
8:00 P.M.
Program
"Porgy and Bess"
Music by George Gershwin

Summertime
It Ain't Necessarily So
A Redheaded Woman
I Got Plenty Of Nothin'
Oh! Duh Train Is At Duh Station An'Yuh Betta Get On Board!
It Take A Long Pull Tuh Get Dere
Crown, Crown Don't Yuh Be Downhearted!
(Clara, Clara Don't, etc.)
I Loves You Porgy
Oh, A Woman Is A Sometime Thing
Dere's A Boat Dat's Leavin' Soon For New York
Oh, Dere's Somebody Knockin' At Duh Doh
Bess, You Is My Woman Now
Oh, Lawd, I'm On My Way!

--- Program subject to change ---

A note from François

I've been performing George Gershwin's Porgy & Bess since the early 1960's. My voice teacher at Oberlin College urged me to learn the arias of Sportin' Life and to work on the fabulous choruses. I sang the arias at various competitions and concerts to much success and made them a permanent part of my repertoire. In 1971 I was asked to do a full production in Los Angeles under the direction of the Legendary Ella Gerber. I survived it and came away with a life-affecting experience—I was born for Porgy & Bess. Since then I've done the role of Sportin' Life almost 200 times in productions too numerous to recall, from Springfield, Massachusetts, to Toledo, Ohio, then on to New York, Berlin, Valencia, Madrid, Vienna, and Seoul, South Korea. I was honored to be a member of the cast to record the first complete Porgy & Bess in 1976 with conductor Lorin Maazel—now the conductor of the New York Philharmonic, with the Cleveland Orchestra for London Records.

Later I was asked to become the Chorus Master for several productions, culminating with the critically acclaimed production in Berlin and Vienna under the direction of the German Mogul and Artistic Czar, Goetz Friedrich. Because of this production, I lived in Europe for ten months at a time for several years during the 1980's. Since then I have toured with concert productions of Porgy & Bess and done solo concerts of excerpts. All of these have proved to be growing experiences for me. Many people consider Porgy & Bess America's greatest offering to this genre of music. I would heartily agree. In this concert you will get to hear me sing several different characters from Porgy and Crown, to Bess and Serena. I relish the challenge. More than anything I hope that hearing this concert will encourage you to go to hear a full production when it comes to our community or somewhere nearby.