

SINFONICA

Zeta Rho Phi Mu Alpha



October 6, 2014

Volume 10, Number 1

Inside this issue:

Jubilee Legacy	2
The President's Vision	3
On Campus	3
National Convention	3
The Brother Corner	3
Alumni Events	4
A Word from Our Faculty Advisor	4

Jubilee Legacy: Matthew Washington Kennedy (March 10, 1921—June 5, 2014)

When the Sinfonia looks for men, we seek musicanly men who seek to become men of the highest type. Occasionally we wish to honor a manly musician who has already developed those qualities and will share them with us as Sinfonians. Matthew Kennedy (Iota), the "Jubilee Legacy," was initiated into the Zeta Rho Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia on March 13, 2011, only three days after his 90th birthday.

Matthew Kennedy, who began playing the piano as a young child in the segregated South was one of the first African Americans to perform in Carnegie Hall. He was appointed director of the Fisk Jubilee Singers® during the height of the Civil Rights Movement and led the ensemble for over twenty years (*The Tennessean*, June 6, 2014)



Born in Americus, Georgia, in 1921, Kennedy attended the New York Institute (Julliard) and graduated in 1940. When he graduated with a piano diploma in 1940, one of his teachers, Lois Adler, encouraged him to return to the South and attend Fisk, where he was accompanist to the Jubilee Singers, directed at the time by Amelia (Mrs. James A.) Myers. His study was interrupted by Army service during World War II, but he returned to the University on the G.I. Bill. He earned the B.A. in Music in 1947 and started working as a music instructor at Fisk. He became a member of the Music Faculty in 1954. He married Anne Gamble, another pianist who taught at Fisk, and in 1956 was appointed director of the Jubilee, chosen by the long-time director and Music Department Chair, John Wesley Work III (A, 1953).

He retired from Fisk in 1986, but remained active in the community. He continued to play piano at First Baptist Church Capitol Hill well into his 90s. He released a CD titled *Familiar Favorites* in 2003, and his life is chronicled in the film *Matthew Kennedy: One Man's Journey*, which was awarded the Rosetta Miller-Perry Award for Black Filmmakers. He was a regular guest speaker in The Creative Arts. He was

"...He was one of the first African Americans to perform in Carnegie Hall. He was appointed director of the Fisk Jubilee Singers® during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, and led the ensemble for more than twenty years."

Memorial Service Sinfonians Only

Harris Music Building, Rm. III
Saturday, October 4, 2014
2 p.m.

visible on campus during concerts and convocations, and was always on the program to conduct *The Gold and the Blue*. After he was confined to assisted-living facilities during the Spring 2014 semester, the University continued to list him on programs as "Honorary Conductor."

Brother Kennedy held the M.A. from Julliard (1950) and pursued coursework for the Ph.D. from Peabody College. In 2006, Fisk University awarded him the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. He was a charter member of the Nashville Fine Arts Club, John Wesley Work Memorial Foundation, and the Nashville Area Music Teachers Association. He was also a member of the Nashville Symphony Guild, National Association of Negro Musicians and many other professional music organizations. Stories and descriptions of his life include the words "survivor," "courage," "strength," and "virtuosity."

Anne Gamble Kennedy died in 2001. They are survived by their daughter, Nina Kennedy. In lieu of flowers, the Kennedy family requests that donations be made to the Gamble/Kennedy Scholarship Endowment in support of Fisk music students. Information is available at www.kennedymusicfund.org.

His memorial was held on Saturday, June 14, 2014 at First Baptist Church Capitol Hill, in Nashville.

Zeta Rho will lead the Sinfonia Memorial Service at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 4, 2014, in Harris 111.

The President's Vision

Anniversary

All Hail Brothers!

I am extremely excited about what this year holds in store for Zeta Rho! We have jumped headfirst into this year and I believe we have definitely made a splash on this campus. We have made sure that people know our name and what we do by presenting our talents and our "manly musician-ness" before the entire campus. Province 15 has continually drawn closer and Zeta Rho has invited and welcomed several other chapters to a few of our events.

As Zeta Rho continues to move through the 21st century, we have started utilizing new methods to communicate with each other. Most of you already know about our "Red & Black" Facebook® group, as well as the Zeta Rho web page, but most recently we have began using a Google Calendar to display what events we have coming in the year! If you would like access to any of these resources, do not hesitate to email me at rasmccollough@yahoo.com.

As we continue on and ever upward into this academic year, let us continue to build each other up through brotherhood and music. Right now is a great time to be a brother of Zeta Rho!

In Sinfonia,
President Ras McCollough (Kappa)

"We have jumped headfirst into this year and I believe we have definitely made a splash on this campus."

On Campus

Christmas at Fisk Annual Showcase Concert: December 2, 2014, 7 p.m.

National Convention

The date and location for the National Convention will be announced soon!

The Brother Corner

Doran Senat (New Alpha, 2005) works at Community Health Systems in Franklin. We welcome Brother Senat back to Nashville.

Zeta Rho concluded her 60th year on May 23, 2014. December 5, 2015 marks the tenth anniversary of the New Alpha class.

During the next fourteen months, we are asking our Sinfonia Alumni to set the precedent for ten-year anniversaries to come. Membership Pins are available for men who have been in the Fraternity ten years, twenty-five years, or fifty years.

The other activities of 2015-2016 include Fisk's sesquicentennial celebration. Zeta Rho will be fully visible during these landmark anniversaries.

Winterbourne Jones (New Theta) has agreed to chair the anniversary committee. Please contact him to volunteer for the committee.



Cover photo:
Matthew Kennedy

Above: Musical Chairs
Back: Visiting Alumni

Zeta Rho Phi Mu

1000 17th Ave N
Nashville, TN 37208



Philip E. Autry (New A, editor)

Sinfonica is published on October 6, January 25 and September 23 by the ZP Chapter Of Phi Mu Alpha

Fisk University—Music
100 17th Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37208

ZP Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha
Officers and Advisors

President:

Ras McCollough (K)

Vice-President/FEO/PCR:

DaVon Brooks (Λ)

Secretary/Warden:

Lyante Savala (M)

Treasurer:

Jordan Gale (M)

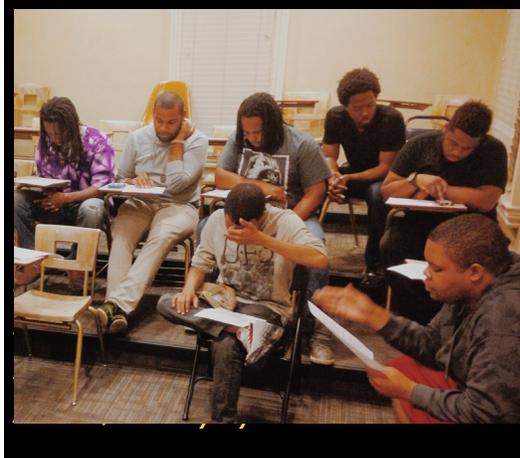
Faculty Advisors

Dr. Philip Autry (MΓ)

Dr. Gary Powell Nash (ΔI)

Bryan Kent Wallace (OΛ)

Jordan Holland (ZP)



Alumni Events

Upcoming Events in Province 15
October 5, TBA, Founders Day (Vanderbilt University)

October 8, 8 p.m. On the 8s at Blackstone's
November 8, 8 p.m. On the 8s at Blackstone's

November 15 (6 p.m.)–16 (8 a.m.) Phall Ball
at Vanderbilt University

December 8, 8 p.m. On the 8s at Blackstone's
January 8, 8 p.m. On the 8s at Blackstone's

A Word from the Faculty Advisor

Why do we memorialize those who have left us? The ancient Greeks would lay out the body, conduct a ritual and procession, and then mark the burial spot with a marble statue to ensure the dead was not forgotten. We mark the waters of memory with special qualities or red, black, and gold for Sinfonians who have transitioned to the next life (Our brother Kennedy was Christian, which is a faith with a special emphasis on resurrection). A memorial service gives us the opportunity to remember our brother in context of those special characteristics which are dear to us as Sinfonians. We also have the opportunity to teach each other how we can reflect those qualities as demonstrated in his life. Also, we express both our love and our grief in music in a way that is unique to those in our Brotherhood. I strongly encourage all our collegiate and alumni members to be present with heart, mind, and voice.

"A memorial service gives us the opportunity to remember our brother in context of those special characteristics which are dear to us as Sinfonians."

Philip E. Autry (MΓ, '99, ZP '05, LLS #151), Faculty Advisor