



Sinfonica



The Alumni Newsletter of the Zeta Rho Colony of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia
Inaugural Issue, May 25, 2005

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia

Zeta Rho Colony

The Zeta Rho Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia was established at Fisk University on May 23, 1953. It was the third colony to be established in the state of Tennessee. The chapter has been inactive since 1984, but in Spring 2001, Dr. Philip Autry (Mu Gamma) of the Fisk University Music Department met graduate student Bryan Kent Wallace (Omicron Lambda) and began to discuss recolonizing the inactive Zeta Rho.

Early in the Fall semester of 2002, twelve Fiskite men attended a get-acquainted reception in the Fisk Jubilee Singers™ Rehearsal Hall of the Harris Music Building. Dr. Autry invited the Eta Xi Chapter from Tennessee State University. The club accepted the suggestion by Mr. Wallace that they adopt the name of the successful colony at Grambling State University, the Sinfonic Club, of which he had been a founding member. The club became the FISK SINFONICS. They elected Demetrius Delancy, a senior music major from Nassau, Bahamas as their president, Kyle Twaites, a junior psychology major from Kent, Washington, as their vice-president. During the next academic school year the Sinfonics performed at any activities available recruiting new members in efforts to meet the colony requirements of fifteen. During that year, Kyle Twaites

served as president and freshman, Taron Marshall of Chicago, Illinois, served as vice-president.

The group elected Ephriam (ELI) Ivey, a senior business finance major from Atlanta, Georgia as president and elected Kyle Twaites to serve as vice-president for the school year of 2004–2005. During the Fall Semester the Sinfonics recruited a large number of freshman and in total had the fifteen members required by the Fraternity. They successfully requested, completed and returned the application for colony status on November 21, 2004. On January 25, 2005 the Fisk Sinfonics received official correspondence from Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America via Ryan T. Ripperton, Executive Director, stating, ‘On behalf of the Commission on Standards, it is my pleasure to inform you that Fisk University has been granted colony status in Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia... The colony shall be known as the Zeta Rho Colony, and be part of Province 15.’

Currently the colony is preparing an Application for Phase II of colony status.

Zeta Rho Colony
Phi Mu Alpha
Fisk University Music Department
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Nashville, Tennessee 37208

The Mills Music Mission of the Zeta Rho Colony

It is always a great day when men come together for the greater good of giving to those in need! To stop from busy schedules and strenuous, mind-wearying duties to commit themselves to the single task of healing the souls of those that are in need of uplift, bringing joy and energy is the duty of the Brothers of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Over a century ago, Sinfonia’s founder, Ossian Everett Mills, gave selflessly of his own time and effort to uplift his fellow man with music. Mills and other early members of the Fraternity understood the true purpose of their art as the enrichment of the human spirit and therefore gave of their art freely to the occupants of nursing homes, hospitals, and others.

The Zeta Rho Colony of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, gave such an offering of their time and art as they set out on November 13, 2004, to sing for a group of retirees at the Keller Miller Smith Retirement Home.

The Brothers gathered in a common room and sang a few traditional songs including *Dona Nobis Pacem* and *The Red and Black*. We also sang *O If My House Was Built Upon a Rock* by W.A. Ogden,

and *Zombie Jamboree* by Conrad Mauge before we serenaded the females in the audience with *A Serenade to a Girl*.

The program was diverse and included our songs of Brotherhood and some songs for fun entertainment. The residents enjoyed us. They responded and requested that one day we return to sing for them again in the future.

We made a big difference in that day. Some retirees at first did not want to be part of the event, but eventually became delighted to have us and thanked us for coming.

The Brothers enjoyed their time with the elders and hope to visit again soon. Though some Brothers found it quite strange to hold conversations with people they hardly knew, they admit that they felt a sense of accomplishment in doing something great in the lives of all those who attended, and are happy to have shared their gift of music.

The American Musicale at the Home of American Music

On October 6, 1871, a small group of singers from Fisk University set out on their first tours to raise funds for a new dormitory at Fisk. The first tour was set for the northern parts of the United States. The second tour, international in scope, culminated with a performance before Queen Victoria of Great Britain. According to legend, the queen was so taken with the performance of the singers; she claimed their home of Nashville, Tennessee as Music City. Once again, Music City swells with the

sound of American Music with the re-colonization of the Zeta Rho Colony of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

The Zeta Rho Colony hosted its American musicale, titled "An Evening of American Music," on Wednesday, February 23, 2005 at 5:30 pm. The Master of Ceremonies was President Ephriam Ivey. The event began with the singing of the national anthem by the Zeta Rho colony. They also sang a traditional piece titled "I Feel Good," arranged by Fisk University's own Dr. Gary Powell Nash, an alumnus from the Delta Iota chapter, now on the Fisk University music faculty. The audience was thrilled and ready for more.

Soprano Matasha Allen was next with "Dancing in the Sun" by Sinfonian and faculty advisor to the original Zeta Rho chapter, John W. Work, Jr.

Next, Zeta Rho member and Fisk Jubilee Singers™, Kyle Twaites, gave a spectacular performance of "Lit'l David, Play on Your Harp" arranged by Roland Hayes. His bass-baritone sound gave the audience something to clap about.

Afterwards, a trio consisting of Courtnei Scott, DaJuana Elder, and Jacqueline Patterson, came to bring a little soul to the evening, singing "I Must Tell Jesus" by Elisha Hoffman and arranged and performed by the R&B/Gospel group Virtue. The audience was definitely all for the performance and the audience as well as Zeta Rho colony thanked them for it with a grand round of applause.

Next, piano major Christina Lindsay took the stage to play *Ansioso* by Sinfonian William L. Dawson. She gave the audience chills with its diminished and minor chords and evened it out

to a near-mellow sound with majors. The audience gave her a healthy round of applause.

The last of our guests, Coloratura soprano Kawana Williams, a member of the Fisk Jubilee Singers™, shook the audience with her performance of "Oh, What a Beautiful City," a Negro spiritual arranged by Edward Boatner. Her precise style and her final note, won her a standing ovation.

Collaborative piano for singers who sang accompanied solos, was provided by Dr. Philip Autry, music department chair, faculty advisor, and an alumnus of the Mu Gamma chapter.

In rounding up the program, the Zeta Rho Colony returned to the stage to sing "The Red and Black." The brothers definitely bonded in singing this fraternal song of spirit. Last, the colony President invited all female guest performers to the stage. They stood not knowing what was next, but they were pleased as the colony sang "A Serenade to a Girl" and each one received a red rose.

Officers 2004–2005

President	Ephriam (ELI) Ivey
Vice-President	Kyle Twaites
Secretary	Devin Mikell
Treasurer	Darrel Jones
Fraternity Education	Kyle Twaites
Historian	Steven Hunter
Alumni Secretary	Antoine Tomkins
Warden	Darrel Jones

Officers 2005–2006

President	Darrel Jones
Vice President	Devin Mikell
Secretary	Curtis Jones
Treasurer	Gregory Mason
Fraternity Education	Devin Mikell
Historian	Darius Gaines
Alumni Secretary	Matthew Richardson
Warden	Darius Gaines