

Letter of Appreciation to Soprano Cheryl Warfield

by Kaila Rochelle

On February 9, 2012 students at the The Roy Campanella School were treated to a master class and an interactive assembly program by soprano Cheryl Warfield. Both programs focused on composer Harry T. Burleigh, and his contributions towards the preservation of African-American spirituals. Ms. Warfield taught students about the historical context related to the development and performance of spirituals and the need to pass these historical artifacts down to upcoming generations. To quote Ms. Warfield: "Spirituals are so important because they provide a historical record from the slave's perspective."

Ms. Warfield worked with students on vocal technique and style both in the classroom and at the assembly. She broke down the difficult steps of breathing properly while singing for her audience in a step by step manner that had students singing beautifully and in unison.

Ms. Warfield then graced the stage with her magnificent interpretive and vocal magic holding everyone in awe of her beautiful renditions of historical songs that speak to the heart of Americans learning about the years of slavery in the United States. She performed some of the best known spirituals and invited students to participate in singing, movement and percussion performance.

Ms Warfield is a powerhouse and the spirituals she sings are an inspired art form that she can deliver with passion and great depth. She has been a friend to students at the Campanella School for many years and has participated in other programs both in the school and outside of the school to benefit students and the music program.

On behalf of the students and the staff of The Roy Campanella School, I would like to thank Ms. Warfield for her outstanding program. It is an honor for me to present an audio file of Ms. Warfield singing *Go Down Moses*, a song included among the spirituals used as code songs in the American Underground Railroad. I am also including a link to Ms. Warfield's lesson plan and biography.

http://specialneedsinmusic.com/text/lessons/lesplns/Cheryl_Warfield_Vocal_Lesson_Assembly.pdf

specialneedsinmusic.com *Go Down Moses* Folk Page:

http://specialneedsinmusic.com/folk_song_pages/Go_Down_Moses_12_1129.html