

# VIDEMUS

## Ray Wade Benefit Concert/ Artist in Residence at East Carolina University



In November, Ray M. Wade, Jr. gave a benefit concert at First Congregational Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The concert featured mezzo-soprano Deborah Nansteel, a senior vocal performance major from East Carolina University. The benefit concert was given as a tribute to Lynn Bridges and to raise money for the Lynn Bridges Award, which awards deserving students with \$1,000 scholarships. "The benefit concert for the Videmus Lynn Bridges Memorial Award was a great honor for me for two reasons," says Mr. Wade. "It was a wonderful way to honor my friend and colleague and it was a way for me to be able to give something back and help young talented prospects who otherwise would not have these sorts of resources available to them." Deborah Nansteel, the 2005-2006 recipient of the Lynn Bridges Memorial Award, was very grateful to have the opportunity to perform with Ray Wade. "Singing with Mr. Ray Wade was an extraordinary experience. He taught me many things about how to be a professional and about not bringing frustrations and personal issues into rehearsal. He not only teaches you technique and style, but also about practical things about life in and outside of the classical world. I was so honored to have been chosen out of the many others that could have been chosen to have this great honor and opportunity!" Ms. Nansteel's scholarship has helped her in numerous ways including paying for books and scores for school and travel for competitions. The concert featured works from various composers including Mendelssohn, Mozart, Verdi, Work, Burleigh, Whalum, and Johnson. Ms. Nansteel sang two arias from the operas *La Favorita* by Donizetti and *The Ballad of Baby Doe* by Moore and a duet with Mr. Wade from *Carmen* by Bizet. The singers were accompanied by Videmus Director, Louise Toppin. Audience members included former Lynn Bridges winners Monte Thomas pictured above (far right), Minetta Daniels (far left) and Videmus board president Willis Patterson (second from left). Audience members did not know about the scholarship, but the concert did raise 1,500 dollars for the program and pledges of future support. !!!! It was a wonderful way to enjoy beautiful singing for a great cause!

Check us out on the web!

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## Ray Wade Residency

Before his performance in Michigan, Mr. Wade was the featured Artist in Residence at East Carolina University. For a week, he taught lessons with students as well as presented a masterclass for the public on Wednesday November 1, 2006. He gave advice as a professional singer about careers, character development, and technical approaches to singing. Students were able to speak with Mr. Wade about his career in Germany and the professional opera world. It was a unique experience for the students.



## Bridges Award Update: 2006-7 Recipient Kimberly Wood

Videmus awarded its eighth annual Bridges award of \$1000.00 to Kimberly Joy Wood. She graduated with a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from East Carolina University where she studied voice with Louise Toppin. Ms. Wood sang the role of Countess Almaviva in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Lucia in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*, and Bess in a scene from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. She was an instructor of voice at North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC where she taught applied voice, class voice, and diction for singers. She assumed the position of voice coordinator of the Department of Music in her second year of teaching at NCCU. She also taught voice at the Music Academy of Eastern Carolina in Greenville, NC. Ms. Wood won an honorable mention at NATS audition and 2nd place in the Leontyne Price Vocal Competition. Ms. Wood is currently pursuing her DMA in Vocal Performance at Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA. For her complete bio, visit our website at [www.videmus.org](http://www.videmus.org).



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## Meet Videmus Graduate Assistant Allison Jones

Allison Jones will be working with Videmus for 2006 - 2007. Ms. Jones is a native of Augusta, GA. She received her Bachelor of Music Performance degree from Columbus State University in Columbus, GA where she took voice from Dean Clarence Coleman. Highlights of her undergraduate performances include two voice recitals and several voice competitions. She appeared in opera scenes where she played Pamina in Mozart's The Magic Flute and Donna Elvira in Mozart's Don Giovanni. She placed 3rd in the Leontyne Price Vocal Arts Competition in the Virginia District and was a recipient of the Mikanna Voice Scholarship from Mu Phi Epsilon. She is currently pursuing her Master of Music in Vocal Performance at East Carolina University where she studies voice with Louise Toppin. This Spring, Ms. Jones will appear as Laetitia in Menotti's The Old Maid and the Thief and as Lauretta in Puccini's Gianni Schicchi with the ECU Opera Theater. Her projects for Videmus include creating the newsletters, the Ray Wade concert and residency, working on a database of African American repertoire, & working on the NANM scholarship repertoire. We're glad to have her working with us this year!



## Videmus and the NANM Organization

For the past two years, Videmus has been a partner with the NANM scholarship competition to provide access to the repertoire of African American composers. Please visit our website [www.videmus.org](http://www.videmus.org) to see the repertoire for the 2007 string competition and to go our links to purchase the repertoire.

NANM supports the genres of African American Music through awareness, preservation, and promotion. It was founded in 1919 in Chicago as the oldest organization in America. Its purpose is to exchange ideas among musicians, exposure to music through performance, highlight aspiring African American musicians through scholarships, and acknowledge professional artists through concerts. It deals with all facets of music performance, teaching, arts management, jazz, and other genres of musical interests. The current president is Roland Carter. For more information please visit their website at [www.nanm.org](http://www.nanm.org).

## Videmus Records Releases

Poetry Preludes, March 1, 2006  
He'll Bring it to Pass, March 31, 2006  
Soulscapes, May 1, 2006  
Fields of Wonder, December 1, 2006

## About Our Organization...

Videmus is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of the music of African American, women and under presented composers through concerts, recordings, educational programs and scholarship. If you would like to join the Friends of Videmus, please visit us at [www.videmus.org](http://www.videmus.org) (contact)  
Thank you for your support!

## Upcoming Events for Second Issue

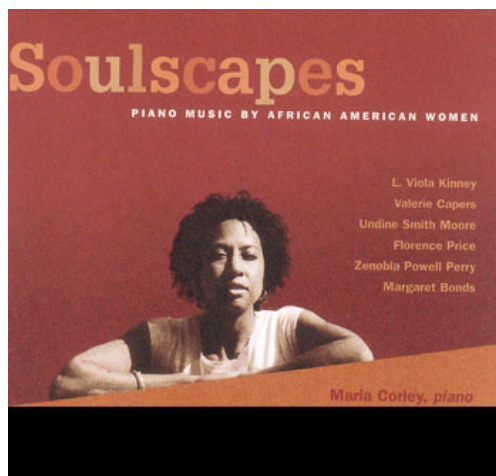
Fall Fund Drive

Uzee Brown, Jr. - Artist in Residence in North Carolina  
New Records and Concerts!

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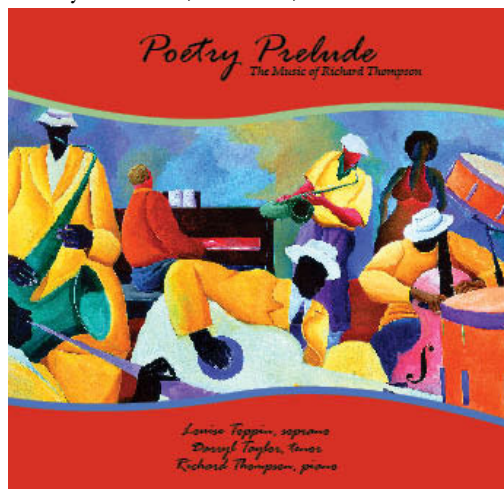
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