



LAFAYETTE COLLEGE NEWS

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WILLIAM PARKER TO PERFORM "AIDS QUILT SONGBOOK -- 1992" IN CONJUNCTION WITH LAFAYETTE DISPLAY OF AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

EASTON, Pa. --American baritone William Parker will perform excerpts from the "AIDS Quilt Songbook -- 1992" 9 p.m. Monday, April 27, in Lafayette College's Colton Chapel.

The free concert is being held in conjunction with the display of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, April 26-28, in Kirby Field House. The public is invited to attend both the concert, which will follow the closing of the Quilt display on April 27, and a reception at the Kappa Delta Rho fraternity house on campus after the performance.

A member of the artistic community who has AIDS, William Parker conceived and organized this collective work to promote AIDS awareness. He invited many of America's most prominent songwriters to compose a response to a poem about AIDS or one written by a person with HIV/AIDS. The complete "AIDS Quilt Songbook -- 1992" contains approximately 18 songs.

The April 27 presentation at Lafayette will include songs by William Bolcom, John Harbison, Ned Rorem, Lee Hoiby, and Elizabeth Brown, among others. Some poems are songs of goodbye, such as Fred Hersch's "blues for an imaginary valentine." Others, like



Susan Snively's "Fury," rail in anger over untimely death. Kabir-Bly's "The Flute of Interior Time" likens love to an instrument "played whether we hear it or not." Ron Schreiber's "The Birds of Sorrow" rest upon a Chinese proverb: "We cannot prevent the birds of sorrow from flying over our heads, but we can refuse to let them build nests in our hair."

Parker, recently profiled in a March *MacNeill/Lehrer Newshour* report on "The Arts and AIDS," performed portions of the "AIDS Quilt Songbook -- 1992" in Berlin in February. Parker will premiere the entire 1992 work on June 4 at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center. Parker dated his "AIDS Quilt Songbook -- 1992" in hope that in future years more musical settings to the poetry of people with HIV/AIDS will be composed each year as an ongoing reminder until the epidemic is arrested.

Parker's concert is one of numerous AIDS awareness events being held in conjunction with the visit of the AIDS Quilt to the Lafayette campus. Funds received at all events prior to the opening of the display will be equally divided among four Lehigh Valley beneficiaries: AIDS Outreach, AIDS Services Center, The Latino AIDS Outreach Program, and the Religious Coalition on AIDS. Donations received during the display will go to the national organization.

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