

Montgomery Philharmonic

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2015-2016 – A Celebration of the Montgomery Philharmonic’s 10th Anniversary Season Concert 5– May 15 2016

A Second Concert with the Central Maryland Chorale

Veni Sancte Spiritu | Luebst du um Schönheit | The Lake Isle of Innisfree | Three Madrigals |
To Sit and Dream | I Believe This is Jesus | The Dreamers of Dreams | Mass in A-flat

I Believe This is Jesus – Undine Smith Moore (1904–1989)

About – Undine Smith Moore

Undine Smith Moore was born in Jaratt, Virginia, the granddaughter of slaves. In 1908, her family moved to Petersburg, Virginia, where she began to study piano with Lillian Allen Darden. Moore attended Fisk University and graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano; she was the first Fisk graduate to receive a scholarship to Juilliard. Moore became the supervisor of music for the public school system in Goldsboro, North Carolina, and commuted to Columbia University in New York City to work on her Master of Arts in Teaching. She taught piano, organ, and music theory at Virginia State University and had several famous students, including pianist Camilla Williams and jazz pianist Billy Taylor. Moore traveled widely as a professor, lecturing on black composers and conducting workshops. She was a meticulous teacher and left behind a large archive of her teaching materials, lesson plans, and exercises.

Moore was awarded honorary Doctor of Music degrees by Virginia State University (1972) and Indiana University (1976), and in 1977 she was named music laureate of Virginia. Among her many awards were the National Association of Negro Musicians Distinguished Achievement Award (1975) and the Virginia Governor’s Award in the Arts (1985).