

 agave baroque
with countertenor Reginald Mobley

American Originals



AMERICAN ORIGINALS celebrates the music of Black and brown composers from the United States, Mexico, Cuba, and South America. This program of music by brilliant yet underrepresented composers explores how the blending of European, African, and indigenous styles created uniquely American sounds. Among the many treasures of this repertoire are Scott Joplin's sentimental and heartfelt 'Bethena', a song by Black American guitar virtuoso Justin Holland (a friend of Frederick Douglass), two works by the earliest known native Cuban classical composer, and a set of songs by the extraordinary Florence B. Price, who seamlessly blended Romantic art song and Spirituals into a sound all her own.

Program

Manuel de Zumaya (ca. 1678-1755)—*Como aunque culpa*

Anonymous (Cusco Cathedral archive)—*Canción a 3*

Esteban Salas (1725-1803)—*Taedat animam meam*

Anonymous (Chiquitos Archive, Bolivia)—*Trio sonata in F*

Esteban Salas—*¡Tu, mi Dios, entre pajas!*

INTERMISSION

José Maurício Nuñez García (1767-1830)—*Te, Christe, solum novimus*

Justin Holland (1819-1887)—*Dream Faces*

Florence B. Price (1887-1953)—*Five Folksongs in Counterpoint*

Clementine

Shortnin' Bread

Scott Joplin (1867-1917)—*Bethena*

Price

Resignation

Song to the Dark Virgin

The White Rose

Tobacco

Out of the South Blew a Wind

Sympathy

“Powerful presence...brilliant...profound playing.”
—*Early Music America*

“Expressive and virtuosic... it was the
interaction between Agave and Mr. Mobley
that created the real magic.”
—*San Francisco Classical Voice*

“Rapturous music and impressive playing.”
—*Early Music America*

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