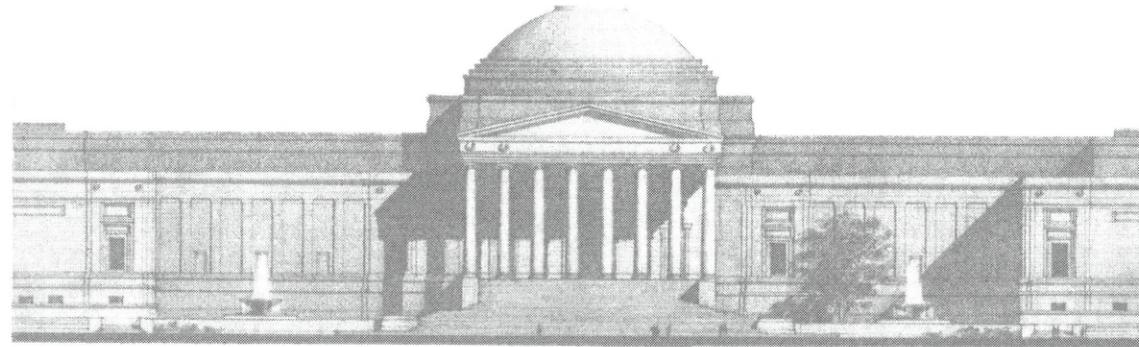


The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are turned off.



The Seventy-third Season of
The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lammot Belin
Concerts

National Gallery of Art
3,016th Concert

Music Department
National Gallery of Art
Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC

www.nga.gov

Concerts are made possible in part through the generosity of donors to the National Gallery of Art through The Circle. Reserved seating is available in recognition of their support. Please contact the development office at (202) 842-6450 or *circle@nga.gov* for more information.

The Senegal St. Joseph Gospel Choir

October 5, 2014
Sunday, 3:30 pm
West Building, West Garden Court

Admission free

Program

Requiem Latino-Wolof

Adaptation of Mozart's *Requiem* in the Wolof language

You Better Mind

Traditional gospel song

The Storm Is Passing Over

Traditional gospel song

Bandia

Song in the Bambara language, arranged by Julien Jouga

Ta Vueta

Song about the act of Grace

Walay

Wolof song for blind men begging for alms

Elé Way Way

Song to give young women strength and courage during the traditional tattoo ceremony

Coumpo

Popular song in the Diola language, used to cast out bad spirits

Terra Sabi

Creole song to encourage farmers during winter plowing

Diot Niam

Traditional Sérère song

The Musicians

The Senegal St. Joseph Gospel Choir was founded in 1950 by Julien Jouga (1931–2001), UNESCO's Ambassador Artist for Peace. Jouga served as an officer in the Senegalese Armed Forces and also coached Senegal's national basketball team. As a musician, he dedicated himself to incorporating Senegal's indigenous harmonic forms into Western choral music's diverse repertoire, from Gregorian chants to polyphony. Jouga was a visionary devoted to the cultivation and preservation of the Senegalese culture. Audiences and singers who had the opportunity to see Jouga leading the Senegal St. Joseph Gospel Choir recall his intense magnetism, and the way his long hands and delicate fingers transmitted rhythm and voluptuousness to the singing. He and his choir were one musical entity, touched by the same grace.

Now in its forty-fourth year and directed by Ambroise N'Diong, the ensemble's seat is St. Joseph's of Medina in Dakar. Each Sunday in this working-class neighborhood, the chorale interprets Gospel and Negro spirituals, traditional African songs, and the magnificent masses that Julien Jouga composed in his country's four national languages: Ouolof, Diola, Sérère, and Portuguese Creole. The voices—to which drums, guitar, and kora are occasionally added—rise in a local polyphony invented by Jouga, testifying to both his mastery of languages and his profound knowledge of Senegal's rhythms and musical traditions. He prolifically arranged and harmonized songs from the country's rich folkloric repertoire, capturing the many and varied experiences of ordinary citizens. Jouga also interpreted and combined the Catholic liturgy and Senegal's indigenous Muslim songs to create an extraordinary harmony between the two cultures that make up the nation. The Senegal St. Joseph Gospel Choir represents the humanity and fraternity that exist not only within Dakar, but also throughout this West African country.