

MEMORANDUM

Date: 17 February 2012
To: All Concerned
From: GRADY-RAYAM PRIZE Selection Committee
RE: 2012 Competition Event Cancellation

The Board of Directors and Staff of the “Negro Spiritual” Scholarship Foundation regret to announce the cancellation of our 2012 GRADY-RAYAM PRIZE In Sacred Music competitions for the following regions: Bahama Islands, Capital, Mid-South, New England, Northeast and Southeast.

Our selection policies require that a minimum of eight qualified senior high school students be registered and accepted as a competition field in order for a competition event to take place. With the application deadlines having passed for the majority of the established regions, the required number of applicants was fielded in none of them, and the numbers registered in the remaining regions show no promise of reaching the minimum. Given the current hard economic realities, we do not feel justified in making the large expenditures needed to fund day-long competition events involving paid professional staff as well as volunteers with so few of our target population being served. We are also reluctant to incur costs for occupying the music school facilities of a leading college campus in each region without a reasonable number of assured participants.

We are sorry for any inconvenience caused to those professionals and volunteers who had given a commitment to be involved in this year’s competition event. We are especially unhappy with having to disappoint the few young people who made a timely effort to participate with us this year. It is our hope that an evaluative study of this new turn of affairs will open pathways to the renewed interest and secure funding needed to resume a full competition season in coming years.