

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Recording Spotlights Douglass

Project drawn from Rochester's archives finds 'A Sky with More Stars' for Frederick Douglass.

By Kathleen McGarvey

There's an "inherent musicality" to the words of former slave, abolitionist, and longtime Rochester resident Frederick Douglass, says Jeffrey Tucker, director of the Frederick Douglass Institute and an associate professor of English.

A new CD, *A Sky with More Stars—Suite for Frederick Douglass*, proves his point, blending Douglass's stirring writings and speeches with interpretative jazz inspired by his work.


Composers Tyrone Brown and John Blake wrote the original music for the CD, which is performed by the Tyrone Brown Ensemble. Interspersed with the jazz are selections from Douglass's orations and

publications, read by University Vice President Paul Burgett '68E, '76E (PhD), who is also a scholar of African-American music and an adjunct professor of music.

"His themes are as relevant today as they were two centuries ago," says Burgett of Douglass.

Brown says music was an important form of entertainment for slaves. "They did not have modern instruments—at best, a violin," says Brown, who adds that Douglass played the violin, as did his wife and grandson, an

accomplished musician. In honor of that, the violin has a lead role on most tracks.

Part of a series featuring African Americans whose papers are preserved at the University, the recording includes liner notes by Tucker and graphic design work by Melissa Mead of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Recorded by John Trueberger at the Eastman School's studios, the CD was produced and edited by Richard Peek, the director of Rare Books and Special Collections. 

QUOTES

Rochester in the News

"This tug of war will continue as long as we have fundamental disagreements in the country over the role of money in politics."

—**David Primo**, an associate professor of political science, in the *New York Times*, responding to this winter's Supreme Court ruling that the federal government may not ban political spending by corporations and unions in candidate elections.

USA TODAY

"Why weekends are better are the two factors of autonomy and relatedness. There's more connection with other people and more self-direction. Wherever you don't have autonomy or don't feel relatedness, your well-being will be lower."—**Richard Ryan**, a professor of clinical and social psychology, explaining his recent research on why people report greater happiness during weekends.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

"If we've learned anything, it's that we need much more effective communication of danger signals in advance."—**Joel Seligman**, University president and an expert on regulatory history, commenting on new rules intended to regulate Wall Street.

ABC NEWS

"The illusions that you see in three dimensions in the movies [are] not exactly calibrated the same way that your eyes and your brain are. If your eyes are a little off to begin with, then it's really throwing a whole degree of effort that your brain now needs to exert."

—**Deborah Friedman**, a professor of ophthalmology, explaining why some people get headaches watching three-dimensional movies or television.

NEW YORK TIMES

"What we are looking for is excellent work, from any language, eclectic modern fiction that is overlooked. Commerce does not enter the discussions; I wouldn't know a commercial book if I saw one."—**Joanna Scott**, the Roswell S. Burrows Professor of English, describing the editorial approach of Open Letter, the University's literary translation press, in selecting literature for publication.

MSNBC

"It's keeping the switch flipped and maintaining these new behaviors that becomes tricky."—**Edward Deci**, a professor of psychology and the Gowen Professor in the Social Sciences, remarking on the difficulties of maintaining resolution when making lifestyle changes.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"When we think about why we want to have a scientifically literate society, it's not to have kids succeed in school science. It's because we want them to be able to interact with their world."—**Joyce Duckles**, a doctoral candidate in human development at the Warner School, discussing research suggesting that children are capable of grasping science sooner than previously thought.