

Internationally Known Pianist to Play Works by Black Composers at AU Concert

2/09/00

Alfred, NY -- Cecil Lytle, the provost of Thurgood Marshall College at UC San Diego and a pianist known around the world for performances and recordings, will perform in concert Friday (Feb. 11) at Alfred University. The concert, set for 7:30 p.m. in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall, is free and open to the public. Winner of the Liszt piano competition in Vienna, Lytle has performed in various venues. His repertoire includes classical music -- he has recorded Beethoven piano sonatas Opus 106 and 111 as well as the Scriabin Series and the complete piano music of George Ivanovich Gurdjieff -- as well as 20th-century avant-garde, jazz, ragtime, and blues. Born in Harlem, the youngest of 10 children, Lytle sang and played from babyhood. He took music lessons from his father, a Baptist Church organist, and continued them at Oberlin College, where he earned his bachelors degree, and the University of Wisconsin. He has received a Fulbright-Hayes fellowship and six National Endowment for the Arts awards; his lecture-performance TV series "The Nature of Genius" was nominated for an Emmy. Friday's concert, which is funded by the AU Division of Performing Arts, the David Miller Performing Arts Fund, and AU Student Activities, will be a program of work by black composers titled "Rags to Other Riches." The focus will be jazz, including works by Scott Joplin, Fats Waller, Duke Ellington, Herbie Hancock, and Eddie Harris.