New concert series kicks off summer of classical events in Harlem

Harlem is about to get a brand-new music festival. It will feature African-American classical musicians and friends. This series of four events will begin on Sunday, June 22 at 1 p.m. with an all-Mozart program at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 521 West 126th Street, with tickets available at the door on a first-come, first-served basis.

The program will include a duo for violin and viola, an oboe quartet (oboe, violin, viola and cello) and clarinet quintet (clarinet and string quartet). The players will be violinists Carlos Baptiste and Chala Yancey, violist Charles Dalton, cellist Clarissa Howell, oboist Jim Ferraiuolo and clarinetist Liz Player.

This series has been arranged by Liz Player and Charles Dalton as a benefit for St. Mary’s Episcopal Church. The rest of the events will take place on Friday, July 11 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, July 27 at 1 p.m.; and Friday, August 8 at 8 p.m. The programs will feature works by Schubert, Brahms, Bruch and Dvorak.

The David I. Martin Music Guild of the National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc. will present a concert entitled “Music and Our Mission” in commemoration of Juneteenth on Saturday, June 28 at 2:30 p.m. at the Church of the Crucifixion, West 149th Street at Convent Avenue. It will benefit the scholarship fund.

Juneteenth is the oldest national commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. The concert will feature members and guests of the David I. Martin Music Guild in a program devoted to works written and arranged by African-American composers. Tickets will be available at the door.

On Friday, June 20 at 6:30 p.m., the Harlem Opera Theater presents its 2008 Voice Competition at the Apollo Soundstage on the third floor of 253 West 125th Street. Winners will receive Judge’s Choice and Audience Choice awards. Tickets will be available at the Apollo Theater box office.

Since its founding in 2001, Harlem Opera Theater has offered imaginative programs featuring many highly talented singers in venues throughout the community under the artistic (Continued on Page 42)