

## Schiller Institute Upholds The Legacy of Mme. Hackley

In the early 1990s, civil rights heroine Amelia Boynton Robinson and two other African-American legends, vocal coach Sylvia Olden Lee and operatic baritone Robert McFerrin, collaborated with Lyndon LaRouche on a project of making Washington, D.C., a desirable, safe, and beautiful place to live. Rather than having children duck bullets while walking to school, LaRouche proposed a cultural intervention into the nation's capital.

Sylvia Olden Lee had already taken upon herself the mission of saving the African-American Spiritual, and insisted that renewing the practice of *bel canto* singing, would communicate the essence of this tradition. Schiller Institute Vice Chairwoman Amelia Boynton Robinson revived the musical drama she had written in 1936, *Through the Years*, which incorporated many African-American Spirituals, and it was performed in American cities, with more than 1,000 children participating in Washington, D.C. alone.

The Schiller Institute sponsored free Classical concerts, featuring the best professional and also amateur Classical singers of opera, *Lieder* (German art songs), and spirituals. This work was advanced by an order of magnitude, when world-renowned baritone Dr. William War-

field joined the Schiller Institute Board in 1996, teaching master classes and holding concerts, workshops, and discussions, as well as instructing members of the LaRouche movement. Most inspiring, Dr. Warfield, a student of the tradition represented by the almost-forgotten Mme. Hackley, coached members of the LaRouche Youth Movement, until his death in August 2002. With his coaching, young men and women were steeped in singing *Lieder* and Spirituals, and in the lost art of poetry recitation, presenting the works of Keats, Shelley, Shakespeare, Schiller, as well as the late-19th-Century African-American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar.



*Sylvia Olden Lee and William Warfield at a Schiller Institute conference in Washington, D.C., May 27, 1994.*