

Cecilia Smith: Dark Triumph, The Life of Victoria Lancaster Smith

A historical epoch and musical journey that will transcend time and impact listeners lives.

JAY EDWARD, WCLK JAZZ RADIO 91.9FM, ATLANTA, GA



PRODUCED BY:

Cecilia Smith & Cecil Bridgewater

COMPOSED AND ARRANGED BY:

Cecilia Smith

RECORD LABEL:

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Format Audio CD

Catalogue # 49683-2

Retail Price (2 CDs) \$20.00



DARK TRIUMPH is a 2 CD Recording

CD #1 Narration & music; CD #2 – Music Only

TRACK LISTINGS:

1. Birth/Spring
2. Spring/ The Darkest Child*
3. Seating By Color
4. Too Light a Negro for Me (A Love Song)*
5. New Birth/Spring
6. Grief and Disasters*
7. An African American in Rio Frio Costa Rica*
8. Africa Remember*
9. From Conclusion to Order/Spring-Dark Triumph*

***Tracks on CD#2 suitable for jazz radio airplay**

DARK TRIUMPH is **jazz vibraphonist Cecilia Smith's** rich and complex musical work which tells the story of an African American woman who dedicated herself to serving others – first as a nurse and later as a volunteer for both the Red Cross and the Peace Corps. The selfless and extraordinary life of one Victoria Smith is richly celebrated here through a deft blend of **orchestration and narration**.

Storytelling set to music has an allure all its own. It's no surprise that contemporary composers often embrace this blended art form. And to what better purpose than honoring the life of an extraordinary American? One thinks of Aaron Copeland and his work celebrating Abraham Lincoln. Yet how often has an African American's life been the subject of a major musical tribute? And moreover, how often has that tribute focused on unsung heroes, the everyday people of the black community? Perhaps never.

Until now – **DARK TRIUMPH** is a stunning addition to a select canon. Celebrating what it means to be both black and American, Cecilia has written original compositions that blend modern classical, jazz and contemporary popular music. As such, her arrangements pay homage to an all-American experience, yet are grounded in the specificity of an African-American one.

DARK TRIUMPH, Cecilia Smith's new work, contains a full string section (including Gwen Laster, Maxine Roach & Eileen Folson), boy soprano's from the **Boys Choir of Harlem**, an all star rhythm section (**Carlton Holmes**, Pno/Keybd; **Lonnie Plaxico**, Acoustic Bass; **Montez Coleman**, Drums; **Farai Mailanga**, Percussion), narration, and vocals, with **Bruce Williams** on soprano sax and composer/arranger **Cecilia Smith** on vibes.

Take your time to absorb and appreciate **DARK TRIUMPH**, as it is not only a fitting musical tribute to the incredible life of a great woman. It is an historic first.

Cecilia Smith (SESAC) www.ceciliasmith.com