

In Honor of Black History Month,
Francophiles and Music Lovers,
International Studies and Programs, UMSL,
is pleased to present the documentary film:

BLACK MOZART IN CUBA **(Le Mozart noir à Cuba) ***IN ENGLISH*****

Critically Acclaimed Short Documentary
2008, Guadeloupe, 52 min, Steve and Stéphanie James

Mozart Noir à Cuba [Black Mozart in Cuba] is a documentary dedicated to the life and work of Chevalier de Saint George (Guadeloupe; 1745-1799), an accomplished composer, violinist, and conductor, an “athletic, musical, and military hero who became a superstar” in 18th century France.

Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-George [Knight of Saint-George], was born on Christmas day, 1745, in the French-Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, to a Senegalese slave and a French colonialist. Saint-George was a breakthrough composer and violin virtuoso who came to be called “Le Mozart Noir.” He became the first black man to lead France’s most important orchestras. Saint-George was also Europe’s finest fencer, a master horseman, elite musketeer, infamous playboy, and a colonel who led an army in the French Revolution. Described by poets of his day as a “French Hercules,” “a veritable Mars,” and a “rival of Apollo,” Saint-George stands out as one of the most extraordinary figures of the 18th century.

Musically Saint George may very well have been the “King of Pop” of his age; militarily he helped prevent what could have been the early collapse of the French Revolution. The vicissitudes of his journey are dramatic: from a young outsider in Paris to the dizzying heights of superstardom in pre-Revolutionary France (“The Famous Saint George”) to an utterly tragic end in which a man whose company had once been fought over by royalty and great aristocrats, died alone, unmarried and destitute.

DIRECTOR: Born in Trinidad, Steve James is a multi-talented artist with experiences ranging from music to film making. A successful writer /composer, sound engineer and film director, his art is dedicated to promoting the incredibly rich cultural heritage of the Caribbean throughout the world.

Thursday 16 February 2012 at 3:00 and 7:00 PM
Student Government Chamber, Millennium Student Center,
University of Missouri–St. Louis
Free and Open to the Public



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