AFRO staff photo by Norma Spencer

HANG IN THERE — Marie Elizabeth Murphy Phillips-Cooke delivered her trial sermon Sunday at Bethel AME Church, pastored by the Rev. Dr. John R. Bryant (L). "Hang In There" was the theme of her powerful message to the congregation of some 500 persons.

Marie Cooke preaches trial sermon

It was like revival time in Bethel AME Church, Druid Hill Avenue and Lanvale Street, Sunday evening as Mrs. Marie Phillips Cooke gave her trial sermon.

There were frequent 'amens,' shouts and 'hallelujahs' while the church rocked.

This was the first time in the church's history a trial sermon was held in the main sanctuary.

More than 500 persons filled the main sanctuary to hear the 28-year-old journalist preach the theme "Hang In There."

In introducing Mrs. Cooke, the Rev. Dr. John Bryant said, "I feel good about Dr. Arthur Payne's and Dr. Howard Cornish's presence. Sister Cooke is blessed to have them here.

"They have seen a lot of congregations and they've lifted a lot of words and to have them here tonight at the birth of a new prophet is indeed a blessing."

In addition to the powerful prayer by the Rev. Ronald Braxton a welcome address was delivered by Ms. Elaine Cosby.

A presentation of the family gift was made by Mrs. Elizabeth M. Oliver. Other ministers attending, some of whom participated in the program, were the Reverends Stewart Turner, N. B. Carrington, Howard Cornish, Arthur J. Payne, Alice Tanner, Mary Henry, Antoinette Phillips, Reba Brown, Agnes Alston and Mary Henry.

Mrs. Katie Jackson, described by Rev. Bryant as one of America's greatest soloist sang, 'Amazing Grace.'

Taking her sermon from Revelation 7:9-17 Ms. Cooke spoke quietly as she confessed that she had resisted the call from the Lord until Oct. 27 of this year. She said while sitting in class at the University of Baltimore, the Lord spoke again and said, "I will prepare a table before you."

Mrs. Cooke stated, "I'm a journalist, not a preacher. No, no not me Lord. Why me Lord? Why, why, why me Lord?

"What will my mama say? What will my papa say . . . sister, brother? What will them folk at the AFRO say? My friends will laugh at me. Why me Lord? Why?"

"In this life, we as Christians can be sure of these things—that we will be scorned, mocked, cheated, buked, beaten (by tongue or by whip) despised, insulted, ridiculed and sneered at.

"One preacher said, we're wrong if we do, wrong if we don't and lied on if we do nothing. Satan is still out there to get us. But my message to you from God is to "hang in there."

"God is speaking to us. He's saying we had better "hang in there."

That means preachers with members who scorn you, you've got to be strong; the skilled without jobs, don't give up; the homeless without shelter, be strong; the hungry without food, you shall hunger no more; the naked without clothes, don't give up; mothers without husbands, call on the Lord; children without mothers or fathers, the Lord is your mother and father; be strong, for your suffering will not be in vain," said Mrs. Cooke.

To this the audience responded with loud 'amens.' There were tears on many faces.

When Rev. Bryant told how she was called to preach she moved the audience to loud 'amens' when her quiet voice shouted, "They think I am crazy. Yes, I'm crazy. I am crazy and a fool for the Lord."

Applause and reaction caused Rev. Bryant at the end to say, "Hasn't this been a glorious day. She inspired us tonight. We have heard one blessed with poise and power."

To frequent inquiries as to how she can be a minister and a journalist, Mrs. Cooke said that in the city today are other career women who are ordained ministers.

Among them are her mother in the ministry, the Rev. Miss Agnes Alston, who is a counselor in the city schools and associate pastor at Gillis Memorial Christian Community Church.

Mrs. Cooke states she plans to do whatever God calls her to do and to continue her studies presently in business administration augmented by theology courses.

Eventually, she says she intends to get her master's degree in theology and become involved in pastoral counseling and church administration.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A Paul (Bettye) Moss.

Childbirth class at Madison 'Y'

The Madison Avenue YWCA Center began offering prepared Childbirth classes December 7. Two Health Department nurse midwives will lead group discussions in changes of pregnancy, growth and development of the baby, breathing and relaxation techniques, preparation for labor and delivery and care of the new born infant.

Classes are held each Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. for six consecutive weeks. New classes begin on the first Wednesday of each even month, December, February, April, etc.

The pregnant woman's coach for labor must also attend each class session. The coach may be the expectant father or other person, male or remale, chosen by the mother. Cost for the class is $30 per couple for private patients and $6 per couple for Baltimore City Health Department referrals.

Please call Mrs. Moreland at 669-1881 for more information.

Ms. Little attends FHA meet

Ms. Charlotte Little of Randallstown, Md., recently attended a Board of Directors meeting of Future Homemakers of America in Washington, D.C. at the national headquarters.

Ms. Little is supervisor of Home Economics for Howard County Public School System. She is a member of the National Board of the 450,000 member organization.

During the meet the Board of Directors met with 50 state advisors of Future Homemakers of America in a joint meeting. Both groups of adult leaders are working with the headquarters staff to plan future direction for the national student vocational organization.

Future Homemakers of America is an organization for junior and senior high school home economics students. Its programs are for young men and women, and are based on the concept that everyone is a homemaker.

Don't get snowbound!

Snow is beautiful to look at, but not when it's covering your car. If you try to drive out of deep snow and have no success, don't keep spinning the wheels. You'll only aggravate the situation. Instead, try these suggestions:

— If the snow is deep, shovel it away from the front and back of all the tires.

— Spread some salt, sand or cat litter around the wheels, or place traction mats under them.

— If possible, keep the front wheels pointed straight ahead until the car is moving.

— Giving the tires some traction almost always works. But if you're still stuck try to rock the vehicle out of the rut. (If your car has a manual transmission, move it back and forth using reverse and second gears. If it's an automatic, alternate between reverse and drive — but check your owner's manual first to make sure that this method won't damage your transmission.)

Natural foods cause of six leading deaths

Regarding FDA commissioner Dr. Donald Kennedy's recent statements concerning "natural" foods, Consumers for Nutrition Action would like to clarify the following points:

1. The current and widespread American diet is now claimed to be responsible for six of the ten leading causes of death. Among these are heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, arteriosclerosis and cirrhosis of the liver. The death rates for these diseases are increasing as we move toward a more totally refined diet.

Evidence is mounting that these diseases may be largely prevented through proper dietary practices. Testimony before Senator McGovern's Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs over the past year has shown an increasing correlation between our present diets and these diseases.

2 "Natural" foods are those foods which are unprocessed and have no additives or preservatives added to them. Maximum amounts of nutrients are obtained in "natural" foods because they are not subjected to nutrients losses from processing.

Whole grains and beans, nuts and seeds, fruits and vegetables and whole grain breads are examples of "natural" foods.

3. Some "natural" foods such as grains, beans and bran are very inexpensive. Other "natural" foods such as cheeses may be more expensive than their processed counterparts in the supermarket. However, the higher nutrient content and the absence of additives in the "natural" products more than compensates for additional cost.

It should be noted that many popular, but non-nutritious foods are very expensive,

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SHOW TIME

Music, theatre, movies, the arts

George Benson swept the crowd away

Photos and Story By Robin McGinty

Though receiving very little fanfare, George Benson and Bill Withers melodically swept away the crowd at Painter's Mill last Saturday.

George Benson, at the height of his long musical career, provided the audience with previously recorded favorites. But he also performed newer tunes ranging from "The Masquerade" by Leon Russell to his much acclaimed version of Quincy Jones' "Everything Must Change."

A somewhat mellow, sit-back-and-relax type of singer, Benson in his truly rhythmatic manner totally hypnotized the racially mixed audience with his musically exquisite notes and chords. Shades of Wes Montgomery!!!!

Blending his recently discovered vocal skills with his masterful guitar playing, Benson, with the rest of his quintet, proceeded to bring the house down with Michael Masser's "The Greatest." Not only did the audience literally go insane with delight, but several standing ovations soon followed.

Though seldom mentioned, a truly dominant force in Benson's music both onstage and off is Ronnie Foster. An absolute genius on the keyboards, Foster remained in the background, masterfully guiding his fellow musicians through numerous and varied sets.

The show was excellent. Hats off to Benson for providing and sharing his musical talent with us and to the gents at Painter's Mill for making it all happen.

RESPONDING TO AUDIENCE REQUEST, George Benson gets into his rendition of Leon Russell's "This Masquerade."

For the record

Jazz lovers will miss Roland Kirk

By Frederick I. Douglass

Jazz lovers around the world and maybe on a few other planets are mourning the death of Rahsaan Roland Kirk who died Monday evening, Dec. 5, after a concert in Bloomington, Ind. Kirk had just finished doing two concerts at Indiana University.

Kirk, a master musician who initially gained fame because of his ability to play three saxophones at one time, went on to prove during his career that he was much more than a novelty, sideshow type act — that he was a musician of the highest calibre who was in total control of the diverse instruments that he played.

During his life Kirk overcame many obstacles that would have crushed lesser men. To begin with, he was blind. But he did not let that stop him from mastering the saxophone and several other musical instruments.

The first time I saw him in person was Jan., 1975. It was a show just to watch Kirk get organized for his performance. Although he had several saxophones, a flute and myriad other music makers to arrange around his neck, Kirk refused to allow anyone to help him.

Once he got his program together, Kirk started the show and turned the place out playing three horns at once and then switching to flute or trumpet for variety. In addition to the tenor sax, he played two early versions of the instrument known as the stritch and the manzello which he found in the dusty corners of ancient music stores. While playing a drone on one horn, he would play the other two horns with his left and right hands to achieve an ensemble sound, which on records seemed to be three or more musicians playing. But it was just Rahsaan Kirk.

At the beginning of his career, many people dismissed his act of playing three saxes at once as a gimmick. But it didn't take Kirk long to prove them wrong through a series of brilliant performances around the country with his own group as well as in the group of Charles Mingus and Jack McDuff. Mr. Kirk's brilliant musical legacy includes albums like "In Copenhagen," "Now Don't You Cry, Beautiful Edith," "We Free Kings" "Kirkatron," "Domino," "The Case of the Three Sided Dream," "The Inflated Tear," and many others. One of his most popular albums was "Volunteered Slavery" and his best known composition was "Bright Moments."

Roland Kirk was a walking encyclopedia of the saxophone and during his performances he would always go through the history of the instrument, emulating the stylings of saxophonists from every school of jazz from Dixieland down through the avant garde.

Kirk was an innovator, particularly in the use of circular breathing. While musicians have used the technique of circular breathing for many years to hold one note for several minutes, he took it a step further by playing complex phrases.

Kirk also changed the use of the flute as a jazz instrument. Before Roland Kirk, the flute was treated very delicately and blown in an almost classical manner with no overtones or distortion of the instruments tone. But he attacked the flute in an almost vicious manner — overblowing it, humming, muttering, whistling, talking and singing through it, and later electrifying the instrument and playing through sound altering devices like echo chambers.

Kirk's last appearance in Baltimore was at the Famous Ballroom for a Left Bank Jazz Society sponsored concert during the fall of this year.

It was really sad to see the shape he was in. During 1975 he suffered a stroke which left the right side of his upper body paralyzed. Yet he was still able to play the sax and flute singlehandedly. By the time he made his last visit to the Left Bank Jazz Society, one of his legs was paralyzed and he had to be taken to the stage in a wheelchair and then carried on stage.

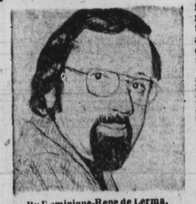
But when he started playing, the room was filled with magic. Despite the fact that he could only play the sax and flute with his left hand, Kirk still was able to do what most people can't do with two hands. He earned several standing ovations during his concert — not because people felt sorry for him — but because he was playing music of the highest calibre.

Roland Kirk is on his way to saxophone players heaven where he will join the other greats like Coltrane, Charlie Parker, Sidney Bechet and Eric Dolphy to name a few.

Long live Roland Kirk.

ON BLACK CLASSICAL MUSIC Dominique DE LERMA

Chevalier de Saint-George



By Dominique-Rene de Lerma, Professor of Music, Morgan State University

One of my graduate students recently expressed a welcomed observation when he noted that the black musicians being discussed in my class were not represented in any of the standard music books and references.

It is true that many figures from the past, if not present, somehow or another got overlooked when the books were being written. Was this a matter of racism? In some instances, yes. Perhaps it is better to call it aesthetic racism, meaning that the values of one culture are mistakenly used to measure the quality of works from another culture.

Take the case of Alfred Einstein, for example. This was a man in music (not physics - that was Albert) whose work has been of extraordinary importance. But his history of 1947 said "Fox trot, shimmy and ragtime are adapted as elements of artistic music, and finally jazz, an orgiastic dance - music in quick - march rhythm —, the most abominable treason against all the music of Western civilization — becomes symbolic of the spirit of the times."

Then we have another kind of ignorance when a person simply hasn't done enough work to know the history properly, and that is how the Chevalier de Saint - Georges has been ignored.

He was born in 1739, on the island of Guadeloupe in the Caribbean. His father was French, his mother African. Because his father was wealthy, the lad was destined to lead the life of a well - to - do gentleman, never really needing a profession.

He loved sports, and he also was devoted to music. As it happened, he excelled in both areas of activity — something Americans sometimes have felt was impossible. Saint - Georges was the second leading fencer in all of Europe, only once having been defeated. An example of his skill as a swimmer is flamboyantly offered when he swam the Seine River in Paris, in the middle of winter, with one hand tied behind his back!

In 1773, he joined one of the few public orchestras of Europe, and served initially as the leader of the violin section, then also as conductor. He was even offered the post of conductor of the Paris Opera, but some ladies feared the "delicacy of their conscience" would not permit them to take orders from a black conductor.

He was among the first of all composers in France to write string quartets, and one of the first of his period to write sonatas for violin and piano. Eight operas, more than 100 songs, three symphonies, several violin concertos and some pieces for piano round out his catalog.

Later in his life, he was the colonel of an all-black regiment in the French army, having Alexander Dumas' father within the ranks. And he played a role in the war for freedom on the island of Santo Domingo.

Why is it, then, that so fascinating a person does not appear in our music history books? No matter how popular he was during his life, his music was forgotten soon after his death in 1977, only because the audiences were more interested in newer styles and ideas.

But we are now experiencing a modest revival of his works.

In 1969, I went to the national library in Paris and secured copies of the manuscripts, then almost 200 years old. These works are now being published again and made available to the public but, more importantly, the first volume of The Black Composers Series (Columbia M-32781) features four contrasting works by this sportsman - musician, conducted by Dr. Paul Freeman.

That recording offers us a chance to hear the musical ideas of a black artist from the eighteenth century, a gifted man too long ignored.

THE GOOD LIFE

Music

Classical

CHRISTMAS CONCERT — The Morgan State University Choir, under the direction of Nathan Carter with members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Morgan State University, Coldspring Lane and Hillen Road, Murphy Auditorium, Sunday, Dec. 11, 8:15 p.m.

EVENING OF MUSIC—Catonsville Community College Choir, Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Shelbourne and Linden Aves., Arbutus, Md., Sunday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT — Presented by the Bowie State College Choir, Martin Luther King Communications Arts Center, Sunday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m.

"HAPPY HOLIDAY" — Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Theatre, Mt. Royal Avenue, Saturday, Dec. 10, 8:15 p.m. For ticket information, call 837-5693

CHRISTMAS CONCERT — The Loyola College Concert Choir, Loyola College, Charles Street and Coldspring Lane, Alumni Memorial Chapel, Sunday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.

OPERA AUDITIONS — For Towson State University opera workshop and theatre, University's Fine Arts Building, Thursday, Dec. 15. For audition times and further information call 321-2835 or 321-2815.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT — College of Notre Dame, St. Matthew's Church, Loch Raven Boulevard, Sunday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m.

Dance

DANCE THEATRE — Anne Arundel Community College, 101 College Parkway, Arnold, Md., Humanities lecture hall: Saturday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m. Call 647-7100, ext. 288 for more information.

Jazz

CARLOS GARNETT COSMOS FORCE — Featuring vocals by Ayodele Jenkins, Left Bank Jazz Society, Famous Ballroom, 1717 N. Charles St., Sunday, Dec. 11, 5 to 9 p.m. Call 945-2266 for ticket information.

Community events

MEETING—Business Girls' Lodge of the United Methodist Church, 607 Park Ave., Board of managers, Tuesday, Dec. 13.

RENAISSANCE FAIR — Lake Clifton High School, 2801 St. Lo Drive, Sunday, Dec. 11, 1 to 4:30 p.m. Included will be Christmas greens, needlework, decorations and grab bags for children. For information call 889-1234 or 889-2982.

MEETING — Baltimore Foster Parent Association, 312 E. Oliver St., Thursday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.

WINTER FESTIVAL — Center Plaza at Charles Center, Saturday, Dec. 10. Figure skating demonstration, 1 p.m. Free skating, noon to 3 p.m.

AUCTION — To benefit Santa Claus Anonymous, Belvedere Hotel, Charles and Biddle Sts., Thursday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m.

MEETING — Consumer Council of Maryland, 1 S. Calvert St., fourteenth floor conference room, Monday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m.

OPEN HOUSE — Greater Homewood Community Corporation, Employment Center, 2523 N. Charles St., Sunday, Dec. 11, 3 to 6 p.m.

CHRISTMAS STORE — Catonsville Activity Center of the Baltimore Association for Retarded Citizens, St. John's Church, Rolling Road at Wilkens Avenue, open until Dec. 23, 2 to 9 p.m. daily except Wednesdays, weekends, from Dec. 10 to 17, 2 to 4 p.m.

NAACP MEETING — To discuss the formation of a Baltimore County Branch of the NAACP, Banneker Community Center, Wesley and Main Aves., Catonsville, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 8 p.m.

CLOTHING GIVE-AWAY — Presented by the Helping Hand Club, 3340 Old Frederick Road, Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE — Pratt Library's Walbrook Branch, 3023 W. North Ave., Wednesday, Dec. 14, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Presentation of 'The Nutcracker."

FREE DAY — The Maryland Science Center, Light Street at Key Highway, Friday, Dec. 9. Planetarium will feature the "Star of Bethlehem."

CHRISTMAS PARTY — For underprivileged children of Hampden, Woodberry, Remington and Pimlico. Sponsored by the Community Service Committee of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. To donate toys and baked goods call 467-8573.

TREE TRIMMING PARTY — War Memorial Plaza, Wednesday, Dec. 14, noon. Employees from city departments will decorate trees. Entertainment by City Choir.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR — Held by the Maryland General Hospital School of Nursing, class of 1978, 827 Linden Ave., auditorium, Monday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS" — Essex Community College, Rossville Boulevard, College Community Center, second floor lounge, Monday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m.

Children

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL WITH MR. MAGOO" — Catonsville Area Branch, Baltimore County Library, 1100 Frederick Road, Tuesday, Dec. 13.

"WIZARD OF OZ" — Essex Community College, Rossville Boulevard, Friday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10, 2 p.m., 8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m. Call 682-6202 for ticket information.

SKATEMOBILE — Carroll Park Recreation Center, P.S. No. 9, Bayard and Herkimer Sts., Saturday, Dec. 10. Carroll F. Cook Recreation Center, P.S. No. 243, 5601 E. Eager St., Saturday, Dec. 10, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

PUPPET SHOWS — Locust Point Recreation Center, 1627 E. Fort Ave., Friday, Dec. 9, 3:30 p.m. Steuart Hill Recreation Center, 308 S. Gilmor St., Monday, Dec. 12, 3:30 p.m. Leith Walk Recreation Center, Leith Walk and Sherwood Avenue, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 3:30 p.m. Cherry Hill Multipurpose Center, 2492 Giles Road, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 3:30 p.m. Martin Luther King Community Center, 122 N. Vincent St., Friday, Dec. 16, 3:30 p.m.

Theatre

"A RAISIN IN THE SUN" — Presented by the Wilde Lake High School drama department, Columbia, Md., Friday, Saturday, Dec. 9, 10, 8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, 3 p.m.

"OF MICE AND MEN"—Towson State University, Fine Arts Building, Studio Theatre, Friday, Saturday, Dec. 9, 10, 8:30 p.m. Call 321-2244 for ticket information.

"THE RIVALS" — Center Stage, 700 N. Calvert St., through Jan. 8. Call 332-0033 for box office information.

"FROM MUSIC TO MINE: A Holiday Offering", Johns Hopkins University, Charles and 34th Sts., Shriver Hall, Friday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.

"THEATRICAL FASHION HAPPENING" — Center Stage, 700 N. Calvert St., Monday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. Call 332-0033 for further information.

Social affairs

DISCO SIP — Benefit for the Maryland Minority Contractors Association, Gatsby's, 1817 N. Charles St., Sunday, Dec. 11, 5 to 9 p.m., Call 235-5111 or 358-3444 for ticket information.

"LUNCH IS SERVED" — Sponsored by the Maryland League of Women's Clubs, Sharp Street United Methodist Church, Dolphin and Etting Sts., Saturday, Dec. 10, 11:30 a.m. Call 674-0977 or 594-1172 for ticket information.

FASHION SHOW — Presented by the senior citizens of the Waxter Center, Pratt Library's Walbrook Branch, 3203 W. North Ave., Wednesday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m.

Health

BLOOD DONATION — Red Cross Donor Center, 2701 N. Charles St., Saturday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m. to noon, Monday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 13, noon to 8:15 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 15, noon to 8:15 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 467-9905, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays to make an appointment.

Movies

"A PICTURE HISTORY OF THE STATE" — Central Pratt Library, 400 Cathedral St., Wheeler Auditorium, Sunday, Dec. 11, 2 p.m.

"ROOTS" — Western Maryland College, Westminster, Md., Decker Hall, Monday, Dec. 12, 4 and 7 p.m. Discussion follows at 8 p.m.

"MARY KINGSLEY: WEST AFRICA 1893" — Central Pratt Library, 400 Cathedral St., Wheeler Auditorium, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m.

"LIMELIGHT" — Charles Chaplin film, Pratt Central Library, 400 Cathedral St., Wheeler Auditorium, Saturday, Dec. 10, 2 p.m.

DEC