Columbia Capers

Over 600 hear Larry Bland Choir in concert

By Pinnie L. Ross

"Let me believe in you, because I want you to believe in me for I know that if we believe in God, He will set us free."

Over six hundred beautiful people came from Baltimore, Washington and surrounding areas to hear the critically acclaimed "Harlem Globetrotters of Gospel Music" Larry Bland and the Volunteer Choir of Richmond, Virginia in concert at St. John Baptist Church, Columbia, sponsored by the Adult Gospel Choir.

As the M.C. for the evening, the very articulate James Williams Hawkins Jr. came forward to introduce Larry Bland and the Volunteer Choir. Immediately following the words of introduction The Volunteer Choir paraded out with the women wearing long black gowns and men dressed in black tuxedo's with white shirts.

SOULFUL SINGING — Larry Bland and the Volunteer Choir, of Second Baptist Church, Richmond, Va. as they appeared in soul - stirring concert recently at the St. John Baptist Church, Columbia, Md.

Mr. Bland was last to enter, smiling, half bowed to the audience and engaged in what seemed to be an interesting dialogue. He gave one measure of preparatory and the mello - voice began to sing, "Lord I Can't Turn Back," followed by several favorites of many "Plenty Room In My Father's Kingdom," "God Has Been Good to Me," "He Is the Joy of My Salvation," "I believe In Him Because He Is Real," and many more during the first portion of the concert.

It was so nice seeing our very dear friend The Rev. Odie D. Brown, pastor of the Second Baptist Church, Richmond, Va. Rev. Brown drove from Richmond to help support our effort.

By the way, The Volunteer Choir is under the auspices of and representing Rev O D Brown and Second Baptist Church They appear at First Baptist Church every fourth Sunday.

Their music ranges from Negro spirituals to traditional as well as contemporary gospel music thread in and out of their program format which brings about a spiritual enjoyment that leaves the audience with an awareness of black culture and history as well as a real experience of love for God and man.

The choir received three standing ovations that brought them back for one more number. Their "Dance of the Liturgy" is one that has to be seen, for it embodies choral textures that form a superb fabric of musical energy with the incorporation of theatrics, choreography and pageantry.

God bless the Rev O D Brown and his "Harlem Globetrotters of Gospel Music," Larry Bland and The Volunteer Choir as they continue to travel around the country bringing joy into the lives of others with their musical talent.

At intermission, there were door prizes given out to the lucky ticket holder. All gifts were compliments of the merchants of Ellicott City.

The grand prize was a $60.00 Jeri Curl, compliments of Joan Flitshy, from the His & Her's Hair Salon, Oakland Mills Village Center.

The master of ceremonies began for the second portion: "And now ladies and gentlemen, I am happy once again to present to you the one and only Larry Bland and the exciting Volunteer Choir of the Second Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia."

This time the ladies came out wearing long red gowns with black long gloves, complemented with black corsages, and those fabulous men wore black tuxedos with red shirts.

Included in their repertory of songs were, "A Poor Man's Life is a Rich Man's Dream," "Because He Lives," Soloist Harold Brown, "I can Face Tomorrow," "I'll Do What He Wants Me To Do," "As Long as I've Got Jesus, I Don't Need Nobody Else," and "I've Got Love In My Heart."

The versatile Larry Bland, director, writer, actor and organist did the solo lead in those numbers. If you've never heard Larry Bland, well you've missed a great artist at work.

Freedom Fund Dinner

One of the most talked about affairs ever put on by the Howard County Branch NAACP was a Freedom Fund Dinner Dance held at Turf Valley Country Club last Friday night which attracted over 400 guests from near and far.

Edward I. Morgan was M. C for the evening. Musical selections were rendered by Charlene White and Lloyd Moore. Selena David led "Lift Every Voice And Sing."

Greetings were given by County Executive Hugh Nichols and Ruth Keeton, chairperson, County Council, Vincent Clamzy, president of Youth Council Nathaniel Smith, Maryland State president and Dr. Thomas Goldy, superintendent of Howard County Schools.

Let the work I've done speak for me. There were several Freedom Fighters over the years that labored for the NAACP received awards presented by the honored speaker Dr Benjamin Hooks NAACP national executive director.

Life membership awards recipients were Catherine Dorsey, Robert Clay, Kappa Alpha Psi Columbia chapter, and Celonia Walden, chairperson for Life membership committees.

Dr. Hooks also presented medallions to members of the NAACP Million Dollar Club. They were Mrs. Celonia Walden, Rev John L. Wright, pastor 1st Baptist Church, Guilford.

Other awards were presented by Dr Silas E Craft, branch president to his wife Dorthye, for her long life support who received a silver tray; Samuel Young, for over 10 years service NAACP; Elhort Flurry, principal, Clarksville Middle School and Mrs. Patricia Cook, secretary for NAACP; Sherman Howell for publication of newsletter and service as legislature chairman and Mrs. Celonia Walden for her exceptional service as Life Membership chairperson and fund raiser.

Ms. Barbara Gellion received a beautiful bouquet of flowers for chairing the successful affair.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

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YOU KNOW BECAUSE YOU READ THE AFRO

Theta Nu Sigma

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Modeling for Betty's Beauty Salon were Deny Campbell, Monica Contes, Janice Maith, Daisy Milner, Brenda Brown, Betty Brown, Charles McKoy and Roslyn Suite.

The purpose of this affair, which is held annually, is to raise funds for the local sorority, (Zeta Chapter) which donates part of the proceeds to the national chapter for advanced scholarships for those who are already cosmetologist and who have a chance to attend the National Institute of Advanced Cosmetology in Washington, D.C.

Fashions featured from the 40s until the present were casual, daytime wear, after Five, Avant - Garde looks and weekend and disco looks.

Some of the fashions were done by local designers Sharon Wildy, Phillippi Harcum, Clarice Upshur and Marion Wade. Other clothes came from local boutiques.

Chairperson for the affair was Soror Marie Cherry. Co - chairperson was Mary Stevens.

Mrs. Hidia Goodwin

The charming model wore the above hair style. The hair style and color was given by: M. ANN BLAIR ROBINSON.

The fashion and hair style show was sponsored by the Zeta Chapter of Theta Nu Sigma, National Sorority, on March 23rd.

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