RHYTHYM MAKERS

An evening of gospel music caps arts festival

By Roger Glass

Considering its lengthy history among black people it was only fitting that Howard University made gospel music one of the focuses of its month-long fine arts festival. The tradition as viewed through the performances of Rev. James Cleveland the Richard Smallwood Singers and the Voices Cramton Auditorium a soldout hall witnessed first-hand the emotional power and intensity generated by gospel music. Two of gospels most well-known legends Sallie Martin and Rev. Thomas E. Dorsey were among the audience.

Both received a standing ovation when they were introduced.

Rev. Cleveland who received his musical start at Rev. Dorseys Chicago church is the consummate performer. His rapport with the audience is exceptional and his track record impressive.

Cleveland has 12 gold and platinum records to his credit and the album he recorded with Aretha Franklin "Amazing Grace" has sold over 2 million copies and doesn't seem about to let up.

MC Vashti McKenzie program director at WYCB-AM expressed it best when she said of Cleveland "How do you introduce a legend?"

Cleveland has a deep mannish voice that he uses to embellish the range of gospel music he has grown accustomed to singing. Under the direction of Rev. Cleveland the D.C. Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America blended their voices into a wave of harmony that would soar at one moment and gently land at the next.

Some of our best voices have come from the gospel idiom and it's clear that the fertile ground of gospel continues to bear fruit.

Assisted by a bassist - drummer and pianist Cleveland and the workshop sang praises to Jesus in the form of such songs as "God has Set Me Free" and "Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus." Cleveland's passionate singing sending goose pimples up theis reviewer's spine.

The audience was just as vocal egging Cleveland on with shouts of amen and "take your time."

The breadth of gospel heard last week was accentuated by the Richard Smallwood Singers the Voices Supreme Amos Hunt and Georgiana Gibson. Their music provided an appropriate capping to the festival which has included several lectures and workshops on the survival of the black artist and a jazz program that featured Lionel Hampton and Betty Carter.

"Gospel music" notes Irene V. Jackson-Brown program director of the university's Center for Ethnic Music "is an important musical tradition that is a celebration of black faith."

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TV Watching

By Vanessa Johnson

Stan Shaw in "Buffalo Soldiers" Monday

"Ten Speed and Brown Shoes" with Ben Vereen, Sunday

Friday

Evening Magazine: A restaurant review and things to do this weekend. 7:30-8:00 p.m. Ch. 13.

Facts of Life: The headmaster's handling of a flood emergency makes him Blair's latest heart throb. Starring Kim Fields. 8:30-9:00 p.m. Ch. 11.

Midnight Special: Guests are The Spinners, Kool and the Gang and many others. 1:00-2:30 a.m. Ch. 11.

Saturday

Fat Albert: Rudy quits school when he has difficulty adjusting to a new teacher. Host Bill Cosby. 11:30-12:00 p.m. Ch. 2.

Soul Train: Guests today are Randy Brown and Sister Sledge. 12:00-1:30 p.m. Ch. 11.

Movie: "The Bedford Incident", an American destroyer tracks a Soviet submarine. Starring Sidney Poitier. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Ch. 13.

Baseball: The Orioles meet the White Sox at Comiskey Park in Chicago. 2:15-4:45 p.m. Ch. 2.

Greater Baltimore Battle: Panelists include "Evening Magazine" reporter Bob Smith. 7:00-7:30 p.m. Ch. 13.

Love Boat: A pompous ladies' man gets his comeuppance when two ladies fall for his milquetoast valet. Starring Demond Wilson, Telma Hopkins, Jimmy Walker and Ted Lange. 9:00-10:00 p.m. Ch. 13.

Sunday

Tony Brown's Journal: A discussion of cancer with Howard University medical professors La Salle D. Leffall and Jack E. White. 1:00-1:30 p.m. Ch. 4.

Sunday Live: Taped interviews with the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Wentley Phipps, who wrote the theme song for the PUSH EXCELL Program. 1:00 p.m. Ch. 13.

Soul Train: See Saturday. 2:00-3:00 p.m. Ch. 11.

Sha Na Na: Guests are The Fifth Dimension who sing "Up, Up and Away"; and other songs. 6:00-6:30 p.m. Ch. 2.

Movie: A portrait of a military giant: "Patton"; the controversial general dominates this war epic, which traces Patton's World War II campaigns. 8:00-11:30 p.m. Ch. 13.

Movie: "Coming Home", the story of a paraplegic Vietnam vet and the woman he loves. 9:00-11:35 p.m. Ch. 11.

The Jeffersons: A timely fable: George tells baby Jessica a bedtime story about the mythical Kingdom of Jefferson, where King George searches in vain for ways to defeat the amorclad specter of inflation. 9:30-10:00 p.m. Ch. 2.

Trapper John, M.D.: Gonzo treats a patient suffering from radiation poisoning while Dr. Riverside contends with an ailing Gypsy who distrusts modern medicine. Starring Jayne Kennedy. 10:00-11:00 p.m. Ch. 2.

Your Choice for the Oscars: Richard Pryor and Bernadette Peters are the co-hosts of the 13th edition of this viewers awards poll. Close to a million ballots from the United States and abroad determined the fans favorites for Best Picture, Best Actor and Actress and Best Song. Presenters include Ben Vereen and others. 12:00-2:00 a.m. Ch. 13.

Monday

Captain Kangaroo: Guest Stephanie Mills' visit causes Bunny Rabbit and Mr. Moose to become star-struck. 8:00-9:00 a.m. Ch. 2.

Olivia Newton-John: An hour of music and comedy with guests Gene Kelly, Elton John, Peaches without Herb and Tina Turner. 8:00-9:00 p.m. Ch. 13.

Memories of Eubie: A celebration of Eubie Blake. Joining Eubie are singers Alberta Hunter, tap dancers Gregory and Maurice Hines and others. 8:00-9:00 p.m. Ch. 22 & 67.

Oscar Awards: Johnny Carson is the host for the 52nd annual Academy Awards, in addition to clips from the nominated films, press time entertainment plans called for an elaborate production number headlined by Donald O'Connor and 32 dancers. 9:00-12:00 p.m. Ch. 13.

Pilot: "The Buffalo Soldiers" is a black cavalry unit patrolling the West during the 1860s. Starring Stan Shaw. 10:00-11:00 p.m. Ch. 11.

Free events for children

Mon. April 14

Carlton Center: Films — "Very Good Friends" and "Up the Creek," 4 p.m.

Light Street Branch: Slow But Sure — Make a Turtle Day, for ages 6-12, 3:30 p.m.

Tues., April 15

Light Street Branch: Race Your Handmade Turtle; Hear Turtle Stories Day, for ages 6-12, 3:30 p.m.

Central Library, Children's Department: Film — "The Cricket in Times Square," 4 p.m.

You've got Sunshine on a Cloudy Day
with Bob Turk
EYEWITNESS NEWS
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Dr. Bernard Watson luncheon speaker for Delta Regional

Conference here April 17-19 Special Deltas

Section-Coming in your AFRO Tuesday, April 15

Dr. Bernard C. Watson, vice-president for academic ministration at Temple University, Phila., Pa. will be the public luncheon speaker for Eastern Regional Conference of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Saturday, April 19 at 12 noon at the Hilton Hotel.

He will talk on "Age, Sex, and Opportunity: Suggestions for a Black Agenda in the '80s".

From 1970 - 1975, Dr. Watson was professor and chairman of the department of urban education. Dr. Watson holds professorships in the departments of urban education, social foundations and urban studies.

Until July of 1970, he served as deputy superintendent for planning for the school district of Philadelphia, and earlier spent a number of years in the schools of Gary, Indiana, as a teacher, counselor, department chairman and principal.

In 1967, he was appointed by President Lyndon Baines Johnson to the National Advisory Council on Education Professions Development and subsequently served as vice chairman of the council. In 1980, he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the National Council on Educational Research. He serves or has served as a trustee or board member of many organizations, including Cheyney State University, Lincoln University, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, J.B. Lippincott Publishers and on the Visiting Committee of the Board of Overseers (Afro-American Studies) of Harvard University. He is also a member of the executive committee of the National Urban Coalition and serves as chairman of its Urban Education Task Force. Dr. Watson serves as a member of the executive committee of the University City Science Center.

From 1970-1973, Dr. Watson was director of the Recruitment Leadership Training Institute for the Office of Education. In 1972, he served as project director for the National Policy Conference on Education for Blacks, sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus. He is a member of the National Urban League Education Advisory Committee.

A prolific writer, Dr. Watson is the author of a book, "In Spite of the System: The Individual and Educational Reform," published by Ballinger Publishing Company in 1974. In addition, he is the author of nine monographs, chapters in 13 books, a set of 100 career folios published by Harcourt, Brace and Jovanovich and more than 35 articles in professional journals. In November of 1977, Dr. Watson became editor-in-chief of "Cross Reference: A Journal of Public Policy and Multi-Cultural Education," published six times yearly by J. B. Lippincott of Phila.

Dr. Watson has lectured at a number of universities, including Yale, Atlanta University, Wright State, Central State, Ohio State, University of Chicago, and the State University of New York. He was a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania and an associate in education at Harvard University.

Dr. Watson received his bachelor's degree from Indiana University, and his master's degree from the University of Illinois. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, and he has done post-doctoral work at Harvard University.

Dr. Bernard Watson Temple University

Modeling classes at Forest Park Pratt

Learning poise, grace, and especially self-confidence is what modeling is all about. Children and teens of both sexes will have the opportunity to develop these qualities during two six-week fashion modeling courses at the Pratt Library's Forest Park branch, 3023 Garrison Boulevard.

The class for teens begins on Mon., April 14, from 4:30-6 p.m., while the children's session begins on Wed., April 16, from 1-2:30 p.m.

The classes are free, but registration is required.

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Check Calendar for Third Co-Feature

On Broadway

'Horowitz' just a TV sitcom

By Yolanda Carter
AFRO Staff Writer

NEW YORK — Take one spunky retired Jewish widower recently mugged by two black "animals." Add to that one enobled middle-aged black nurse hired to coax him back to physical fitness. Sprinkle liberally with a steady stream of oneliners worthy of a vaudeville side show, and you have got Henry Denker's new comedy "Horowitz and Mrs. Washington" in a nutshell.

Veteran actors Sam Levine and Esther Rolle are the only redeeming factors in this Broadway sleeper that opened last week at the Golden Theater. But even their genius can't pull this borderline television sitcom out of the slumps.

The first couple of quick, choppy scenes — definitely poor pacing — fail to grab the audiences attention. In desperation the audience focuses almost entirely on old man Horowitz, a retired paper and twine wholesaler with a neurotic do-gooder, ultra-rich daughter by the name of "Mona, Mona!", and a successful lawyer son who changed his last name to Hammond. That is until those quick draw oneliners start coming at you from all sides practically every time Horowitz opens his mouth: "Mrs. Washington, ever have the ambition to run a concentration camp?", or "All my friends are either dead . . . or in Miami . . . which is the same thing."

Sam Levine is warm and somehow loveable despite his surly ethnic digs about blacks in general, his Puerto Rican doorman in particular, and all the other poor slobs out there who haven't managed the task of pulling themselves up by their bootstraps the way he did. But despite Levine's charm, wit and general appeal Horowitz soon begins to bore the viewer to tears.

Esther Rolle as Mrs. Washington is intelligent, witty, charming and a.h all around good match for this little old tyrant.

She, however, comes across as just a little too low-key and laid back when Horowitz — by now they have become the best of friends — denounces her grandson as just another street "savage" when the boy is knifed in a Harlem street and taken to a hospital where he is in guarded condition. What Horowitz doesn't know is that the boy was only trying to hold on to a gold piece he himself had given him earlier in the story.

Esther Rolle

Sam Levene

Before "H and W" finally wraps it up for the night however, the two have relieved themselves of their prejudices — even enobled Mrs. Washington admits to having some, although she later tries to pawn it off as other people's prejudices.

Later the two are rehearsing a quick recovery for Mr. Horowitz so he can fool his daughter now on her way to New York to take daddy back to California where she will eventually put him in a Hebrew home for the aged. In the end, Mrs. Washington sticks up for her patient and friend, calls in Dr. Tannenbaum to prove to the daughter that her old man can get along just fine without the Hebrew home for the aged. He gives her a nice big check to put in her grandchildren's bank accounts for their education. And that's all Denker wrote folks.

Like I said it's just too bad they didn't make this one a TV sitcom.

Bill Lane in Hollywood

Della Reese's singing performance recently on the Johnny Carson Show brought indirect light to a peculiar thing. In the past, like in the case some years ago of singer Ben E. King's hit R&B version of the old gospel song "Stand By Me", the songs first came out as church songs, then with a few lyrical changes were popularized as pop or rhythm and blues songs. Kenny Rogers took the old church song "Love Lifted Me" and recorded it as a country gospel selection.

But in the case of Billy Preston he wrote his song "You Are So Beautiful" as a love song, or as he says, "something about a man and woman relationship". Preston recorded the song on A & M, and when rock singer Joe Cocker heard it he decided to record it. It was a hit, and especially because of Cocker's straining so hard to make the last note in the song.

A lot of listeners thought the song sounded so much like it had a gospel history. But its composer Billy Preston said not so.

"The song became a church song only after it made a hit as a pop song", Preston tells us. "In fact, it is not really yet an official church song. My mother sings it in church with her own lyrics as 'God is so beautiful to me'"

And now comes the Della Reese influence. When she sang it on the Carson show she, too, made it a religious version. Said Preston:

"Della really gave a great testimony. But she sang some lyrics I never heard before, lyrics I did not write. But all in all she did the song beautiful, spiritual justice. She makes up some wonderful, heartfelt lyrics—and she sang my song with tears in her eyes. I didn't think the audience would ever stop applauding".

Preston and Syreeta have a new album on Motown ready for release shortly, but Preston's new all-gospel album, "Universal Love", was released last week by World Records.

The Ice Capades people held a big press confab the other morn to announce the signing of Randy Gardner and Tai Babilonia as Ice Capades stars. Tai was trained in her skating prowess by Mabel Fairbanks, the first Blacklack female ever to achieve high popularity as a professional ice skater. And Randy and Tai could become the most popular interracial couple ever on the ice.

Top R&B Singles

1. Stomp! The Brothers Johnson
2. Don't Say Goodnight The Isley Brothers
3. I Don't Believe You Want to Get Up and Dance The Gap Band
4. And the Beat Goes On The Whispers
5. Off the Wall Michael Jackson

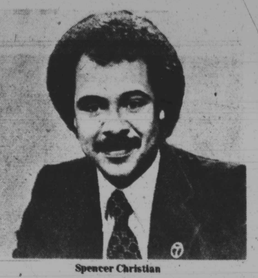
Jesse Walker's N.Y.

Harlem Museum gets $1 million grant

New York — The latest Ford Foundation "Letter" reports "The Studio Museum in Harlem the principal center for studying the work of black artists in the United States, received a three-year program-related investment loan of $1,050,000 to renovate its new quarters. "The loan will support the renovation of the five-story office building on West 125 Street donated to the museum by The New York Bank For Savings. The foundation also reported a grant of $110,000 to the Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center "for the training of minority writers and theatre artists.

The golden voice of Arlene Mary Ann Reape, 19-year-old former star of "Timbukut's" road company, has been thrilling audiences at recent national dinners. She literally stole the show at the 70th birthday reception of civil rights leader Bayard Rustin, and last weekend she highlighted the evening for more than 1,000 at the National Urban Coalition dinner at Washington's Shoreham Hotel. She's niece of NYC popular Edward Reape, manager of Showman's Cafe, next to Harlem's Apollo Theatre.

Lee Posner's All-American Press Associates, made up of 37 foreign and domestic editors and correspondents for overseas and domestic publications gave a reception recently in Rockefeller Center's Rainbow Room to give its Movie Beats Awards for 1979. Best Documentary Feature went to "Best Boy", produced by Ira Wohl who, for the past five years, has produced, directed and edited for the ITT-sponsored award-winning children's TV series, "Big Blue Marble."



Spencer Christian

WABC-TV weatherman Spencer Christian will host the Channel 7 station's new weekday series (9-1 a.m.), "Good Morning New York," with Andrea Kirby, former sports commentator with ABC.

"Oh! My Mother Passed Away" is the new play written and produced by Leonard Parker, and to be performed at the Henry Street Settlement Playhouse, April 17-27. It's directed by Tandeen Peyton.

Leontyne Price will be in concert at Abyssinian Baptist Church, Monday night, April 21, at 7:30 p.m.

The singers have been captivating NYC recently. Sarah Vaughan slaughtered them at the Grand Final in a too-brief stint. Nellie Lutcher, a living legend, is playing and singing at The Cookery through May 31. (When interviewed recently she refused to give her age but did admit "I have a son 40 years old"). Carmen McRae sounded her distinctive style at Carnegie Hall over the weekend, in one of Mel Torme's three shows. Irene Reid and Jimmy Witherspoon are at the Grand Final April 13-19 and the legendary Billy Eckstine comes into the West 70th Street spot from April 29-May 11 with daughter Gina. Oh, yes, Thelma Carpender is at the Syncopation on Waverly Place, April 10-12.

"The Jeffersons" continue in the top TV show ratings, ranked No. 9 nationally and No. 6 in New York. "Benson" is No. 7 in New York, but doesn't make the Top 15 nationally.

"Reggae" finally opened on Broadway, but the daily critics bombed it. Closing notices went up after four days, but came down due to phenomenal audience reaction and the unanimous support of the non-establishment press. Producer Michael Butler is offering a Special Transit Strike Coupon which, when presented at the boxoffice, will enable theatre-goers to buy a $22.50 ticket for $15 and other seats priced down accordingly.

The Rev. C.L. Franklin, 63, father of singer Aretha Franklin, reported making a slow, dogged recovery and showing progress in coming out of a nine-month coma, after being shot during an abortive burglary last June.

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