SHOWTIME

IDA PETERS What's Happening

Win 2 tickets to see 'The Divine Sarah'

First 1983 AFRO contest

1977 — Sarah Vaughn poses with AFRO Entertainment Editor, Ida Peters backstage at Civic Center with winner of AFRO-Sarah Vaughn Contest, Jay Anthony Johnson.

The Divine Sarah or "Miss Sassy" as she is called is being presented in concert with Count Basie and his Orchestra and Joe Williams at the New Meyerhoff Symphony Hall on Sunday, Jan. 16, 1983.

The promoters, Carnegie Concepts Ltd. headed by Mrs. Estelle Street (who also put on the sold out Sammy Davis Jr. concert) have made available two free tickets to the winner of the AFRO's first 1983 contest... and the winner will be able to go backstage and meet Miss Vaughan. There are only 500 tickets left for the concert, so this promises to be another sold-out gala affair.

Here's all you do:

1. Write a letter to the AFRO saying "Why I Like Sarah Vaughan".
2. Address letter to Mrs. Ida Peters, AFRO Entertainment Editor, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201.
3. Deadline for all letters is Jan. 10, 1983.

Miss Sassy has been in the Baltimore-Washington area many times. The most memorable for this editor was January, 1977 when she appeared in a mini-concert at the Civic Center. We ran a similar contest and we went backstage with the winner. He had front row seats with photographer Norma Spencer. When he was introduced and Miss Vaughan read his letter in the AFRO, she said "kiss me honey" and gave him a full buss on the lips.

"Her voice, which has four octaves and outclasses that of most operatic sopranos, comes in unequal parts; a rich middle section, a little girl high register; and a sometimes vulgar, echoing bottom range. She uses it like a horn..." is the way critics have described her voice.

At age 16, family and friends persuaded Sarah to enter the amateur show at the Apollo Theatre in New York City. She won. The prizes were $10 cash and a week's engagement. Ella Fitzgerald was the artist appearing at the theatre when Sarah performed during her winning week. Ella was one of Sarah's early inspirations and it was Sarah's wish to one day record with Ella and do a TV special together. Billy Eckstine was in the audience and recommended Sarah to Earl "Fatha" Hines. He was band vocalist with Earl at the time. Sarah was hired as singer and second pianist for the band. After she and Billy worked with Earl for over a year, Eckstine formed his own, now legendary band. The personnel included among others Dizzy Gillespie, Fats Navarro, Roy Eldridge, Charlie Parker and Gene Ammons with Sarah and Billy as vocalists. They developed a style of music called bebop and the band is now recognized as the finest of that era.

"Kiss me honey," Miss Vaughn said to Jay Anthony Johnson. And he did!

Karen Eubanks in recital at Baltimore Museum of Art

Karen Eubanks, Baltimore jazz dancer will be special feature of free concert by Res Musica Baltimore, Inc. on Sunday, Jan. 16 at 2 p.m. at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Vivian Adelberg Rudow is artistic director.

Karen is a graduate of the Roland Park Country School and Sarah Lawrence College. She is the daughter of Joseph Eubanks, Morgan State University professor and is currently living in New York dancing with the Fancy Dance Ensemble.

She will be dancing to "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", "Chef Club No. 1" from "Ragtime."

The Baltimore Wind Quintet, comprised of Baltimore Symphony Orchestra principals Steven Barta, clarinet; Timothy Day, flute; Phillip Kolker, bassoon; Joseph Turner, oboe; and David Bakkegard, French horn will perform "Quintet" by Elam Sprenkle and "Shizzen" by Jan Bach.

Ivan Smith, violinist from Great Britain and Jeffrey Chappell, Baltimore Symphony pianist will play "Speaking Together" by Faye-Ellen Silverman and "Lost Friends" by Brown Benson.

"Letters From Composers" by Dominick Argento will be performed by Pamela Jordan, soprano with accompaniment by Ronald Pearl, guitar.

Alan Chantker's "Piano Sonata" will be played by Mr. Chappell.

Karen now lives in N.Y.

Highlights of 1982...year was tough!

There were some highlights and some lowlights ... much sadness ... the death of old friends and the beginnings for new ones.

As the economy changed around us, there were new computer games ... less money ... less movie-going and the rise and fall of new stars.

Stevie Wonder and Diana Ross stayed at the top of the charts but 1982 saw the crippling of idol Teddy Pendergrass. However, Cheryl Lynn, Luther Vandross, Jeffrey Osborne, Janet Jackson and Jennifer Holliday with her "I Ain't Going" from Broadway's "Dreamgirls" made top news with their hits during 1982.

January, 1982

As December 1981 drew to a close the nation mourned the loss of Harlington Carl Tilghman, better known as Sonny Til of the Orioles the Baltimorean born on Woodyear Street. Funerals were held in Baltimore and Washington for the man who made famous, "Crying in the Chapel."

Foster Davis, famous tap dancer with Ellington, Basie and Hampton was buried in Los Angeles on the eve of the Los Angeles Hoofers Convention scheduled for January, 1982. He had just returned from a successful tour of South America with his "1,000 Years of Jazz."

As December ended, a triumphant going-home ceremony was noted about Evangelist Gertrude Murphy Ward, manager of the famous Clara Ward Singers.

January 6 — Bruno M. Jerry, Lake Clifton grad, returned to Baltimore to star in Walt Disney's World on Ice at the Civic Center. We were thrilled to take our neices and nephews to see him and meet his proud parents Roosevelt and Gloria Jerry.

And, in early December, Howard E. Rollins Jr. visited his parents and Baltimore for press interviews and the opening of "Ragtime." As predicted by the AFRO, he won an Oscar nomination for his role of Coalhouse Walker Jr. And, his role prompted a poster contest which ran in many editions in January.

Letters commented that Rollins was killed in the movie "as a warning to other blacks"; that "Ragtime" showed that some blacks stood ground, fought back and took revenge even though it meant death. Others commented that the Rollins character showed too much concern over his car and not over his woman and child.

And, "One Mo' Time" have into our town on a nationwide tour. It was about Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith and New Orleans and gave sold-out performances by Yvonne Tatum Kersey, Adjora Faith McMillan; Lynn Clifton Allen and Ronald (Smokey) Stevens.

By the end of January, Gordon Parks was in town at Morgan State University with an exhibit of photos; Angela Bofill was at Painters Mill and Reggie Jackson stirred up "Archie's Place."

Richard Pryor as "Toy" ... ain't funny

Stephanie Mills was new "Queen of Soul" in winning American Music Award in February, 1982.

March, 1982 — Teddy Pendergrass was injured in a late night auto crash and spent the rest of the year in the hospital and a wheel chair.

February, 1982

The American Music Awards were televised on a two-hour live show from Los Angeles. Stephanie Mills won the award as new Queen of Soul and Stevie Wonder with tears running down his cheeks accepted for fifth time the best male soul vocalist and the coveted special award of merit for contributions to musical entertainment.

Diana Ross wasn't there but Lionel Richie picked up the award for "Endless Love.

Our Feb. 6, 1982 headline was "Black man as a 'Toy' ain't funny Richard'. On this Saturday, three in Baltimore and 120 toy stores coast to coast of the Toys R Us Chain were conducting a search for a 10-year-old boy look alike to play opposite Jackie Gleason.

The AFRO editorial said that "In America where blacks are just four generations away from slavery, the idea of a major motion picture built around the premise of a black man as a toy for a wealthy white boy is distasteful."

The AFRO felt that in light of our slave history, the connotation of a black man being owned as a "toy" by a wealthy white boy ain't funny.

And we also said that if Richard Pryor had thought about it he would have dropped this project like a hot potato. And, the more money Richard Pryor makes for theatre owners... (They voted him box office star of the year)... the weaker his scripts get.

And, this Ray Stark production of a Richard Donner Film for Columbia Pictures Release has Richard Pryor laughing all the way to the bank. "The Toy" grossed $4.8 million in its second week at 1,469 outlets nationwide. It's a long way from February to December.

In February we talked with Noel Pointer, the Grammy winner; Dick Gregory came to Towson State; and "Sophisticated Ladies" (now closed) opened in Los Angeles.

In advance of the Grammy Awards on CBS from Los Angeles AFRO readers selected as their Grammy winners "Endless Love" and "The Dude".

March, 1982

At the beginning of March, singer Natalie Cole was finishing putting touches on a new recording contract with Columbia Records. At the end of the year her mother Mrs. Maria Cole had petitioned the court to take over her affairs stating her daughters was ill. As a divorced mother she was having trouble handling her affairs; her former husband had re-married in Chicago; her home was robbed and she had been in a car accident... among the many rumors appearing in the national press.

And Columbia records reportedly bought out the contract of Marvin Gaye who had been living in England. His "Sexual Healing" ended up tops of the charts in December, 1982.

Sunday, March 7 marked the passing of Irvin H. Turner founder with Sam Wilson of the Arena Players. He was also managing director, set designer and board member of one of the most active and oldest theatre groups in the country.

March 16, 1982 was celebrated in a day-long festival to Clarence Muse. The Baltimore native, born in 1889, appeared in the 1981 movie "The Black Stallion" and in "Car Wash". He made 219 films before his death Oct. 13, 1979.

He wrote Louis Armstrong's theme song, "Sleepy Time Down South" and with Langston Hughes wrote the screenplay "Way Down South". He was the first black man to be paid more than $1,000 a week to appear in a film, "Hearts of Dixie", 1929. He was a co-founder of the Lafayette Players in New York.

By the middle of the month, the back of winter was broken as the prestigious, pachaderms of the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus came to town and we all went.

Lionel Richie missed out on the Grammy Awards but he was voted an award as composer of "Endless Love" as Best Original Movie Theme by the National Association of Theatre Owners.

And, Howard E. Rollins Jr. became the first Baltimore male... black or white to be nominated for an Academy Award as best supporting actor.

To end March, Sonny Greer, original drummer in Duke Ellington's band for more than 30 years was buried in New York. He was 78.

On a lighter note, "Leon Isaac Kennedy without his Alyson Rove into town to promote their new movie "Penitentiary II".

(Continued in Tuesday's AFRO).

The original Sonny Til and his world famous Orioles as they looked in Dec., 1955 when they appeared at a gala at the Howard Theatre in D.C. Members in this AFRO file photo are not identified.

BOB MATTHEWS Night Scene Seen

It is almost 1983, and in reflecting on the happenings on the Scene during 1982, it was a sad year for a number of clubs.

One of the premier showcases in the city, The Ritz, closed its doors after valiantly trying to stay on the scene.

Another noble experiment bit the dust in 1982, when D-Joint, which actually became the neighborhood food and drink emporium for the area went under.

On the Eastside, Chez Janel on Orleans St. ceased to exist during 1982, following a long, traumatic series of events, which found owner Lillian Vickers trapped in the middle.

The upshot was the club was closed, but there is a sort of happy ending. Tiger Lil has been able to remain in the business at a new location. Her new spot is called, The Eastside Club.

An institution on the local jazz scene finally closed its doors during the year, as The Birdcage folded.

This was the spot where local musicians, singers and comedians could try out their material on those Monday night sessions.

There have been many skirmishes while club owners attempted to fill the gap left by the closing of the Birdcage, and the way it looks today, The Sportsmen's Lounge seems to have captured Monday night.

During the latter part of the year, the Brothers 2 at Liberty Hgts. and Gwynn Oak Ave. closed its doors. Kinds caught everyone by surprise, for the club survived for a long time, and as the entire area started getting a facelift, it happened.

The latest closing is that of the club for which there was a lot of hope, Julian Barristers on on Reisterstown Rd.

There is no word at this point as to what will happen at the site, but the sheriff has officially padlocked the premises.

Another closing which didn't receive too much notice was the dining room at the Garrison Lounge. For years, this was a place where whole families gathered to "eat out."

There is still food at the Lounge, but from a limited menu, without the grandeur of a formal dining room.

Tonight (Friday) is the night that the bars and lounges in time may remain open all night.

Made a little independent survey of the New Year's eve activities, and for the most part, house parties and neighborhood pub crawling will enjoy a larger participation in this year of Reaganomics.

Of course, the big lavish, expensive entertainments will go on as usual, but attendance will be a bit reduced this year.

Was chatting with vibroharpist Jimmy Wells who told me that he and his group are playing Thursday nights at the Cafe Park Plaza.

That's not too unusual, but then Jimmy said that he has been booked for Thursday nights for the entire year of 1983. Now that's something.

Incidently, Jimmy and his group didn't appear at the Soul Shack last week as had been scheduled. The powers that be felt that Christmas eve and Christmas day would be slack, so the Wells gig was cancelled.

This, of course, is the final column for 1982, and we really want to wish each and every one of you a happy, prosperous and swinging new year.

We'll keep an eye on the night scene for you as we bid hello to 1983.

AFRO's Mrs. Santa over the top with $32,168.33

Nurses of Various Churches made a contribution of $500. to Mrs. Santa. They represent 60 various churches. Above seated Mesdames Susie Murphy and Mary Harper, Board members. Making presentation is Mrs. Omelia Roberts, treasurer. Mrs. Reva Morris is president.

The Red Cross Club from Eastern High School presented canned food, toys, games and clothing to AFRO's Mrs. Santa to help needy families. They thanked all the students and staff for helping. Mrs. Ruby Lee was teacher - sponsor and Richard Terrill is the English teacher.

Mrs. Emma Michael, a member of the Libbs who helped Mrs. Santa accepted check for $65 collected by School No. 69, 201 E. 21st St. Above, Mesdames Lis Johnson and Wilma Garvey. Mrs. Ardenia Dixon is principal.

Mrs. Pearl Owolabi and Mrs. Katherine Fulcher of the Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star, Julia C. Fitzpatrick Chapter prepared a large basket for Mrs. Santa's families. Gift is Sis Elizabeth Higgins.

Members of the Arena Youtheatre who presented Scott Joplin's "Treemonisha" as a benefit for AFRO's Mrs. Santa. Above seated Karen Banks, Zodzetrick and Treemonisha. Letricia Loftin. Others in the Conjurers Prelude were Tracey Moore, Trina Smith, LaVerne Trull, Rishawn Eades, Dara Augusta, Nicole Jones, Richelle Parham and Erika Wynn.

Arena Youtheatre dancers in "Treemonisha" in Bears - Wasp Nest scene were Margaret Snowden, Dara Augustus, Keenan Jones, Nicole Jones, Kiane McEachern, Richelle Parham, Marcia Wallace and Erika Wynn.

JAN

Happy New Year and Thanks

All photos by Vanessa Johnson

Cub Pack 402, Den 1 of Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Liberty and Latham Road collected toys for Mrs. Santa and food. Above, Benjamin Jenkins, Joel Warner, Morris Barnes, Mrs. Marstella Barnes, Den Leader; Mark Hooper, William Dash, Aaron Stevenson, Mrs. Gertrude Hooper, Den Leader. Mascots are Marc Barnes and Gregory Dash.

The Postal Memorial Lodge 212 of the American Legion collected huge vans of clothes and toys for Mrs. Santa. Above, Mrs. Santa, Ida Peters and volunteers who helped in the store, making flowers and addressing envelopes. They include Mrs. Althea Cornish, Mrs. Karen Cornish and Mrs. Robbie Chiesell. Seated in group are Post Commander Albert G. Orange; Adjutant James A. Carr; Color Guard James A. Yerbre. Also, Ex-Commander Harold Wilson, Ralph Benton, Veterans Affairs Committee and Chairman of Help The Needy Program. John Roger is Commander.

Remember Jubilee Day 1983