Showtime

New faces in old places...

Dr. Mellansenah Y. Morris

By Ida M. Peters

The gala events surrounding the dedication of the Miriam A. Friedberg Concert Hall of the Peabody Conservatory of Music in October, 13 1983 raised the question of what this 127-year-old institution would mean to the Black community.

The AFRO noted that the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University has not meant much to Black people in the past; Blacks have not been made welcome nor been made comfortable... yet taxes from the whole community is being used.

In researching this question we found a new purpose and focus at Peabody from Robert Pierce, the new director appointed in June, 1983. We then ran a story on the appointment of Eileen T. Cline, who had served as Associate Dean of the school thru the 1982-83 academic year. She was appointed in October as Dean and became the first black person to hold this position in the school's 127-year history. She is the only woman Dean of a major conservatory of music in the United States.

Robert Pierce told the AFRO that with the appointment of Dean Cline, Peabody has activities and plans to increase minority enrollment, education and community outreach.

As reported in the AFRO in late 1983, Peabody has also received a Ford Foundation grant to work with minority recruitment.

New faces now in old places (the title of this series) include Dr. Mellasenah Y. Morris, Peabody Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Morris, the daughter of the late Miles Young and Mrs. Mellasenah H. Young of Norfolk, Va. was sort of a child prodigy who started her musical education at age 6. She studied under Sara W. Hathaway and Hobart Langral, a Peabody graduate. After graduation from Booker T. Washington High School in Norfolk in 1964 she was recommended to Peabody.

Dr. Mellasenah Y. Morris

She graduated from the Peabody Conservatory of Music with a B.M. in 1968; received a M.M. in 1971 and a D.M.A. in 1980 from Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins in 1980. She is the fourth black and the only woman to receive her doctorate.

Dr. Morris is in charge of the academic life of 420 conservatory students which involves their course work and makes sure they follow programs so that they are eligible for degrees. She serves on undergrad and graduate committees noting policy changes that affect students.

Dr. Morris told the AFRO:

"I believe my new role at Peabody will give me the opportunity to address the issue of serving the needs of the black community and involving more of the black population in the exciting activities at the Institute. My experience at Peabody as a student and instructor should provide sufficient insights to have a positive impact upon our growing black population.

"I'm thrilled at the growth of new black students who have enrolled in our freshman class."

Dr. Morris is a member of the Fine Arts Advisory Committee of Villa Julie College; Adjudicator, National Guild of Piano Teachers; member, Affirmative Action Committee, Johns Hopkins; and Liaison, the Handicapped, John Hopkins and Peabody.

Dr. Morris is president of Baltimore Chapter of Delicados and National Recording Secretary. She is also an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Mu Phi Epsilon, Professional Music Fraternity.

She is listed in the World Who's Who of Women. She made her New York debut recital in New York's Carnegie Hall. In 1983 she performed with Res Musica.

Md. Playwriters' theatre premieres on Md. Public TV

The premiere of "Maryland Playwrights' Theater" on Tuesday, January 3 is a local first. Maryland's first regional theater of the air features a series of five original television dramas both written and performed by local talent.

Maryland Public Television began working on the series one year ago. A call for original television scripts was sent out to Maryland writers in January, 1983. The response was fantastic! By the deadline of September 1, 1983, 153 scripts had been received. "Not only did we get plenty of scripts," says the executive producer of the series Michael B. Styer, "we also got plenty of quality!"

Soon after the series was announced, scripts, began to arrive. For a fair selection process, the playwrights' names were moved from the scripts and the plays coded before they were read. Maryland Public TV's head writer Dick George began the process of reading and evaluating each submission. When George was finished with the scripts, Styer then read and evaluated them independently as did Margaret Sullivan, producer of "Maryland Playwrights' Theater."

After the plays were selected, actors were auditioned, sets built, costumes designed, props collected and hours of rehearsals were held prior to the taping of each drama. Now all have been scheduled for weekly broadcast Tuesday nights in January on Maryland Public TV (MPT) — TV 22,28,31,36,62 and 67.

On January 17 at 10:30 p.m. the setting is Belfast Northern Ireland where three women are awaiting the fate of a young political prisoner on a hunger strike. Entitled "Requiem," this half-hour play was written by native Baltimorean Linda Chambers, an actress and playwright who now divides her time between New York and Baltimore. It explores the hunger striker's relationship with his wife, his mother and his sister. Ralph Marquise, Jr. plays Robin, the hunger striker. Also featured are Greta Lambert as his wife Deirdre, Nancy Lewman as his mother and Aileen Mulcahy as his sister Lucy. John Alan Spoler is the director. "Requiem" has also been produced at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sweet Air, Maryland and at the Cabiceulo Theater in New York City.

Happy Birthday Dr. King

By Stevie Wonder

You know it doesn't make much sense
There ought to be a law against
Anyone who takes offense
At a day in your celebration
'Cause we all know in our minds
That there ought to be a time
That we can set aside
to show just how much we love you
And I'm sure you will agree
It couldn't fit more perfectly
Then to have a world party on the day you came
to be...
I just never understood
How a man who died for good
Could not have a day that would
Be set aside for his recognition
Because some cannot see
The dream as clear as he
that they should make it became an illusion
And we all know everything
That he stood for time will bring
For in peace our hearts will sing
Thanks to Martin Luther King
The time is overdue
For people like me and you
You know the way to truth
Is love and unity to all God's children
It should be a great event
And the whole day should be spent
In full remembrance
Of those who lived and died for the oneness of all people
So let us all begin
We know that love can win
Let it out don't hold it in
Sing as loud as you can
Happy Birthday to you...
(Words and Music by Stevie Wonder. Copyright 1981 Jobete Music Co.)

Stevie Wonder

Essence names new promotion director

Clarence O. Smith, President of Essence Communications, Inc. (ECI), recently named Karen Thomas as Director of Sales Promotion & Merchandising. In announcing the appointment, Mr. Smith said: "I am delighted that Karen is joining ECI during this period of phenomenal growth. Her expertise in marketing and sales promotion will be an asset to us as we continue our expansion in the fields of publishing, television and merchandising."

In her new position, Ms. Thomas will develop presentation and promotional materials for all ECI ventures; create trade advertising campaigns in conjunction with the advertising agency; and develop and implement sales promotion and merchandising ideas. She will report to Gene Davis, Director of the newly created Corporate and Creative Services department.

Ms. Thomas was formerly assistant manager of book clubs for the McGraw-Hill Book Company where she managed production for monthly sales catalogs of four professional book clubs. She has worked previously in the public relations department at Chemical Bank in New York and as a reporter and columnist for the following newspapers: The Daily Journal in Elizabeth, N.J.; the Columbia Flier in Columbia, MD; the Peninsula Bulletin in Palo Alto,

Vereen Victim

Actor, singer, dancer, Ben Vereen says in effect, "I was robbed", he told police in Atlantic City that a thief apparently crept into his casino-hotel room last weekend while he was sleeping.

The thief took $250 from the pocket of a coat Vereen had left on a couch. Vereen, who had been appearing at Caesars Hotel-Casino, told police he had gone to sleep after a performance and awoke to find the front door of his suite ajar. Police say they have no suspects.

Ben Vereen

Celebrities

By Ida Peters

Ellis Marsalis, the New Orleans teacher, has taken a week off to play with his sons, Wynton, 22 and Branford, 23... the Wynton Marsalis Quintet now at Blues Alley in D.C. thru Saturday, Jan. 14. With their regular pianists in Japan, the father joined his sons and the aggressive hard-driving bop-rhythm section of drummer Jeff Watts, and bassist Charnette Moffett. The Marsalis Brothers are sensational in themselves... but you're in for a rare treat when the two brothers are joined by their father... their dedicated teacher.

— —

"It looks like the Eddy Murphy-Sylvester Stallone "20 - 50" is 100 percent bye - bye" reports The New York Post. They say that filming was supposed to start this spring but Stallone was not happy with the script even with a rewrite.

"Star Trek" fans will be happy to know that "Star Trek III: Search for Spock" has been completed and will be in theatres come June, 1984.

— —

Will 1984 bring a lover into the TV life of Sheryl Lee Ralph new star on the soap, "Search for Tomorrow"? Sheryl, who became a regular last July, keeps up a hectic schedule as a co-star in Broadway's "Dreamgirls" as well as TV and a nightclub act.

— —

JUST WONDERING- When the lengthy Kennedy Center tribute to the Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr. ended live taping of the entertainment segment participants gathered on stage to sing "America the Beautiful". "America the Beautiful"? Whatever became of Martin's theme song, "We Shall Overcome"?

TOP HITS

George Benson

Lionel Richie

Kool & The Gang

Top Jazz Albums	Top R&B Singles	Top R&B Albums	Top Video Rentals
1. In Your Eyes George Benson	1. Can't Slow Down Lionel Richie	1. Joanna Kool & the Gang	1. Raiders of the Lost Ark Paramount Pictures
2. Future Shock Herbie Hancock	2. No Parking On the Dance Floor Midnight Star	2. If You Only Knew Patti LaBelle	2. Risky Business Warner Bros.
3. December George Winston	3. Thriller Michael Jackson	3. Let the Music Play Shannon	3. Blue Thunder Columbia Pictures
4. Backstreet David Sanborn	4. Stay With Me Tonight Jeffrey Osborne	4. Time Will Reveal DeBarge	4. Superman III Warner Bros.
5. Foxie Bob James	5. In A Special Way DeBarge	5. Baby I'm Hooked Con Funk Shun	5. National Lampoon's Vacation Warner Bros.

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BOB MATTHEWS Night Scene Seen

The old expression, "you can't tell the players without a program," is apt to describe the situation as regards to musicians in our town.

For example, Nikki Cooper, along with Andy Kunis, Tom Barley and Bobby Ward, have been a mainstay at the Lighthouse Inn over on Frederick Rd. for lo these many weeks.

But now, they will be doing weekends at the Birdcage Out on E. North Ave. beginning this weekend.

Must say that The Birdcage is rapidly becoming an "in" place for jazz, for the Monday night jam sessions are ever increasing in popularity.

Finally looked in most of the schedule for the Left Bank Jazz Society. They will open the season on February 5, with Les McCann as the artist on tap for the premiere of the season.

Although not locked in cement, the word is that Buck Hill and his group will be the feature artists on Feb. 12.

Feb. 19 brings in Pieces of a Dream, that hot trio of youngsters who really got their break into the big time at a LBJS session a few years back.

Feb. 26 finds the Chico Freeman Quartet on hand, and it can be remembered that this ultra modern group really took the Fortnum by storm during their last appearance.

The LBJS is holding another fundraiser on Friday, February 3d, with Houston Person and Etta Jones the featured artists. This one will be a dance, benefit of the LBJS new building fund. More details later.

The Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz will be holding their monthly session this Sunday beginning at 5 p.m., with a program of 3 pianos holding center stage.

The three are Bobby (Wildman) Enriquez, who was discovered by Mike Binsky in the Philippines, and played a very successful gig at the One Step Down in D.C. recently.

Others are Johnny O' Neal and Chris Anderson. The rhythm section for all three artists will be Victor Sproles, bass, and Vernel Fournier, drums.

There is another attraction we forgot to mention, on stage during this set will be a $93,000 Bosendorfer piano for the pianists to use. The club rented this magnificent instrument especially for this occasion.

Kept debating getting over to the Jazz Estuarda Pub on a Wednesday night to hear Jimmy Wells, and now it's too late. Jimmy is no longer there, but live jazz continues at the spot with Warren Gantt heading up a trio at the spot.

The Classique over on Greenmount Ave. in Waverly is featuring live music every night, with Maurice Dow holding down the fort through the week, and Lady Rebecca doing her thing on Sunday and Mondays.

Funny Kane and his group continue at the Cafe Regina in Towson. The spot was once called Bixby's, in case you need a point of reference.

Charlie Byrd is at the King of France Tavern in the Maryland Inn in Annapolis, where they will be through Sunday night. John Coltes Jr. comes in next week.

At Blues Alley, is presenting the Wynton Marsalis group through Saturday night. Beginning Tuesday, Jan. 16, flutist Herbie Mann will be featured, and with him O'Donel Levy.

O'Donel is also scheduled to appear with David (Fathead) Newman at the club.

Ms. Dennis (Gwen Rodriquez) appeal to her husband Michael (Eugene Bulleck) not to leave her for a younger lover. Rose Browne (Susan Clayton) looks on in this dramatic scene from Graham Greene's "The Living Room" playing weekends at the Arena Playhouse, Inc. 801 McCulloh Street through Jan. 29, 1984.

Md. Museum day focus

On Tuesday, Jan. 17, the Members Volunteer Committee of The Baltimore Museum of Art and the Women's Committee of The Museum and Library of Maryland Hts to ry, Maryland Historical Society will offer a full day of activities featuring visits to each museum and lunch.

The events will begin with coffee and pastries at the MHS at 10:15 a.m., followed by a talk at 11 a.m. by Jennifer F. Goldsborough, Curator of Silver. She will speak about "Customs Involved in the Use of Silver in Maryland from 1750-1930", using as illustrations examples from the Society's current and comprehensive exhibition of Silver in Maryland.

Luncheon will be served at the Baltimore Museum of Art at 12:30 p.m. At 1:30 p.m., Arnold L. Lehman, Director of the BMA will present an illustrated lecture on "The Baltimore Museum of Art: New Spaces for New Accessions (Its Next Seventy Years".

The program will cost $20, including lunch and shuttle bus, for members of either the MHS or BMA and $25 for non-members, who are cordially invited to attend.

For additional information call 396-7101.

Color Consultant at Pratt

Are you a salesman starting a new job? An executive hoping for a promotion? A mother attending her first PTA meeting? No matter what your occupation or your hopes, the way you dress influences the way other people see you and respond to you. And the most important factor in your wardrobe selection is color.

Learn how the right color can dramatically improve your image, appearance, and chances for success. The Pratt Library's St. Paul Street Center 2531 St. Paul St. is offering a free demonstration lecture on the subject Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 6:30 p.m. by Roberta Britton, licensed color consultant.

Her program is designed for both men and women. Call 236-2360 for more details.

Free events for children

Wednesday, Jan. 18

Keyworth Avenue Center, 2610 Keyworth Ave.: Films, "Animal Lover", "You Have Something to Offer", and "The Foolish Frog"; 2:30 p.m.

Northwood Branch, 4420 Loch Raven Blvd.: Films, "Tap Dance Kid" and "Gumbasia"; 3:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 20

Dundalk Avenue Branch, 912 Dundalk Ave.: Films, "Best Horse" and "Abbott and Costello Meet the Mummy"; 3 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21

Central Pratt Library, Children's Department, 400 Cathedral Street: Preschool story hour; 11 a.m.

Racial tension of 'Facts of Life'

The long friendship between Natalie and Tootie is put to a severe test when Tootie's cousin arrives at school, takes Natalie out to dinner, and then wants to pursue the relationship in "Crossing the Line", on NBC-TV's "The Facts of Life", Wednesday, Jan. 11.

Fears and misunderstanding of racial prejudice test the girl's long relationship. Things come to a boil when Michael invites Natalie to a New York dance. Starring Kim Fields as Tootie and Peter Parros as Michael.

Kim Fields

Audition for School of the Arts

The Baltimore School For the Arts will be holding auditions February 21-25 for students entering the 9th and 10th grades in September 1984.

The deadline for applications is January 20th.

Students attending Baltimore City Schools may obtain application information from the counselors of the schools they now attend.

Others should call the Office of Student Placement at 396-6595.

The School For the Arts is a Baltimore City high school offering an academic curriculum alont with training in the art, fields of music, dance, theatre and the visual arts.

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Tough questions, sure. But to Tony Brown, that's what journalism is all about. And as PBS brings Tony Brown's Journal into its 14th year of hard-hitting reporting, Tony Brown continues to demand answers that are straight, honest, and complete.

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