Puccini's 'La Boheme' features Cynthia Haymon

"La Boheme," one of Puccini's most popular operas, is the second production of the Baltimore Opera's expanded subscription season for 1988-1989.

"La Boheme" will be performed four times, including three evening performances at 8:15 p.m. Friday, December 2, Wednesday, December 7 and Saturday, September 10 and a matinee at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, December 4.

All performances will be held at the Lyric Opera House, 100 W. Mt. Royal, Baltimore.

Directed by Rosalind Elias and conducted by Elio Boncompagni, the production features soprano Cynthia Haymon as Mimi, baritone James Busterud as Marcello, baritone Nickolas Karousatos as Schaunard, and mezzo-soprano Judith Forst as Musetta. Tenor Tonio De Paolo will make his Baltimore Opera debut in the role of Rodolfo.

The opera will be sung in Italian with Surtitles (TM), projected English translations produced by Baltimore Opera's Assistant Music Director, Gary Madison.

For years one of Puccini's best-loved works, "La Boheme" probably reached its best audience ever with the release of the movie "Moonstruck," when Cher and Nicholas Cage exchanged meaningful glances during a performance of the Metropolitan Opera.

Paris' Latin Quarter is the setting for Puccini's "La Boheme," a tragic tale of young love and untimely death that has grown to become the most popular Italian lyric stage work after Verdi's AIDA.

A reflection of the composer's own youthful struggles, "La Boheme's" light, poetic quality has endeared it to audiences from its first performance in 1896.

The last Baltimore Opera production of LA BOHEME took place in February, 1983, and featured Frederick Burchinal as Marcello, Riccardo Calleo as Rodolfo, Pamela Meyers as Mimi and Margaret Vasquez as Musetta.

Tickets for "La Boheme" range from $15 to $65, and are available by calling Telecharge at 301/625-1400, or the Baltimore Opera Box Office at 301/685-0693.

CYNTHIA HAYMON — Soprano

Subject to availability, full-time students and senior citizens with proper I.D. may buy half-price rush tickets at the Lyric Opera House, 45 minutes prior to each performance.

As preparation for these performances, the public is invited to attend a free lecture about "La Boheme," given by Baltimore Opera Music Director William Yannuzzi at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, November 27, at the Friedberg Auditorium at Peabody Conservatory.

No reservations are required and admission is free and open to the public.

Joffrey Ballet brings 'The Nutcracker' to The Kennedy Center

The Joffrey Ballet will perform two weeks of the holiday classic, **The Nutcracker,** December 7 to 14, 1988, in the Kennedy Center Opera House.

The wondrous 1987 production received rave reviews. The **New York Post** called it "an enchantment, a Christmas bauble as precious, and one suspects as permanent, as anything fashioned by the Czar's own magic jeweler, Faberge."

The 14-performance engagement marks the return of Robert Joffrey's beloved production. Set to the music of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky and based on the story by E.T.A. Hoffman, **The Nutcracker** was conceived and directed by the late Robert Joffrey, with choreography for the "Waltz of the Snowflakes" and "Waltz of the Flowers" by Joffrey Ballet Artistic Director Gerald Arpino.

The production has been staged by George Verdak and Scott Barnard, and the designers include Oliver Smith (scenery), John David Ridge (costumes, Kermit Love (mice, Mother Ginger, Horse), Thomas Skelton (lighting).

The Joffrey production is in the spirit of the original 19th-century Russian staging by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov and after the first production in America — the 1940 version that Alexandra Fedorova (who knew the original) set for the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.

The Joffrey **Nutcracker** is set in Victorian America, circa 1850, and its designs are based on American prints, engravings, Christmas cards, and toys of the period. The Christmas tree is decorated with hundreds of small American flags, and the toys at the Christmas party include an Indian Headdress and a cigar-store Indian.

The medieval martial costumes of the battalions and cavalry of

(Continued on Page 5)

Ruby Dee is inducted into Theatre Hall of Fame

RUBY DEE, star of Broadway's "CHECKMATES," made black theatre history as she became the fifth black theatre artist to be inducted into the theater Hall of Fame, one of the American Theatre's most prestigious honors.

The event was held November 21st at Broadway's Gershwin Theatre. The other black artists who have been honored in past years include Ira Aldridge, Paul Robeson, Ethel Waters and Bert Williams.

RUBY DEE, who was one of 10 theatre artists to be inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame this year. Along with Ruby Dee, the other 1988 inductees were George Balanchine, Dorothy Fields, Herbert Fields, Max Gordon, Danny Kaye, Siobhan McKenna, Mike Nichols, Elliot Norton and Eli Wallach.

The names of the honorees will appear on the walls of the Gershwin along with 239 other theatrical notables who have been elected over the past 15 years. The inductees have been chosen by drama editors and critics across the country under the supervision of the supervision of the American Theatre Critics' Association.

DENZEL WASHINGTON, who also stars in "CHECKMATES," had

Ruby Dee

the honor of presenting his co-star, Ruby Dee, with her Theater Hall of Fame award. Colleen Denwhurst and Joseph Papp served as co-hosts for the ceremony. Also on hand to present awards was Robin Williams, Steve Martin, Neil Simon, Bob Hope, Irene Worth and Garson Kanin.

The Theater Hall of Fame award was a very special milestone in the life of RUBY DEE. In a career spanning over 40 years, RUBY DEE has starred on Broadway in "A Raisin in the Sun" and "Purlie Victorious," and on stage in such plays as "Boesman and Lena," "Wedding Band," "the Taming of the Shrew" and "King Lear."

On television, she broke ground as one of the first black stars in the 1960's in "Peyton Place" and went on to star in "A Long Day's Journey into Night," "Lincoln (Emmy nomination)," "Roots: The Next Generation." "To Be Young, Gifted and Black" among others.

She has appeared in scores of movies, including Spike Lee's new film, "Do the Right Thing," which will open later this year.

RUBY DEE's induction into the Theater Hall of Fame is an appropriate honor recognizing a long and distinguished career.

By Carl Matthews

RENE MOORE
"Destination Love" (Polydor)

Rene Moore, formerly of the musical duo Rene And Angela, has his first solo album out on Polydor records.

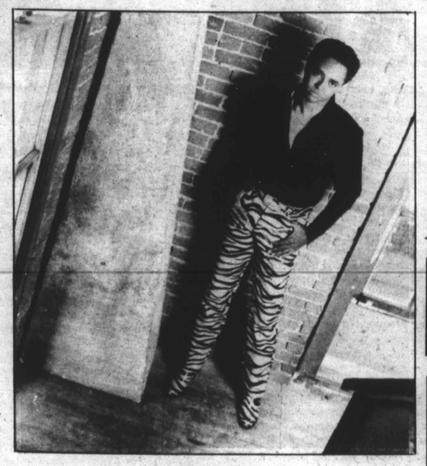
The singer, songwriter, producer and keyboardist worked with such diverse artists as Ella Fitzgerald, John Denver and Billy Eckstine before teaming up with singer-songwriter Angela Winbush in 1977. Rene And Angela recorded three albums for Capitol and in 1985 their "Street Called Desire" album, which included the hits "Save Your Love (For #1)," "I'll Be Good," and "Your Smile," went gold.

With the talents of friends like Jeff Lorber, Gerald Albright and Paulinho De Costa, Moore continues in the tradition of "Street Called Desire" with the tasty dance groove of "All Or Nothing," the solid vocal harmonies of "Good Love" and the mellow "Never Say Goodbye To Love." Even without Angela, Moore serves up a platter that sounds like a hit.

EARTH, WIND AND FIRE
"The Best Of Earth, Wind And Fire, Volume 2" (Columbia)

'Tis the season for compilation albums. Some of them are good buys, too.

The long-awaited sequel to volume one of E.W. & F.'s greatest hits is available at last. It includes the band's latest single, "Turn On (The Beat Box)," a typical E.W. & F. disco funk jam that sounds pretty much like the material on their last LP. And the opening chord changes sound awfully close to "How Will I Know" (the Whitney Houston hit).



RENE MOORE

The rest of this greatest-hits package contains classic tracks culled from E. W. & F.'s "All 'N All," "I Am," "Raise!," "Spirit," and "Open Our Eyes" LPs. You get the full-length versions of these past hits: "Let's Groove," "After The Love Is Gone," "Fantasy," "Devotion," "Serpentine Fire," "Love's Holiday," "Boogie Wonderland," "Saturday Nite," and "Mighty Mighty."

Earth, Wind And Fire is one of those groups that has had too many hits to fit on one LP, or even two LPs, so we're probably in for a Volume Three in the future. I recommend that these tracks be included: "Kalimba Story," "Fall In Love With Me," "Magnetic," and "System Of Survival."

THE WHO
"Who's Better, Who's Best" (MCA)

Pete Townsend, Roger Daltrey, John Entwistle and Keith Moon were considered by many to be one of the greatest British bands of the rock and roll era — and they were certainly one of the loudest. MCA has released another two-record compilation of their music.

The 18 songs included in this package are all well-known classics. Of course, true Who fanatics already have everything on this compilation, but at least they'll get some good color pictures and decent liner notes by author Richard Barnes with this set.

Most of what's here has already been released on previous Who compilations such as "Hooligans" and "Meaty, Beaty, Big And Bouncy." However, you'll notice that the version of "I'm A Boy" included here is in stereo, and is a different take than the mono version which appeared on "Meaty." Also, "Magic Bus," which appeared in mono on other albums, is in stereo on this new LP, but this version is **shorter** than the other mono versions. And, unfortunately, the edited versions of "Won't Get Fooled Again" and "We're Not Gonna Take It" are included here, instead of the long versions, with only the last 3½ minutes of "We're Not Gonna Take It" being included. It's listed as "See Me, Feel Me," as it was on the original 45.

The CD version of this compilation also includes "Baba O'Reilly" from the Who's great "Who's Next" album.

—The Joffrey Ballet

(Continued from Page 4)

mice are based on the popular tin soldiers that Victorian children received for Christmas.

There are 64 local children in the Joffrey production, from ballet schools in and around the Washington area, who will perform as party guests, mice, soldiers, snow trees, toys and polichinelles.

The Joffrey **Nutcracker** follows the 1816 story, **The Nutcracker and The Mouse King.** However, in this version, the "real" family, friends and toys of the first scene are transformed into characters in Clara's dream in the following scenes.

Thus, Drosselmeyer's nephew in Scene One is transformed into the Nutcracker Prince, Clara's parents into the Snow Queen and King, and her brother Fritz into the Snow Prince.

Dolls and toys from Scene One become character dances (Coffee, Tea and Chocolate) in Scene Two. In the same manner, the Nephew's gift to Clara, a Victorian banquet, is transformed into "The Waltz of the Flowers." Also, Clara's uncle, the mysterious Dr. Drosselmeyer, appears throughout both acts.

Tickets for the Joffrey Ballet's production of **The Nutcracker** go on sale November 20 at the Opera House box office and through Instant-Charge at (202) 857-0900.

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