COMING EVENTS

The Morgan State University Department of Fine Arts presents the Morgan State University Choir with guest soloist Kevin Short, in the choir's Annual Christmas Concert, Sunday, Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. in Murphy Auditorium.

The program will feature Johann Sebastian Bach's Christmas Oratorio-Part I (The Nativity) in the first half and Margaret Bonds setting of Langston Hughes' poetry "Ballad of the Brown King" in Part II.

Nathan Carter is director of the choir.

* * *

December 9, 1988, The Ball for the Arts will be sponsoring the **Arena Players, Inc.** Youtheatre's production of "The Anything Toy" and "The North Pole Goes Rock and Roll."

Project Raise is a program designed to motivate Baltimore Public School students to stay in school and graduate.

The Ball for the Arts, also known as FAN, Fund for Arts and Neighbors, is a private non-profit corporation that operates exclusively for the education, promotion and development of the Arts community in Baltimore.

The Ball for the Arts is funded by the Annual Ball sponsored by this organization. This Ball has become a Baltimore tradition which many enjoy. Those who come help to support the arts.

* * *

Sunday, December 4 at 3 p.m., the C. H. Fairfax Company, a Columbia, MD based publishing house, presents its Second Annual Pre-Holiday Book and Author Reception. The event takes place at the Urban Services' Eubie Blake Cultural Center on 409 N. Charles Street.

Nathan Carter

Authors who will be presented are Colliston R. Rose, "Fundamental Approaches to Mastering the Sciences: A Guide for Students;" Maravene S. Loeschke, "The Path Between: An Historical Novel of the Dickinson Family of Amherst;"

Madeline W. Murphy, "Madeline Murphy Speaks;" George-Ann Fay, "There is Life After Owning a Business;" Sandra Stewart, "Taking Control of Your Sandbox;"

Frank Pullen, "The Princess of Monique;" and Serena G. Lewis Mills, "Women Friends, Men Friends."

***

The Urban Services Agency is winding up the Cultural Arts fall session with recitals, concerts and a play.

On Tuesday, December 6, at 7 p.m., piano students will perform their recitals at the Eubie Blake Cultural Center, 409 N. Charles Street.

Wednesday, December 7 at 7 p.m., the Cultural Arts Student Band will present a holiday concert at the Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, 1601 W. Madison Avenue.

The drama students will give two performances of "Scrooge." An open dress rehearsal is planned Thursday, December 8 at 7 p.m.

The regular performance will be held the following night, Friday, December 9, at 7 p.m. The play will be staged at the Dunbar Performing Arts Center, 1400 Orleans Street.

Admission is FREE to all the programs. For information on the Urban Services Agency Cultural Arts Program events and enrollment, call 396-3181.

The Amazing Josini, one of "Baltimore's Best," will appear on national television "Live At The Apollo," on Saturday, December 3 at 1 a.m. (early Sunday morning) on Channel 11. A comedian, ventriloquist and magician, Josini is now going national.

Of course, Grammy Award-winning R & B artists **Luther Vandross and Anita Baker** are coming to Baltimore's

Josini

Arena on Baltimore St., Thursday, December 15 at 8 p.m. To you have your seat reserved call (301) 481-6000.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The long-awaited performance of Fela Kuta will finally be recognized on Sunday, December 3 at the Warner Theatre, 513 13th St. Call (301) 481-6000 for details and tickets.

The 19th annual Christmas Carols at Wolf Trap will be held at the Filene Center on Sunday, December 4, at 4 p.m. Free Metro Bus service to the Center will be available from the West Falls Church Metro Station beginning at 2:45 p.m. Admission is free, but patrons are asked to bring two non-perishable food items for WJLA-TV's traditional "Neediest Kids" food drive, a program to provide food for area families. Special appearances by Santa and Frosty the Snowman will delight any child. Be advised to dress warmly and bring a candle and a bell for the festivity. For info, call (703) 255-1900.

The Arena Stage, at 6th and Maine Ave. SW, will open **"Playboy of The West Indies"** on Friday, December 9. A comedy filled with laughter and looniness, "Playboy" is actually a classic Irish play ("Playboy of the Western World") transplanted into a Caribbean climate and school of thought. Written by an English, but Trinidadian-born playwright, Mustapha Matura, he has successfully included the lilting, musical patois speech of his native. Trinidad. Call (202) 554-9066 for ticket prices and show information.

The Wynton Marsalis Quintet will jazz the night away at Blues Alley in Georgetown 1073 Wisconsin Ave. NW, from Wednesday, December 7 through December 19. Call (202) 337-4141 for details.

Former New Edition member Bobby Brown, whose super hits "Don't Be Cruel" and "It's My Prerogative" have climbed the charts will rock the house at Constitution Hall on Friday, December 30 at 8 p.m. **The O'Jays** will then close out the old year and ring in the new Saturday, December 31 at 8 p.m. For tickets and info. call (301) 481-6000.

DECEMBER FESTIVAL AT KENNEDY CENTER

The Kennedy Center Holiday Festival...an annual Washington tradition since the 1971 opening of the Center...opens this season with the Hanukrah at the Kennedy Center concert, featuring the premiere of Herman Berlinski's new oratorio written in honor of Hanukrah, "The Trumpets of Freedom."

For the first time during the festival, The Spirit of Gospel Music, a program of traditional and contemporary gospel music will be featured.

Again this year, one of the highlights of the festival will be the popular "Messiah" Sing-Along on Christmas Eve.

There will be a concert by the New York String Orchestra, and Alexander Schneider along with friends will treat us to A Night in Old Vienna on New Year's Eve.

The National Symphony Orchestra will perform Handel's "Messiah," and the Joffrey Ballet will mount several performances of Tchaikowsky's "Nutcracker" ballet.

In addition to the many performances in the Grand Foyer and Concert Hall, the American Film Institute will be presenting a variety of classic holiday films throughout the month of December, including such favorites as Dickens' "A Christmas Carol"; "White Christmas," starring Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney. Call 785-4601 for further film information.

Many of the concerts are free but tickets may be required. Call (202) 254-3696 for further information. Also, watch the local dailies for dates and times of the various performances.

HOTTIX coming

Washington, D.C.—With the first preview performance of Mustapha Matura's "Playboy of the West Indies" on December 2, Arena Stage will launch HOTTIX.

This is a new discount ticket program designed to make half-price tickets available for every performance of every production in the Arena and Kreeger Theater.

In an effort to make Arena Stage programming consistently accessible to a broader segment of the Washington community, Arena has incorporated HOTTIX into its long range pricing plans.

The HOTTIX program has been designed to introduce new audiences to the theater, to serve those for whom ticket prices are not within their current budget, and to respond to those whose lifestyles make advance ticket purchases difficult.

HOTTIX are half-price tickets sold on the day of performance for productions in the Arena or Kreeger Theater at Arena Stage. A limited number of half-price tickets will be available for every production, for every performance, 90 minutes before curtain.

HOTTIX are subject to availability and will be distributed on a first-come-first-served basis, and are not available for special events, Stage Four, or Old Vat Room productions. No phone reservations will be taken for this program.

The weekly entertainment guide for the Baltimore-Washington area. Published by the AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS group.
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Baltimore, Maryland 21201
(301) 728-8200
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FISHMARKET bringing in DIONNE WARWICK

Baltimore's newest, and perhaps most grandiose entertainment spot, the Fishmarket will bring in superstar Dionne Warwick Tuesday, December 6.

She will appear in the Liberty Hall venue, which holds about 2,500 people, spread over three tiers. There is a kind of stadia effect in the upper reaches, but the sightliness are exquisite.

As is customary, the single admission charge gives entry to any of the six clubs in the complex, but for this particular event, that charge has been increased.

Actually, the normal $6 entry fee is doubled for this occasion, and there are tickets being sold for this event.

Dionne is no stranger to the Baltimore/Washington area, having played here for many years, dating back to the late 60s, prior to achieving star status.

As evidence of her commitment to community support, you have only to look at the picture at right, which was taken in 1979, when Dionne was in the area.

She stopped by the AFRO office to meet with Entertainment Editor Ida Peters, who also served as Mrs. Santa. This is rather apt, since Mrs. Peters is back in her Mrs. Santa role for the 1988 campaign.

A reminder, while Dionne does her show in the Liberty Hall space, the other clubs with live entertainment will also be happening.

In the Eubie Blake Room, Gail Martin and Karen G. will perform. The Officer's Club has Hot Jazz, and a group called Super Gold will take over the Liberty Hall stage following the Warwick stint.

Further information: (301)385-4949.

Ida Peters and Dionne Warwick at AFRO in 1979.

ALL THAT JAZZ

By Bob Matthews

Got a call from **Gary Bartz** the other day, who told us he had a copy of his new album for us to check out. So, he dropped by the office where we had a little chat.

Was intensely interested in when he would be appearing in our area again, for the demise of the Jazz Closet really put a crimp in available outlets for straight ahead jazz.

There is nothing firm at this point, for Gary is in rehearsal for another album. He says he comes home to Baltimore when he needs time and place to practice.

Here, rather than in New York, he can practice on his horn as much as desired without disturbing anyone or being interrupted. An interesting sidelight: he says the closing of the Jazz Closet was actually an awakening for him.

Having a regular gig every week had a tendency to induce a sense of complacency, since the necessity to aggressively move ahead, seeking out challenging gigs was missing.

Discovered that the Jazz Closet, although it is on the block, has not yet been sold. Gary has been practicing there on occasion. There is no word, however on a possible reopening of the club we're checking out that possibility.

* * *

Dawned on us while checking Gary's album that this is the time when giftgiving is the order of the day, and jazz fans thoughts usually turn to albums, CDs or cassettes as gifts.

What better way to indulge than to check out the offerings of a couple of Baltimoreans. First, there is Gary's album, called "Monsoon" featuring **Clint Houston**, bass; **Billy Hart**, drums, and **Butch Lacy**, piano.

Harper Brothers

Gary Bartz album jacket

Ah, but that's not all. **Larry Joter** over at the Crazy Gumps record store dropped off an album simply entitled "The Harper Brothers."

Thought the cover photo on the album looked familiar, and sure enough, the Harper brothers are Baltimoreans.

Winard Harper, born in Baltimore, started playing drums at an early age, and was playing in his brother Danny's r and b band initially.

He got into jazz after hearing **Clifford Brown** and **Max Roach**, and moved up the line. His first major gig was with **Dexter Gordon**, followed by a stint with **Johnny Griffin**.

Found out the reason he looked familiar to us is that he was the drummer with **Betty Carter** during an appearance in town.

Philip Harper, trumpet, was also born in Baltimore. His first major gig was with **Jimmy McGriff**. Influenced by **Lee Morgan**, Philip took over the trumpet chair of the **Art Blakey** Jazz Messengers. He is still with them.

Then, looked at the bass player on the album, **Michael Bowie. Discovered he is originally from Camp Springs, MD, and was in town just a couple of weeks ago, playing with the Nat Adderley** group for the Left Bank Jazz Society.

On top of this, a couple of the tunes on the album were written by one of our favorite pianists, **Reuben Brown**, makes this a truly representative album of area artists.

* * *

Often get called upon to settle barroom or barbershop arguments concerning jazz, and was recently asked about **Keter Betts**. Seems there were bets on where he was born, and when.

Promised to check it out, and we have. Keter, whose real name is William Thomas Betts, was born in Port Chester, N.Y. in 1928, settled in Washington, D.C. in 1957.

His first major job was with **Earl Bostic**, and he spent about 5 years as accompanist with **Dinah Washington**. More recently, he has been a member of the **Ella Fitzgerald** backup group, for many years, up to the present.

Jack McDuff

All of which leads us into the concert appearance Friday, December 2 at the Montpelier Cultural Arts Center, 12826 Laurel-Bowie Rd., Laurel, MD.

Concert goes on at 8 p.m. and is the next to last concert in the Montpelier Jazz Series. **Jon Metzger** closes out the series with a set on December 16.

* * *

The Left Bank Jazz Society will be presenting organist **Jack McDuff** in the final concert of the season, Sunday, December 11.

McDuff has appeared for LBJS many times in the past, but always in an organ trio/quartet setting. This time there is a difference. He will be fronting what is being billed as a 7-piece mini big band.

In the group will be John Hart, guitar; Tom Brisbane, drums; Burgess Gardner, trumpet; Steve Berry, trombone; Andrew Beal, alto sax; Pete O'Neil, tenor sax, and John Lambert, vocalist.

Should provide quite a different sound to the McDuff offerings. Must confess, we are not familiar with any of the backup group, but then, we trust LBJS—if they are bringing them in, then they must be good.

* * *

On that same Sunday, **Houston Person** and **Etta Jones** will appear at the Sheraton Harrisburg East, in Harrisburg, PA, in a benefit performance for retarded citizens.

It's being sponsored by the Capital Area Sertoma Club in cooperation with the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz.

Session goes on from 7 - 11 p.m., and it is being billed as a holiday party, rather than a concert. Should be fun. More information: (717) 257-5441.

* * *

Dropped in to catch the opening set of the **Dizzy Gillespie** group at Blues Alley Baltimore Tuesday nights, and everything was as expected, with a minor flaw.

Diz didn't seem to be playing up to the standard we were accustomed to hearing, and the set was a bit abbreviated, with his solos shorter than usual.

The answer came at the end of the set when Diz launched into his usual spiel, and pointed out that he had a slight accident while playing at Blues Alley Washington last week.

Said he was cleaning his bridge, when it broke in two. Had to get to the dentist to have a new one made, and in the meantime, he was using an old one he happened to have.

Well, as he put it, "no teeth, no trumpet," but the uninitiated won't notice the difference, unless they realize that the ultra high notes are missing in the performance.

All of which served to inspire the backup musicians, who real-

(Continued on Page 4)