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ERTAINME

J. Morris Anderson, Song Writer



J. Morris Anderson feels that no one is more qualified to write the songs for the Miss Black America Pageant than J. Morris Anderson.

"I'm the best man for the job because I understand the pageant better than anyone else,"
Anderson says in his Philadelphia office. "After all, I created it."

Anderson, 42 founded the Miss Black America Pageant in 1968 to provide a showcase for the beauty, talent and poise of Black women between the age of 18 and 25. Since then, he has been the pageant's president. On August 18, he will present the national finals of the 11th Annual Miss Black America Pageant at the Civic Center in Philadelphia, Pa.

Among the highlights of the pageant will be six songs Anderson has written for it. His song include "Dear Miss Black America," "Hey Black Girl," "She's A Positive Thinker," "Come Out Black Girl," "Miss Black America I Love

You," and Philadelphia, Pa." With the exception of "Philadelphia, Pa," Anderson says these songs express the way he feels about the Black

Though he's been writing songs for as long as he can remember, Anderson admits to having no formal musical training.

"My mother taught me to play the piano," Anderson says, "and, having been reared in my father's church, I have a gospel background. But, basically being Black provides a rhythm, and I think that's the core of my music.

Anderson started writing songs for the Miss Black America Pageant in 1968. However, in 1969, When Anderson co-produced the pageant with Madison Square Garden, Curtis Mayfield was commissioned to write the songs.

"The Madison Square Garden people felt that the person who writes the songs for the pageant should be someone famous for writing songs,' Anderson says. "So they hired Curtis Mayfield, who wrote the Miss Black America theme song. But his song wasn't really relevant to what I created. It didn't express what I felt about the Miss Black America Pageant.

To create a song for the Miss Black America

Pageant, Anderson says he simply relaxes. "First," he explains, "I think of what I'm trying to project. Then I think of how to say it musically. And then I just relax. I personally feel that you can accomplish anything you want to, but I don't think you can accomplish anything without relaxing. So, when I relax, I free myself of tension, and the creative cells in my brain deliver unto me a song. The secret is in re-

