

Entertainment

Singer Janis Carter Stars At Silverbird

...wants to be known basically as jazz singer

By JOE CROSS
Sentinel Writer

Janis Carter likes to refer to herself as "basically a jazz singer" — which she certainly is exceptionally good at — but she's underplaying her overall ability in the process.

Carter, who just completed a run at the Silverbird Star Lounge, has the rare ability to be able to sing just about any kind of music she takes a notion to present to the public.

And it's all because, in this case at least, mother knew best. In fact, it was her mother who gave her the encouragement that made her realize that teaching school — which she did after graduating with a degree in health-physical education from Kentucky State — wasn't going to be nearly as much fun as a career on the stage.

"I originally wanted to be a physical therapist," said Carter during a between-shows chat recently. "It was a long time before I gave singing a thought — but my mother kept telling me I should consider it."

Eventually she was

convinced to enter the Miss Black Experience contest in her hometown of Louisville.

"The people were very noisy when the other girls were performing the talent part of the contest," she recalled. "It was a very tough audience but when I sang, the

quieted down." Needless to say, she won the talent part of the competition and she started believing that maybe mother knew what she was talking about.

"That's when I decided to sing what people want to hear," she said — then quickly qualified that by adding, "But I just can't sing songs on the charts that I don't like if I don't like that song myself."

Even though she started gearing her life toward professional stage work — she's been at it 10 years now — Carter discovered it wasn't going to be easy. She, as the saying goes, paid her dues and actually ended up in Las Vegas because she couldn't find work in Los

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SAHARA HOLIDAY SHOWS — Flip Wilson and Joey Heatherton are providing comedy and musical fun during the Holiday Season in the Sahara Hotel's Congo Showroom with special

10 p.m. cocktails — only shows nightly and 8 p.m. dinner show and 12 mid-night cocktail show on Saturday. Call 735-4242 for reservations and add some fun to your Holidays.



REHEARSING MUSICAL selections for Clark County Community College's first all black musical "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope" are, left to right, Odell M. Hobbs, Edie Aikels, Charles Henry and Fran Dorsey.

Theatre-goers may enjoy Las Vegas' first all black musical production opening December 11, at the Clark County Community College Little Theatre.

"Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope" is a dynamic mixture of rock, calypso and ballad music.

Fourteen singers and dancers perform the musical entertainment conceived by Vinnette Carroll, with music and lyrics by Micki Grant.

The original production of "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope" was directed by Vinnette Carroll.

The CCC production is presented by the Division of Communication and Arts and

funded by a federal grant through Title I Higher Education Act.

The vibrant musical is directed by Steven McKenzie, a former drama consultant for the Creative Arts Institute and the Tampa Arts Council in Florida.

Dates for the musical production are December 11-13 and Dec. 18-20 at 8 p.m. with a matinee performance on Saturday Dec. 20 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available at the CCC Book Store, CCC Student Activities, or at the door.

Students, Senior Citizens and handicapped citizens will receive a discount on tickets. General admission is \$4.

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