

# Entertainment

## Leontyne Price In Recital Sept. 15 At UNLV Ham Hall Dallas Symphony Honors Black Composers In Month-Long Celebration

Two distinguished organizations, the Charles Vanda Master Series and the Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra and Opera Company present a Gala Benefit Recital featuring internationally renowned Soprano Leontyne Price on Friday, September 15, 8 p.m. in the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall at UNLV.

Regarded as one of the greatest Soprano's of our time, Leontyne Price continues to demonstrate her radiant style. She has performed internationally and with major symphonies including the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony, as well as the White House.

Her mastery of song drew attention early in her career as a member of the Ohio Central State College Glee Club. She was encouraged to follow a singing career, and upon graduation was awarded a scholarship to the Juilliard School of Music. She was soon heard in the premieres of work by



Photo by Jack Mitchell

Leontyne Price

Stravinsky, Barber, La Montaine and other composers. Triumphant debuts followed in Verona, Paris,

London, Vienna, Covent Gardens, at the Salzburg Festival, and the Metropolitan Opera which presented her in seven different roles during her first year with the company.

Ms. Price has earned three Emmy awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and an unprecedented 18 Grammy Awards from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. In addition Ms. Price has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards including 13 honorary doctorates. She has been featured in cover stories by Time magazine and more than two dozen international publications, as well as being the only opera singer included in Life magazine's Bicentennial issue. She received recognition from Good Housekeeping magazine as one of the "One Hundred Major Women of the Past 100

The Dallas Symphony Association, heralding the opening of the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, will present in September a month-long consortium of events showcasing the musical contributions of black composers.

OVATION! A DALLAS SALUTE TO BLACK COMPOSERS includes a major exhibition, concerts and lectures, occurring in numerous locations in the Dallas downtown Arts District beginning Sept. 1.

"The body of work of black composers, although largely from this century, has gone virtually unrecognized

Years", and in the Aug. 1989 National Geographic's article "I Dream A World", documenting the lives of 75 of the most influential black women in America.

Ms. Price has had many first in her career and has opened many doors for black artists. She achieved giant steps for civil rights in the 1950's by insisting on mixed audience seating at her concerts, and by being the first black artist ever to perform on many America's concert stages.

Her selection of programs is consistently challenging and uncompromising, maintaining a vigorous touring schedule throughout America and the world.

Tickets for the performance are \$15, \$35, and \$60 and can be purchased by phoning the Performing Arts Center Box Office at 739-3801, 10-6 Mon. - Fri., and 10-4 on Sat. In addition, select seating is available for \$100 which includes a post-concert reception with Ms. Price. Tickets can also be ordered from any Sun-Teleguide terminal.

as a major catalyst and contribution to the world of music," said OVATION! Coordinator Vicki Meek. "OVATION! brings the first major photographic exhibition on black composers together with concerts and talks by experts in the field. Furthermore, interest from academicians and the Smithsonian Institution indicates that this project will take on a life of its own -- bringing permanent and lasting recognition in ongoing exhibitions and in documents of records," she said.

With experience as an arts administrator, Meek researched libraries, universities and private collections to assemble the photographic exhibition for OVATION, which brings to light the lives, music and memorabilia of 40 separate composers. It opens Sept. 1 in Dallas' Trammell Crow Center Pavilions.

In addition, six concerts occur throughout the month featuring Dallas black musicians. Some concerts focus on individual composers such as a Sept. 13 performance by the Marchel Ivery Quartet of music by Horace Silver. Others feature the music of several composers in one concert.

A third component, a lecture series, includes two Sunday afternoon lectures. Dr. Samuel Floyd, director of the Center for Black Music Research at Columbia College, Chicago, will speak on "Black Music and Black Musicians in Our Culture." Lester Sullivan, senior archivist of the Amistad Research Center in New Orleans, will give a multimedia presentation on "19th Century Creole Composers in New Orleans."

Other Dallas arts organizations have collaborated in the celebration by involving music of black composers in their dance, theater and radio productions throughout the month.

The Dallas Symphony, one of nation's major orchestras, initiated the OVATION! project as part of its grand opening activities for the opening of its new home and concert hall, the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. The Meyerson was designed through collaboration of a leading architect, I.M. Pei, and renowned acoustician, Russell Johnson, to become one of the best performance sites in the United States.

Included in the grand opening performances will be a classical concert by acclaimed vocalist Leontyne Price and music by black composer Adolphus Hailstork.

The Dallas Symphony Association has gratefully acknowledged the Meadows Foundation as the major underwriter of OVATION! The generous support of The Trammell Crow Company in Dallas made possible many of the concerts, the exhibition and lectures. Administrative support was made possible through funding from the Office of Cultural Affairs, City of Dallas, with additional support from the Harold Simmons Foundation, the Arts District Foundation. The Texas Committee for Humanities and Museum Arts/Display Arts.

### Simba, Unity Theatre Present "The Colored Museum"

Unity Theatre in conjunction with Simba Talent Development will present "The Colored Museum" September 8, 9 and 10 at 3021 South Valley View. The play written by George C. Wolfe, will begin at 8:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets are priced at \$5.00. For more information please call 367-6788.

Both Unity Theater and the Simba Talent Development Corporation are non-profit organizations.

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