

February Was Nat King Cole Month

It was indeed fitting that during the course of "Black History Month" this year, the music industry paid tribute to one of the true legends of our time. Marking the 25th anniversary of his passing (February 15, 1965), Capitol Records released a special 20-track compact disc by Nat King Cole under its Collectors Series featuring many of the classic recordings that earned the superb song stylist and musician his place in history.

The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) also honored Cole, one of its founding members, with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 1990 Grammy Awards on February 21st.

Such recognition of Nat King Cole's immense contribution to music is particularly gratifying to Maria Cole, the wife of the internationally-acclaimed entertainer. "If Nat were alive today, I really believe that the kind of music he sang and delivered would have still been popular. His music has always had that evergreen, perennial quality."

Indeed, interest in Cole's work has never waned and the impact he made with his smooth, warm and distinctive vocals can be heard in the style and approach of



Natalie Cole is shown with her mother, Maria Cole as they stand before an album cover of the latest release of her father's music.

many of today's young performers. Perhaps as relevant from a historical perspective is Cole's role as a true pioneer in the music business: when his first Capitol recordings were released in the '40s, Nat King Cole broke down the barriers of race by consistently achieving hit status on the pop music charts.

Several of his records -- most notably "(I Love You) For Sentimental Reasons," "Nature Boy," and "Too Young," all included on the new Capitol compilation -- topped the pop charts of the

day, making Cole one of the first true "Crossover" artists in music.

That Nat Cole continues to delight listeners the world over with his immediately identifiable style comes as no surprise to those record buyers and critics who have long heralded the musician's rare gift for interpreting a song in his own unique way.

In a tribute to her father's distinctive vocal skill, (superstar in her own right) Natalie Cole recorded a version of "When I Fall In Love" on her EMI album, *Everlasting*, a couple of years ago.

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From Page 10

researchers with specialization in fields ranging from biotechnology to laser spectroscopy. The combination will make each institution more competitive when seeking research grants, federal and corporate contracts and other awards. Consortium membership will also build up each institution's research facility and increase the number of students of color in the sciences... Artist Jacob Lawrence was recently honored for lifetime achievement and teaching by the New York based College Art Association. Lawrence is a professor at the Univ. of Washington... Opera Diva Marian Anderson lost her sister Ethel Anderson DePriest on Feb. 1. Mrs. DePriest was a resident of Philadelphia at the time. She is also survived by her son James DePriest, music director and conductor of the Oregon Symphony... As usual, it's the Hite of Nancy's fancy to typeset for syndicated columnist Billy Rowe.

Nevada Dance Theatre Presents
"Contemporary Fantasies"

Nevada Dance Theatre will present a repertoire of our ballets, March 15-18 at UNLV's Judy Bayley Theatre. The program, "Contemporary Fantasies," is co-sponsored by KVBC-TV, Channel 3.

World-renowned guest choreographer Robert North and famous set/costume designer Andrew Storer will come to Las Vegas from Europe to execute "Entre Dos Aguas." In this ballet, North creates a feeling of powerful energy, with Spanish undertones. "Entre Dos Aguas" does not tell a

specific story, but creates a sensual, energetic mood through classical, contemporary, modern and Spanish movements. Music for the work is by Paco de Lucia and Simon Rogers.

Nevada Dance Theatre's Ballet Master Stephen Jenkins is conceptualizing, creating and choreographing his third ballet for NDT called "Dream Dimension." Jenkins describes his work as taking place "in another time, from a different world, where one soul searches between two dimensions for keys to imagination...in for-

bidden dreams." The ballet relies on spectacular lighting and staging effects to complement its contemporary design. It is an exciting and dynamic work that will especially appeal to the younger audience. "Dream Dimension" is New Age in theme and music and projects a dream-like quality.

NDT Artistic Director Vassili Sulich will premiere his new work of the season, "Afternoon of a Faun," sponsored by First Interstate Bank. The ballet has inspired many choreographers who have produced a variety of interpretations.



ROGER KINGDOM WINS 1990 JESSE OWENS INTERNATIONAL TROPHY AWARD -- (from left to right) Lou Eawls and Henry Brown, v.p. of Anheuser-Busch, Inc. congratulate Roger Kingdom (center), on the occasion of the presentation of the 1990 Jesse Owens International Trophy Award at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City.

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