

"SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK" IN CONCERT MARCH 4

The City of Las Vegas Cultural & Community Affairs Division presents "Sweet Honey in the Rock," a quintet of electrifying vocalists, on Saturday, March 4, at 8 p.m. at the Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 South Brush.

Singing unaccompanied except for body and hand percussion instruments, this ensemble of African American women has in 19 years built a solid international reputation and following.

The strength of Sweet Honey lies within her sound and repertoire that is rooted in the tradition of African American congregational choral style and branches to embrace its many extensions.

One hears the moan of the blues, the power of early twentieth century gospel, echoes

of the community quartet, and jazz choral vocalizations freshly tinged with blues and church melodic and harmonic runs.

These women sing fiercely of being fighters, tenderly of being in love, and knowingly of being a woman; taking their ever-growing audiences through an astonishing and complex journey of celebration and struggle that is rooted in the history of the African American legacy.

The concept and leadership of the group rests primarily with Bernice Johnson Reagon, who, as vocal director of the Washington, D.C. Black Repertory Theater, founded by Sweet Honey in 1973. Besides Reagon, the music of Sweet Honey in the Rock is currently being created by four other brilliant and unique vocalists, and translated for the Deaf

community by a sign language interpreter.

In 1990, Sweet Honey in the Rock toured Africa, introducing audiences in Uganda, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland and Namibia to their spell-binding sound and exciting performances. They perform regularly in communities throughout the U.S.A. and have sung before sellout crowds in Europe, Canada, Japan, Australia and the Caribbean.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students, seniors and persons with disabilities. Tickets are on sale at the Center box office and for a service fee through TicketMaster. For more information call 229-6383.

This program is funded, in part, by the Nevada State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



"Sweet Honey in the Rock" is (L-R) Carol Maillard, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Shirley Childress Johnson, Aisha Kahlil, Ysaye Maria Barnwell, Nitanju Bolade Casel.

New album celebrates Louisiana bluesman Slim Harpo

By Larry Katz

BOSTON (Reuter) - Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin were not the only significant musical figures to prematurely pass away a quarter-century ago, just the

most famous. A lot will be heard as the 25th anniversary of the deaths of Hendrix (on September 18, 1970) and Joplin (on October 4, 1970) approaches, but others

deserve to be remembered — starting with Slim Harpo, who, 20 days after his 46th birthday, died of a heart attack on January 31, 1970.

In a gratifying quirk of timing,

a new, extensive collection of Harpo's music has just been released, along with a batch of other recordings from the vaults of Excello Records.

If you're only familiar with Harpo's Top 40 hits (1961's "Rainin' In My Heart" and 1966's "Baby Scratch My Back") or, as is more likely, you've never heard of him at all, "Hip Shakin' — The Definitive Collection" offers abundant proof that this Louisiana singer, songwriter and harmonica player was far more

than a two-hit wonder.

The raw recordings Harpo cut in a backwoods bayou studio crossed the Atlantic and exerted a mighty influence on the British Invasion bands of the mid-60s.

The Rolling Stones kicked off the second side of their first album with Harpo's "I'm A King Bee." In 1972, they drew again from Harpo's well when they covered his "Shake Your Hips" (retitled "Hips Shaker" by the Stones) on "Exile On Main Street."

Van Morrison's first single, recorded when he was a member of the Irish rock band Them, was Harpo's "Don't Start Crying Now."

The Kinks, the Pretty Things and the Yardbirds all covered Harpo's "I Got Love If You Want It." The Yardbirds also recorded a thinly disguised version of "Baby Scratch My Back" titled "Rock My Mind."

Harpo was a favourite overseas, but he was hardly (See SLIM HARPO, Page 21)

AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL OPENS IN OUAGADOUGOU

By Thalia Griffiths

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso, (Reuter) - A pan-African film festival celebrating a centenary of cinema opened in Burkina Faso Saturday, overshadowed by the presence of South Africa's defiant Winnie Mandela.

The estranged wife of South African President Nelson Mandela had flown to Ouagadougou in defiance of the president's orders.

South African films are competing for the first time at the 14th pan-African film festival, whose theme "Cinema and History" marks 100 years since the Lumiere brothers held the first film screening in Paris.

A smiling Mrs. Mandela, who is South Africa's deputy minister of arts, culture, science and technology, declined to comment on her presence to reporters.

She was the guest of honor in Ouagadougou's Aug. 4 stadium, where a crowd of around 25,000 heard music by artists from Burkina Faso and South African groups Super Queens, Malatini and the Maotela Queens and watched a sound and light show recalling the history of cinema.

Twenty-six feature films, six by filmmakers from outside the continent, and 31 shorts and documentaries have been entered for the Pan-African Festival of Cinema and Television of Ouagadougou

(FESPACO). South Africa's entries are a feature film, "Confessions of a Yeoville Rapist," directed by Ian Kerkhof and a short film, Mickey Madoda Dube's "Imbazo."

"Confessions of a Yeoville Rapist" is the story of a South African returning to his country

to make a film about last year's first all-race elections.

The festival will also include retrospectives of South African films and films made in Africa in the colonial era.

Burkina Faso's prime minister, Roch Marc Christian (See Film Festival, Page 21)

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