



# Dick Bogle

Big things are happening for longtime Portland nightclub favorite Shirley Nanette and it looks as though some even bigger things may be just down the road.

The big things began like this. It was during the fall of last year and Shirley was singing at one of Portland's few jazz clubs, the Jazz Quarry.

Prior to this engagement, she struck up a friendship with jazz musician Ray Spurgeon whose friend, Norman Leyden conducts the Oregon Symphony during its pop concerts.

Spurgeon told Lyden all about Shirley and one night while Shirley was tantalizing the Quarry crowd in walks Leyden. The man must of liked what he heard because it wasn't long before Shirley began rehearsing with the Symphony preparing for her February debut with them.

Her performance drew rave reviews from the local media and soon plans were made for Shirley to sing with the Seattle Symphony and more plans called for a mid-summer concert with the Chicago Symphony. Leyden will be conducting each of her performances.

Shirley says her experience was scary but easy.

"This is what I've really wanted and I'm sure I have quite a bit to learn," she said.

When asked how singing in front of a large symphony differed from singing with a trio, quartet or big band, Shirley said, "You have to sing where it fits within the structure of the orchestra and the way the music is centered around the vocalist is a lot different because the strings are doing one thing and the horns something else but that gives you clues on what you do."

Shirley's career didn't just begin that night in the Quarry. She remembers her first interest in

singing began when she was just five years old when she was captivated by opera performances on television and radio. Of course there was the usual school program appearances at Eliot grade school and later at high school but it was in Albina area clubs that Shirley's interest began to translate into a style.

She recalls singing with Richard Parker and Lloyd Allen at the Elks Club at North Williams and Tillamook. Then she knew only two songs, Ike and Tina Turner's "I Idolize You" and Etta James "All I Could Do Was Cry."

Not long after she worked with a singer who is no longer in Portland, Lanny Hunt. With Hunt, Shirley cut a single and appeared at the old Civic Auditorium along with the Four Seasons.

Shirley went into the Picadilly room at the Benson Hotel with the late jazz pianist Jack Howell and bassist Jack Murphy. Shirley says her seven month engagement there is the longest anyone has ever played at the Benson.

I asked Shirley how she would label her style of singing and after declaring she wasn't a jazz singer, a soul singer nor a pop singer, she said "I'm just a singer that tries to fill what people need."

Shirley admires a lot of singers for certain qualities. For example, Nancy Wilson and Carmen McRae for the way they phrase; Sarah Vaughn for her range; Dinah Washington for her intimate style and Lena Horne's sassiness. She also says her mother, Ella Mae Brown, was an important influence on her singing. She recalls singing duets as a child with her mother, who used to sing professionally some time ago.

As to her future, two main goals are in Shirley's mind. One is to go in the studio and record with a large orchestra with a lot of violins and the other is to do more concerts.

So, Shirley may just be shedding her nightclub cocoon and preparing for to be a star butterfly on the concert stage.



Timmy Stewart, Michael Shepherd and Gerald Jones of the Immaculate Heart School drama club dramatize a Langston Hughes poem at the Urban League Northeast Youth Service Center Black History Month celebration. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

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 Forest Service selects Johnson

A 12-year veteran of Forest Service, Franklin B. Johnson, has been named Director of Administrative Management for the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service.

Regional Forester R.E. Worthington named Johnson, 32, to succeed David W. Kolb, who retired.

Johnson, a graduate of Benson High School in Portland, began his Forest Service career with a 90-day appointment in the engineering division of the regional office in 1969. Johnson subsequently worked on the Siuslaw and Willamette National Forests, in the regional office, and for the past 2½ years has worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

Johnson attended the University of Washington and Oregon State University.

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