

# OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES  
by Kathryn Hall Bogle



It was meant to be a "family affair" on Sunday afternoon at St. Andrews United Church of Christ when the Cortlandt Cambric Scholarship Committee invited members and friends of the church to tea to meet their scholarship winner and to hear the "Joyful Sounds" choir in concert.

The crowd responding filled the church — early, to catch every note of harmony sung by Margaret Carter's popular a cappella choir, but even so, the afternoon held a surprise or two. The selections of the first half of the program were choral favorites: "Without God I Could Do Nothing," Thressa Riley, soloist; "What is This," Jacob McKinney, soloist. Then the group sang "That's What My God is For," with Odessa Ware listed as soloist from among the bass section. You could have heard a pin drop (to coin a phrase). Carter moved a mike in front of tiny Odessa Ware and she sang her solo. Notes were deep and clear, but very soft. Some might call the range contralto, but Ware blended well with the bass section, and Carter is expressing harmony, call the range what you will.

Intermission, and Master of Ceremonies, Willis Williams, introduced 18-year-old James Renfro, Jr. as the



At the St. Andrews Church of Christ: Willis Williams presents bouquet to "Joyful Sounds" choir director, Margaret Carter and Jewell Johns, Chair of Cortlandt Cambric Scholarship Committee presents \$600 scholarship award to James Renfro, Jr. (Photo: Kevin Williams)

1983 \$500.00 scholarship recipient. Renfro, the son of Vilma and James Renfro, Sr., is enrolled at Portland State University. Renfro kept a 3.2 grade average at Reynolds High School and participated in over 19 student activities within theater workshops and performances at

Reynolds. He won the 1982 award for "Most Talented Male" at the school. He attended Stiles School of Dance, took part in Mt. Hood Community College Opera Ensemble production "Pirates of Penzance," and he won an award for his performance of "Othello" in the Wilco Play Festival in 1982. He is a regular member of St. Andrew's adult and youth choirs.

Marla Crowley, who graduated from Madison High School with a 3.3 grade point, was runner-up for the Cortlandt Cambric scholarship and received a small check. Crowley will be remembered also as having been a 1983 Rose Festival princess from Madison High.

An armful of roses was presented to Carter along with committee thanks during the intermission. She returned the honorarium to the scholarship fund.

The second half of the program returned the audience to music and to Carter's mastery of harmony and rhythm. The moving "Walk in Jerusalem — Just Like John," found her listeners receptive; "Don't Let Nothing Shake Your Faith" with Josephine Jenkins as soloist, invited the audience to join in the fervor; "Come by Here," from Quincy Jones' "Roots" was a gentle plea,

and following that, Carter, herself, backed by the choir, rocked the place with "Call Him Up" — (Tell Him What You Want).

The Rev. Louis Osborne closed the music performance by inviting everyone to the reception in the church parlors where homemade cakes and coffee were to be served. Before he dismissed the crowd, however, Osborne electrified the audience again, this time by the announcement that Margaret Carter has filed intention of running for a seat in the Oregon State Legislature.

Carter admitted her intentions to enter the political arena amidst thunderous applause and left the stage.

Church committee personnel included: Gustavia Bonner, chair of reception, assisted by Hazel Motley. Others listed were: Louise Cambric, Lennie Black, Michael Hall, Jewell Johns, and Willis Williams.

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The Episcopal Church of St. Philip the Deacon will present Selma Epstein in a piano concert on Sunday, October 2 at the church at Rodney Avenue and N.E. Knott Street. Time is set for 3:00 p.m.

Epstein, who made her debut at Carnegie Hall as a child prodigy, will present a program dedicated to the memory of her friend, Richard C. Moffatt, the late composer and choirmaster at St. Philip. Her selections will include a group of



The late Richard Moffatt was choirmaster at St. Philip.

Moffatt's compositions, along with Schumann's Kreisleriana Opus 16 and a closing group by Percy Grainger.

The New Yorker, world-traveled, was graduated from Juilliard and has recently lived in Australia and taught at the Newcastle Conservatorium there. Epstein has a respected reputation for performing the music of minority composers and is the organizer of a Baltimore-based chamber music group called "Chromattica USA" which is devoted to performing the music of minorities and sometimes making up a whole concert of music by female composers. "Chromattica" indicates "using all the keys" according to Dr. Kenneth Keeling, Director of Music for Baltimore's Morgan State College. Keeling, the only Black member, said he is one of the eight professional musicians or university teachers who make up Chromattica, USA. Epstein continues as director of the group.

Mme. Epstein comes to Portland from the Far East, Australia and New Zealand and will complete her tour with a concert at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center the following week.

Proceeds from the Richard Moffatt Memorial Concert will benefit William Temple House.

Tickets are available at St. Philip's Church and at the door the afternoon of the concert.



Selma Epstein will honor St. Philip's Church with a piano recital in memory of Richard Moffatt, Sunday, October 2nd at 3 p.m.

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