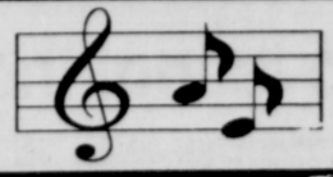




# ENTERTAINMENT



## Stevie Wonder's Proudest Accomplishment Is Martin Luther King Day

Musician Hopes The Holiday Will Foster Better Race Relation; Says he Always Felt He Was Special in Spite of his Color



Stevie Wonder

REPRINT FROM PARADE

Stevie Wonder, who has been praised time and time again for his goodness and generosity, would like most to be remembered as one of those who made the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. a national holiday.

"Every time I hear recordings of Dr. King speaking, I cry because I think about him," Wonder told Parade Contributing Editor Wallace Terry, who interviewed him for this Sunday's issue of the magazine. "His soul, his spirit, his inner vision. America has it all wrong thinking it's a black holiday.

It's not a black thing. It's an American thing. What he did, he did for all of us, black and white. But there's nothing wrong with it being a black day in the sense that we celebrate a black man."

Wonder, who firmly believes that "all evil can be conquered by love," said his faith might not have been as strong if he were not blind. "It's possible that, if I could see, I wouldn't have spent as much time dealing with the concept of love. I might have been made militant by what I would see. But if I got my sight back today, my belief that love really does hold the key would not change."

Although Wonder has been blind since birth, he vaguely recalls light. "I think I did see my mother's face," he told Terry.

By the time he was ten years old, Wonder, whose talent was evident from the time he was two, had been signed by Motown, the black record company, written his first song and had his first hit.

Asked how he felt to be both black and blind, Wonder said, "I knew I was colored, I was Negro, but I didn't exactly know what it meant. I knew I was different and treated less than someone else because of my color. And on top

of that I was blind. I didn't know why there was such a problem about color, when I was blind in the first place. That seemed weird to me. But I didn't feel inferior. I felt I was special even when I would hear someone say, 'You really sound good. You colored people sing better than white people.'"

Wonder said he worries about the racial divisiveness, crime, violence and drug abuse plaguing the big cities like his hometown of Detroit and about illiteracy and joblessness, which he believes are problems everywhere. "But I'm very optimistic about the world," he said. "I believe this is God's island, and ultimately He will make it right. Despite the damage that we have done to it, I feel the beauty of the earth. I feel the beauty of God."

Although he would like to have sight, he doesn't dwell on it. "I sometimes talk to God about my sight, and I say, I'd like to see, but it's up to you--what you feel is best for me." I'm not a fool. Sight would make me more independent. I would be able to see my children, the mothers of my children. My brothers and sister. But I'm not going to stop enjoying what I have to wait for it to happen."

## Strings Strum Salute To Stars And Stripes "Why should brass bands have all the fun on the Fourth?"

Led by mandomastro Ken Culler, the Portland Mandophonic Orchestra's 25 mandolins, mandobasses, mandolas and mandocellos--plus a few guitars--will make a plucky attempt to upstage their brassier brothers with a free Independence Day concert at Pioneer Courthouse Square.

From 7-8:30 p.m., the orchestra will present a program spanning many musical styles: from lilting waltzes to classical favorites to rousing renditions of patriotic anthems such as "The Star-Spangled Banner." The soul-stirring finale, of course, will be "The Stars and Stripes Forever"--like you've never heard it before.

After that display of musical pyrotechnics, audience members should be properly primed for the evening's fireworks.

The Portland Mandophonic Orchestra was formed in 1984, and is dedicated to the preservation, promotion and performance of the mandolin family of instruments. It has hosted three West Coast Mandolin Orchestra Conventions and has presented numerous concerts, including performances with the Portland Chamber Orchestra.

The Fourth of July concert is a joint production of Pioneer Courthouse Square and the Portland Mandophonic Orchestra.

## Lisa Taylor

A bright new face on the pop music scene, Lisa Taylor embodies a unique talent and spirit. Music lovers will get their first taste of Lisa's artistry with the release of her debut album on Giant Records, titled *Secrets Of The Heart*.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Youngstown, Ohio, Lisa was steeped in spirituality and song from her earliest days. Her entire family sang Gospel (her mother even sang with the great James Cleveland). "I've always known this is what I wanted to do," recalls Lisa. "I can remember singing when I was five years old."

As she grew, Lisa segued into secular music. Among her early influences were such diverse artists as Earth Wind & Fire, Natalie Cole, Billie Holiday, Minnie Riperton and Jimi Hendrix. Shortly after graduating from high school, Lisa and the band Vegas opened for the Temptations on a local stage. Impressed with her poise and skill, a member of the Temptations management team introduced her to legendary producer Norman Whitfield. Later, producer/songwriter Sami McKinney began working on demos with Lisa. "After each song," says Lisa, "Sami would say, 'Well, I liked the way you did that better than anyone else; let's make another.' After two months, he asked if I was interested in

a solo career." Over the course of one year, the pair recorded sixteen songs which they began to shop. Soon they caught the eye of Giant Records which quickly signed Lisa as one of the label's first R&B artists.

A sampling of the new album's eleven tracks reveals a woman with



Lisa Taylor

stunning range and interpretative capabilities, alternating between sensitive ballads, mid-tempo showcases and high-energy dance songs. "Fallen Angel" and "Did You Pray Today?" offer both a spiritual yearning and a healthy appetite for romance, while the first single, "Secrets Of The Heart" is a touching, revealing ballad. "Sami must have been able to

read my mind," says Lisa of her producer and songwriter. "He captured the things I feel."

Though music has been #1 in Lisa's life, she has a number of other interests. Back in Ohio she developed a passion for philosophy and became an avid reader; citing Whitman and Thoreau as among her favorites. Beautiful, engaging and genuine, Lisa Taylor is a very special performer. With such a memorable debut effort under her belt, it's clear she's destined for a long and fruitful solo career.

## Sharing Good News

Motion picture producer-director Spike Lee, second from right, shares the news at the Pepsi-Cola-sponsored prayer breakfast for the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) that Black publications would receive paid advertising for the promotions of this latest movie, "Malcolm X." With Lee at the NNPA's 52nd Convention at the Hyatt Regency on the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, MD, are, from left, Rev. Frank Reid III, Pastor, Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church, Betty Shine, Media Supervisor, Pepsi-Cola Company, and Sonny Messiah-Jiles, Publisher, Houston Defender. Black newspaper owners have long complained that motion picture distributors generally send them many news and photo releases, hoping for free publicity, but the distributors have been reluctant to use paid advertising to promote their films. During a spirited sermon, Reid told delegates representing 205 publications that reach more than 11-million readers that Black publishers should use their newspapers to communicate to the African American Community the importance of controlling its own economic destiny.



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## KMHD Adds Programming

KMHD 89.1 FM, the jazz-format radio station operating from the Mt. Hood Community college campus, will be adding three hours of new programming on Sunday afternoons.

KMHD's general manager, John Rice, has announced that the jazz station is now featuring one of the premier announcers in the history of broadcasting jazz -- Pat Henry -- brought to the KMHD air waves via digital audio tape.

"Henry is the man responsible for much of what jazz radio is today," said Rice. "If you're from the (San Francisco) Bay Area and a jazz fan, then you are already familiar with Pat Henry. It was in 1959 that he put KJAZ on the air," said Rice in reference to one of the very few successful commercial jazz stations in the U.S.

Station manager Tom Costello explained that Pat Henry is providing

a three-hour show to KMHD. "It comes to us on DAT -- digital audio tape -- which is state of the art. Then on Sundays, 2 p.m. until 5 p.m., we plug it into the machine and Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington will hear some great jazz, brought to them by perhaps the most experienced jazz announcer in history." Costello went on to say that Pat Henry tapes his show individually for KMHD, but also provides KPLU (Tacoma/Seattle), KSDS (San Diego) and KCSM (San Mateo) with similar programming.

KMHD's development associate, Kevin Tippett added the business perspective to Costello's comments: "See's Candies underwrites Henry's efforts. Thanks to their financial commitment to the jazz arts, Pat Henry's show is here to stay."

For more information call KMHD at 667-7233.

## BET Presents Michael Jackson's 'Jam' June 19

"Jam," Michael Jackson's latest music video release from his "Dangerous" album, aired on BET Friday, June 19. "Jam" features appearances by Chicago Bulls guard Michael Jordan, Ruffhouse/Columbia recording group Kris Kross and MCA recording artist Heavy D.

BET will present "Jam 2 BET," a one-hour special hosted by "Video

LP" host Sherry Carter which featured videos from "NBA Superstars 2", a 38-minute production featuring action footage of NBA superstars edited to music from top MCA recording artists.

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