Black Music Month

"Celebrate The Soul Of American Music"

Central City Productions, Inc. presents the two-hour television special, "Celebrate The Soul Of American Music," honoring music greats for their legendary impact on music in United States and the world.

Among those honored are (couterclockwise) Motown originas, The Four Tops (with award presenter Mary Wilson); Pioneer Award recipient Arsenio Hall (with Patti LaBelle); song stylist & actress Della Reese (with show's executive producer, Don Jackson); and the extraordinary songwriting duo of Ashford & Simpson.
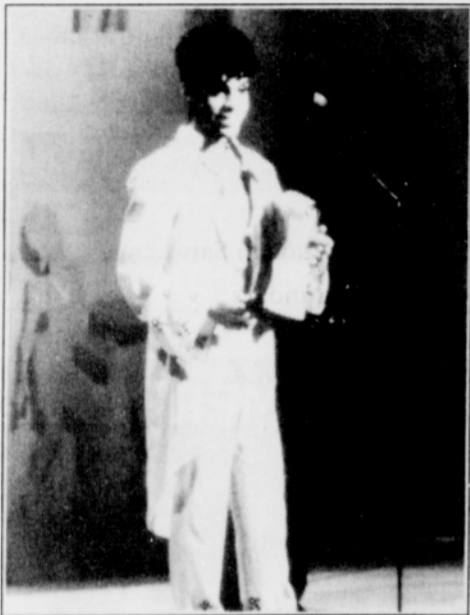
Students often express themselves through art, but Bridger-Elementary 5 - 9-year-olds are delivering their creative messages these days on painted wooden chairs. The "designer chairs" will be exhibited at the Jamison/Thomas Gallery from June 2 - July 2. A preview party for students, parents and invited guests was set Wednesday (June 1) at the gallery (1313 N.W. Glisan).

Kindergartners through third-graders in Mike Barber's special education class for emotionally disturbed students came up with the idea for their "designer chairs" during a recent trip to the gallery as part of their studies of cultures and visual art. Students, inspired by the artist Stuart Buehler's multi-media work, decided to show him their appreciation by painting thank-you messages on an old wooden kindergarten seat. (Students got the idea from Buehler's work, which he mailed to the gallery unpacked with postage stamps pasted on the artwork.)

"The 'thank you note' was a hit at the gallery and they invited the class to be a part of the show in June," according to Barber. "This gives students an extraordinary opportunity to be proud of themselves and their work."

The chairs are on sale, with proceeds benefiting Bridger's special education program and student artists.

Celebrities At Soul Music Awards

(Center) Television stars Victoria Rowell ("Diagnosis: Murder' and "The Young & The Restless") and Charles S. Dutton ("ROC") co-host the Fourth Annual "Celebrate The Soul Of American Music," the premiere Black Music Month television event honoring music greats for their legendary impact on music in the United States and the world.

Those honored included (top left) the visionary (artist formerly known as) Prince, who received the Living Legend Award and Herb Alpert (top right) was the recipient of The Most Notable Achievement Award for his musical and philanthropic contributions.

(Bottom) Recording artists For Real performed a medley of hits made famous by honorees, the Pointer Sisters.

The Central City productions, Inc., television special airs in syndication throughout the U.S. June 4 through July 3. Check local listing for date and time in your area.

Say You Saw It In... The Portland Observer