

BLACK HISTORY

Black History On Public Radio

African American music is not limited to the jazz and blues traditions.

To recognize the contributions of African Americans to classical music as well as jazz and other sounds, National Public Radio in February is paying tribute to a variety of artists, including William Grant Still, the "Dean of African American Composers."

NPR's radio documentary series Horizons presents "William Grant Still: A Life in Music," a 30-minute documentary of the life of the author of the famous "Afro-American Symphony."

Performance Today, NPR's daily classical music program, will present a four-part series exploring the contributions of African Americans to classical music, with one story featuring Still. NPR will also present, "To You America: A Tribute To William Grant Still," a concert of Still's music performed by

the U.S. Coast Guard Band.

Black history month programs will also examine the many African Americans who have influenced classical music.

In "Two Divas Across The Atlantic," NPR offers an hour-long profile of African American opera expatriates Mattiwilda Dobbs and Anne Brown. Hindered by racial barriers in the United States, Dobbs and Brown went to Europe where they became opera stars.

Other programming during the month features jazz and blues music, including NPR's JazzSet with Branford Marsalis, a concert performance by jazz singers Abby Lincoln and Cassandra Wilson, live from the National Black Arts Festival in Atlanta.

Afropop Worldwide February programs include: Old School, an exploration of the early years of hip-hop music; Ali Farka Toure, Live From Niafounke, a performance by

the internationally acclaimed guitarist at his home on the banks of the Niger River in northern Mali; Makossa Hit Parade, a trip down memory lane from musical hits from the glory day of Cameroonian Makossa in the 1980s; and African Latin, a celebration of African musicians' longtime fascination with Latin music.

Bluestage in February offers: Chicago Blues and Soul, live performances by Kenny Neal from Manny's Carwash in New York City and by Otis Clay from Monterey, Calif.; A Little Taste of the South, with harmonica man Eddie Burks performing Mississippi blues sounds in the Pocono mountains and Alabama native Clarence Carter jamming in Monterey, Calif.; former Bluestage host Ruth Brown offers a new soulful set and Piedmont guitarist Etta Baker is captured live.



Autherine Lucy and attorney Arthur Shores fire a round in the legal battle to gain her admission to the University of Alabama which did not admit black students at the time. Lucy won her three-year court battle in 1956, but faced harassment by students and outsiders.

King Dream Remembered

Continued from B8

Simultaneously, replica bells in 50 states and from around the world—Big in London and bells in Vatican City, Rome, were rung.

Philadelphia mayor Edward G. Rendell and former U.S. Sen. Harris Wofford were also in attendance. Ecumenical prayers were offered by MLK Board Member, Rev. Repsie Warren, Pastor of the Society For Helping Church and Rabbi Martin Rubenstein, of the Philadelphia Board of Rabbis, who also read a short inspirational poem by famed civil rights activist/singer Joan Baez. A Black Park Ranger gave a historic background on the famous Liberty Bell. U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun's plane was delayed so the Illinois Democrat, the first Black woman to be elected to the U.S. Senate, missed the Bell ringing cer-

emony. She later attended the luncheon as one of three Drum Majors (hers was for social Justice) awardees of 1995. The others were: Judge Harvey N. Schmidt, Court of Common Pleas (Ret.), and Dr. Niara Sudarkasa, the first female president of Lincoln University (PA), for Human Rights.

A glittering array of dignitaries graced the "Living The Dream" luncheon dais: including Thurgood Marshall, Jr., former mayor Wilson Goode, and Corporate Luncheon Chair, G. Fred DiBona, Jr., chief executive officer, Independence Blue Cross, and other corporate sponsors made this one of the most successful affairs of its kind in the nation. The Rev. Joseph Patterson, Hickman Temple, AME, who is president of Black Clergy of Philadelphia, gave the benediction.

In Atlanta, Coretta Scott King, prophesied: "This is going to be a

day like none other." And Atlanta turned out the biggest march assembly in the nation, kicking off observations of Martin Luther King Jr.'s 66th birthday anniversary all over the nation and in many parts of the world. (The District of Columbia failed to have a march, for the first time in the 10-year history). Many friends and supporters are concerned over the King family fight with the government officials over how to or who can best improve the King Center memorial.

In Denver, where the second largest King march was held, President Bill Clinton turned evangelist, shouting that this country cannot go on with children killing children...we can turn it around, but we will have to do it together." He said he was asked the greatest achievement in this administration. He said, "I think it is the creation of the National Service Program."



Celebrating Black History

The Future Is In Our Classrooms Today

Portland Public Schools / February 1995

THEY GAVE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION A LESSON IN THE CONSTITUTION.

THEY weren't getting a good education, but they were smart enough to know what was right. Right was getting up-to-date textbooks. Right was getting adequate supplies. Right was not being excluded from better schools because their skin was black.

So a group of Kansas children took their cause beyond the school boards, beyond the governors, beyond the legislatures to the Supreme Court. And the nation agreed that the rules were wrong.

Burger King salutes those kids. When they heard they couldn't have the education they deserved, they replied, "Oh, yes we can."

