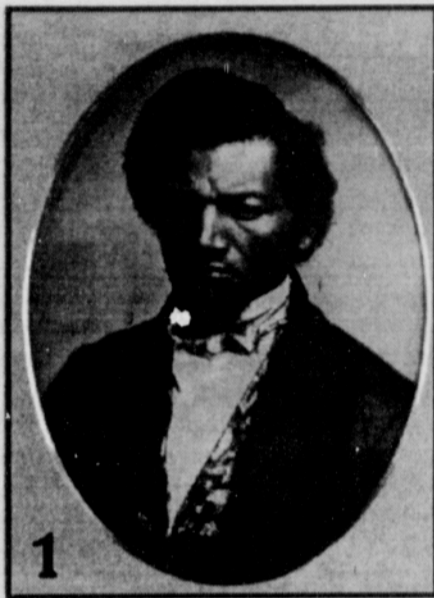


Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

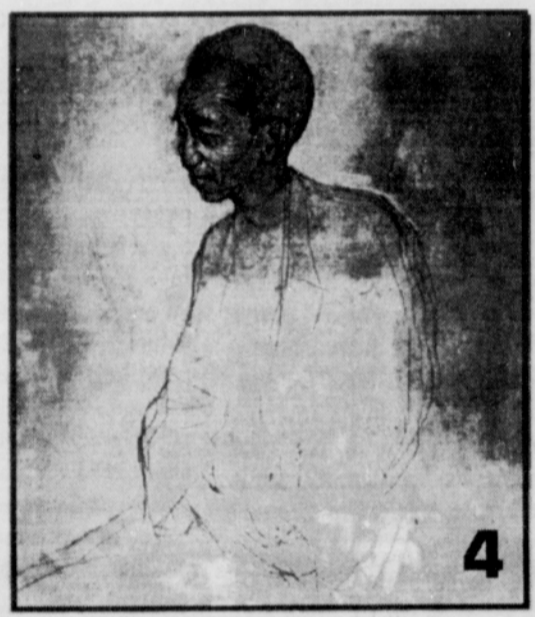
African American Identity Explored



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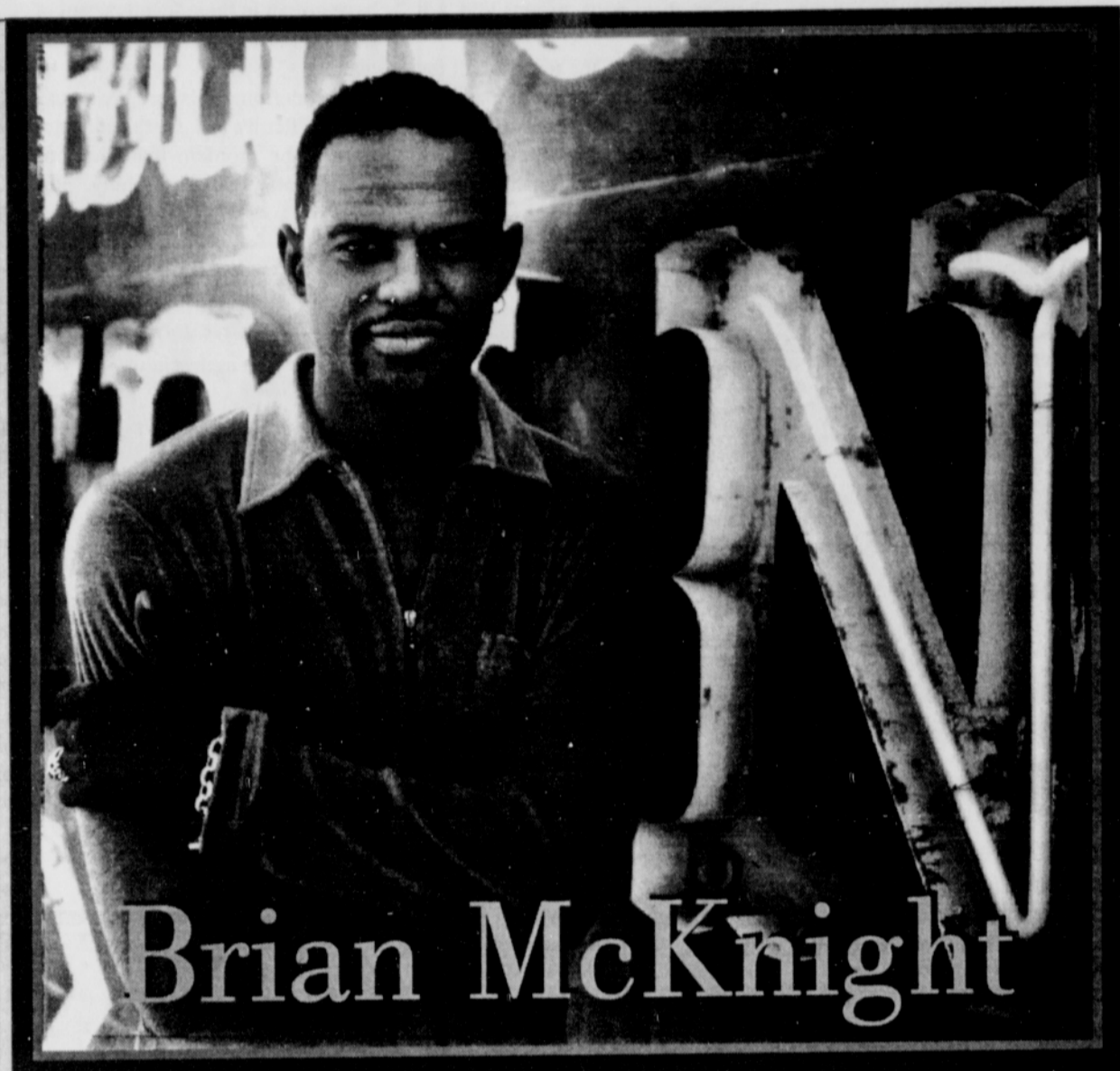
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IMAGES OF AFRICAN AMERICANS FROM THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO
 1) SAMUEL J. MILLER, AMERICAN; 19TH CENTURY. FREDERICK DOUGLASS, 1847/1852. CASED HALF-PLATE DAGUERRETYPE, 5-1/2 X 4-1/8 INCHES. THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO; MAJOR ACQUISITIONS CENTENNIAL ENDOWMENT, 1996.433.
 2) BEAUFORD DELANEY, AMERICAN; 1901-1979. SELF-PORTRAIT, 1944. OIL ON CANVAS; 27 X 22-1/2 INCHES. THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO; RESTRICTED GIFT OF ALEXANDER C. AND TILLIE S. SPEYER FOUNDATION; SAMUEL A. MARX ENDOWMENT, 1991.27.
 3) MARION PERKINS, AMERICAN; 1908-1961. PORTRAIT OF EVA, LATE 1940S. MARBLE; 12-1/4 X 8-1/2 X 8 INCHES. THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO; THROUGH PRIOR ACQUISITIONS OF THE GEORGE F. HARDING COLLECTION, 1996.400.
 4) HANS BELLMER, GERMAN; 1902-1975, BORN POLAND. PORTRAIT OF WIFREDO LAM, 1964. PEN AND BLACK INK, OVER GRAPHITE, ON MASONITE PANEL PREPARED WITH AN IVORY GROUND; 28-3/8 X 26-3/8 INCHES. THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO; WORCESTER SKETCH FUND, 1967.143.

In celebration of the recent acquisition of a rare daguerrotype of the American abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass, The Art Institute of Chicago is presenting powerful images of African Americans in the exhibition *In Their Own Right*. Images of African Americans from The Art Institute of Chicago. On view in galleries 141 and 142, through January 11, 1998. In their own right explores issues of African American identity through 14 works in a variety of media from the collections of four curatorial departments—Photography, American Arts, Prints and Drawings, and Twentieth-Century Paintings and Sculpture. Serving as the centerpiece for this exhibition, the daguerrotype of Frederick Douglass, produced by American photographer Samuel J. Miller



Brian McKnight

There are many words used to describe Brian McKnight. Singer. Songwriter. Arranger. Producer. Perhaps the word that best sums up Brian is one that is simple, but frequently misused. Musician. Brian McKnight is a musician. Not a programmer. Or a sequencer. Or a personality. In an age of fly by night celebrities and flashy flashes in the pan, Brian McKnight has maintained an artistic excellence because he is a musician: one who has created music for everyone from Quincy Jones to Boyz II Men.

Brian's musicianship, combined with all of the other attributes he brings to the table are in evidence on Brian's third and strongest album to date. The name of the album is *Anytime* and from its electric yet thoroughly McKnight sound and feel, it's clear that *Anytime* is right now.

Although Brian wrote 9 out of *Anytime*'s 12 tracks, he wanted to stretch out and try something different. To do just that, Brian joined forces with some unlikely but ultimately very compatible partners. The first single "You Should Be Mine" was produced by Sean "Puffy" Combs and features Mase. "I know people will think that my hooking up with Puffy will mean that I am going after an obvious sort of hit," Brian candidly admits. "But Puffy and I have known each other for quite some time. In fact, he's doing a Bad Boy gospel record and I worked on that. So when it came time to do my album, I wanted the favor returned. I think he fulfilled his end of the bargain. It's a hot track."

Also on board with Brian are Trackmasterz, who kick in the flavorful "Hold Me" (co-written by Mary J. Blige) and songwriter Diane Warren, whose numerous hits include "Unbreak My Heart." Warren con-

tributed the powerful track "Show Me The Way Back to My Heart", which was produced by Keith Thomas. "In the past I've always written all my own material, so I have to be honest. Reaching out to another songwriter, was, at first, hard for me to do. But having a chance to record one of Diane's songs is really an honor, and as a songwriter, I think I can really appreciate what she brings to the album."

As for what Brian brings to the album? Just his seriously seductive vocals, his innate way of phrasing a lyric and some of the most deeply personal songs to date, including the album's uplifting closer "When The Chariot Comes" and the heartfelt "Till I Get Over You". Says Brian, when speaking about the growth of that's so apparent on *Anytime*. "I really feel that I have taken my music to the next level."

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What is First Friday of Portland All About??

Chartered in Portland in 1995, First Fridays is a gathering of African-American professionals that convenes monthly at various establishments in the Portland metropolitan area. The mission of First Fridays is to provide opportunities for African-Americans to expand their professional and social circles by networking among fellow peers as well as obtaining valuable information about Black-owned businesses, services, and upcoming events around the Northwest. To facilitate these goals, events during the year include monthly mixers, an annual summer boat cruise on the Portland Spirit, "Def" comedy night highlighting local Afri-

can-American talent, and a holiday gala. Through the holiday gala, First Fridays raised funds in past years for Self Enhancement, Inc., the Black Education Center, Edgefield Children's Center and Sisters of the Streets. The 1997-98 season kicked off in September with a networking mixer featuring live jazz and a DJ at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Portland. On October 3rd at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Portland, First Friday will host its first comedy night, featuring local comedians Floyd Philips and Chuckle B, followed by an after-party featuring DJ KD. First Friday events will continue each month. First Friday's membership includes professionals from many companies

around the state, including NIKE, Intel, Hewlett-Packard, Tektronix, US West, Urban League, City of Portland, Bonneville Power Administration and the Portland Trail Blazers. All first Friday events are welcome to individuals 21 and over. A yearly membership to First Fridays is available, although membership is not required to attend the events. Attire is professional, however, First Friday understands that some companies have casual day on Fridays. For information about membership and/or upcoming First Fridays events, contact Sonya Baskerville at (503) 241-9343 or sonyalyn@transport.com.