



Metro / Religion



Have a safe and happy St. Patrick's Day

Donald Lawrence presents The Tri-City Singers

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In most people's minds, when you're talking big-time business, you're talking New York, Nashville or L.A. And indeed, though gifted artists hail from hometowns the country over, most seem to eventually gravitate to one of those three entertainment Meccas. Most, perhaps...but not all. If anyone should doubt that assertion, well,

let's just say the Tri-City Singers have got a surprise for you. A very big surprise. Formed in 1981, the 35-voice ensemble—born, bred and still residing today in North and South Carolina—has been pouring out their hearts in song for the Lord and anyone else who cared to listen. For Tri-City's first decade that loyal following was centered in and around the group members' home base of Charlotte and Gastonia, N.C., and Spartanburg/



Greenville, S.E. In the last 10 years, since crossing paths and merging talents with fellow Carolinian Donald Lawrence—now one of modern Gospel and pop music's most esteemed and sought-after writers, producers and artists—their following has grown as far and wide as America and the world itself. And with Tri-City's fourth and newest release, *tri-city4.com*, the group is poised for the rare kind of breakthrough that transforms an act from "most promising" to "here to stay" and "you better believe it." As always, in the sure creative hands of Donald Lawrence, whom Billboard

magazine recently proclaimed to be a "timeless...tunesmith, lyricist and master of the mix," the Tri-City Singers and *tri-city4.com* achieve an artistic and spiritual pinnacle that even the group's faithful founders themselves could not have dreamed of 20 years ago. *tri-city4.com*, the group's EMI Gospel debut, is a masterful amalgam of edgy urban hip-hop, smooth and smoldering contemporary R&B, and soul-stirring ballads of praise & worship rendered with masterful pop finesse and grace. "*tri-city4.com* has a very contemporary sound and feel," says

founder group member, business manager and Donald's personal assistant, Vanessa Durrah. "We're definitely plugged into today and looking toward the future. We can give the people anything from a funky hip-hop number to a beautiful praise & worship ballad, but it's all for one purpose: bringing them into a personal relationship with Christ." In its rave, featured review, Billboard elaborated on several of the key cuts on *tri-city4.com*: "The hyper-hooky 'Never Seen the Righteous' puts a jazzy, rollicking rhythm section underneath jammin', jump-for-joy horns... 'Testify' lays down an

irresistibly funky groove that defies anyone with a pulse to remain seated, while 'Sign Me Up'... smolders like slow-burning embers." Equally adept at breathtaking balladry. "'God's Favor' is a very special song for me," Donald remarks. "I like to write songs that speak and minister directly to church people. Of course we're called to reach the un-church world as well, but never at the expense of the needs and the lives of the saved; the ones who know they've done their best to be faithful and good-hearted. They've sown well but have yet to come into their season of reaping."

Y2K Spring Cleanup

Martin Cleaning Service

Carpet cleaning includes 1 Hall Free
Pre-Spray Traffic Area at no extra cost * Stairs \$1.50 Ea.
Upholstery Cleaning
• Sofa under 6 ft. \$59.95 * Ottoman \$20
• Sofa over 6 ft. 69.95 * Dining Chair \$20
• Loveseat \$49.95 * Chair \$24.95
• Recliner \$39.95 * Sectional \$69.95

Additional Services
• Auto * Boat
• R.V. Cleaning * Deodorizing
• Pet Odor Treatment
• Dirt Resistant (Teflon) Protection
• Spot Removal & Red Stain Removal

2 Areas Or More 2 Room Min. Includes 1 Hall Free Slightly Heavily Soiled Carpet Areas	\$12⁹⁵ Each Area
Soiled Carpet Areas	\$22⁹⁵ Each Area
Sofa & Loveseat Or Chair	\$89⁹⁵
Carpet & Upholstery Any 3 Areas Hallway Plus Sofa, Loveseat and/or Chair Cleaned	\$119⁹⁵

MARTIN CLEANING SERVICE
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
Commercial & Residential Services

Martin Cleaning Service
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
Appointment (503) 281-3949

Happy Birthday Lucille Harris

Sharon from page A1

interview. She also credited Northeast Coalition director Edna Robertson with giving her crucial support and "validation." According to Robertson, McCormack overcame such problems through the force of her own personality. "It was a matter of her sitting down with citizens and gaining their confidence," Robertson says. "Sharon never made a promise she didn't keep. At meetings she would let everyone know she valued them, but she could also cut to the chase and say that something was B.S. Even gang members in trouble would come in to talk to her." "I considered her a natural mediator," Piedmont president Betsy Radigan says. "She always kept a balanced perspective. She didn't judge you, she accepted what you had to say, and she honored that. You could go to her and be candid." McCormack played a leading role in reducing prostitution in inner north and northeast Portland, Robertson says. The two were also among the

first to warn of the influx into Portland of southern California-based youth gangs. McCormack helped then-Northeast precinct commander Charles Moose set up the Neighborhood liaison officer program. She also played an unspectacular but crucial role as a supporter of others' efforts, providing information, encouragement and information. In 1992 she took over as director of the citywide program. Again, Glankler says, she was ideally suited to this role. "She could make you comfortable in your own home, but she was also comfortable making presentations in board rooms and public hearings," she says. "She could talk to cops, from beat cops to chiefs." Robertson says she never displayed public anger with staff below her, making any criticisms necessary behind closed doors. She continued to be loyal to her neighborhood, doing volunteer work for Holy Redeemer Church and its annual Good in the Hood festival.

Another church volunteer, Elanna Schlichting, says, "What I appreciated most about Sharon was that she showed how working together made all the difference. She gave us hope, tools, facts, figures, what we could do about the situation. She was very grounded in reality." She was equally dedicated to her crime prevention program, trying to come to work until she was too ill to continue. Even in her last days, she was concerned about the future of her program after she could no longer watch over it. "These are the words I'm always going to remember Sharon by: I think some good things can happen here," Radigan says. "No matter how difficult the situation or the people involved, she could always find potential good, and often she could bring it about," said Radigan. She is survived by her daughters Erin Grahek and Shannon Gilbert; sons Colin and Brendan; sisters Joan Cone and Sheila Trent; and nine grandchildren.

Evelyn from page 1

than just words what it meant to be Christian and human. Miss Collins never married and had no biological children however her influence in the N/NE Portland Community was profound. The legacy she was one of unconditional

to those who wish to partake of it from whether worthy or not. A standard of excellence and that any can achieve it. And that faith in God, Jesus, and mankind are paramount to spiritual well-being. Evelyn M. Collins joined her Lord and Savior while in

her sleep at 4:30 Monday morning March 13, 2000. She leaves behind many friends and colleagues to cherish her memory. Funeral services are scheduled for Friday March 17. For more information call Rose City Funeral Home at 281-3821

Join Us

The Les Schwab Blazer Alumni Basketball Team
The Emmanuel Community Basketball Team (Presented by Emmanuel Community General Services, Inc.)

Food Fun Auction

Saturday, March 25, 2000
7:00 p.m.
at the
Benson High School Gymnasium
546 NE 12th

Tickets: \$5.00 Adults
\$3.00 Under Age 13

For tickets and/or information, please call Emmanuel Community General Services Office at: (503) 281-0355

Come visit us on the web at www.portlandobserver.com

The Portland Observer on the Web