

# Jazz Great Nina Simone Dies

Singer wove turbulent times into her music

(AP) — Nina Simone, whose deep, raspy, forceful voice made her a unique figure in jazz and later helped define the civil rights movement, died Monday at her home in France, according to her personal manager. She was 70.

Clifton Henderson, who was at Simone's bedside at her death, said she died of "natural causes" in her sleep after a long illness. He refused to provide the name of the town where she lived.

"She inspired other singers to do what they believed in," Henderson said, saying the musician would also be remembered for her activism. "She'll definitely be looked at as a civil rights movement leader."

Born Eunice Kathleen Waymon in 1933 in North Carolina, Simone was the sixth of seven children in a poor family. She began playing the piano at age 4.

In the late 1950s Simone recorded her first tracks, including "Plain Gold Ring" and "Don't Smoke In Bed." But she gained fame in 1959 with her recording of "I Loves You Porgy," from the opera "Porgy & Bess."

But she later wove the turbulent times of the 1960s into her music. In 1963, after the church bombing that killed four young black girls in Birmingham, Ala., and the slaying of Medgar Evers; she wrote "Mississippi Goddam," and after the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., she recorded "Why? The King of Love is Dead." One of her most famous songs was the black pride anthem, "To



Nina Simone, the jazz great whose rapsy, forceful voice helped define the civil rights movement, died Monday at her home in France. (AP photo)

Be Young, Gifted and Black." Simone enjoyed perhaps her

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greatest success in the 1960s and 70s, with songs like "I Want A Little Sugar in My

Bowl," and "Four Women" - the song with the famous line "they call me PEACHES."

reputation for chewing out audience members who interrupted her performances in clubs with conversation or loud drinking or talking.

Simone spent much of her recent time in France, and in a 1998 interview blamed racism in the United States for her decision to live abroad, saying that as a black person she had "paid a heavy price for fighting the establishment."

While she had a regal presence onstage, she could often be temperamental; she had a

## South Max Approved

(AP)—Metro, the Portland-area regional government, has approved a \$1 billion plan to build light-rail lines from Portland to its southern suburbs.

The councilors unanimously supported a plan for two MAX routes: one along Interstate 205 from Gateway to Clackamas Town Center, and a second from downtown Portland to Milwaukie.

The plan calls for building a new bridge into downtown Portland, running light-rail tracks along the downtown bus mall and instituting

rapid bus service between Milwaukie and Oregon City.

The I-205 line would open in 2009, and the Milwaukie route in 2014.

Metro leaders said the region can piece together money for the first phase without a public vote. But they can't foot the \$550 million bill for the second phase without public support.

Transit and government leaders have long said they wanted to improve public transportation between Portland and the south suburbs.

## PCC-Cascade Hosts Job Fair

continued ▲ from Metro

"Cascade's job fair has a reputation for attracting top notch employers," Coryell said. "Even when recruiting budgets are tighter, companies are choosing to maintain a presence at the fair."

Coryell said employers gave the fair high marks in quantity and va-

riety of applicants. Last year they saw over 3,000 job seekers in attendance, and more are expected this year.

The job fair is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit the fair's Web site: [www.pcc.edu/cascadejobfair](http://www.pcc.edu/cascadejobfair), or contact Cascade Career Services at 503-978-5600.

## Colleges Increase Minority Hiring

continued ▲ from Metro

university system's student body this year, up from less than 11 percent in 2002.

The report also showed improvement in the graduation rates of minority students. The six-year graduation rate for all students of color went from 47 percent to 52 percent

in 10 years, about 3 percentage points below the level for white students.

Webber-Davis said the universities have made diversity a priority for faculty and students, devising plans to recruit and retain both.

She said job descriptions have made a point of saying that the colleges welcome faculty of color.

## Community Calendar

continued ▲ from Metro

admission which includes a buffet dinner and live music.

### Ladybug Nature Walks

Parents can discover the natural world with their pre-schoolers every Friday at 10 a.m. at Hoyt Arboretum. A naturalist will hand out magnifying glasses, bug boxes and other tools to explore the soil, water, bark, flowers and animals in Portland's parks. There is a \$2 charge for each child, but adults are free.

### Homes for Pets Wanted

The Oregon Humane Society is extending its outreach efforts to area pet stores this month. To help the Humane Society bring homeless pets into the community, call 503-285-7722, extension 204.

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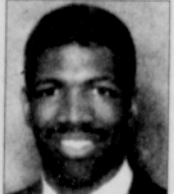
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