

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Jazz Violinist Jumps Boundaries

Musical influences find way into new CD

(AP)—Classically trained jazz violinist Regina Carter wanted to go beyond the boundaries of Western music, but couldn't find a record label willing to partner up on the adventure.

Then came along the MacArthur Foundation, which bestowed on her its prestigious \$500,000 fellowship, known as the "genius grant." Carter spent some of the money taking an introductory course on music therapy, and then spent some following her intuition.

The unrestricted grant allowed her to spend three years independently researching and recording African folk songs, combining instruments and melodies she only had a feeling might coalesce into something substantive.

"I took a chance putting these instruments together for this project, not knowing if it was going to work," says Carter of the resulting 12 tracks on her recently released CD, "Reverse Threads."

Carter talked recently about the album, which features violin, accordion and the traditional



Regina Carter

West African 21-stringed kora.

The Associated Press: It sounds like there are all kinds of musical influences on this African-influenced CD.

Carter: It's a huge continent first of all, Africa is, and so there's so many different cultures and

so many different styles of music. Sometimes I would hear something and say, "Oh wow, that sounds like Irish music" ... I'd started to see within the research how much we influence — you know from traveling — how much the planet and how much we're all influenced through music or art, and how much we're connected all over the planet.

AP: As you were discovering these songs and compositions, which story surprised you the most?

Carter: I think the two tunes I recorded, "Hiwumbe Awumba" and "Mwana Talitambula." Reading that they were from the Ugandan Jews and I had no idea that there were Jewish people in Uganda ... It's pretty amazing what I've started to learn just by researching music, the history that sometimes goes along with some of these pieces.

AP: What was most challenging thing about making this album?

Carter: These melodies when you listen to them, they sound very simple, but when you try to play them, you find that sometimes the simplest sounding things are the most difficult things to play.



Whoopi Goldberg

Broadway Gets 'Sister Act'

This coming season Broadway will see a nun on the run as "Sister Act" makes it way across the pond.

After enjoying record-breaking success in London, producer Whoopi Goldberg brings the divine musical comedy to the New York stage in the spring of 2011.

Based on the hit movie, "Sister Act" features a new score by eight-time Oscar winner Alan Menken. His credits include "The Little Mermaid," and "Beauty and the Beast."

Goldberg starred in the movie version and will appear with the London cast for a limited run beginning Aug. 10. The show's publicist isn't commenting on whether Goldberg will appear in the Broadway version.

Kelis Aims for Dance Revolution

'Milkshake' girl zeros in on the clubs

(AP)—Kelis wants to make you sweat.

The 30-year-old singer has had club hits before, but with her latest CD, "Flesh Tone," she's zeroing in on the clubs, hoping to get people moving on the dance floor. Even though it seems like the pop world is engulfed in disco fever, Kelis says people are too cool to groove.

"No one is sweating, no one is dancing," she said. "People don't ever dance anymore."

"Flesh Tone" comes after a turbulent period in her life. She split from rapper Nas, the father of her infant son Knight, and the former couple engaged in a high-profile battle over child support. She also tangled with the animal rights



American R&B singer-songwriter Kelis.

group PETA after she was photographed in fur.

The Harlem native talked about her music, raising her son and her thoughts on People for Ethical Treatment of Animals during a recent

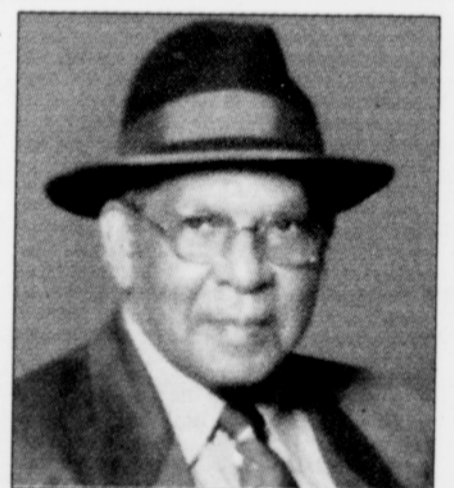
interview.

The Associated Press: How did you go from creating R&B hits like "Milkshake" to an all-dance album?

Kelis: I hate to toot my horn, but if you look at where music was as far females and what's Top 40 radio and whatever, where it was before "Milkshake," versus after, I mean you kind of have to be retarded to deny that it literally changed female vocalists. ... So for me, it was just about wanting to party again.

AP: It was reported you got a hefty divorce settlement from your ex-husband.

Kelis: No matter what it is that I say, or don't say, people are going to make up their opinion. I have not said anything about my personal life at all. ... At the end of the day it has no bearing on me or my kid.



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