

Singers Melissa Etheridge (from left) Janelle Monáe and Patti LaBelle in the State Dining Room of the White House during a workshop for students prior to a Thursday evening concert honoring "women of soul" and Women's History Month. (AP photo)



White House Salute to 'Women of Soul'

Obamas host concert with musical legends

(AP)—He bobbled the spelling, but President Barack Obama had nothing but R-E-S-P-E-C-T for the "women of soul" who shook and rattled the rafters of the White House on Thursday night.

"What a lineup!" Obama declared at the outset of a concert that featured a generations-spanning array of soul singers that stretched from musical legends Aretha Franklin and Patti LaBelle to 20-year-old Ariana Grande.

Obama paid tribute to Franklin for turning her signature song "Respect" into "a rallying cry for African-Americans, women and then everyone who felt marginalized."

The pumped-up audience gave a hearty laugh but was more than willing to forgive the president for spelling it "R-S-P-E-C-T."

First up in the East Room lineup was LaBelle, with a thundering delivery of "Over the Rainbow" that had the audience on its feet.




It was a mutual admiration society of sorts as LaBelle thanked the Obamas for their tenure in the White House, declaring, "Baby, you got swag!"

Grande, the youngster in the group, seemed



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