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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Performing for King's Birthday

BY BEVERLY CORBELL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Angela Brown, an internationally acclaimed opera star, will sing at the World Arts Foundation's annual Martin Luther King Jr. community celebration on Monday, Jan. 20 at the Highland Center in northeast Portland, and at other local churches the same week, along with free concerts on Jan. 22 and 22 at Roosevelt and Franklin high schools.

Growing up, Brown said she had "a keen awareness" of Martin Luther King Jr. through her grandfather's church, and like many black families, hers had photos of the civil rights leader at home, along with pictures of Jesus and President John F. Kenney. In an interview with the Portland Observer, Brown said the country has made some strides in



PHOTO COURTESY ANGELA BROWN

Internationally acclaimed opera star Angela Brown will be in Portland for multiple performances this month, including the annual Martin Luther King Jr. community celebration on Monday, Jan. 20 at the Highland Center, free 11 a.m. performances on Jan 21 and 22 at Roosevelt and Franklin high schools, and a public reception on Thursday, Jan. 23 from 6-8 p.m. at the June Key Delta Center, 5940 N. Albina.

race relations, but still has a long way to go. When asked what she thinks Martin Luther King would say about race relations today, she was blunt.


"But other things are about the soul – how people treat one another, things no mortal man can fix," she said. "That's a God thing, and I think he would be disappointed, to say the least."

"He would probably feel like things have been turned back," she said. "We made a lot of strides, of course, in his time as far as social acceptance, going to school where you want to and eat where you want to."


When Angela Brown was in high school in Indianapolis, she told the magazine Psychology Today that a voice teacher told her she could

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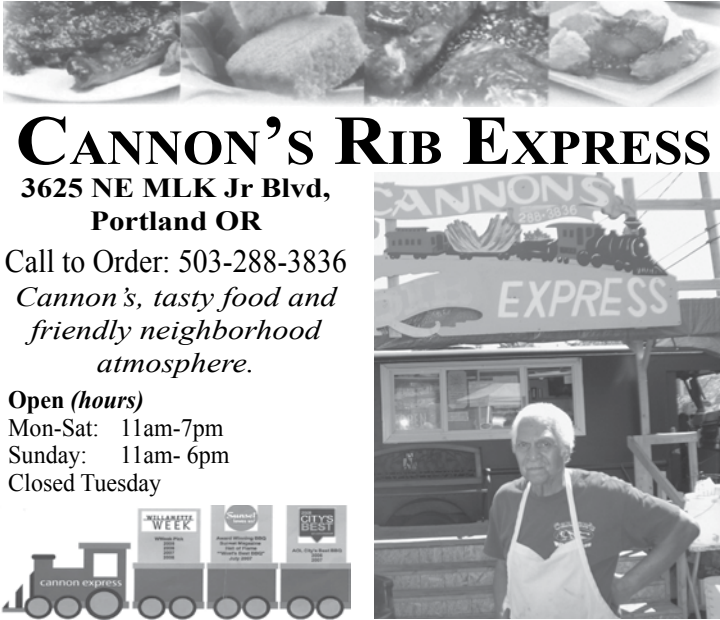


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