Best Bets

Clive Thompson Dance Co.

The Clive Thompson Dance Company is coming to Dundalk Community College on Friday, March 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets are $9 for general admission and $6 for DCC students and seniors. For information call 522-5850.

Dance Theatre Of Harlem

The Dance Theatre of Harlem will perform at the John F. Kennedy Center For The Performing Arts' Opera House until Sunday, March 3. For information on times and prices call 202-393-3600.

Spotlighters Theatre

"Play It Again, Sam" will play at the Spotlighters Theatre until March 3. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. For reservations call 752-1225.

Marcel Marceau At Mechanic Theatre

Marcel Marceau, universally acclaimed as the world's greatest living pantomimist, will perform on Monday, March 11 at 8 p.m. at the Morris Mechanic. For more information call 625-1400.

Reunion Celebration

The North End Lounge and Beehive Bar, is sponsoring a reunion of jazz, lounge and nightclub patrons on Sunday, March 10 at the Forum Caterers, 4210 Primrose Ave. Entertainment will be provided by The Original Billy Anderson Combo. Tickets are $25. For more information call 243-9400.

Gospel Show

The Harris Family is sponsoring a gospel show featuring Louis Johnson and the Swann Silvertones and other groups on Sunday, March 10 at 3 p.m. at New Mt. Hebron Baptist Church located at 2016 W. North Ave. Tickets are $6 in advance and $7 at the door. For more information call 383-8659.

Open House At Maryland Institute

Maryland Institute College of Art is hosting an open house for people interested in the visual arts on Saturday, March 2. For more details call 669-9200.

Virginia Union Concert

The Miles W. Conner Chapter of the Virginia Union University Alumni Association is presenting "An Evening of Concert Music with the VA. Union Choir" on Sunday, March 10 at 5 p.m. in the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. For more information call 466-1969.

Citizens Celebrating Baltimore

Citizens Celebrating Baltimore under the direction of Hugh Carey, will kick off its third year of performances on March 1 at the Community College of Baltimore. Liberty Campus at 8:30 p.m. Other performances will be held on March 2 at 7:30 p.m. and March 3 at 6 p.m. Tickets are $5. For more information call 396-1546 or 396-1553.

Play Disc Jockey at Capital Children's Museum

Learn about a radio station and make your own special tape at the Capital Children's Museum on Saturday, March 2 and Sunday, March 3. The museum is located at 800 Third St., N.E. For information on times call 202-543-8600.

Friday Plus

The weekly entertainment leisure guide for the greater Baltimore and Washington areas. Published by the AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS group.

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Maya Angelou will present a free public lecture and reading at Goucher College on Thursday, March 7 at 8 p.m.

Cissy Houston coming to Charlie's/Georgetown

Her inner soul is always project her soul. This lady not only sings to you, she sings through you for she is God's Glance. As John Coltrane calls it "A Love Supreme."

Cissy Houston possesses one of the finest voices in musical history. Rich, powerful, and distinctive, it lends her singing an expressive quality few vocalists could ever hope to match. No comprehensive study can be made of this story without mentioning her name in context.

How does she do it? She blends a rich variety of musical styles with simple lyrics and a full earthy voice which can easily glide through three octaves to creatve a special channel that communicates directly to the heart.

Cissy has the unique ability of knowing how to sketch out the themes of songs and because of her exquisite sense of timing and phrasing she helps raise the excitment level of a song. As an accomplished vocal arranger and as the undeniably ultimate backup singer, these characteristics are so much in evidence on the over 600 recordings she has graced with such renown artists as Aretha Franklin, Herbie Mann, Lou Rawls, Chaka Khan, Nikki Giovanni, Elvis Presley, Wilson Pickett, Burt Bacharach, Leslie Uggams, Chuck Jackson, Buddy, Rich, Hugh Montenegro, Brook Benton, Bette Midler, Maxine Brown, Paul Simon, Seals and Croft, Luther Vandross, her talented nieces Dionne and Dee Warwick to name a few (as well as her solo endeavars).

She will be at Charlie's Supper Club in Georgetown, D.C. March 5, 6, and 7.

As a result of these aforementioned efforts, Cissy has received Gold and Platinum Awards for work done on Aretha Franklin's and Dionne Warwick's albums over the past ten years.

It's been a long pull for her. Born in Newark, N.J., Cissy (youngest of eight children and blessed with a full, clear singing voice) began singing with her family group, The Drinkard Sisters, when she was merely five years old.

After being with her family group for several years, she decided to branch out by forming her own group, The Sweet Inspirations. Cissy and her group enjoyed a pop hit; however, The Sweet Inspirations are best remembered for their backup sessions with Aretha.

Warmth and humor radiate from her and there is something new— a special light of excitement in her eyes. Having enlisted the service of her distinctive voice and concurrent with unending studio work, she has recorded five solo albums. Along with her rendition of "Tomorrow" (as she states with a disarming smile, "I will sing this song until the day I die"), the medley "He/I Believe," she sets down the firm foundation on which the whole is constructed.

She "works" a song by getting inside of the lyrics and makes them meaningful to all that are listening as she brings the melody into focus. She has that rare ability to squeeze notes until they are bone dry! Indeed, she does this with the melodic lament "Make It Easy On Yourself." Her inspiring style is unquestionably rooted in gospel music. It is full of dramatic power, rejoicing shouts and sensual convictions. Listen to her as she pulls from her roots and adds the sweetness of jazz splashes to her renditions of "Didn't We."

When she sings "I Wish It Would Rain," "Do Right Woman," "This Time I'll Be Sweeter" (to name a few), Cissy's variety of mood, tempo, color and attitude demonstrate her incredible creativity, versatility and imagination. She is the real thing baby—no additives, no preservatives—just an untarnished presentation.

Recently, she appeared in an off-Broadway Musical Celebration "Taking My Turn." Incidentally, she has prepared many artists for Broadway musicals.

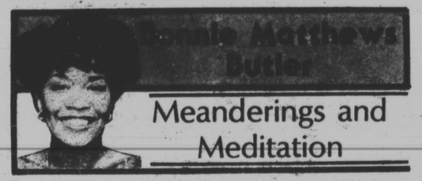
She states as well as sings that her gift is her song, but there are others.

Cissy has been playing the club circuit and now occasionally her daughter and son (new and upcoming Whitney Houston and Gary Houston) will join in singing along with her. The voltage generated when mother, daughter and son mesh in such close harmony exceeds what might be attributed to mere musicianship.

Step aside for this Lady who received the World Music Award 1980, The Tokyo Music Festival Award, Yamaha Festival Music Award and a nomination for Grammy Award in 1975.

Says a lot for this Lady who is the Minister of Music and the Director of the Radio Choir—New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, N.J.

The Creator's kinetic energy shines and shimmers in the sunset of her talents for there is no one similar to or for that matter different from her.



Bonnie Matthews Butler

Meanderings and Meditation

As we welcome in March and brace for its winds, let's say goodbye to February but not to the special remembrance of Black History.

Our history is too rich to reflect upon in this short calendar month and then put aside until next year.

There must be a constant vigil lest we tend to forget the paths of Africa and the chains of slave ships on the voyage to the promised land.

The story of the journey in bondage and the experience of a serious and qualified black candidate for the presidency of the United States will be told in gathering places long after we have gone to another promised land.

For the saga of this struggle to one day take its place among the greatest success stories ever told demands each of us to keep the torch of freedom on fire until the words "Free at last, free at last..." become reality and reign throughout the world.

Through conscious, positive and meaningful activity, we can do our part so that the time will come when blacks will be able to truly celebrate every month in living one of the greatest stories ever told from slavery to freedom and human equality.

The challenge is ours to fan the fires of freedom each day of each month in the continuing struggle.

Let's not put February behind us and return to business as usual. We must be ever mindful to escape complacency and not sit back and just reflect on the month gone by.

There is more to be done before next year when a new chapter will be written in history — The first national birthday observance of black leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a great American who fell on the bullets of an assassin. It was Dr. King who said, "If a man hasn't found something he's willing to die for, he's not fit to live."

Dr. King will live forever as an example for those fit to live. His legacy and the celebration of his birthday will serve as reminders that the battle for freedom and human equality are not foremost for just a month or a day — but forever.

One of the freedoms that we have been denied is economic freedom. This comes to mind, as I write this column, when I think about the hotels, flourishing night spots and other places of relaxation that exist in this country.

I couldn't help but notice, while I was in Washington, D.C. this week, the lines that gathered outside of certain establishments waiting for a chance to spend over $10 for entertainment while many black owned clubs were virtually empty and lonely.

The only way we are going to be able to participate in progress is to spend some of our dollars with blacks who seek to entertain us.

I've always been of the opinion that an honest day's work deserves a reward of relaxation.

As we go forward, keep in mind that if we don't support one another, it will be very difficult to make any progress.

There must be a reason why we don't support our own. I'd be interested in hearing your views.

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More Happenings

CCC Holds Auditions

The third annual Young Soloists' Auditions will be held on March 30 and 31, 1985 at Catonsville Community College. Student aged 11-15 studying piano, strings, woodwinds, and brass, and voice students aged 14-17 are eligible. Cash awards will be given to the top three finalists. For more details call 455-4109.

Leontyne Price Coming For Benefit

The Baltimore Opera Company is presenting a benefit recital by Leontyne Price and the Morgan State University Choir on April 23 at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. This concert is the major fundraiser for the Opera Company. For information on tickets call 727-0592.

Annapolis Festival seeks performers

Performers, craftsmen and artists are invited to participate in the 23rd annual Annapolis Arts Festival to be held June 14, 15, and 16. Applications forms may be obtained calling 267-7922. Deadline is March 3.

Suite Life Tour

The Suite Life, a project of the League of Washington Theatres returns to Washington, D.C. on April 27 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. For further details call 202-499-1800.

Ray, Goodman and Brown will be appearing with Ronnie Laws at the Towson Center, Friday, March 8.

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