

File: Gospel

In Performance at the White House
THE GREAT AMERICAN GOSPEL TRADITION
June 3, 1998

PERFORMERS

Host: Cece Winans

As one of the leading figures in gospel music for the past 10 years, Cece Winans has won eight Grammys for her combination of soulful vocals and uplifting lyrics. First known for a gospel swing beat with her brother in their duo Bebe and Cece, Winans embarked on a solo career in 1996. She quickly became recognized for her ability to blend a wide range of popular styles with spiritual correctness and won a Grammy for her solo debut album, *Alone in His Presence*. Later Winans was nominated for her duet, *Count on Me*, with Whitney Houston for the movie soundtrack *Waiting to Exhale*, a top-10 choice on *Billboard* magazine's R&B charts. Winans has also received three NAACP Image Awards, nine Dove Awards and five Stellar awards, and has produced two platinum albums. Cece Winans continues to reach out for wider audiences with her contemporary style of gospel.

Morgan State University Choir

One of the nation's most prestigious university choral ensembles, the Morgan State University Choir regularly performs classical, gospel and contemporary popular music worldwide. Conducted for 26 years by Nathan Carter, this choir is particularly known for preserving the heritage of the spiritual. Dr. Carter, who is credited with bringing this choir to international prominence, is the Morgan State University chairperson of the Department of Fine Arts, as well as a graduate of the Hampton Institute, the Juilliard School of Music and the Peabody Conservatory of Music. Morgan State has performed with major American and European orchestras, and has appeared regularly at Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center and on National Public Radio and PBS.

Mickey Mangun, Lead Vocal

Singer, songwriter and musician, Mickey Mangun performs internationally as a solo artist, but also sings regularly with the Pentecostals of Alexandria Sanctuary Choir in Louisiana, where she shares a ministry with her husband, Anthony Mangun. Mangun is a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors and the Board of Directors of the Rapides Women's and Children's Hospital. She participated in the inaugural church service for President Clinton in 1993 and 1997 and has recorded five solo albums.

Phil Driscoll, Vocals and Trumpet

Although Phil Driscoll has produced albums in nearly every musical category, he has expanded the boundaries of contemporary gospel with his artistry and improvisational abilities, both vocally and with his trumpet. His interest in secular music began at the age of three, yet Driscoll has focused on contemporary Christian music for the past 20 years.

winning a Grammy, four Dove awards and seven Reader's Digest awards. Earlier in his career, Driscoll performed on the Merv Griffin, Steve Allen and Ed Sullivan shows and in the 1970s played piano and trumpet and collaborated with Stephen Stills, Leon Russell and Joe Cocker. In 1982 Driscoll founded *Mighty Horn Ministries*, in Cleveland, Tenn., and subsequently made more than 250 global appearances. He has also performed at the inaugural church service for President Clinton in 1993 and 1997, recorded with the London National Philharmonic Orchestra and launched a television ministry on the Inspiration Network.

American Gospel

Derived from the Old English word *godspel*, gospel means good news. Although its religious roots date back for centuries, blues pianist Thomas A. Dorsey first coined the term in 1920 for music that expressed evangelical faith and pathos. American gospel has evolved over time with the confluence of cultural styles, including southern folk music, Protestant hymns, European elements of worship, African traditions and spirituals, and the melodic and harmonic patterns of rhythm and blues. By mid-century, traditional gospel made way for contemporary forms. Singers criss-crossed between church-bound performance and mainstream secular music, popularizing the genre without abandoning their messages of hope and inspiration. Our performers this evening exemplify their own unique beliefs and styles, ranging from a full, mixed chorus with its multitude of harmonies, to the clear single tones of Cece Winans, who sings songs of her faith and humanity.

Relevance of gospel to the Millenium series

Tonight's Millennium Evening at the White House showcases the American gospel tradition. As part of our WETA series, In Performance at The White House, we will enjoy several distinctive styles borne of the gospel tradition that illustrate the synergy of cultures and denominations in our American experience. Each performance tonight expresses the vibrant, stirring and deeply emotional appeal of American gospel. The diversity of these artists signals the depth and variety of contemporary and traditional gospel, as well as confirms the present-day renaissance of the genre.



5/22/98

THE NATION'S STATION. THE COMMUNITY'S VOICE

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**GRAMMY-WINNING CECE WINANS TO APPEAR IN
NEW "IN PERFORMANCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE" ON PBS**
— *Hour-Long Special Celebrates Gospel Music Tradition* —

Washington, D.C. — The President and First Lady welcome Grammy-winning gospel artist CeCe Winans and a variety of other musical guests to a new "In Performance at the White House," scheduled for broadcast on PBS stations later this year. The hour-long program, "The Great American Gospel Tradition" (w.t) continues the White House initiative celebrating the new millennium with a variety of activities and events.

The program, to be taped Wednesday, June 3 before an invited audience on the South Lawn of the White House, is the second in a series of occasional "In Performance" specials, offered over the next year on PBS, that pay tribute to American music and performance. The series is underwritten by Ameritech and produced by WETA, Washington, D.C.

"As part of the White House Millenium initiative, we are pleased to bring this particular performance to public television audiences," notes Phylis Geller, WETA senior vice president of cultural programming and new media. "As Gospel music continues to be such a moving and inspiring part of American culture and tradition."

"With this tribute to American gospel music, Ameritech maintains its proud tradition of supporting the arts in performance at the White House," said Richard C. Notebaert, chairman and chief executive officer of Ameritech. "We look forward to sharing this unique event with a national audience on public television."

CeCe Winans, who over the past 10 years has received eight Grammy Awards for her work and is considered one of the leading figures of Gospel music, will host the evening performance.

Winans will then be joined on stage by the Morgan State Choir, led by Nathan Carter conductor. The Choir is one of the nation's most prestigious university choral ensembles, and has performed for audiences all over the world.

Other guest artists appearing during the hour show include singer, songwriter and musician Mickey Mangun; and Grammy-winning composer and instrumentalist Phil Driscoll.

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"In Performance at the White House" — Page 2

The President and Mrs. Clinton ushered in a new season of "In Performance at the White House" on public television with "A Salute to the Newport Jazz Festival," (September 12, 1993) followed by "Cabaret" (January 5, 1994), "Aretha Franklin" (October 12, 1994), "Women of Country" (September 27, 1995) "Linda Ronstadt & Aaron Neville" (July 3, 1996), and "Gladys Knight" (September 24, 1997). The next special in the series taped this March, "Savion Glover — Stomp, Tap and Swing," is slated for broadcast on September 16 at 9 p.m. "In Performance at the White House" is part of WETA's commitment to broadcast quality programming that draws on the nation's cultural diversity.

Credits

"In Performance at the White House" is a production of WETA, Washington, D.C., the third-largest producing station for public television. Funding for the series is provided by Ameritech. Senior producer is Jackson Frost; WETA executive-in-charge is Phylis Geller. Sharon Percy Rockefeller is WETA president and CEO.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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Per your request - Cast names and
background information for next week's
"In Performance at The White House"

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- * AROUND TOWN
Thursday evenings at 10:00 p.m. on WETA TV26
- * IN THE PRIME
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