



CHARLES KING

# World Famous Vocalist To Sing Sunday

**By Milton Jordan**  
Charles King sings spirituals, those old-time, heart-lifting songs that tell of oppression, suffering and hope, and he comes to Durham Sunday to sing and share his two favorite messages with all who'll listen.

King, 62, who has visited more than 7,000 high schools and colleges world wide over the past thirty years, has a simple but direct message for young people.

"If you do not have an appetite for excellence, you have no right to sit at the table of opportunity," King said during a phone interview this week. "I take this message to our youth to try to motivate them to strive for their higher potential."

To adults, King says: "I want people to learn to worship through singing, to realize that the power and love expressed in the Spirituals can move among us today, drawing us closer to each other and healing the gaps that divide us because of race or class."

King's Durham performance will be Sunday at 7:30 p.m., at the

Christ Lutheran Church, 2109 N. Duke St. The public is invited and there is no admission charge.

King, a former feature vocalist and musical director for the world-famous Wings Over Jordan Choir that often held radio audiences estimated at more than 50 million enthralled during its Sunday program on CBS, extends a personal invitation to Durham's black community.

"I want to see many of my own brothers and sisters at that church," King said, "because the Spirituals, with all their power and fire, are our roots, and we must begin to get back to them, to singing, and recapture the power of community that once sustained us."

King is a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and was a music major at Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio. His first professional job after college was as a soloist with the Wings Over Jordan Choir in 1941.

The Wings Over Jordan Choir was started in 1936 as a local group in Cleveland, on a local radio station. The CBS

radio network began sponsoring the group in 1941, putting them on national radio on Sundays. The group was famous for its theme "Go Down Moses", featuring a humming interlude during which the announcer would introduce the group's next song.

Songs made famous by Wings Over Jordan include "Tis the Old Ship of Zion", and "Rock of Ages", among others. The group, in addition to its radio appearances for CBS, also traveled to Europe under the network's sponsorship before disbanding in 1948.

Since leaving the choir, King has continued his musical career, appearing in shows such as "Porgy and Bess", "Show Boat", "Carmen Jones", and "Kiss Me Kate". He has also appeared on both the Ed Sullivan and Arthur Godfrey shows during the 50's and 60's.

Ordained as a Baptist minister in the mid-50's, King chose music as the chief medium of his ministry.

"I like to go into a

church where people have gotten away from singing," King said, "and break the ice, and help these people, the congregation, rekindle the joy and fire that comes from singing."

In addition to his appearance in Durham

Sunday night, King will also conduct a three-day seminar in "Worship through Singing", at the Aqueduct Retreat Center near Chapel Hill. The seminar begins Thursday and runs through Sunday.

For additional information on the Aqueduct Retreat, contact: Tom Tyson at (919) 933-5557.

For additional information on the Christ Lutheran Church appearance, phone 477-1600 or 477-3238.

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Voter Sign Up

Ms. Eleanor Elliot (right) and Ms. Alberta Miller (second from right) of the Durham County Board of Elections, assist Artie Pendergrass (left) and Anthony McNeil (second from left) with voter registration forms. The two employees of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company were among the 28 new signees and transfers who registered to vote during the Supplemental Voter Registration program at NCM's Home Office building. The Supplemental Registration program was held at a number of area businesses.

## Registration Workshop To Be Held Sunday

**HILLSBOROUGH** — Wayne Lofton, director of Minority Affairs for the North Carolina Democratic Party, will conduct a Registration Workshop at the Community House on Orange Street Sunday, March 14 at 6 p.m. The workshop is sponsored by the Northern Orange Black Voters' Alliance for Political Progress.

Emphasis will be put on registration techniques for rural areas. Handouts will be given to those in attendance. Lofton is a graduate of North Carolina Central

University with a B.S. degree in public administration and a minor in political science. As director of minority affairs, he serves as a liaison between the Democratic Party and the minority community and assists minority groups in various capacities — especially in the area of voter education projects.

Work schedules for special registration dates will be discussed.

For additional information, contact Ms. Rosetta A. Moore at 732-2402.

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Ninth Annual

Miss Black Teenage World of North Carolina Pageant

The Touch-A-Teen Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization, is seeking young ladies throughout the State to compete for the title Miss Black Teenage World of North Carolina.

is not a beauty pageant but is designed to provide avenues for young ladies 15-17 years of age to display their inner qualities of beauty, talent, poise, personality, intellect, dignity and pride.

Contestants will compete in five segments of competition: creative expression, talent, sportswear (no swimsuits), projection and evening wear.

In addition to trophies and other gifts and awards, the winner will receive a Scholarship. Interested persons should send inquiries to:

Miss Black Teenage World  
Post Office Box 3127, West Durham Station  
Durham, North Carolina 27705

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"There needs to be some kind of news publication for blind readers," he told her.

The result was the creation of the Negro Braille Magazine — a free publication for the blind.

Mrs. Merrick served as unpaid editor of the magazine until 1969, financing the project from contributions of friends and businesses.

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