Here in our own back yard

the Arts was established by the NC General Assembly in 1963 and opened in Winston-Salem in 1965.

The North Carolina School of Dance Theatre principal (and former New York City Ballet star) Mel Tonlinson; Academy Award-nomi-

ARTSREACH

By REGGIE JOHNSON

Since 1965, the residents of this city have had the honor and pleasure of having one of the top three arts schools in the country, as ranked by U.S. News and World Report, in their own back yard.

From its conception, the mission of the North Carolina School of the Arts has been to train exceptionally talented students at the high school and college levels for professional careers in the arts. The school accomplished this mission by giving the students the best professional training under a distinguished faculty of artist-teachers and guest artists who teach the best and the brightest students in the fields of dance, design and production, drama, music and visual arts. Admission to this selective school is by audition and interview. The school enrolls over 700 students from around the world in its programs annually and offers courses that span an educational bridge from the seventh grade to the graduate level.

Though a relatively young institution, the school has develpped a reputation both nationally and internationally as one of the best arts schools of this kind in a short twenty-five years. Many of its graduates have already established themselves in the forefront of the arts community. Included in this group are some names you may recognize. Among them are American Ballet Theatre principal dancer Victor Barbee: North Carolina

Urban Arts of the Arts Council, Inc. presents

one of the great voices of jazz — Betty Carter — in

concert April 27 at 8 p.m. at the Stevens Center,

405 West Fourth Street, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Chronicle Staff Report

nated actor Tom Hulce and

Metropolitan and New York City Opera star John Cheek. Last spring, in fact, two of the Tony nominations for best actor/actress on Broadway were NCSA alumni - Tom Hulce and Mary Louise Parke. Winston-Salem native Derrick Lawrence won the Met auditions, that were won only three years ago by Tichina Vaughn, also from Winston-Salem. Last October Ms. Vaughn made her debut at the Met in the production of Porgy and

Which brings us back to the view from our own back yard.

Here in Winston-Salem, we have a unique opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits of what some consider the best in arts education in this country. The North Carolina School of the Arts draws, by law, over fifty percent of its student body from North Carolina, with its biggest enrollment coming from Forsyth County.

It is a school committed to equality of educational opportunities. In its present enrollment 15.8% are minority students. And this is a state school. Because it is a public university, tuition and required fees for in-state students are comparable to the rest of the UNC system. The actual cost for an in-state student is only \$20 at the high school level and \$924 at the college level per year. For the opportunity and experience the school offers, it seems almost unbelievable the cost for this unique

Betty Carter in concert Apr. 27

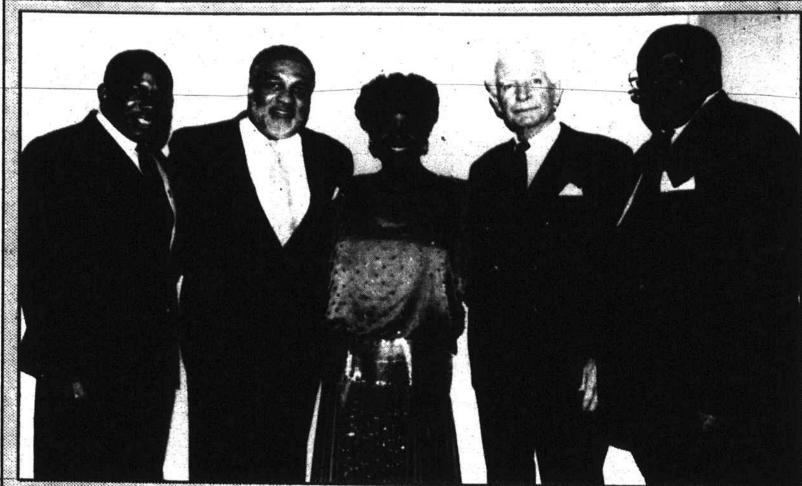
education is so affordable.

And when financial resources do not meet educational costs. which is so often the case, the NCSA does offer financial aid programs as well as scholarships to those students eligible. The North Carolina School of the Arts receives support for its financial aid program from federal and state governments, individuals and foundations. Under the UNC Board of Governors' General Minority Presence Grant Program, black students may be eligible for special financial assistance if they are residents of North Carolina enrolled for at least three hours of degree-credit coursework and demonstrate financial need.

Through other showcases of talent in Winston-Salem, we can see why we are known as "The City of the Arts" not only for the professional arts organizations in this community but also for the wealth of talent in our children. Through the arts enrichment programs for young people directed by Urban Arts, the staff sees on a daily basis the incredible creative energy found in our children.

To see an exciting showcase of the type of talent growing and flourishing in Winston-Salem, the public is invited, free of charge, to the Annual Spring Recital and Exhibition of Urban Arts of The Arts Council's youth cultural enrichment programs of Art-Is, Art-Is Too, and the Young Black Writers — Saturday, April 13th at 3 p.m. in the Arts Council Theatre, 610 Coliseum Drive.

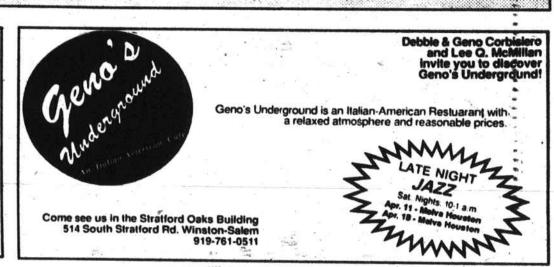
With the presence of the North Carolina School of the Arts right down the street as well as the many arts programs available in this community that have been mentioned in this column recently, it can only be hoped the residents of Winston-Salem take advantage of the fantastic arts education made available to them and do not waste the creativity and talent of its greatest resource the children.



'Night to Remember IV'

Legendary vocalist Gladys Knight (center) is joined by executives of Anheuser-Busch and Beasley Distributing who were sponsors of the recent "A Night To Remember IV" benefit concert in Chattanooga, Tenn., where five area organizations shared the proceeds. Sponsors shown with Ms. Knight (from left to right) are: James Butler, area manager, Anheuser-Busch, Inc.; Victor M. Julien, corporate affairs director of special programs at Anheuser-Busch Companies; Bob Beasley, president, Beasley Distributing; and Rubin Lawrence, sales manager, Bessley Distributing. Benefactors of the concert included the Chattanooga African-American Heritage Museum; Howard High School of Academics & Technology; River City Football Classic Scholarship Fund; St. Nicholas School Minority Scholarship; and the Volunteer Community School.





*AT THE DIGGS GALLERY

JOHN **BIGGERS**

mural sketches

MIL **BIGGERS**

geometric nature of life

Internationally renowned jazz vocalist and stylist, Betty Carter creates an exciting cultural "event" with her appearance at the Stevens Center

on April 27th. Carter, considered one of if not the world's best jazz singers alive today, brings her distinctive and improvisational style to the Winston-Salem stage in celebration of this great American art form and the history and diverse cultural threads that came together to create a style of personal and ethnic rev-

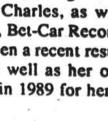
elation we call jazz.

A female vocalist that has survived over 40 years in a business that defies a performer to stay in the spotlight, Ms. Carter brings to her music a boldness and intense energy that encompasses her life of fighting for and living her music as well as the audience with which she shared her incredible tal-

Beginning her career when Charlie "Bird" Parker invited her to join him on stage when she was still under 18, Ms. Carter plunged into her professional career when she reached her eighteenth birthday and joined the Lionel Hampton Band. Her career included famed performances at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, touring with Miles Davis, Max Roach and Ray Charles, as well as founding her own record label, Bet-Car Records.

Carter has seen a recent resurgence in the popularity of jazz as well as her own career with her Grammy Award in 1989 for her album "Look What I Got."

Betty Carter shares rank with other individual jazz stylists like Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday and Dinah Washington with her incredible range, trademark phrase stretching, breakneck scats and highly personal and creative interpretation of jazz stan-



Codrington guest soloist at WSSU

Chronicle Staff Report

Noted jazz trumpeter Ray ette is the director. Codrington will be the guest soloist in concert with Winston-Salem State University's Symphonic Band and Jazz Ensemble at 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, in the Kenneth R. Williams Audi-

Betty Carter

public is invited. Lee David Leg- Raleigh, the Bill Bollen Band in

Codrington also is a vocalist, songwriter and arranger, and is his own group, Good Time. the includes appearances with Gladys Fayetteville resident has per- Knight and the Pips, Lionel formed widely across the state, appearing regularly with the tle Richard.

The concert is free and the Group Sax jazz ensemble in Chapel Hill, and the Duke Jazz Ensemble in Durham.

Codrington's career spans the leader and musical director of more than three decades and Hampton, Roberta Flack and Lit-

SPRING EVENTS

CREATION I by Jim Biggers

EXHIBITIONS through 30 June

MARK ROTHKO in gallery 1 JOHN BIGGERS in gallery 2 JIM BIGGERS in gallery 2

LECTURE: Jeremy Strick on Rothko

13 April 7 pm **RECEPTION:** for JOHN BIGGERS

& JIM BIGGERS/14 April 4-6 pm

gallery hours: Tuesday - Friday 11-5, Sunday 2-5 the Diggs Gallery is located on the ground floor of the new addition to the O'Kelly Library Winston-Salem State University, 601 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Winston-Salem, NC. 27110 919/7502458