

# Samuel Stevenson Joins "Samson And Delilah" Cast

By Loretta Manago  
Entertainment Editor  
When the curtain rises for the opening of the Charlotte Opera's presentation of "Samson and Delilah", February 7, black opera singers will assume key roles in the theatrical production.

Mezzo-soprano, Patricia Miller and baritones, Andrew Smith and Samuel Stevenson have been cast in the biblical saga, written by Camille Saint-Saens which tells the story of the conflict between the Hebrews and Phillistines, the betrayal of Samson by his lover, Delilah, and his ultimate revenge.

Depicting the temptress, Delilah, Patricia Miller will make her first appearance in Charlotte. Having received international acclaim for her performances as Carmen, this mezzo-soprano is a gifted artist. A performer who sees the stage as her home, Miss Miller has been a guest soloist with the Boston Symphony under the baton



Samuel Stevenson  
...Has supporting role

of Michael Tilson Thomas and the Geneva Festival at the opening of St. Peter's Cathedral. In addition to her studies at Boston University and the New England Conservatory, Miss Miller has been awarded grants from the National Opera Institute and the Metropolitan Opera, Martin Luther King scholarship and a Fulbright-Hayes Grant for graduate study in Rome.

Andrew Smith who will portray the High Priest of

Dagon is no stranger to Charlotte. He appeared in the Charlotte Opera's 1983 production of "Fidelio" as Don Pizarro. However he came to national attention as Crown in the Tony Award winning Broadway and touring production of "Porgy and Bess." Recently he appeared in Mahogany at the Metropolitan Opera where he debuted in 1978, and in "Madama Butterfly," and "Streetscene". His operatic performances across the country have included "La Traviata," "Aida," "Cavalleria Rusti-

cana," and "Pagliacci." Native Charlottean, Samuel Stevenson joins the cast of "Samson and Delilah" in the featured supporting role of Abimelech. Stevenson made his Charlotte Opera debut in "Porgy and Bess" in 1981 and he is currently an artist-in-residence with the North Carolina Opera where he recently sang the leading role of the Toymaker in "Babes in Toyland." A graduate of West Charlotte High School, Stevenson also studied at Tuskegee Institute and the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

In addition to the February 7th performance, another performance has been scheduled for February 9. Lavish sets, authentic costumes, international stage-technical direction, vocal artistry and a gripping story to beautiful music, accented with sensuous ballet sequences add up to the kind of show that will be a treat for the first-time opera goer and thrill the most experienced operaophile. The production of "Samson and Delilah" will be sung in English at Ovens Auditorium. Call 372-SING



Andrew Smith  
...Depicts High Priest  
for ticket information.

## Appalachian Holding Scholarship Auditions

Representatives of the Cannon Music Camp of Appalachian State University will be holding scholarship auditions for the 1985 session on the campus of Sacred Heart College on Saturday, February 2, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Music Building.

Cannon Music Camp, now in its 17th year, offers a comprehensive course in musical instruction, with intensive college preparatory work in individual and ensemble performance and music theory. Performance experience is offered in Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Choral and

Chamber Music. The North Carolina Symphony and Chopin Foundation of the U. S. are in-residence during the four-week session.

In addition to musical instruction Cannon Music Camp offers a well-rounded recreational experience in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains. The camp is housed in the newly-opened \$8 million Broyhill Music Center on the campus of Appalachian State University.

For additional information call Sister Cecilia Lewis at 825-5146 or Dr. William A. Gora, Camp Director, at (704) 262-4091.

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