

Chronicle Profile

Springs comes home to get waxed

By AUDREY WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Last week, as Michael Jackson won an unprecedented eight Grammy Awards in the same year and trumpeteer Wynton Marsalis accepted two of his own, Winston-Salem native Charles Springs sat glued to his television set, an uneasy feeling having come over him.

"I was jealous," says Springs. "You get that way when you see your friends accomplishing or achieving goals you'd like."

Spring, as he is known in the entertainment business, says he and Marsalis, who captured awards for his first jazz album and his first classical LP, established a brief friendship in New Orleans, the Grammy winner's hometown. Spring took over the Creators, a New Orleans band that Marsalis and his brother had formed.

After leaving the jazz city, Spring and a band he formed in Las Vegas were the opening acts for Rich Little, the Spinners, Melba Moore and Parliament at the Sahara Hotel, a night spot on the Vegas strip.

It was in 1971 that Spring left Winston-Salem with a local group called the Blendors to launch a career in the entertainment business. Five months ago, he came back home, not because he couldn't make it big on the West Coast, but because he wanted to take advantage of a better recording opportunity in the Piedmont, he says.

"I just came back home to get waxed," says Spring, whose voice has the velvety sound of popular vocalist Larry Graham. "On the West Coast the recording industry is funny. Nobody opens up to you

and says, 'Hey, man, here's four or five thousand dollars. Go record yourself a record.'

"And then a lot of people on the top are too scared to open up to new talent because they think you're trying to take their place," he says.

The opportunity to record, Spring says, will come from a little help from friends in Greensboro, who have access to a recording studio. He and the newly formed band, Spring, named after him, will do a remake of Steven Still's "Love The One You're With."

"The music industry is a real cutthroat business," says Spring, "but the people here are my friends and I know them and what they're all about."

"Shoot, you couldn't tell me nothin' when I got paid for my first gig. I was proud of that dollar."

-- Charles Springs Jr.

"I can go in a studio here and not be charged the amount of monies to record if I were on the West Coast," he says.

While he's waiting to get his first record pressed, Spring, who sings, arranges, writes his own material and plays several instruments, runs a small ceramics business in the basement of his Spaulding Drive home with his mother, Tressie Springs.

He says his mother, who would rather see her son get married and get a regular job, could do without the music. But his father, Charles Springs Sr., understands because he, like his son, also aspired to be an entertainer.



Multi-talented singer and musician Charles Springs has his mind on one thing: "getting waxed." In regular English, that means making a record (photo by James Parker).

"Music is about the only thing I can deal with on a consistent basis," says Spring, who once played in a Sumter, S.C., band with balladeer and guitarist Peabo Bryson before he achieved fame. "Ceramics, I just really do it to make bucks when the gigs are short. I guess I sort of got a blend of both my parent's talents."

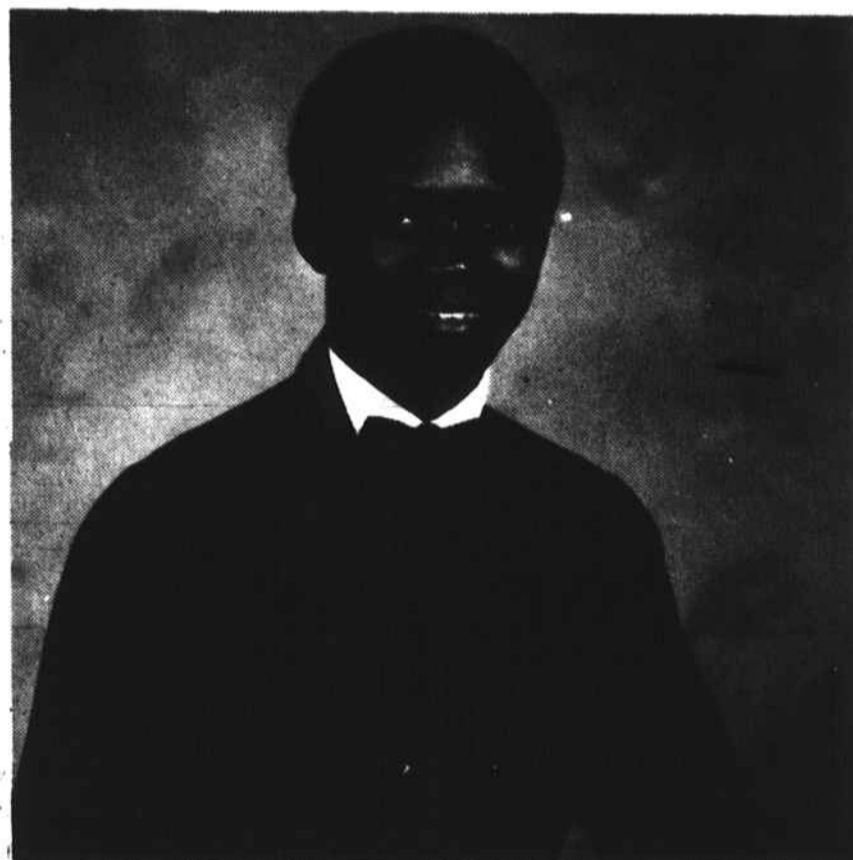
Like many of today's entertainers, Spring had his first audience in the church. Later he took piano and

saxophone lessons from Fostina Holman and Dr. Fred Tanner, two local music teachers. As a youngster, he sang in the choirs of St. Paul Methodist and Dellabrook Methodist churches.

"I was singing in the church," he says, "but I wasn't any good at it because my voice hadn't developed yet."

When his voice did develop, Spring formed his

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Malcolm B. Smith

Smith wins talent hunt

Malcom Bernard Smith, a 12th-grade student at the North Carolina School of the Arts, won first place in the 1984 Omega Talent Hunt Contest, sponsored by the Psi Phi Chapter and supported by the Mu Epsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. at Winston-Salem State University, where the contest was held.

Smith is the son of Mrs. Jerlean A. Barber of 213 Loop Street in Greenville, S.C.

Before entering the School of the Arts, Smith attended Berea High School in Greenville. He was a soloist in the Singing Christmas Tree in 1981 and 1982. He has performed with the Little Theatre and the Warehouse Theatre of Greenville. Smith also sang for one year with the South Carolina Honors Chorus.

At the School of the Arts, he is active in the Achievement of Black Artist Club and the Resident Hall Association Club. His hobbies are photography, camping and using his salesmanship skills and his goal is to become a singer and actor.

Amadi Hummings, a viola student at the North Carolina School of the Arts, won second place. Derrick Lawrence, a student at East Forsyth Senior High School and a baritone, won third place.

Other contestants were Beth Hastings of Atkins High School on the piano, Melissa Kugel of Reynolds High School on the flute, Rochelle Livia Joyner of Parkland Senior High School on the piano, Towanna Evette Van Eaton, also of Parkland on the piano, Deena Jones of

Reynolds on the piano and Richard Mitchell of Paisley High School, a baritone singer.

Judges for the contest were Mrs. Ilene Sears, piano and theory; Robert Morris, choral director; and Dr. Fred D. Tanner, chairman of the music department and director of the marching band and all music staff members of Winston-Salem State University.

Members of the Talent Hunt Contest committee are Emory Jones, chairman; Rudolph V. Boone Sr., co-chairman; Galvin Crisp, Ronald Peterson, Ron Peppers, Phillip Rector, Michael Stroud and John Thomas.

Other fraternity members contributing greatly toward the success of the program

were Howard L. Shaw, programs keeper of records and seal; Edwin L. Patterson, chaplain; and Isaiah Tidwell, basileus of the graduate chapter.

The program was a commemorative tribute to the late brother Jack Atkins, father of the talent hunt idea. The program was sponsored by the Psi Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. and supported by Mu Epsilon Chapter at Winston-Salem State University. Prizes were \$75, \$50 and \$25. The first place winner will represent the local chapters at the sixth district meeting's Talent Hunt Contest on May 12 at Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Last year's local winner, Odell C. Shoffner III, won the district contest and second place in the national contest. He is a music student at Howard University.

United Way establishes division

United Way president W. Douglas Ashby announced recently the establishment of a new division at the agency devoted to community resources. Gregory L. Bethea, current senior assistant to County Manager H.L. Jenkins, will be in charge of the division as deputy executive director of the Community Resources Division.

Incorporated in the new division will be several United Way programs, including volunteer development, management training, workplace services, community planning and government relations. Bethea will assume his position

March 19. He joined Forsyth County government in July 1975 and has worked in progressively responsible positions, including intergovernmental relations coordinator and management analyst. In 1980, Bethea received the Edwin M. Gill award as the most outstanding county administration student at the Institute of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He belongs to numerous professional organizations and serves on the board of directors of several local non-profit agencies, including Crisis Control Ministry, Urban Arts

Council, the Creative Life Center, the Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse and the N.C. Black Repertory Theatre.

Betha holds a B.A. degree from N.C. Central University and has completed course work towards a master's degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Ashby said that Bethea's position on the staff at United Way made a significant increase in the activities for which he will be responsible, adding that the agency will be increasing its focus on community resources as an outgrowth of its long range plan.

Campaign receives pledges

Winston-Salem Urban League's Challenge to Acheive Campaign has received pledges of \$25,000 from the James G. Hanes Memorial Fund/Foundation and \$20,000 from the John Wesley and Anna Hodgkin Hanes Foundation, announced campaign chairman Robert A. Emken recently.

"We are very pleased to receive these two fine gifts," said Emken. "Winston-Salem is fortunate to have several major philanthropic founda-

tions located here. These two gifts to the Urban League by the James G. Hanes and John and Anna Hanes Foundations are an example of the outstanding way in which local philanthropic interest support our vital community organizations."

The Challenge to Acheive Campaign has also received several corporate gifts. Vulcan Materials Co. has pledged \$7,500 and Douglas Battery Manufacturing has contributed \$2,000. The campaign earlier received pledges of \$150,000 from

R.J. Reynolds Ind. and \$50,000 pledges from both the Hanes Group and Wachovia Bank and Trust Co.

The two foundation gifts and various corporate and individual commitments bring the campaign total to \$319,500.

The campaign seeks to raise a minimum of \$550,000 to fund renovations of the Urban League's buildings at the northwest corner of Fifth and Trade streets in downtown Winston-Salem.

Local women to be honored

Alderman Virginia K. Newell and Kitty D. Sparks of Winston-Salem have been nominated for the Distinguished Women of North Carolina Award.

The awards will be presented by Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. to five of the state's outstanding women leaders at a banquet March 23 at the Hilton Inn on Hillsborough Street in Raleigh.

The ceremony will coincide with the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the N.C. Council on the Status of Women.

Rep. Annie Brown Kennedy of Winston-Salem, appointed in 1963 by Gov. Terry Sanford to the first Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, will speak on the progress of women in North Carolina during the

past 20 years at the awards ceremony.

Following the ceremony, a reception will be held honoring the 88 nominees for the award. Reservations must be made and the

Free Foot Clinic to be held on Saturdays

Seven Winston-Salem podiatrists are staffing a free Foot Clinic on Saturday mornings at First Baptist Church at Fifth and Spruce streets.

The Winston-Salem Podiatry Group will diagnose problems and administer primary foot care from 9 a.m. until noon each week.

The clinic was formed to meet a community need by offering podiatric services,

at no charge, to people who might otherwise neglect foot health as a part of their total health care program.

Contributing their time, on a rotating basis, will be Drs. Carlos Cooper, Ernie Daniels, John Hodges, Jim Mothershed, Robert Sprinkle, David Stauffer and Walter Zelasko.

For more information call, Dr. Robert Sprinkle at 723-8032.

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