

Williams to bring blues magic to Twin City

Joe Williams, a noted blues singer, will present a concert performance Monday, March 21, at Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

Williams is equally at home with a soulful, romantic ballad or a swinging, upbeat rhythm. Born in Georgia, Williams' mother was determined that her child would not suffer the barriers of ignorance in the South. She took her son to Chicago where he participated with his mother and aunt in a church choir.

When not on the playground, Williams spent his free time studying piano. He listened to and absorbed the dramatic and rhythmic urban blues. It was in the ghetto of Chicago's South Side that Williams first heard and felt the blues.

At the age of 17, he made his move into popular music. He asked



Williams

bandleaders on the South Side to let him sing with their orchestras.

In 1954, he became the singer with Count Basie's band. His recording debut with Count Basie, "Every Day," included many songs

still in favor today. The album was later re-released under the title, "Swingin' With the Count." Williams joined Coleman Hawkins' big band before joining Lionel Hampton's band on tour in 1943. His fellow vocalist was Dinah Washington and the sidemen included Earl Bostic, Milt Buckner and Joe Newman.

Williams' fans made him a five-time winner as the best blues singer in *Downbeat* magazine's annual poll. His name also became synonymous with the blues.

In 1961, Williams became a solo performer but he remembers fondly his days with the Basie Band and dedicated his rendition of "You Are So Beautiful" to the Count.

In addition to performing with his own group, he appears frequently with symphony orchestras

and other big bands. He also conducts school clinics, and appears on radio and television.

He has designed the soundtrack for the movies, "Sharky's Machine," "City Heat," and "All of Me." Williams also had an acting role in the movie, "The Moonshine War."

Williams, who is still in demand as a performer, said that he performs always with his audience in mind.

"When people go out to see a performance they want to relax," he said. "And, by nature, they are seeking the harmony of life, something to make them feel better. People's problems are assuaged a little bit when a performance touches them. And that's what our business and our music is all about."

Tickets to the performance are \$5 in advance and \$7 the day of the show.

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Post #453 holds anniversary event

In March, the American Legion celebrates 69 years of service to the United States and communities around the nation.

Here in Winston-Salem, American Legion Post No. 453 sponsored a program and dance at the Benton Convention. The program was held Saturday, March 12, in observance of this celebration.

At the program, Post #453 served as the hosts to the department commander, the national executive committee representative, and other department division and district officers at this occasion.

There also were several area veterans organizations, Southeast Ward Alderman Larry Womble, and other political candidates on the program.

Mayor Wayne A. Corpening issued a proclamation designating the week of March 13-19 as American Legion Week.



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Scales

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pageant is designed to give young women an opportunity to make public appearances and to be exposed to differing situations. Contestants in the pageant's three age group categories will give talent performances and be asked to answer two questions to help develop their verbal presentation skills. The pageant also will feature two routines performed by all of the event's participants and a modeling segment of the pageant.

The deadline for entering the *Ebony Angels* pageant is April 16. Thompson said first place winners in each category will receive an assortment of prizes. More information on the pageant is available by calling 722-6486 or 722-7418.

Monica Deveci Scales has been selected as a state finalist in the 1988 Miss North Carolina U.S. Teen Pageant.

The Miss North Carolina U.S. Teen Pageant is the official state preliminary event to the Miss U.S. Teen Pageant which will be held in August. The state winner will receive a host of prizes including a cash award, a color portrait and an all-expense paid trip to the national pageant. The Miss North Carolina U.S. Teen Pageant will be held in Greensboro at the Sheraton Hotel March 26.