

Hummingbirds Renowned Pianist Performs

By KAREN M. HANNON
Community News Reporter

As a youngster, Armenta Hummingbirds was just an ordinary piano student, until the age of 15 when she realized being average was not enough.

Today, she is a world-renowned classical pianist who has performed in famous concert halls throughout the world.

But she said her most important performance is not on the stage. Her goal is to make a difference in the lives of young people.

"I cannot be a person that makes a difference if I am typical," she said. "My main concern is that I have a big job to do to encourage young people to find a life of their own that has not been jeopardized by what they see and hear and who they think they are supposed to be."

Hummingbirds speaks from experience. And she will present much of her piano experience this weekend as the guest soloist with the Winston-Salem Piedmont-Triad Symphony at the Stevens Center at 8 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. There will also be a performance Tuesday night at 8 p.m.

As a black teenager growing up in Cleveland, Hummingbirds said she refused to settle for what society may or may not have expected of her.

Her mother was her first piano teacher, but as a 4-year-old, Hummingbirds was one of only a few black



Armenta Hummingbirds will be a guest piano soloist during a Winston-Salem Piedmont Triad Symphony at the Stevens Center this weekend.

gave me the idea that I'd eventually end up working towards an individ-

piano skills that she practiced at home without the help of her teacher. She

said her teacher thought she wasn't prepared to compete with other Juilliard students.

Her hard work paid off. Hummingbirds earned a full scholarship to Juilliard and made her recital debut in New York. From there, she performed at Carnegie Hall and with the Cleveland Orchestra and L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande in Switzerland and the Miami Pops Orchestra.

In between performances in 27 countries and five continents, she said she has always found the time to help a younger generation find meaningful lives and dream bigger dreams.

"I am torn between having to

"I cannot be a person that makes a difference if I am typical."

— Armenta Hummingbirds

students in the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. She said she never thought playing piano would lead to a career until she was a teenager. By that time, she knew she had to get serious.

"I started working as hard as I could, getting as much out of work that I could," said Hummingbirds, who now lives in Winston-Salem. "There were no black teachers in the schools I was studying, so there weren't any black role models. That

ual goal, instead of doing something expected of me."

Hummingbirds said she had a late start in playing classical piano, but she didn't let that hold her back.

"I knew if I met the competition head on, I would have a chance if I confronted the way things were," she said. "So when I was 16, I auditioned for Juilliard (School of Music in New York)."

She said her audition required an enormous amount of technical

Womble Speaks At Family Night

The board of Christian Education of Hanes Memorial C.M.E. Church will have Family Night on Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Alderman Larry W. Womble. He will speak on "The Black Family." He will also



Larry W. Womble

show slides of his recent trip to Senegal and Africa.

Womble is a graduate of the local schools of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County; an honor graduate of Atkins High School; B.S. degree in education from Winston-Salem State University; graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; received his M. Ed. in administration and principal's

Certificate from Appalachian State University in Boone and was enrolled in the program for Ph. D. in administration at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Presently, he is assistant principal at Kennedy Middle School; supervises various physical aspects of school scheduling of programs and events, disciplining of students; was former assistant principal at Cook Middle School; former assistant principal of Mineral Springs Middle School and Old Town School. From 1974-75 he was a supervisor and director at Wake Forest University, where he initiated and implemented goals and objectives, supervised and evaluated various aspects of program and student teachers, taught and conducted classes.

During the summer of 1974, he was director of Mineral Springs Summer School Project where he supervised Project Read and Hoffman Reading Program for the federal-government and supervised a staff of 36. From 1971-74 he was department chairman and instructor at Diggs Intermediate School, where he established objectives, made decisions, disseminated and interpreted policies, served as a liaison between the faculty and administra-

tion, established various committees, instituted after school extended day program, and started and distributed a school newspaper.

He is presently alderman of the Southeast Ward; a member of National Education Association, N.C. Association of Educators; Association of Classroom Teachers; member of the Board of Directors of the N.C. League of Municipalities; member of the Board of Trustees at Bethlehem Baptist Church; member of Liberian Association of the Piedmont and member of Leadership Winston-Salem. He has received several scholarships in undergraduate and graduate school; nominated for Who's Who in American Colleges; recognized for various projects, ideas and suggestions by the newspaper, television and radio. In 1980-81 he was assistant principal of the year for the State of North Carolina; Ambassador of Friendship Force of North Carolina to Europe; Ambassador of Friendship Force to Nairobi, Kenya, Africa. In 1985 he received the man of the Year Award by the Winston-Salem Chronicle. His interests include various sports, music, reading, drama, enlightening discussions and politics.

Aldine Cloud is director of the Board of Christian Education and Dr. Lloyd L. Watkins, Sr., is pastor.

Pastor To Celebrate Anniversary

Rev. Philemon A. Samuels, pastor of Goodwill Baptist Church will celebrate his third pastoral anniversary on Sunday, Feb. 15th. The 11 a.m. speaker will be Rev. Henry Massey, Associate minister of Morning Star Baptist Church. The 3 p.m. speaker will be the Rev. Joseph Parks, pastor of Yaddif Grove Baptist Church of Lexington. Dinner will be at 1:30 p.m., immediately following morning service.

Rev. Samuels has been in the ministry for 22 years and is a senior at High Point University. Rev. Samuels is married to the former Gloria Monk, who is an evangelist. They have two children, Brill and

Joi. He was called to the church in February 1990 after the retirement of the former pastor, the late Rev. R.Q. Allen. Under his leadership the children's choir, the youth department, Wednesday night children's bible study, public relations committee, church training seminars, deacons honors day, graduation day program, sunday school worship, church planning committee, and a new members orientation program were established. The church is located on Goodwill Road, off highway 150 West in Arcadia.

For more information call 650-1032.



Reverend Philemon Samuels

show by example and having to promote another's presence in that sport," she said. "It's more important at this stage in my life to be a role model and promote other talent. When young people see someone in that position, they're able to get through a little easier."

"Young minorities need advice, but they must know they are entitled to it," Hummingbirds said. "There are people who are already in the positions to help kids get to the door, but we owe it to them to help them get through the door."

She said parents can help their children find their niche in encouraging exposure.

"Kids can't find out who they are until they have been somewhere on many levels," Hummingbirds said. "You can't choose a future for a child, but a child can't choose not to do something unless he's able to do it."

DIFFICULTY IN URINATION?

If you have any of the following symptoms, you may have a common prostate disease known as BPH (Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia).

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If you are a male 55 or over, you may qualify for a one year research study involving a medication for the treatment of BPH. Patients who qualify will receive free physical exams, blood and diagnostic testing, and medication. Medical care provided by a board-certified urologist.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

Research participants are needed for clinical trial involving an investigational blood pressure medication. If you are 21 years or older, have high blood pressure, and have no other significant health problems, you may be eligible to participate in this study. Females must not be pregnant or nursing and using an acceptable method of birth control. Patients who qualify for the study will receive physical examinations, diagnostic testing and medication free of charge. Financial compensation available for study participation.

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