

# Roberta Flack Is Complete Performer

Make no mistake about it, Roberta Flack is the complete performer, skilled in taking command of any stage she appears on, and more than that, satisfying the most discriminating audience.

In one of her infrequent nightclub engagements in the city, in her recent date at Brooklyn's Smuckers Cabaret she displayed the full range of her many talents as an accomplished Jazz Pianist, a singer who was sensuous, soulful and "down home" at times. The club's 600 integrated patrons loved every minute of it and when her one-hour show was over, they showed it in a ten-minute standing ovation.

From the moment she came onstage, backed by seven musicians, Roberta created a mood and a "rap" that let them know that the "boss lady" had taken charge. Without much unnecessary conversation she launched into singing more than a dozen of her best-selling Atlantic Records hits.

Displaying artistic freedom which comes from her having had a classical music background, first as a Howard University graduate holding a B.A. in music and then as a teacher in Washington, D.C. public schools, she had a little

something, musically speaking, for everyone.

Perhaps the highest compliment that could be paid to her was the presence in the audience of Brooklyn singing teacher, Prof. Monroe Henry, who brought ten of his students anxious for a popular music career. "I told them," he said, "that just watching Miss Flack in action was a lesson in how a finished artist handles an audience."

Roberta's appearance at Smuckers was under conditions that would tax the patience of Jove as the air-conditioning system wasn't working and the onstage temperature

hit 102 degrees. But in the tradition of a polished performer, she didn't complain and at the conclusion of her act it was easy to understand that she had won several Grammy music awards, gold records and international acclaim.

But fame only smiled on her after she had endured the hardships of working in smoky cafes filled with boisterous crowds. But even then audiences would quiet when she played and sang because something in her mannerisms told them that they were watching a potential star.

Much of the credit for the precise and driving music

behind her is credited to Harry Whitaker, her music director. As she says, "the boys cook the right musical recipe for me."

Thought of by many of her fans as a "musical Picasso," Miss Flack is also regarded as a superb producer, writer, arrangers and choral background conductor. At present she's also working to complete her doctoral work in language and logistics at the University of Massachusetts.

If you enjoyed "First Time I Saw Your Face" and "Killing Me Softly" you'll like her new album, "Blues In The Basement."



Roberta Flack  
...famed musician

## Trichology Corner



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Send Questions To: Trichology Corner, P.O. Box 16447, Charlotte, N.C. 28216.

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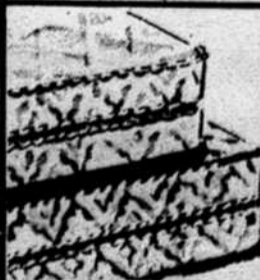


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