

Marian Anderson Will Be Honored At Stellar Event

"America Salutes the Performing Arts," a major two-hour entertainment gala at which the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., will pay tribute to five of the world's most distinguished artists-Marian Anderson, Fred Astaire, George Balanchine, Richard Rodgers and Artur Rubinstein-by presenting them with the first annual Kennedy Center Honors, will be broadcast Tuesday, December 5 at 9 p.m. on WBTV,

Channel 3. An array of top stars from various categories of the performing arts will entertain at the invitational black-tie event, a benefit for the Kennedy Center, to be held in its Opera House on Sunday night, December 3.

The honorees, whose artistic excellence is world renowned, have been chosen by the Kennedy Center Trustees as "individuals who throughout their lifetimes have made significant contributions to American culture through the per-

forming arts."

The annual presentation of Kennedy Center Honors is being established, according to Kennedy Center chairman Roger L. Stevens, in response to "a real need in this country for national recognition of individuals who enrich lives and our culture by their life work in the field of the performing arts."

Marian Anderson, who has often been referred to as the world's greatest contralto and to whom Toscanini once said:

"A voice like yours is heard only once in 100 years," has proved to be equally at home with the works of Brahms, Handel, Saint Saens, Schubert and Negro spirituals throughout her long career on concert stages around the world.

Fred Astaire, who has danced his way from Broadway, through more than 30 movie musicals and highly praised television specials, such as the one that garnered nine Emmy Awards in 1958, and into the

category of legend throughout the world, has been credited with revolutionizing the art of the movie musical and of dance itself. He has also proved his ability as a dramatic actor through such roles as the ones that earned him Oscar

nominations in the films "The Towering Inferno" and "On the Beach," and another opposite Helen Hayes in the recent television drama "A Family Upside Down", for which he won another Emmy.

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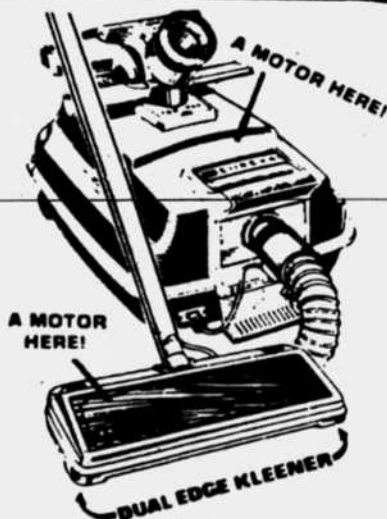
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