

# Contemporary Ensemble Hosts Mid-Winter Entertainment

By Jalyne Strong  
Post Staff Writer

Can't think of a better way to spend a cold night than being warmed by the smooth, sounds of a sultry songstress.

And The Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble was obviously thinking along the same lines when the group decided to host "A Mid-Winter Evening's Entertainment," to be held Saturday, January 31, at the Clinton L. Blake Auditorium, West Charlotte High School, featuring jazz vocalist Eve Cornelious.

"...She is reminiscent of Billie Holiday, with the voice clarity of Sarah Vaughn, and the ability to scat like the great Ella Fitzgerald," assessed the Greensboro Daily News.

"...Her dazzling jazz vocal style has delighted audiences across America," wrote the Lakeland Arts Council Review.

"...A World Class Knock-out!...Not just good...stunning. And visually beautiful, too," described the News & Observer.

Apparently when The Contemporary Ensemble received its first joint grant from the North Carolina Arts Council and the National Endowment For The Arts, for the dual purpose of staging a benefit performance and bringing one of NC's touring artists to Charlotte, they went for the best in the person of Eve Cornelious.

And there's more. The evening's entertainment will not only feature the Cornelious-Crawford Duo (Chip Crawford is Cornelious' pianist) but will also feature the highly popular Trio Grande with Michael Porter, the rising stars of The Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble, and come-



Lionel Norman  
...Master of ceremonies

dian Lionel Norman as master of ceremonies.

As this show is the product of The Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble's first awarded grants, the group has outdone itself in its choice of featured entertainment.

The Cornelious-Crawford Duo has dazzled audiences throughout the southeast and has gained a respected musical reputation. Their repertoire consists of jazz songs spanning as far back as the thirties up to the present with contemporary jazz fusion. Their experience adds up to performing with such greats as Donald Byrd, Herbie Hancock, Mary Lou Williams, Pieces of a Dream and a host of others.

Trio Grande featuring Michael Porter is a Charlotte-based jazz group performing jazz classics and contemporary selections. The trio's members are David Caudle, guitarist; Rick Blackwell, on bass; and drummer Donnie Marshall. Featured flu-

tist Michael Porter is presently serving as artist-in-residence at the Charlotte Afro-American Cultural Center.

Known as "Mr. Comedy," Lionel Norman is a stand-up comic with eight years experience in entertainment. Norman began in the business traveling with comedian Bill Cosby, opening shows for the veteran comic. Norman has appeared in clubs from New York to Los Angeles, and regularly performs in Charlotte.

Performers in their own right, the show's sponsor, The Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble, will perform Saturday and hold their own in the exciting line-up of entertainers. The Charlotte-based group has been a singing-treasure for eight years, delighting audiences with renditions of jazz, gospel, contemporary and Broadway musical selections.

With such a fiery aggregation of talent on the bill, "A Mid-Winter Evening's Entertainment" gives expectations of a hot night at the Clinton Blake Auditorium.

Tickets for the event are \$15 and a reception will follow the show. Proceeds will aid The Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble in its effort to purchase a piano for the Afro-American Cultural Center. Tickets are available at the Afro Center, 401 N. Myers St., and at the door the night of the performance.

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## Cunningham-Worth Announce Engagement

Miss Teresa Rene Margaret Cunningham and Timothy Glenn Worth have announced their engagement. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Sam and

Mable Cunningham. The groom-elect is the son of Mrs. Mary Harris. The wedding has been set for Saturday, August 8 at University Park Baptist Church.

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The Charlotte Post

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