

THE SPIRIT OF AFRICVILLE



Ruth Johnson, Church Scene, Africville 1949

**Saturday, 4 November 1989
Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax**

The Africville Genealogy Society
The Black Cultural Centre
The National Film Board, Atlantic Centre
The Art Gallery, Mount Saint Vincent University

Take pleasure in welcoming you to

THE SPIRIT OF AFRICVILLE

Tonight's performance in two acts, **A Visit To Africville, Summer 1959**, is based on the work by Charles R. Saunders and the People of Africville from the catalogue for the exhibition *AFRICVILLE: A Spirit That Lives On*.

Tonight's performers in order of appearance:

Joe Sealy

Montreal born pianist, Joe Sealy, is a multi-talented performer who delights audiences with his keen musical skills and fine sense of extensive and varied musical repertoire, lending variety and interest to his work. He's been rewarded for his musical direction of "Ain't Misbehavin'" with the Dora Mavor Award. In 1986 Joe was the musical arranger and conductor for "Family Called Mankind", the anthem of the Anti-Apartheid Festival. In the course of his active career, Joe has performed with personalities such as Sammy Davis Jr., John Candy, Salome Bay, Blood Sweat and Tears and The Atlantic Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared in numerous shows, films and has two record albums.

Charles "Bucky" Adams

A saxophone player, born and educated in Nova Scotia, Bucky has been a performing artist for 41 years and has played with many of the world's great musicians including Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie, B.B. King and Oscar Peterson. In 1981, he received the Gabriel Award, which is the United Nations highest award for broadcasting. Currently, Bucky is involved in raising funds for a Caribbean tour where he hopes to tie in his objective for cultural exchange in the field of jazz with his interest in raising consciousness for political freedom and racial justice.

Lucky Campbell

Lucky Campbell is a singer, song writer, musician, born in Lincolnville, Nova Scotia, who has been working as an entertainer for 20 years. Mr. Campbell has travelled across Canada and the U.S.A. as a performer. He is currently working on an album. He has worked with the Mulgrave Road Co-op Theatre Group, Neptune Theatre and Theatre Antigonish as an actor and playwright. He lives in Lincolnville and is a freelance performing artist.

Faith Nolan

Faith Nolan is considered one of the most talented folk artists in Canada today. Born and raised in Halifax, she developed an interest in music and song at an early age, eventually moving to Ontario, where she excelled in her art, becoming a professional entertainer in folk, blues, contemporary and traditional music. Miss Nolan is a lyricist and a guitar and harmonica player. Many of her songs are original compositions focusing on social issues and consciousness raising. Faith Nolan, a true grass roots performer, travels across Canada and the United States.

The West Sisters

The West Sisters are three ladies, Beatrice, Mary and Shirley, who reside in the Metro area. They sang in the Seaview Church since they were youngsters singing there Sundays and Wednesdays on a weekly basis. Their music is mostly traditional spirituals, taught to them by their mother, Lena West. The West Sisters sing mostly without music or accompaniment.

Stan Carvery and the Cobequid Road Brotherhood

Stan Carvery and the Cobequid Road Brotherhood have been performing together since 1970. The group is made up of Stan Carvery, Bruce Williams, Ernest Williams and Doug Williams. Singing mainly gospel hymns, they are a group of Christian men serving church and community.

The Flints

Dedicated to the memory of the Africville community, The Flints have been singing for over 16 years in churches across Nova Scotia, and have been involved in prison ministries. This husband and wife team of Ernest and Bernice Flint, specialize in both traditional and contemporary gospel music. They have become a familiar sight, performing at the Africville reunions and picnics which are held at Seaview Park every summer.

The Gospel Heirs

This close knit religious family group hails from North Preston, Nova Scotia. Formed in 1982, it consists of 7 members, each of whom specializes in a variety of gospel styles. Singing with or without instruments, this versatile group is well known around the province and nation wide. They represented Nova Scotia in music at Expo '86 in Vancouver, and this year won the Golden Dove Gospel Award for music excellence. Their leader is Deacon Wallace Smith, and the group members are Mr. Alexander Fraser, Mrs. Rose Fraser, Mr. Wallace Smith Jr., Mr. Levi Smith, Mr. Burton Simonds and Mr. Levi Smith Jr.

Maxine Tynes

Maxine Tynes is a writer who has lived all of her life in Dartmouth. Her heritage goes back to the black Loyalists. She is a graduate of Dalhousie University, and a member of the Board of Governors, the first black Nova Scotian to hold this post. A high school English teacher, she has worked as a freelance broadcaster for CBC and is a winner of the Dennis Memorial Poetry Prize and the Milton Acorn People's Choice Award.

Four The Moment

A Halifax based a cappella group which began in 1982, Four The Moment has travelled extensively across Canada performing at events such as The Winnipeg Folk Festival, Toronto Folk Festivals and at Expo '86 in Vancouver. They are managed by Ms. Jackie Barkley. The singers are, Delvina Bernard Miller, Kim Bernard Morris, Ann-Marie Woods and Andrea Currie.

This performance has been made possible by the generous support of:

All the artists who donated their services to tonight's performance, Chris and Nancy Wilcox who co-ordinated the performance and the ushers from the Africville community.

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The music has been made possible through the co-operation of the Atlantic Federation of Musicians, Local 571 of the A.F. of M., Peter J. Power, President.

All profits from this evening's entertainment go to the Africville Education Trust Fund, a fund established with the money received from the sale of the Seaview Baptist Church in Africville.

Charles Saunders, who wrote "A Visit To Africville" for the exhibition catalogue, is a freelance writer who has lived in Halifax since 1985. Since he began writing in 1971, he has produced numerous short stories, novels, scripts and screenplays. The catalogue can be purchased from the gallery for \$5.00.

The exhibition opening ceremonies, this concert and the Conference on 17 & 18 November are being videotaped as an archival record courtesy of André Gariépy, Hitachi Canada and the National Film Board, Atlantic Centre.

A conference: *The Africville Experience—Lessons for the Future* opening with a panel discussion Friday, 17 November at 8:00 pm, chaired by Carolyn Thomas, moderator of the African United Baptist Association. This panel will reunite some of the key players in the decisions taken in the 1960s: Alan Borovoy, a civil rights lawyer; Allan O'Brien, mayor of Halifax, 1966-71; Gus Wedderburn, former president of the Nova Scotia Association for the Advancement of Coloured People; and the Reverend Charles Coleman, a former pastor in Africville. There will be two more major panels on Saturday, one at 10 am with members of the Africville community chaired by Brenda Steed-Ross and the other at 1:30 pm chaired by Reverend Charles Coleman with people from the larger black community and others with a stake in the future. The conference is free to all. Lunch is available for \$3.00.