

melodies that flow with a audience in the palm of her faith in me.

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

Opera Theater wows at the Apollo, concert series debuts at St. Mary's

A capacity crowd filled the seats of the Apollo Theater roundstage on Friday evening to witness a competition for "classical" singers under the auspices of the Opera Theater of Harlem. The familiar sounds of rhythm and blues, gospel and rap moved aside to make room for operatic arias and art-songs, and everyone liked what they heard.

The winners of both the collegiate and professional divisions received Audience Choice and Judges Choice awards. Both the audience and judges agreed on giving soprano Kristin Young first place, with the latter awarding soprano Sarai Johnson second place in the collegiate cate-

gory. They were both accomplished artists.

Judges awarded first place in the professional division to soprano Lorin Lee, with baritone Barry Robinson and soprano Shermayne Brown winning second and third places, respectively. The audience's choice for first place was Robinson. The performances were on such a high level, it was difficult to make decisions.

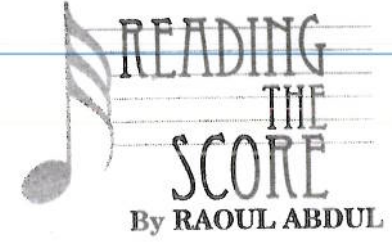
While the judges deliberated, the distinguished pianist Roy Eaton played rarely heard concert pieces by George Gershwin as well as a little Mozart and Chopin. He received a well-deserved ovation. I hope that

classical music, both by European and African-American composers will become a permanent part of the Apollo experience.

On Sunday afternoon, a new summer music festival featuring African-American classical musicians and friends gave its first concert at the historic St. Mary's Episcopal Church at 521 West 126th Street. This project is the brainchild of violist Charles Dalton and clarinetist Liz Player, with the blessing of Reverend Earl Kooperkamp.

The entire program was devoted to works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, baptised in 1756 in Salzburg as Joannes

Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart. Included were Quartet in F Major (K.370)



for oboe, violin, viola and cello, Duo in G Major for Violin and Viola (K. 423) and Quintet in A Major for Clarinet and String Quartet (K.581).

Besides Dalton and Player, the performers included Jim Fer-

raiuolo (oboe), Orlando Wells (violin), Clarissa Howell (cello) and Carlos Baptiste (violin). The works were executed with fine musicianship and excellent command of Mozart's style. Player deserves special mention for the way she handled the clarinet solos in the final piece.

Most of these musicians have played in concerts organized by Janet Wolfe, founder of the New York Housing Authority Orchestra and mentor of countless minority instrumentalists. She was present on this occasion. At the program's conclusion, the audience of cognoscenti rewarded the performers with a standing ovation.

GOSPEL FEST



Clissy Houston



Donnie McClurkin



Hezoklah Walker



Carl Redding, A. Curtis Farrow, Bishop Donald Hilliard and George Falson backstage at McDonald's GospelFest.

(Marot Jordan photos)