

# Meistersingers Says Farewell to Audrey Wright



Audrey Wright, Director of Meistersingers

At the concert on Sunday, April 24, 2005, held in the Ball Room of Government House, the curtain came down on Audrey Wright's service to the Adventist church and the Bahamian community. She will be accompanying her husband, Mr. Carlton Wright within a few months, as he takes up an assignment as Ambassador to Cuba.

A singer, choral director, pianist, adjudicator, composer and poet, Audrey Florence Dean-Wright, comes from a line of distinguished musicians and artists. Her years were spent in the culturally rich community of Bain Town. Their story telling and the sounds of drums were common place. Her music education was attained under the tutelage of Muriel Malorie, Meta Davis Cumberbatch, and E. Clement Bethel.

She continued her studies at the Jamaica School of Music, Kingston, Jamaica, where she sang with the Fine Arts Chorale. She also taught at Kingsway Adventist Academy in Kingston. Mrs. Wright received her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the Manhattan School of Music New York. During this period she studied voice with Herta Glatz, a former singer with the Metropolitan

Opera. While in New York she also taught at Adelphia Academy and the Simon Baruch High School. She was also actively involved in the Music Ministry of the Mouth Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York, where she founded the Ladies Chorale and the Cherub Choir. She also performed as a local vocal soloist in recitals, oratorios, and as an accompanist while in New York.

As the wife of a diplomat, Mrs. Wright had the opportunity to extend her music ministry throughout and beyond the boundaries of The Bahamas. While in Miami, she conducted the Miami Temple Children's Choir. In Haiti she founded the English Choir and the Semanair Adventist Franco Haitian In Port-au-Prince, Haiti. While there, she was the soloist with the Haitian Symphony Orchestra.

During this past weekend, Mrs. Wright gave her final concert in the Bahamas as conductor of the Meistersingers before her family moves to Cuba. However, she will join the Meistersingers in St. Louis, Missouri, June 29 to July 9, 2005, when they will have a mini-concert at the 54th World General Conference Session. More than sixty thousand Adventists from around the world are planning to attend the business and devotional meetings of the Adventist world church.

The Meistersingers concerts at Government House were held in honor of Audrey Wright's friend, colleague, and mentor, Dr. Eurydice Osterman, professor of music at Oakwood College, Huntsville, Alabama.

Dr. Osterman attended the final concert on Sunday night. The special guest soloist was Dr. Angelique Clay, professor of music at Oakwood College. She thrilled the audience with her warm expression and musical styles as she sang three popular traditional Negro spirituals.

The Meistersingers is the premier performing arts choral of the Adventist Church in the Bahamas. All the members of the group are trained vocalists with a some knowledge of music.

Their melodious voices blend together to a bring rich, polished musical sound that keeps the listeners sitting on the edges of their seats.

The Meistersingers has its genesis out of the choir that was formed to sing at the funeral service for the first Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of the

Bahamas, The Right Honorable Sir Lynden O. Pindling, on September 4, 2000. They will continue to sing, with a new director, in the Bahamas and abroad. Bon Voyage Audrey!



Left: Dr. Eurydice Osterman, mentor and colleague of Audrey Wright. Center: Audrey Wright. Right: Dr. Angelique Clay, guest soloist for Meistersingers concert.



Audrey Wright and the Meistersingers at the Ball Room, Government House, Sunday night, April 24, 2005

# Work Begins On New Bahamas Academy



Work began on the new Bahamas Academy of Seventh-day Adventists this week at the Marshall Road site. In the photo above is Howard Barr, is watching as the trench is being cut.



The Bahamas Academy Secondary Division foundation is on its way. On Tuesday, April 26, 2005, workmen began cutting the footing for the multi-million dollar new complex for Adventist education in Nassau.

## Fire At Southern Adventist University Claims One Student, Injures At Least Two Others



Kelly Weimer, a junior English major from Woodridge, Illinois, died in a fire at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee. Two others were treated at a local hospital and released. [Photo: Southern Adventist University]

A 3:30 a.m. fire in a women's residence hall at Southern Adventist University claimed the life of a 20-year-old female student and sent two others to a local hospital.

Kelly Weimer, a junior English major from Woodridge, Illinois, was killed in the blaze. Treated and released at a local hospital were Jen Bigham, a freshman broadcast journalism and psychology major from Biglerville, Pennsylvania and Cassandra Snyder, a


freshman general studies student from Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. Several other residents of the dormitory were treated on-site.

"This is affecting us very deeply here at the university," says Gordon Bietz, president of the school. "Please pray for the students and the staff as we struggle to deal with this tragedy."

According to school officials, the fire broke out near a kitchenette on the third floor of Thatcher Hall, the women's residence. Twenty-two fire trucks from area fire companies responded. All residents of Thatcher Hall have been evacuated and are in a safe location on the campus.

A service will be held on campus at 8 p.m. local time on Tuesday, April 26, and campus counselors and pastors are providing assistance to the students. Exams will continue at the school, as counselors advise a continuation of normal activities to help in the healing process. At the same time, students needing special consideration will be accommodated.

**Publishing Seminar**  
**Training Seminar for Literature Evangelists**  
 Dr. Joseph Barrett, Publishing Director for West Indies Union will be the main presenter.  
 Friday, April 29, 2005, 6:30 p.m. & Saturday, April 30, 5:00 Maranatha Adventist Church, Prince Charles Drive



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