



“Jazzy Classics”

This multi-genre vocalist can serenade, scat and praise with ease

Miami vocalist Rochelle Lightfoot set to debut latest CD

By D. Kevin McNeir
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Rochelle Lightfoot says she's been singing since she could barely walk — shocking her mother by belting out an Aretha Franklin classic, “Respect,” at the tender age of 18 months, in perfect pitch. Like many gifted singers before her, she began to sing in church, also picking up a few instruments including the viola and flute. As she entered her 20s, Lightfoot, 41, began to pursue her passion for music as a professional vocalist. But, as she says, she also had to worry about “paying the bills.” Ironically, her career got a big boost when she returned from

lunch three years ago and was told that her position had been terminated. That's when she knew it was time to go after her dream. She has proven that she can tackle several musical genres: jazz, gospel, praise and worship and R&B — even a bit of country when the mood is right. “When I first began singing professionally, I was still trying to find myself,” she said. “I also had to contend with recovering from the ‘death’ of a divorce, so my message was different. By the time I found myself unemployed, I had experienced and witnessed some things. I had been writing music too and the words came from a place of pure emotion — I wanted to help others move forward in their lives. Please turn to **LIGHTFOOT 6C**



Michael Jackson statue removed

Fans wanted King of Pop out

By Ken Belson

LONDON — For decades, Michael Jackson was known for his elaborate entrances and glittery stage shows. On Wednesday, the King of Pop was hauled away in air-bubble packaging by four burly stone-masons.

It was an unceremonious end to his nearly three-year run at Fulham's stadium, Craven Cottage. After 90 minutes of chiseling, sawing and hacking, Jackson left the building, horizontally, on the back of a truck.

He will not be missed by Fulham fans. Since April 2011, a nearly eight-foot statue of Jackson, made of Jesmonite, stood facing the Thames, behind the home stands. A large sign that read “Michael Jackson the Tribute” hung next to Jackson, who stood atop black granite with a sequined jacket, an ammunition belt and a glove on his right hand.

His presence was incongruous in the extreme. Mohamed



—Photo: Andrew Testa

Since April 2011, a nearly eight-foot statue of Michael Jackson, stood facing the Thames, behind the home stands.

al-Fayed, the team's eccentric former owner, who called Jackson a friend, had the statue built even though Jackson seemed to care little about soccer and attended only one Fulham match.

Fulham's fans were happy with Fayed, who spent lavishly to lift the club's fortunes. They helped pay for a tasteful and far more expensive bronze statue of Johnny Haynes, perhaps the team's greatest player, which stands at the other end of the stadium.

While Jackson's fans traveled from far and wide to pay their respects, in the masculine world of English soccer, the homage to Jackson was considered a joke.

“It's rubbish,” said Andy Hunt, a longtime fan who stood near the statue before Tuesday's League Cup game against Everton, drinking beer with his friend, Malcolm Apter. “I don't object to the person. If it was in bronze, maybe. But it's tacky.”

Fayed — who bought Fulham in 1997, a few months before his son, Dodi, died in a car crash with Diana, Princess of Wales — was unrepentant.



TARELL ALVIN MCCRANEY



KYLE ABRAHAM

24 recipients named MacArthur Fellows

By Felicia R. Lee

The dancer-choreographer Kyle Abraham, who recalled relying on food stamps just three years ago, was among the 13 men and 11 women officially named MacArthur fellows on Wednesday. Besides the imprimatur of achievement and future promise, the 2013 fellowships from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation come with a sweetened stipend of \$625,000 paid over five years.

As in the past, some of the winners are well known, in

their disciplines or on a broader stage, while others have been working quietly for years. The artists are Donald Antrim, 55, an associate professor in the writing program at Columbia University and the author of “The Verificationist,” a novel about a meeting of psychoanalysts; Jeremy Denk, 43, the concert pianist on the faculty at the Bard College Conservatory of Music and Mannes College the New School for Music; Vijay Iyer, 41, the jazz pianist and composer known for collaborations with poets; Tarell Please turn to **FELLOWS 3C**

Fost female anthems are feminine or liberating

By Mark Joseph

“That's weird,” I thought when I came across an interview with Olivia Newton-John, the legendary singer who had delivered one of the sexiest songs of the 1980s, Physical. Far removed from her vixen image, Newton-John was recounting her embarrassment about the song's music video and her efforts to tone down the song's overt sexuality. It turns out that the song — once ranked as one of Billboard's top 50 sexiest songs of all time and one that, for then-teenagers like me, charted the outlines of



ANITA WARD

female sexuality — was written by two men. Newton-John's confession raises a question: How many other

songs performed by women that have defined female sexuality in pop culture weren't written by women?

MALE DREAMS

The answer, it seems, is plenty. Many, if not most, of the sexually-charged female pop anthems of recent decades were based on the wishful thinking of male songwriters who persuaded female singers to express their desires, in the process confusing millions of members of the opposite sex about how women really view sexuality. Please turn to **ANTHEMS 3C**

“Sister Betty Says I Do” — musings about matrimony

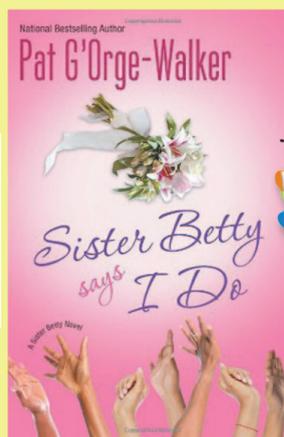
By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Miami Times writer

The “Save the Date!” notices went out months before.

You had the hall you wanted. The dress made you look like an angel, the cake was magnificent. Your official invitations were dropped in the mail on a Saturday and the actual day arrived in a heartbeat. You got married!



WALKER



Everybody loves a good wedding, and yours was the best. But in the new novel “Sister Betty Says I Do” by Pat G'Orge-Walker, there

The BOOK CORNER

were lots of obstacles littering the aisle.

In the small town of Pelzer, everybody knew Sister Betty Becton. Please turn to **WALKER 3C**