



The Indiana Historical Society

presents

A Hampton Sisters Tribute

Sunday November 16, 2003

3 p.m.

Indiana History Center Theater



A Hampton Sisters Tribute

Honoring:

Aletra Hampton

Virtue Hampton

Aletra, born in 1918, and Virtue, born in 1922, were two of 12 children born to Clarke "Deacon" Hampton and Laura (Burford) Hampton. Born in Middletown, Ohio, the Hampton children had musical instruments placed in their hands at the early age of three.

In the late 1920s, Deacon Hampton took his family on the road. Called "Deacon Hampton and the Cotton Pickers," the family band traveled throughout the Eastern United States and into the deepest parts of the segregated American South. The group performed as a family band, and was enjoyed by many audiences as a novelty act because of the young ages of many of the Hampton children.

In 1938, the Hampton Family moved to Shelbyville, Indiana, and later to Indianapolis following an extended booking at the Cotton Club and the Sunset Tavern. During WWII, the family act disbanded as the brothers went to war to fight for their country. The Hampton Sisters created their own group called the Hamptonians.

After the war ended in 1945, the Hampton's reunited and began traveling once again, this time under the direction of oldest son, Duke. While much of the family still played in the band, they needed more musicians to complete the sections. Local musicians such as Alonzo "Pookie" Johnson, who still plays with the sisters, and Tom Whitted, who eventually married Virtue, joined the band. Although they played at almost every nightclub in the city, the Hamptons were best known for their live shows at Stein's, located at 1110 North Meridian Street. Although times were tough, music served as an escape for the sisters, helping them put their worries aside. The Hampton Sisters continued to perform in Indianapolis for the next twenty years.

Carmalita, one of the four sisters, passed away in 1987 and Dawn moved to New York. Aletra and Virtue still play frequently around Indianapolis at various social functions, fundraisers and for school children as well. The band currently features Aletra on piano and vocals, Virtue on bass and vocals, Alonzo "Pookie" Johnson on saxophone and Larry Clark on drums.

Recently another milestone was reached by Aletra and Virtue. With the help of Pookie and Larry, the Hampton Sisters recorded their first full length CD, right here in the Indiana History Center Theater. The album will allow the Hampton Sisters to continue to bring joy to their fans for many years to come.

Program

Emcee — Chuck Workman

Welcome.....	Judy O'Bannon
Across Indiana segment.....	WFYI Television
<i>Things Ain't What They Used to Be</i>	Jack Gilfoy, Marvin Chandler, Frank Smith
Presentation.....	Ernie Reno, President, Avatar Communications Group
<i>What a Wonderful World</i>	Everett Greene, Russell Webster, Jack Gilfoy, Marvin Chandler, Frank Smith
<i>Speak Low</i>	Keni Washington, Jack Gilfoy, Marvin Chandler, Frank Smith
“Preserving the Story”	Sal Cilella, President & CEO, Indiana Historical Society
<i>Star Dust</i>	David Young, Jack Gilfoy, Marvin Chandler, Frank Smith
<i>Route 66</i>	Mary Moss, James Pratt, Jack Gilfoy, Marvin Chandler, Frank Smith
<i>Satin Doll</i>	David Young, Mingo Jones, Carl Hines, Jack Gilfoy, Frank Smith
<i>Stormy Mondays</i>	Charisse Hampton-Moses, Larry Clark, Carl Hines, Frank Smith
<i>God Bless the Child</i>	Tamar Gray, Maceo Hampton, Melvin Rhyne, Jack Gilfoy, Frank Smith
Documentary Video.....	Jonathan McClure
<i>Duke's Place</i>	Aletra Hampton, Virtue Hampton, Pookie Johnson, Larry Clark
<i>Summer Time</i>	Aletra Hampton, Virtue Hampton, Pookie Johnson, Larry Clark
Presentation.....	Indianapolis Coalition of 100 Black Women
<i>Kansas City</i>	Aletra Hampton, Virtue Hampton, Pookie Johnson, Larry Clark and guest musicians

Special Thanks to the following musicians who have generously donated their time and talent:

Hampton Family:

Tamar Gray, vocals
Darius Hampton, saxophone
Maceo Hampton, trumpet
Charisse Hampton-Moses, vocals
Henry Whitted, saxophone

Hampton Sisters' Band:

Lawrence Clark, drums
Alonso "Pookie" Johnson, saxophone

Rhythm Section:

Marvin Chandler, piano
Jack Gilfof, drums
Frank Smith, bass

Invited musical guests:

David Baker, cello
Jimmy Coe, saxophone
Ray Cumberland, drums
Dick Dickinson, drums
Everett Greene, vocals
Carl Hines, piano
Mingo Jones, bass
Mary Moss, vocals
James Pratt, trombone
Clifford Ratliff, trumpet
Melvin Rhyne, keyboards
Keni Washington, saxophone
Russell Webster, saxophone
David Young, saxophone

Concert Coordinator: Mark Szobody

Concert Consultant: Jack Gilfof

Technician: Brock Pickett

Project coordinators:

Catherine Bennett, Brenda Myers, Mark Szobody

We Also Wish to Thank:

Kahn's Katering, Joe Husar
Dean Johnson Design
The Hampton Family
Jack Gilfof
Chuck Workman
Judy O'Bannon
Cathy & Jonathan McClure
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Peine
WFYI, Across Indiana
Indianapolis Coalition of 100 Black Women
Wilma Gibbs
Photographers Brent Smith and David Turk
Staff of the IHS
Avatar Communications Group
Dura Builders, Inc.

The Compact Disc, *The Hampton Sisters: A Jazz Tribute*, is available for purchase in the History Market today for \$14.95.

Proceeds from this concert will assist the Hampton Sisters obtain new housing.

Additional donations to the Hampton Sisters can be made, payable to the IHS, at the Box Office.

Thank you for your support of this project!



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