

Horace Ott



Musician

Horace Ott, record producer, arranger, conductor, composer, and pianist, was born in St. Matthews, South Carolina. He was educated at John Ford High School and graduated from Wilkinson High School in Orangeburg where he wrote an arrangement for Duke Ellington's "Satin Doll". Ott matriculated at South Carolina State University earning a Bachelor's degree.

While on leave in New York from the U.S. Army, Horace states that he "accidentally rediscovered Gloria, my childhood friend from home in St. Matthews. We began a lifetime together of music and family."

Ott further states, "While I enjoy a life that allows me to perform, compose, and orchestrally arrange music, this life also allows me to artistically demonstrate my God given talents to the world in many genres of music. I consider myself a very fortunate musician to have received so many honors for simply doing my job. I also feel a sense of guilt, since I tend to enjoy every minute of this, my self-chosen, but, God-given, life's work."

Horace was privileged to arrange, record and/or conduct with some of his favorite artists. Among them are Sam Cook, Nat King Cole, Count Basie with Joe Williams, Dizzy Gillespie, Nina Simone, Shirley Bassey, Aretha Franklin, Solomon Burke, Roberta Flack, Johnny Mathis, Roberto Carlos, George Benson, Jerry Butler, Carla Thomas, the Shirelles, Little Anthony and the Imperials, Joe DeFrancesco, the Stylistics, and others.

Some of Ott's arrangements and/or recordings range from "You Don't Have to Be a Star" for Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis; recording two heavyweight boxing champions—Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier; to "Lush Life" for Joe Williams.

He has music in a variety of productions to include 22 Nina Simone albums, 40 Eric Burden and the Animals albums, 80 albums by Santa Esmeralda featuring Leroy Gomez and one song, "YMCA," that is in more than 200 titled albums. Ott's arrangement of "YMCA" by the Village People is now circling the earth in a time capsule.



Special and greatly treasured moments for Horace Ott were his performances at the White House, Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, "The Grammy's," "The Essence Awards," the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center, the David Letterman Show, *Saturday Night Live*, and the Jackson Family Christmas Show.

Ott recalls a memorable two-week stint at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas with the Count Basie Orchestra and Basie's legendary crooner, Joe Williams. After Ott collaborated with Williams on the singer's 1970 album "Worth Waiting For," Williams invited Ott to play the piano and conduct the Basie Orchestra while he performed songs for the album.

October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						Colin Powell was appointed first African American chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1989. 1
Thurgood Marshall was sworn in, becoming the first African American Supreme Court Justice in 1967. 2	Nat King Cole was the first Black performer to host his own TV show in 1956. 3	National Black Convention met in Syracuse NY in 1864. 4	Congresswoman Yvonne Burke was born in 1932. 5	Fisk Jubilee Singers began national tour in 1871. 6	Toni Morrison became first African American to win Nobel Prize in literature. 7	Jesse Jackson was born in 1941. 8
O.B. Clare patented the rail trestle in 1888. 9	Columbus Day Singer Ben Vereen was born in 1946. 10	A. Miles patented the elevator in 1887. 11	Richard ("Dick") Gregory was born in 1932. 12	Arna W. Bontemps, noted poet, was born in 1902. 13	Martin Luther King, Jr. awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. 14	Clarence Thomas confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1992. 15
John Brown led attack on Harper's Ferry in 1859. 16	Capital Savings Bank opened in Washington DC in 1888. 17	Novelist Terry McMillan was born in 1951. 18	The U.S. Navy was opened to African American women in 1944. 19	John Merrick organized North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, 1898. 20	"Dizzy" Gillespie was born in Cheraw SC in 1917. 21	Clarence S. Green became the first African American certified in neurological surgery. 22
The NAACP petitioned the United Nations about racial injustice in 1947. 23	Jackie Robinson died in 1972. 24	Benjamin O. Davis became the first African American general in U.S. Army in 1940. 25	Inventor T. Marshall patented the fire extinguisher in 1872. 26	D. B. Downing, inventor, patented his street letter box in 1891. 27	Founder of The Underground Railroad, Levi Coffin, was born in 1798. 28	The Supreme Court ordered end to segregation in schools "at once" in 1969. 29
Daylight Savings Time Ends Richard Arrington was elected the first Black mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, in 1979. 30	Halloween Ethel Waters, actor and singer, was born in 1900. 31					