GWENDOLYN BRADLEY

International Opera Singer

Little did Gwendolyn Bradley's grandparents know that their little granddaughter crying all day long next to them in the summer fields they tended would one day use that developing lung power to entertain thousands as she sang in opera theaters around the world. Her parents, public school educators, involved in the civil rights movement at the time, played a recording of Leontyne Price singing "We Shall Overcome." Imitating those tones, they knew she had a gift.

Ms. Bradley, of Bishopville, South Carolina, was recognized by her high school music teacher, in Hartsville, at an early age, to have a remarkable voice, and Ms. Bradley received voice lessons at Coker College. She received further classical training at North Carolina School of the Arts, (B. Mus.), Curtis School of Music in Philadelphia and the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia.

A finalist in the National Metropolitan Opera Competition, and as the youngest singer on the roster, she made her MET debut in 1981 as the Nightingale in "L'Enfant et les sortilèges." For nine seasons the coloratura soprano was heard in leading roles such as Gilda, in "Rigoletto", Blonchen in "Entführung", and Zerbinetta in "Ariadne". She also appeared as the mechanical doll Olympia in "Tales of Hoffman," which was aired on a PBS special broadcast. Renowned conductors such as James Levine, Riccardo Muti, Loren Maazel and Frübeck de Burgos helped to shape Ms. Bradley's talent into one that was in demand in America and Europe.

Performing on European stages, she found an artistic home at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, becoming one of their leading international stars. A versatile artist, Ms. Bradley's recitals were anticipated throughout Europe and United States, from New York's Carnegie Hall to Warsaw to Tokyo. *The New York Times* described her voice as having a "distinctly radiant timbre." Ms. Bradley was honored to perform in audience for Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, and the queens of Spain and Sweden, always proud to claim South Carolina as her roots.

Ms. Bradley continues to share her knowledge and expertise with young artists. She teaches at Nyack College and the Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, NY.

MARCH

South Carolina AFRICAN AMERICAN History Calendar

Presented by

Learn more about the people featured in this calendar at www.scafricanamerican.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Writer Ralph Ellison was born in 1914	2 NBA star, Karl "The Mailman" Malone was born in 1954
3 AME Zion Church organized in S.C. in 1867	4 Poll Tax ruled unconstitutional in 1966	5 William H. Hastie confirmed as Federal District Judge of the Virgin Islands in 1937	6 Arthur Mitchell, dancer and choreographer, was born in 1934	7 Slavery abolished in New York in 1799	8 Pearl Bailey was born in 1918	9 Freedom's Journal founded in 1827
10 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS Jackie Robinson made his professional baseball debut with the Montreal Royals in 1946	11 Charlie Pride, country singer, was born in 1938	12 Nat King Cole was born in 1919	13 *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe was published in 1852	14 Selma march began in 1965	15 Marcus Garvey, Black nationalist, arrived in America from Jamaica, 1916	16 Clifton Wharton is sworn in as ambassador to Norway in 1961
17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY Harriet Tubman died in 1913	18 Lorraine Hansberry's play, Raisin in the Sun, opened on Broadway in 1959	19 James B. Parsons became the first Black chief judge of a federal court in 1975	20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING Fannie Lou Hamer, activist, dies, 1977	21 Quincy Jones, composer and musician, was born in 1933	22 Los Angeles Sentinel founded by Leon H. Washington in 1933	23 Dr. Jerome H. Holland elected to the board of directors of the New York Stock Exchange in 1972
24 PALM SUNDAY Carole Gist was crowned first Black Miss USA in 1990	25 PASSOVER BEGINS Garrett A. Morgan, scientist and inventor, was born in 1877	26 Blanche Kelso Bruce of Mississippi elected to full term in U.S. Senate in 1975	27 Dred Scott decision handed down by Supreme Court in 1857	28 First cadets graduate from flying school at Tuskegee Institute in 1942	29 GOOD FRIDAY Senate refuses to seat P.B.S. Pinchback of Louisiana in 1876	30 15th Amendement was enacted in 1870
31 EASTER SUNDAY Jack Johnson, first Black heavyweight champion, was born in 1878						