



ROBERTA FLACK

With her band & State Orchestras

Bluehawk Presents in collaboration with State Orchestras, multi-Grammy awarded Jazz, Soul and R&B legend **Ms Roberta Flack and her band**, for concerts in Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Sydney, Hobart and Perth.

Roberta joins the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra on Friday 30 & Saturday 31 January and continues throughout February with The Queensland Orchestra, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Symphony, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

The only female recipient of consecutive Song of the Year Grammy Awards, Roberta received her first triple Grammys in 1973 for Song and Record of the Year with *The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face* and Best Pop Vocal by a Duo for *Where Is The Love* (duet with Donny Hathaway). Roberta earned another three Grammys in 1974 for Record and Song of the Year and Best Pop Vocal by a Female for *Killing Me Softly With His Song*.

Her sophisticated banquet of romantic classic hits also includes *Feel Like Makin' Love*, *Where is the Love*, *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow*, *The Closer I Get To You*, *Tonite I Celebrate My Love*, *Trade Winds*, *Don't Make Me Wait Too Long*, *Only Heaven Can Wait*, *Oasis*, *'Til The Morning Comes*, *And So It Goes*, *Back Together Again*, *Jesse*, *You Are My Heaven* and *Set The Night To Music*.

Roberta discovered her earliest musical influences at the Baptist church where she was drawn to the spontaneous, raunchy and full-of life gospel from Mahalia Jackson and Sam Cooke. She gravitated towards classical music in her teens and earned second place honours in a state wide contest at thirteen playing a Scarlatti sonata. Enrolled at Howard University on a full music scholarship at fifteen, she was conducting her sorority vocal quartet and accompanying pop, jazz and opera singers within a year. Roberta changed her major from piano to voice and then to music education, becoming the first black student teacher at an all-white school, before graduating at nineteen.

The sudden death of her father forced Roberta to take up teaching to support herself and it wasn't until she returned to Washington, that her professional music career began to take shape. She was the house player at the posh Tivoli Club and performed solo at the 1520 Club but it wasn't until she focussed on Pop music, that her reputation spread. At Mr Henry's on Capital Hill, Roberta would often share the stage with patrons Burt Bacharach, Woody Allen, Al Hibbler, Johnny Mathis and even Liberace for one night, in an area especially constructed for her.

Jazz musician Les McCann 'discovered' Roberta playing a benefit in 1968 and arranged an Atlantic Records audition. She played forty two songs straight for producer Joel Dorn over 3 hours and recorded her debut album *First Take*, three month's later. *The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face* was released as a single three year's later, when Clint Eastwood chose it for the *Play Misty For Me* soundtrack.

Her second album *Chapter Two* was arranged by Donny Hathaway and they recorded their first duet *You've Got A Friend* in 1971, the same year Roberta released her third album *Quiet Fire* and performed at the star-laden Soul To Soul Festival in Ghana.

The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face topped all charts (except Country) in 1972, coinciding with the release of *Roberta Flack and Donny Hathaway* and celebrations in Washington for the first Roberta Flack Day. Roberta was presented with the Capital's Official Proclamation, Down Beat Top Female Vocalist and D.C. youth awards, Gold records for the single *The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face* and *First Take* and *Quiet Fire* albums and receptions at the Kennedy Centre and Congressional Caucus Room, with a concert finale with the Lincoln Memorial as backdrop.

The follow-up single *Feel Like Makin' Love* from Roberta's first self-produced album resulted in her eighth million-seller in less than two and a half years. *The Closer I Get To You* duet with Donny Hathaway and *25th of Last December* off her second self-produced Gold album, *Blue Lights in the Basement* were released three years later and heralded two successful collaborations *Roberta Flack featuring Donny Hathaway* and *Live and More* with Peabo Bryson in 1980. *Born to Love*, the 1983 Flack/Bryson album collaboration, produced another smash hit *Tonite I Celebrate My Love For You*.

Roberta composed and produced the 1982 soundtrack for the film *Bustin' Loose*, released singles *You Stopped Loving Me* and *Just When I Need You* and recorded *I'm The One*, while Atlantic released *The Best of Roberta Flack*, eleven tracks defining popular music throughout the seventies.

Between 1984 and 2000, Roberta contributed to the albums of Japanese saxophone legend Sadao Watanabe, Yoko Ono's tribute to John Lennon *Every Man Has A Woman Who Loves Him*, the *White Knights'* soundtrack (*People On A String*), released the single *We Shall Overcome* to commemorate Martin Luther King's birthday and recorded three albums -1988's *Oasis* produced another #1 R&B single, 1991's *Set The Night To Music* and the Grammy nominated, *Roberta* in 1994. She toured Hong Kong, Japan twice with Miles Davis and Tokyo's Japanese Symphony, performed in Canada with Miles and back home with orchestras including the National Symphony & Marvin Hamlisch.

Roberta hosted *Brunch with Roberta Flack*, a weekly radio program syndicated to 30 major metropolitan markets for three years, released *The Christmas Album* and another for Disney's *Beauty and the Beast Enchanted Christmas* with Peabo Bryson, performed at Carnegie Hall with Sting, Madonna & Elton John in a Rainforest Foundation Benefit and appeared with the Muppets on Sesame Street. 1999 was a stellar year with a coveted STAR on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, a South African tour where she performed in front of self confessed fan, Nelson Mandela and was acknowledged in VH-1's *100 Greatest Women of Rock & Roll* (along with other trail-blazers Tina Turner, Aretha Franklin and Madonna) and *100 Greatest Love Songs* tributes.

So far this decade, Roberta has united artists for the Spike Lee/Nile Rogers movie *We Are Family* and *Come Back to D.C.* campaign in the aftermath of September 11, released her first concert DVD, third Christmas album, *Holiday* and is currently working on two separate studio projects: one album of Beatles' songs and another containing new material written and performed by *The Real Artists Symposium*, a talented group of multi-instrumentalist, producers and performers. *The Very Best of Roberta Flack* compilation album was released by Rhino Records in 2006.

Roberta is an outspoken advocate for artists' rights and a passionate believer in inspiration as a catalyst for education. The Roberta Flack School of Music offers disadvantaged young people from the Bronx, opportunities to express themselves through creative experiences and accepts students at no cost. It is just one of the many 'hands on' projects where Roberta gives back and is entirely funded by donations.

Roberta shows no signs of slowing down her touring schedule having performed in Turkey, Argentina, Japan and recently South Africa before heading to Australia and New Zealand in early 2009.

Don't miss the beautifully performed timeless signature tunes from one of the most significant and celebrated artists, Ms Roberta Flack, on this very special tour with her band and State Orchestras.

For more information, please contact Bluehawk Presents national tour publicist Sue Camilleri on 08 89 412 512/0408 412 512, email: soozcam@bigpond.net.au or State Orchestra publicists.

ROBERTA FLACK TOUR DATES:

MELBOURNE (with MSO)
Fri 30 & Sat 31 January

The Arts Centre, Hamer Hall
www.mso.com.au & Ticketmaster Tel: 1300 136 166

BRISBANE (with TQO)
Wed 4 February

Brisbane Entertainment Centre
www.ticketek.com Tel: 132 849 & outlets

ADELAIDE (with ASO)
Sat 7 February

Adelaide Festival Theatre
www.bass.net.au BASS 131 246 Dial N Charge & outlets

SYDNEY (with SS)
Thurs 12 & Sat 14 February
Sun 15 February ** 2pm Matinee

Sydney Opera House
www.sydneyorchestra.com Tel: 02 8215 4600
www.ticketek.com Tel: 132 849 & outlets
www.sydneyoperahouse.com Tel: 02 9250 7777

HOBART (with TSO)
Tues 17 February

Wrest Point Casino
www.tso.com.au Freecall 1800 001 190

PERTH (with WASO)
Sat 21 February

Pioneer Women's Memorial, Kings Park
www.waso.com.au Tel: 08 9326 0000
www.bocsticketing.com.au Tel: 08 9484 1133 & outlets

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