

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARTISTS ASKED TO HALT JIM CROW
DATES IN MISSISSIPPI

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI - A concert pianist has joined a growing list of performers and public figures who refuse to appear before segregated audiences in this state.

Civil rights groups here and in Atlanta, Georgia, said they had asked three other performers - opera singer Eleanor Steber, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and Jose Molina's Bailes Espanoles - have been asked to cancel segregated Mississippi dates.

The pianist, Gary Graffman, canceled a February 27 appearance at Jackson's Municipal Auditorium after he received protests from Austin Moore, chairman of the Cultural and Artistic Committee of the Nonviolent Agitation Association of College Pupils, composed of students at predominately Negro Tougaloo Southern Christian College.

Israeli pianist David Bar Illan refused to replace Graffman at the concert, but another pianist, Hans Richter-Haaser appeared in Graffman's place.

Two Negro students and a Yale University student from England were arrested November 2, 1963 when they tried to attend a concert by the Royal Philharmonic of London at the city's auditorium. Charges against the three were dropped when a representative from the British Consul's office in New Orleans appeared at their trial.

Protests from the Tougaloo group and from the Atlanta-based Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) have convinced a number of artists and public figures to bypass scheduled Mississippi performances. The stars of television's "Bonanza" and "Beverly Hillbillies" shows and the members of the touring "Hootenanny" canceled Jackson dates when informed of the city's segregation policies. So did trumpeter Al Hirt, who was slated to appear at a segregated benefit for the March of Dimes.

Baseball great Stan (the man) Musial canceled a February 24 speaking engagement before an all-white group in Jackson after SNCC Chairman John Lewis asked him to. Musial, newly named Director of the President's Committee On Physical Fitness, made no mention of Lewis' request when he notified the sponsors of his talk he would not appear.

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James Webb, administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Agency, canceled a speech before another segregated group after protests from SNCC and the Tougaloo student group.

Miss Steber, scheduled to appear in Greenwood, Mississippi on March 16, the Pittsburgh Symphony, set for Columbus, Mississippi on March 15, and the Jose Molina Bailes Espanoles, booked for a March 9 appearance in Clarksdale, have all been asked to cancel by SNCC head John Lewis.

Lewis said attempts to persuade the Chicago Opera Ballet and the American Ballet Theatre to cancel segregated appearances had failed. "However," Lewis said, "Negroes were admitted to a speech made February 20 by Howard K. Smith, EBS news commentator at Ole Miss." Lewis said Congressman Robert McClory (R-Ill.) had canceled a February 20 speech before an all-white group of Mississippi Republican women.