



Best of Kansas City 2006

September 26, 2006

People & Places

Best Plaza Personalities

Maurice Hayes and Shanice Hayes

The singing duo of Maurice Hayes and his 12-year-old daughter, Shanice, have become a popular attraction at the County Club Plaza since setting up on the sidewalk outside McCormick & Schmick's last Thanksgiving. Using backing tracks, they perform two sets on Friday and Saturday nights when the weather and their schedules allow. The elder Hayes is an accomplished performer, having graduated from the Armed Forces School of Music. Shanice Hayes was playing violin on the Plaza with her older brother, Shaheed, a sax man, when she asked her father to put together a list of songs they could sing. With material ranging from big band to country to R&B to misty-eyed classics such as "What a Wonderful World," the act draws crowds in the hundreds, and the gig has led to several bookings at weddings. Hayes says people frequently ask when they'll see Shanice on *American Idol*. "She loves going out there and performing," he says. We love to hear them both.

Pop Rush Press Release

MAURICE + SHANICE HAYES SHED TEARS TO "YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND" ON AMERICA'S GOT TALENT

by: Jessica Sager, May 15, 2012



Street performers Maurice and Shanice Hayes were another father-daughter duo to hit the ‘America's Got Talent’ stage last night (May 14), performing a touching rendition of ‘You’ve Got a Friend’ that left many in tears — including themselves.

“My dad is like my best friend,” Shanice said in her opening montage. “I’m nervous,” she admitted, “but I hope we can show how much street performers can bring to the stage tonight.”

Before Shanice began to sing, judges Sharon Osbourne and Howard Stern couldn’t help but remark on how beautiful she is. We bet her papa’s proud! Once Shanice, 18, and Maurice, 62, began to sing, you could hear a pin drop in the studio. They absolutely brought the house down, receiving standing ovations from the audience and the panel.

Both Shanice and Maurice cried at the conclusion of their performance when the judges began their usual banter. “You move me. You guys are spectacular together,” Howard Stern said. “I think every father in America watching is saying, ‘This is the kind of relationship I want with my daughter.’ ... This is what I call perfection.”

Howie Mandel agreed with Stern and elaborated on Shanice’s raw vocal talent, calling her an “angel.” Sharon Osbourne also gushed, “You moved everyone in this theater tonight.” Even Nick Cannon teared up — but of course he denied it! Watch the clip below and see if you don’t start weeping, too.

TELEVISION | 'The New Normal,' 'America's Got Talent' and 'Survivor'

KC ON TV

A local child actress,
father-daughter duo
and fitness guru
light up the small
screen this month.

By TIM ENGLE
The Kansas City Star

Plenty of reality shows are still fouling the TV airwaves, but we think we've come up with one you'd actually want to watch. Call it, oh, "The Cutie, the Hottie and the Dynamic Duo." Best of all? An all-Kansas City cast!

OK, so that show doesn't actually exist, but the cast members do — they'll just be on different channels. Here's your TV guide to four local people who'll soon be featured on big-network TV.

The 'New Normal' cutie

BEBE WOOD

She's from Fairway.

"The New Normal" premieres

MAURICE AND SHANICE HAYES

They're from Kansas City.

"America's Got Talent"

CARTER WILLIAMS

He's from Shawnee.

"Survivor: Philippines"

PHOTOS FROM NBC AND CBS. ILLUSTRATION BY
HÉCTOR CASANOVA | THE KANSAS CITY STAR



Kansas City.com Press Releases

Father-Daughter Duo: Letting The Good Times Roll

Posted By: Joe Lambe

The Kansas City Star: Posted on Wednesday, April 23, 2008



The singer's long and silky black hair swung over her white dress as she stepped forward, raised her mike and nailed a chorus on beat.

A gray-haired, finger-popping man in a sports coat faced her with his mike. Together, they belted, "Let it roll, let it roll."

During "Let the Good Times Roll" and other old standards, people tapped feet or fingers at the Mission Springs Assisted Living Residence in Mission.

After the set, it was time for singer Shanice Hayes to take off her hoop earrings and return to sweatshirts and eighth grade. Her father and singing partner, Maurice Hayes, 57, took his 14-year-old daughter home to east Kansas City.

The duo does hundreds of shows a year at places like restaurants, weddings, private parties, retirement homes and the Country Club Plaza. This summer, Shanice is working on her first solo album and the father-daughter team are booked as far away as San Francisco and Los Angeles.

At their Kansas City home, they sat at the living room table and discussed music, the past and the future.

When Hayes says, "music has been really good to me," he's talking about what kept him out of combat during most of 18 years in the military and about a profession that paid to raise his seven children, ranging from 13 to 23 years old.

Now he hopes music gets Shanice a college scholarship, which means he might someday be able to retire or just teach music again.

And Shanice wants, well ...

She loves to sing but, she adds, "I want to go to medical school; I'm staying focused on that."

However, ask her if she'll do it even if she becomes a famous singer, and she sits straight up in her hard-backed chair.

"I don't think so," she said with big eyes. "If I become a star, that's my greatest dream."

Star, scholarship or both, her father is doing all he can to help. He knows what musical skill can do.

He told his story:

He joined the Navy out of high school in 1968, served two combat tours in Vietnam on a river patrol boat, became seriously ill with malaria and left the service.

His only singing experience then was church singing as a boy, and he started singing in a gospel group. Missouri politician Thomas Eagleton saw him perform and urged him to rejoin the Navy and go to military music school.

Kansas City.com Press Releases (con't)



He sang with Navy bands doing jazz, pop, rock, classical, a little of everything. Then he taught music in the military and quit the Navy to teach it on the outside.

He was a civilian teaching Air Force musicians until his job got cut. In 1981, he joined the Air Force and again was a singing soldier. He sang classical music with a 35-piece band in Japan. In 1983, he sang the national anthem for the U.S. ambassador in the Philippines. He met his wife and mother of his children at that gathering.

He retired from the Air Force in 1992 and became a working musician, a singer and piano player. More than two years ago, he decided to start a trio with Shanice and his older teenage son, Shaheed, who plays saxophone and flute.

Shanice sang and played violin then, but she and her brother fought too much, she said.

“I liked to perform and he liked to perform and he said, ‘You perform too much, let me.’ ”

Her brother, now 19 and in college on a music scholarship, also hated violin music.

“We put the violin in the closet and let her play it with the orchestra at school,” Hayes said.

Now he and his daughter do what he calls a cheaper band alternative — two singers, two stools and a small public address system for background music. Like the military musicians, they can serve up what any crowd likes in wholesome music, Hayes said, “anything from Luther Vandross to Johnny Cash.”

The act starts at home, his daughter said, when her father gives her a song and tells her to make it her own. Her mother also coaches her on singing, appearance and stage moves.

She practices an hour a day, she said, but otherwise is an average Lincoln Middle School teen who likes going to movies and malls with friends. Offstage, she said, she can seem shy and she is working on that.

You may see them again singing on the Country Club Plaza this year. The tips and jobs they get from performing there allow them to do low-cost shows at nursing homes, Hayes said, which is a community service that is good for his daughter.

Lately, he said, he thinks Shanice might have to work harder and play piano or violin as she sings, which would give her even more chance at that scholarship. Shanice didn't comment on that.

So stay tuned. Will Shanice become a singing star, a doctor, a singing doctor? And will the violin be taken from the closet?

Kansas City Star Press Release: June 10, 2012

.Father-daughter duo charms KC audiences and 'America's Got Talent'

By **BLAKE URSCH**

The Kansas City Star

Posted on Sunday, Jun 10, 2012 07:14 PM

The couple share a seat in a booth, not touching their food, looking ahead with dreamy smiles and nodding along to the smooth music filling the restaurant bar.

It's a wonderful world,

I'm just walking on air.

Other customers look up from their plates and away from their dinnertime chatter, as father and daughter Maurice and Shanice Hayes, draped in blue light, take turns singing the Frank Sinatra standard — Maurice, 62, in a black jacket and bow tie, Shanice, 18, in a white cardigan and dress.

The duo has spent the last six years performing on the streets of the Country Club Plaza, at private events and, occasionally, in the bar of Cascone's Italian Restaurant on North Oak Trafficway.

Last month, they landed an on-air audition on NBC's "America's Got Talent" — charming judges Howard Stern, Sharon Osbourne and Howie Mandel and earning a spot in the next round with their sentimental rendition of Carole King's "You've Got a Friend."

"When a father and daughter like you come on, you move me," Stern said. "You guys are spectacular together. I think every father in America right now is saying 'Wow. That's the kind of relationship I want with my daughter' ... This is what I call perfection."

In a corner of the Northland bar, Maurice snaps along as he sings, bopping and swaying to the instrumentals that come from the sound system they've brought with them. He's a crooner. His songs float across the room, smoothly, gently.

Shanice looks focused, stern, ready to prove herself. She belts her lyrics with a startling depth. Her voice is heavy



Press Releases / Articles of Interest

Father-daughter duo charms KC audiences and ‘America’s Got Talent’ (con’t)

By **BLAKE URSCH**

The Kansas City Star

Music guided the Hayeses’ lives long before father and daughter started singing together.

“I’ve always been interested in music. Always, since I was knee-high to a grasshopper,” says Maurice, sitting on the living room couch in the East Side home he shares with his wife, Beth, who books their gigs, and their children.

He points out the window to a white house next door, the one he grew up in, and talks about singing on that porch, banging on the piano and annoying an old neighbor woman.

After two combat tours on a Navy river patrol boat in Vietnam, he graduated from the U.S. Armed Forces School of Music. He taught vocal music and performed for the school, singing all over the world, and then joined the Air Force’s Strategic Air Command Band. In 1993 he came back to his family, working as an independent music contractor when Shanice, the youngest of seven, was a baby.

“I’ve always had an interest in music, ’cause I saw my dad doing music all the time,” says Shanice, who used to watch tapes of Maurice singing in the Air Force. Back in the day, it was a whole family affair. When Shanice was 5, Maurice would bring her and her brothers to churches around the area, ranging from Christian to Unitarian to the Baha’i faith. The kids would sing, and Maurice would accompany them on piano.

It was Shanice’s idea to perform on the Plaza when she was 12. But she didn’t start with her father.

“I started out with my brother because I played violin and my brother played the saxophone. And we couldn’t get along or anything,” she says.

“They could *not* get along,” adds Maurice later, chuckling. “You know, that’s the way kids are.”

Inevitably, they split up, and Shanice realized she could get more attention from singing instead of playing the violin. So she asked her dad to come help her set up and run the music. Their duet performances just started happening.

Press Releases / Articles of Interest

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By **BLAKE URSCH**

The Kansas City Star

On the Plaza, they set up outside Scooter’s Coffeehouse or in Penguin Court with their sound system and lights. They put out a tip bucket, fliers, business cards and demo CDs for interested passersby.

The Plaza is where everything got started. It’s where they built their reputation. It’s where Shanice grew up. She’s sometimes anxious in front of crowds. But out on the Plaza, her nerves leave her alone.

“No matter where we perform, we gotta go back to the Plaza. It’s like home,” Maurice says.

They go to the Plaza on Fridays and Saturdays to show what they can do and to invite people to book them for weddings, picnics or family reunions. Maurice says that half of their bookings come from chance encounters there.



It wasn’t always easy. Shanice remembers when kids at school would laugh at her for performing on the street, seeing her bucket full of change. “There’s a stigma attached to street musicians,” Maurice says. “But Paul McCartney did it. Bon Jovi did it.”

“Justin Bieber,” Shanice says.

They know they can perform together for only so long. As time passes, Shanice gets more and more opportunities to sing on her own. That’s OK with Maurice.

“Stardom was never my bag,” he says. “My thing was, from day one: Can I support my family? And I have done that as a musician.” Shanice has her own plans. She graduated from the Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts last month and plans to go to Penn Valley Community College before transferring to the University of Missouri-Kansas City, perhaps to study medicine and music therapy. But if a career in singing works out ...

“I’m just gonna grab it,” she says. Like any father, Maurice wants his daughter to get a college degree. But what he hopes for most is for her to take away the lessons he has been teaching all these years — that music has melodies, that it’s important to give back to a community as much as you take and, above all, respect yourself. At the end of their audition on “America’s Got Talent,” after bringing tears to host Nick Cannon’s eyes, the pair embraced backstage.

“I love ya, I love ya, I love ya. I’m so proud of ya,” the father told his daughter. It’s something he’s probably said a lot over the years; it’s what parents do. But anyone could see this wasn’t just any moment. It was a memory they’ll have

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Examiner's Press Releases

AGT7 Semifinalists in review: #14: Shanice & Maurice Hayes

By: Michael Ross, August 24, 2012



Usually, this is the point in the competition where family acts like Shanice & Maurice Hayes are lucky to just barely make it into the Top 10, usually on account of the audience being uncomfortable with the idea of such an act performing at a casino in Las Vegas.

That shouldn't come in to play this time, however, since Shanice is all grown up. What Shanice & Maurice should therefore be worrying about instead are the AGT judges.

Howard Stern and Howie Mandel have both said multiple times that they think this is the year when a non-singing act will win it all on America's Got Talent.

It's an easy assumption to make, given that, of the twenty-four semifinalists this season, only five of them are singers. Still, they have said this so often that it is starting to seem less like speculation and more like commitment; like they think a non-singing act will win because they *want* a non-singing act to win.

The AGT audience has demonstrated many times this season that it values the input of the judges. If the judges, therefore, are committed to having someone other than a singer win for this season, their criticism of Shanice & Maurice will be more negative than for other acts, and will in turn be reflected in their voting results.

Shanice & Maurice will have enough problems just from having to compete with [Tim Hockenberry](#) in the [semifinals](#). They don't need this kind of added worry on top of that.

Historian Press Release of Maurice Hayes

PACIFIC STARS & STRIPES
JUNE 28, 1990

Air Force musicians band ties in Pacific

SEOUL (Stripes) — The 15,000-or-so people who scurried into Seoul's Lotte World Adventure theme park Sunday to escape the precursor squalls of Tropical Storm Ofelia found an unexpected treat awaiting them.

Occupying center stage at Asia's only indoor amusement park was "Pacific Showcase," the concert arm of the Air Force Band of the Pacific.

AND WHILE the rain poured outside, the crowd inside clapped, cheered and sang along to marches, Broadway show tunes, a couple of Korean favorites and a stirring rendition of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" by vocal soloist Tech. Sgt. Maurice Hayes.

Choe Hi-Sook, a Seoul office worker, voiced an opinion apparently shared by most of the standing-room-only crowd.

"Koreans like American music," she said. "And it's so much better when it's played by an American band."

It was the 31-piece concert band's first performance in South Korea since the unit was reformed at Yokota Air Base, Japan, said Lt. Col. Roger W. Sebby, the unit's commander and conductor.

"With the time it took to move from Clark Air Base in the Philippines and getting resettled at Yokota, we haven't had a concert band for about five years," Sebby said.

WHILE GROUP members say performing for both American military and foreign audiences is fun, it is not as work-free as some people might imagine.

The band travels with a truck full of equipment and the musicians



Tech. Sgt. Maurice Hayes serenades the crowd in Seoul.

spend several hours before and after performances unpacking and setting up, then breaking down and repacking.

"(Saturday morning) we played to 3,000 students at a Korean school and had to carry everything up and down four flights of stairs," Sebby said. "(Saturday night) we played a Riverside Park concert, and there were a lot of stairs getting to and from that site.

"We're all pretty tired," he said.

The band was to play two more concerts, both for South Korean military units, before returning to Yokota on Tuesday.

There would not be much time to rest when the musicians returned, however.

"We don't have any secretaries or full-time office people, so when we get back, we have to get our

equipment cleaned up, try to catch up on the paperwork, and we'll be off again," Sebby said.

That could mean en masse as in South Korea, or splitting up into various-sized combos — like the five-piece "Far East Falcons" and "Blue Eagles" which specialize in popular music; the "Pacific Winds" woodwind classical quintet; the "Pacific Brass Consort" with a repertoire running from baroque to Dixieland to polkas and marches; the "PACAF Noteables," a 20-piece "big band;" or the marching band.

Any unit which would like to schedule the band for performances can write the 600th Air Force Band (PACAF), APO San Francisco, CA 96328-5000, or call Autovon 225-3218 or international commercial 001-81-425-52-2511, extension 3218.

Stripes, Jim Lee

*American, Filipino diplomats get into the rhythm
with an*

Air Force band

**by SSgt. Samuel E. Warren Jr.
3rd TFW Public Affairs Office**

The United States Embassy's annual 4th of July National Day Celebration through the years has earned America's Manila-based career diplomats the reputation of patriots with style.

This year, the 600th Air Force Band's (from Yokota AB, Japan) expansive and explosive musical repertoire continued the diplomatic mission's tradition and earned the combo rave reviews.

"The band was a big hit," said Donna Woodward, vice consul and the 4th of July project coordinator. "The band set up and played the background music for the diplomatic affair as guests began arriving for the Ambassador's reception line."

"United States Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines Nicholas Platt and his wife, Sheila, hosted the affair. The Embassy's U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard detachment posted the colors.

Acting Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Yan represented the government of the Republic of the Philippines. He saluted the U.S. government with the traditional toast after which the ambassador toasted the R.P. government and acknowledged the continuing camaraderie of the two governments. The Honorable Mario Crema of Italy, dean of the Manila diplomatic community, was also in attendance.

"The setting was absolutely beautiful," said Mrs. Woodward. "Andion Fernandez, a young Filipino woman, who toured the U.S., China, Spain and Singapore as an operatic soprano, sang both countries' national anthems."

The Great Gatsby-style lawn party witnessed the Air Force combo setting up in a tent in front of the seawall with Manila Bay in the background.

"As the guests moved on to the lawn, the band played Glen Miller swing-style dance music from the big band era. SSgt. Maurice Hayes served as the master of ceremonies. He managed to get the guests dancing. MSgt. Elvin Hughes kept the rhythmic tempo of the group on the drums as the selections moved from classical and jazz into contemporary," said Mrs. Woodward.

"SSgt. Jose M. Calderon and Sgt. Thomas S. Latenser, the guitarists, blended their harmonic flow with Sgt. David N. Cannon at the keyboard to transition from pop music into early 50s and 60s rock and roll. Throughout the evening people commented on how much they enjoyed the band's music.

"The celebration has traditionally been the premiere diplomatic social event of the year. This year, the Air Force band performed for almost 500 guests including members of the Philippine government and the Manila diplomatic community," said Mrs. Woodward.

Before the band boarded the aircraft to fly home, July 6, they set up on the Clark flightline July 5 and played a session for maintenance and aircrew members during the lunch hour.



**EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES**

