

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford have asked Singer Sarah Vaughan to entertain at the dinner they will host in Martinique for French President and Mrs. Giscard D'Estaing.

Though known primarily for her jazz renditions, Miss Vaughan is noted for her versatility with arrangements and sings everything from classical music to pop and show tunes. She has about a four-octave range.

She was the winner of the Downbeat Magazine award for "Best Female Jazz Vocalist" in 1973. She was elected "Favorite Female Singer" by her peers in the musical world in 1974 in the All-star-All-star Poll conducted by Playboy Magazine.

Miss Vaughan was born in Newark, N.J. on March 27, 1924. She sang at the Mount Zion Baptist Church as a young girl and won an amateur singing contest at the Apollo Theater in Harlem when she was 18. The prize was \$10 and a week's engagement at the Theater, where Ella Fitzgerald was headlining. Singer Billy Eckstine came to see the show and was so impressed with Miss Vaughan's performance that he recommended her to Earl Fatha Hines, who signed her to sing and play the piano with his band. A year later, Eckstine hired her as vocalist for the band he had formed, and she has been performing since.

Her first hit was "It's Magic" in 1948, which sold two million copies. Among other hits: "Tenderly," "Misty," "Brokenhearted Melody," and "My Funny Valentine." She was notified earlier this week that she has received the First Jazz Academy award in France for her latest album, "Live in Japan."

#