

For immediate release
Monday, Jan. 27, 1975

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

The President and Mrs. Ford have invited Soprano Beverly Sills to entertain at the State Dinner Thursday, Jan. 30 for Prime Minister Wilson of Great Britain.

Miss Sills' home company is the New York City Opera, though she also appears with other US companies, including the San Francisco opera. She will make her Metropolitan Opera debut in Rossini's "The Siege of Corinth" on April 7.

Miss Sills is the only singer ever to have been featured in cover stories in both Time and Newsweek. She has appeared on opera stages throughout the world, including London's Covent Garden, Milan's La Scala, the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, the Deutsche Oper in West Berlin and the Vienna State Opera.

Miss Sills' pianist is Charles Wadsworth, Artistic Director and founder of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York.

Detailed information on Miss Sills in attached release.

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BEVERLY SILLS

PROGRAM BIO - 1974

American-born and trained, Beverly Sills is a much sought star of the world's great opera stages, appearing not only with her home company, the New York City Opera and other leading U.S. companies, but at such distinguished houses as London's Covent Garden, Milan's La Scala, the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, the Deutsche Oper in West Berlin and the Vienna State Opera, among others. In June, 1972, she added to this list, La Fenice in Venice where she sang Violetta in a new production of "La Traviata" staged by Gian Carlo Menotti and conducted by Thomas Schippers.

Following her now legendary success in the coloratura role of Cleopatra in Handel's "Julius Caesar" with the New York City Opera in 1966, Miss Sills began to explore the bel canto repertoire in depth and has expanded her repertoire to more than fifty roles, including such coloratura vehicles as Lucia, Minna, and Norma on the one hand, and Marie in "The Daughter of the Regiment," Elvira in "I Puritani" and Pamira in "The Siege of Corinth" (her La Scala debut) on the other. Her appearances in the trio of Donizetti operas dealing with British queens, which the New York City Opera has revived for her, have significantly expanded the repertory of roles currently performed in this country. In these, her appearances as Elizabeth I of England in "Roberto Devereux," and in the title roles of "Maria Stuarda" (Mary, Queen of Scots) and "Anna Bolena" (Anne Bolayn), all made international music news. "Maria Stuarda" had never been staged in New York before; "Anna Bolena" and "Roberto Devereux" had not been staged there since 1880 and 1851 respectively. Like all her other recordings, these three have made protracted appearances on Billboard's Classical Best Seller List. A prolific recording artist, she is a winner of Europe's prestigious Edison Award.

In the summer of 1973 she added to her recorded repertoire the role of Elvira in "I Puritani" and the title role of "Norma" on full-length recordings of each. In November, 1973 she sang the role of Elvira with the New York City Opera closing its Los Angeles season in a new production of the Bellini opera which the company had produced for her. This will be followed by the New York premiere in the spring of 1974.

Active as both recitalist and orchestral soloist in the United States, she made her Paris debut in an orchestral concert early in 1971, following her debut season at Covent Garden as Lucia. In the summer of that year she made her London orchestral debut as soloist with the London Symphony, and in December appeared for the first time in Israel in a series of performances with the Israel Philharmonic.

Miss Sills is the only singer ever to have been featured in cover-stories in both Time and Newsweek, and to have been additionally the subject of a New Yorker profile. She is a frequent guest on TV and as Honorary National Chairman of the March of Dimes' Mothers' March on Birth Defects, makes numerous appearances in its behalf.

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