

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

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The President and Mrs. Ford have asked Soprano Roberta Peters to entertain for the State Dinner honoring His Excellency the President of the Republic of Colombia and Mrs. Lopez Sept. 25.

Miss Peters has performed previously at the White House for Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon.

The coloratura soprano first made her debut 25 years ago at the Metropolitan Opera when she was 19 and had no previous professional experience. She has since sung in every major US city and in London, Berlin, Vienna, Moscow and other great opera houses around the world. She made history in Moscow, receiving a 15-minute standing ovation at the Bolshoi in May, 1972 and being presented with the Bolshoi Medal, becoming the first American-born artist to receive the honor.

This season, Miss Peters again tours North America and Europe, in addition to her appearances at the Metropolitan Opera. Her schedule includes numerous solo recitals and orchestral concerts in addition to television and recording commitments.

Miss Peters has starred in 37 different roles at the Metropolitan Opera. She has made more television appearances than any other opera star in history. Her first book, "Debut at the Met," was published in 1968.

Miss Peters grew up in the Bronx where she began intensive studies at the age of 13 with voice teacher William Hermann. After six years of study, impresario Sol Hurok heard her perform at her teacher's studio and signed her to a contract, though she had not yet performed professionally. Hurok arranged for Miss Peters to sing for Rudolf Bing, then general manager of the Metropolitan Opera. Bing offered her a contract and planned her debut in the role of Queen of the Night in Mozart's The Magic Flute. Prior to her debut two months later, with a few hours notice and no rehearsal, Miss Peters was called on to replace an ailing soprano in the role of Zerlina in Mozart's Don Giovanni. Her surprise debut launched her career.

Miss Peters lives with her husband, Bertram Fields, and their two sons in Scarsdale, N.Y.

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