

# SPENCER MUSEUM OF ART

September 1990

## I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America

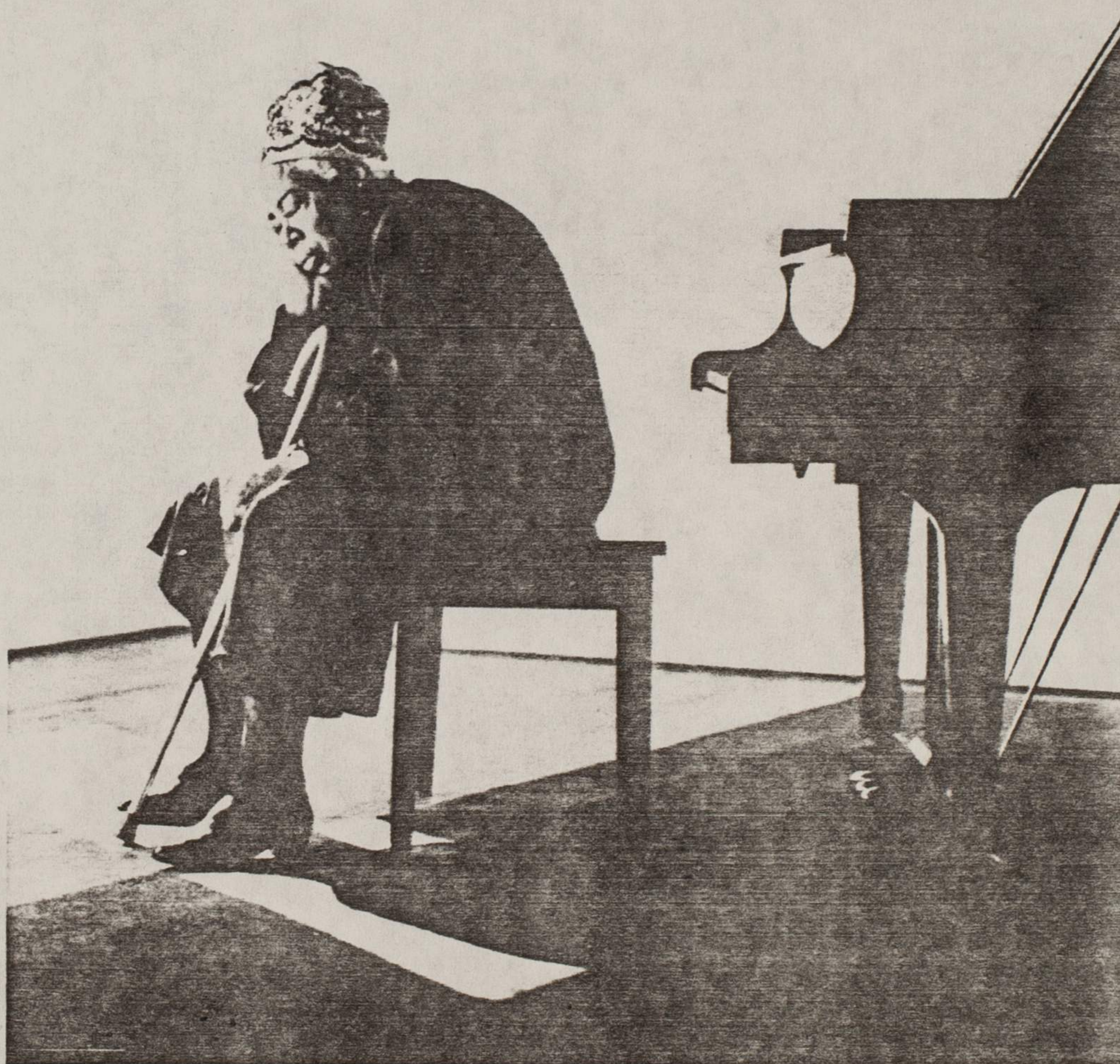
A diverse group of black women—some famous and others less prominent—who have made an impact on twentieth-century America are featured in an exhibition of photographs that will open at the Spencer Museum in September.

*I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America*, an exhibition of photographs of seventy-five black women by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Brian Lanker, will be on view from September 23 to November 18.

Black-and-white, large-scale photographs of each woman and excerpts from personal interviews give a glimpse into the lives of these remarkable people who have influenced and changed our society in a variety of ways. The exhibition includes well-known women such as Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1955; authors Toni Morrison and Alice Walker; politicians Barbara Jordan and Shirley Chisholm; performers Lena Horne, Leontyne Price, and Cicely Tyson; and activist Angela Davis. Less well-known but equally important are women such as Ruby Middleton Forsythe, who taught school for more than half a century in a one-room schoolhouse, and Priscilla L. Williams, who raised fourteen adopted children. Also included are artists, folklorists, lawyers, athletes, a neurosurgeon, a midwife, a bishop, and a brigadier general.

At least two women with Kansas connections are included. Eva Jessye, born in Coffeyville and a graduate of Kansas Wesleyan University, was a choral director and Ambassador of the Arts from Kansas for many years, and Gwendolyn Brooks, first black woman to win the Pulitzer Prize, was born in Topeka.

Lanker, who spent two years on the project, is a contract photographer for *Sports Illustrated* and frequently has photo essays published in *Life*. He formerly worked for newspapers in Phoenix, Topeka, and Eugene, Oregon and, in 1973, won the Pulitzer Prize for feature photography.



Portrait of Eva Jessye (born 1895), by Brian Lanker

## September Events Related to *I Dream a World*

*I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America* will be at the Spencer Museum September 23-November 18. A book containing the photographs and excerpts from interviews with the women and a poster are on sale at the Spencer Museum Book Shop.

### Openings

**Friends of the Art Museum opening and buffet supper**

Saturday, September 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Public opening**

Sunday, September 23, 2-4 p.m.

### Performances

**Festival 2000:**

**SenseUs—The Rainbow Anthems**

A poetry-music collaboration reflecting African-American, Latino, and Asian themes. Poet Sonia Sanchez, whose photograph appears in the *I Dream a World* exhibition, is among the performers.

Sponsored by the University of Kansas New Direction Series.

Hoch Auditorium

Saturday, September 22, 8 p.m. \$

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