

SWEET MUSIC FOR SOWETO

By MARTIN MAHLABA

THE American soprano Mme Martina Arroyo, who is in South Africa to sing the title role in Verdi's opera, "Aida", will make her South African debut in Soweto at the Pace School Hall in Jabulani on June 27.

The appearance will be the only one outside the State Theatre in Pretoria where she will be appearing next month.

It has been reported that all seats are sold.

The singer will be accompanied

by South African pianist Sini van den Brom in the Soweto concert whose proceeds will go towards music development in Greater Soweto.

This will be shared by the West Rand Performing and Visual Arts for the building of the Pelmama Academy which will go up on Mofolo Park and the fine arts branch in Meadowlands.

The Jabavu Teachers' Choir and the Soweto Brass Band will welcome Mme Arroyo in Soweto when she arrives for rehearsals during next week.

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● Mme Martina Arroyo . . . world famous soprano.

Citizen 29/6/82.

No way to treat a diva

SOWETO signally failed to support the distinguished American opera star, Martina Arrayo, when she donated her services in a recital at the Pace School Theatre in the township on Sunday afternoon in aid of music promotion in area.

Only about 100 people attended the recital in the new auditorium, which could easily accommodate three times that number. And fully half of the audience was White.

It is rumoured that pressure was exerted by radical groups in Soweto to dissuade residents from attending, presumably because of disapproval of Miss Arrayo's coming to this country despite the boycott campaigns overseas.

The organisers of the recital, the Haenggi Foundation, were very disappointed by the small attendance.

They and those who did attend were fortunate that Miss Arrayo's good nature persuaded her to go ahead despite the tiny audience and the additional annoyance of photographers who dodged to and fro between the singer and the audience, taking flash pictures from close up as she sang.

However the music-lovers made up in enthusiasm what they lacked in numbers giving the Metropolitan Opera diva several standing ovations during a programme that included operatic arias, lieder, art songs and four Negro spirituals. — CR.