



Office of the Mayor
Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

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MINER TO DEDICATE LIBBA COTTEN STATUE

*Statue Commemorates Syracuse Resident,
Grammy Winning Artist*

Miner: Cotten's Life and Work Serve as an Example to All

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner will dedicate a statue to Grammy Award winning musician and Syracuse resident Elizabeth “Libba” Cotten in a park already bearing her name on Tuesday, October 2 at 10:00 AM. The Park, Libba Cotten Grove, is located at the intersection of South State Street and Castle Street.

“It is really a great honor to honor such a pioneer in our own community,” said Mayor Stephanie A. Miner. “Libba Cotten’s life and work serve as an example to all of us. Her talent is remarkable and she reminds each of us that our people are our greatest treasure.”

Elizabeth Cotten, known as Libba, was born in North Carolina in the 1890s to a family of sharecroppers. She learned at an early age to play guitar and banjo and began writing her own songs. After marrying, she worked as a domestic in several households and as a shop clerk. Eventually employed by the Seeger family, she was encouraged to record her own music and eventually began producing albums in her 60s. In 1984, she was awarded a Grammy for “Best Ethnic or Traditional Recording” for her album *Elizabeth Cotten Live*. She was also awarded a National Heritage Fellowship Award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Libba Cotten Park was dedicated in her honor in 1983. She passed away in Syracuse in 1987.

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