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GREATER NEW YORK HEARD & SCENE

JAZZ SCENE | By Will Friedwald

Masterworks at the Met

Bettye LaVette

◆ **Café Carlyle**

35 E. 76th St., (212) 744-1600

Through Feb. 7

She is one of the major interpreters of our time, and like her approximate British equivalent, Barb Jungr, she illustrates that the superior rock and soul songs of the contemporary era can be interpreted no less than Cole Porter or Richard Rodgers. Her current show features too many completely new numbers (most from her new album "Worthy"),

and could also benefit from a greater diversity of moods and tempos (her opener, Dylan's "Unbelievable," is the most cheerful song in the set). Still, what's here is powerful and moving: "Nights in White Satin" is now a lacerating saloon song and even Paul McCartney's "Wait" becomes a harrowing experience.