



◀ *Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin sings Silent Night during a recent concert for patients at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Backed by five vocalists, an organ, grand piano and electric bass, Franklin rocked the hall with a medley of gospel and holiday favorites.*

Aretha Franklin Gives Holiday Cheer To Patients And Staff At Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital

The Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin rocked a Detroit hospital auditorium with a New Year's Eve show that had hundreds of patients and staffers dancing in their seats.

Franklin told the audience at the Henry Ford Hospital, "Because some of you weren't able to get out for Christmas and the holidays, we wanted to bring a little Christmas to you."

The fiery performer informed the room full of people, many of whom were in wheelchairs, with IVs in tow, that she wouldn't tolerate glumness. "For the next twenty minutes or so, nobody here is going to be sick," said Franklin, who got the crowd revved up with a medley of gospel and holiday songs.

Patients also were given New Year's hats and noisemakers as Franklin started an early afternoon countdown

► *Sue Scott of Inkster, MI, a patient at the Henry Ford Hospital, cries as she listens to Franklin belting out a gospel song during Franklin's concert for patients at the Detroit hospital.*

to the new year.

Franklin, who honed her gospel singing at her late father's Detroit church, approached the hospital about two weeks ago to say she wanted to help cheer shut-ins over the holidays.

"She's special to this city, this hospital," Henry Ford chief executive Steve Velick told the audience. "Besides, how do you say 'No' to the Queen of Soul?"

