record review ratings

EXCELLENT *** * VERY GOOD *** GOOD ** FAIR ** POOR *

Johnny 'Guitar' Watson

Johnny "Guitar" Watson and the Family Clone: Polygram DJM 501, 6337175.

Clone Information, Family Clone, Forget the Joneses, Ain't Movin', Come and Dance With Me, Rio Dreamin; What is Love? Voodo What You Do.

All of the instruments on this album are played by one man, with modern techniques allowing for overdubs. Johnny Watson plays everything except drums, plus doing the vocals too. Emery

Thomas is listed as drummer on the tune "What is Love." This accounts for the title of the album, "... the family clone."

Watson ably displays his musical backgrounding in modern jazz, for the first tune has belop lyrics, plus a definite scat style.

The remainder of the album is devoted to the modern dance sound. The album is notable since it is an example of what can happen when one man does it all—including writing all of the songs.

James Brown

NON STOP: Polydor 16318:

Popcorn 80's, Give that Bass
Player Some, You're My Only
Love, World Cycle Inc., Super
Bull/Super Bad, Love 80's, & Go

Crazy.

Rating—

Sadly, the onetime "Godfather of Soul" seems to keep missing

an album into orbit, for this one seems just a rehash of the familiar J.B. formula.

It works on a slow ballad, "You're My Only Love," but the remainder is a repetition of things J.B. has done through the years.

ADC Band

+BROTHER LUCK: Cotillion SD

Brother LUCK, Celebrate,
Waiting For You, Nothing You
Can Do, Super Freak, Hot Box,
Nuclear Funk-Out, Our Thought
[Lovers & Friends].

There is a nice, easy groove to this work, which makes it conducive to dancing. The instrumental passages are steeped in the current funk mold, with the readily definable beat ever-

This is the sort of record one puts in a collection labelled typical, for it is well within the current dance music bag.

Art Pepper

WINTER MOON: Galaxy GXY-

Our Song, Here's That Rainy Day, That's Love, Winter Moon, When the Sun Comes Out, Blues in the Night, The Prisoner.

Personnel: Stanley Cowell, piano; Howard Roberts, guitar; Cecil McBee, bass, Carl Burnett, drums. Plus string section, violins and cellos.

Alto saxophonist Art Pepper once said that he thought the recordings of Charlie Parker with strings was beautiful, and he

hoped someday to make an album with strings.

This is it. The sound is lush, plush and soothing, with only occasional dips into the hard bop sound. Tightly orchestrated and arranged, credit must be given to the production staff, for this appears to be an album done strictly as a studio venture.

The results, however, are pleasing, and for those who prefer background sounds, never overpowering, never intrusive—this laid back presentation displays the artistry of Pepper to good advantage.

Rey Scott

TIMBRE TAMBRE:

Planetary Lights. Earth Dance, Happy Ending, Timbre Tambre, LaRama, Afro Stroll, Grandpa & Ma Jackson.

Personnel on this cut include
Nasar Abadey, drums; Babafemi
Akinlana, congas and Shekare;
Gerry Eastman, basses; Greg
Millar, guitar; Reynold Scott,
reeds; Darryl Washington, drums;
Jorge Tait, Wardell, Shekare.

As the personnel listing in-

dicates, this is an album heavily

into percussive demonstrations, with a lot of deviation from the mainstream.

been together for a couple of years now, and it shows in the tightness of their arrangements, most of which are of original tunes.

Most memorable is the title tune, "Timbre Tambre," which was written by leader Scott.

Overall, the recording passes muster, and merits a listen from those who prefer their music with an African tinge.

Maze

MAZE FEATURING FRANKIE BEVERLY, LIVE IN NEW ORLEANS: Capitol SKBK12156.

You, Changing Times, Joy and Pain, Happy Feelin's, Southern Girl, Look at California, Feel That You're Feelin', The Look in Your Eyes, Running Away, Before I Let Go, We Need Love Life, You've Given Me a Reason.

A lot of Maze fans will shrug and say, "I've heard this before," and they would be partially right. One of the tracks was released as a preview single, "Running

Some of the other tunes have been done previously, but not in the live setting context this double album portrays.

The recording was done at the Saenger Theater last November, with Frankie Beverly leading the proceedings.

At one point, he gets the audience to sing along a cappella — and it all works. A definite must for Maze devotees.

Cameo

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUND TABLE:

Chocolate City CCLF2019.

Night By Night, Freaky Dancing,

Use It Or Lose It, I Never Knew,

The Sound Table, Don't Be So

Cool, I'll Stay Away, I Like It.

Looks like this top group has another potential winner for some of the tunes are definitely in the top singles category. Most

noteworthy are the vocal presentations on "I Never Knew," with a funky getting down instrumental "Knight By Night," displaying the kind of riffing that has made the group one of the top performers.

It is obvious that a lot of production went into this presentation, for the quality is excellent, and somehow they have retained that live-studio feel in the final mixdown.

-Celebrity Lookout

(Continued from Page 4)

A. — Kwame Toure, formerly Stokeley Carmichael, took the name of two of his mentors, Kwame Nkrumah and Sekou

Toure, the former late of Ghana, the latter of Senegal. He is divorced from Ms. Makeba and now lives in Washington, D.C. with his new wife and their new baby.

