SOUNDS

Brenda and the Big Dudes

BRENDA AND THE BIG DUDES
"Weekend Special" (Capitol)

Brenda Fassie, who is from South Africa, really does have big dudes backing her up — big on the African charts, that is. "Bongani," backed with "Higher And Higher" was a platinum single in South Africa and the original version of this album has gone gold.

For the European and American release, the group's latest album, "Weekend Special," was re-mixed in New York by musician Van Gibbs.

This album starts with the group's first American single, "Weekend Special," a upbeat pop/r&b number done with a Pointer Sisters-type joyous bounce. The following two tracks, "I Wanna Be Single" and "Gimme Gimme Your Love" are similarly done commercial dance throwaways that are fun for a while.

"Bongani," named for Brenda's son, is a classy production worthy of several plays, and "Can't Stop This Feeling" makes use of various forms of non-electronic percussion (yeah, they still use that on records).

THE ROLLING STONES
"Dirty Work" (Rolling Stones)

It was a little more than 13 years ago today that the Rolling Stones released their single "Come On," but I didn't hear of them until 1967, when they released their number one single, "Ruby Tuesday," and their album "Between The Buttons."

For years, Mick Jagger and company have been a major part of what we call "the history of rock and roll," high on the list of superstar groups along with The Beatles, The Supremes, and many others.

The Stones. Still around after all these years, they made it through the death of member Brian Jones in 1969, the "Some Girls" controversy in 1978... you know what I mean.

You know what? It was only last year that I heard their number one hit, "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" in stereo. That song was released in 1965. I had never heard it in stereo until 1985! It's not in stereo on my copy of the "Hot Rocks" album. My favorite Stones tune and I hadda wait 20 years to hear it in stereo!

Fortunately, such was not the case with such great tunes as "Happy," "Hot Stuff," "Miss You," "Shattered," and "It's Only Rock And Roll."

In 1984, for a while it seemed like we weren't going to get another Stones album. The "Undercover" album had been released in 1983. In February, 1985 came Mick Jagger's solo album, "She's The Boss." "Lucky In Love" was my favorite single from that one.

Which brings us up to "Dirty Work," The Rolling Stones' new album for the CBS Record group, and, I hate to say it, but I'm a bit disappointed with this thing. Half of the tracks consist of a lot of repetitive rhythm tracks and electric guitar chords that really rock but seem stuck in the same old groove.

The album's opening track, "One Hit (To The Body)" features the familiar Jagger brand of work-up-a-sweat vocalizing and sexual lyrical allusions and for my money is no improvement over "She's So Cold." The single "Harlem Shuffle" may give some Stones fans an annoying feeling that Jagger and company have stooped to copying themselves, arrangement-wise, playing safe with a remake of an oldie for their new record distributors. This stuff may take some getting used to.

One of the better songs here is Jagger's and Richards's "Sleep Tonight," a slow number with a decent lead vocal and some good old gospel-like background singing to close the album on a relaxed note.

One more thing, I don't wanna see no more of this ugly inner sleeve artwork. This stuff is an eyesore and annoying to read, and that's something I can really do without when I'm trying to enjoy my music. Okay? Have a nice day.

GEORGE CLINTON
"Do Fries Go With That Shake" (Capitol)

George Clinton, as you know, was the man behind Parliament and Funkadelic in the seventies, and his gang will be long remembered for such "funk classics" as "Mothership Connection," "Cosmic Slop" and "One Nation Under A Groove."

As a solo artist, this crazy fellow has brought us such jams as "Atomic Dog," "Nubian Nut" and "Last Dance."

Just for the record, the phrase "you deserve a break today" appeared in Parliament's single "Funkentelechy," and Clinton's latest upbeat single, "Do Fries Go With That Shake," sounds very much like a Parliament track — full of the spicy keyboards and power-packed percussion that only Clinton does with such, uh, well, craziness.

Hold the onions.

V-103's Top Twenty

1. Kiss	Prince
2. Rock Me Amadeus	Falco
3. How Will I Know	Whitney Houston
4. Fat Boys Meet The Force M.D.'s	Force M.D.'s
5. Do Me Baby	Meli'sa Morgan
6. A Little Bit Of Love	New Edition
7. Your Smile	Rene & Angela
8. Saturday Love	Cherrelle/Alexander O'Neal
9. What Have You Done For Me Lately	Janet Jackson
10. I'd Rather Be My Myself	EBO
11. Another Night	Aretha Franklin
12. Love 4/2	Teddy Pendergrass
13. Sugar Free	Juicy
14. Never As Good As The First Time	Sade
15. I'm Not Gonna Let	Colonel Abrams
16. I Think It's Love	Jermaine Jackson
17. The Heat Of Heat	Patti Austin
18. I've Learned To Respect	Stephanie Mills
19. I Can't Wait	Nu Shooz
20. Computer Love	Zapp

Music Notes

Well, it's been almost five years, but one of the more distinctive soul groups in music history, The Dramatics, have returned with a new album and single.

L. J. Reynolds, who sang lead with the group from 1972 until 1980, returns along with Lenny Mayes, William "Weegee" Howard, Willie Ford and yes, Ron Banks (who was in the original Dramatics when they were first signed to a local Detroit label 22 years ago).

The group's new album is titled "Somewhere In Time (A Dramatic Reunion)." The group's first gold single, by the way, was 1971's "Whatcha See Is Whatcha Get.

* * *

Also on the comeback trail is the Godfather himself, Mr. James Brown. Naturally, after a top five pop and soul chart hit ("Living In America"), one would expect an album. Brown's first album for Scotti Brothers Records is set for a May release. Dan Hartman, formerly of the Edgar Winter Group and a well-known movie songwriter, is producing the LP.

* * *

Gap Band fans might get a kick out of their new "12-Inch Collection" LP, featuring the extended mixes of "You Dropped A Bomb On Me" and "Party Train," plus "Burn Rubber (Why You Wanna Hurt Me)" and other jams, which showcase the Wilson brothers at their funky best.

* * *

Whitney Houston's latest 7-inch single looks like another smash, and here's a piece of trivia you probably already know: "The Greatest Love Of All" wps also available on the flip side of "You Give Good Love."

MSU Jazz Ensemble

The Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Delta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity presents the Morgan State University Jazz Ensemble on Thursday, April 24 at 8 p.m. Also performing will be the Morgan State Symphonic Band, featuring Roosevelt Newson, on Sunday April 27 at 8 p.m. The concert will be held in the Murphy Fine Arts Building on the campus of MSU. For more information, call 444-3123.

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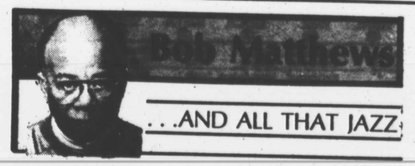

Bob Matthews' ...AND ALL THAT JAZZ

Woody Shaw

Billy Taylor

One of the best kept secrets in town is the existence of the Cab Calloway Jazz Institute of Coppin State College. The institute is about to make its presence known, with the opening of the Cab Calloway Collection.

It all happens Sunday, April 20, in the Parlett L. Moore Library at Coppin State College, and marks the culmination of the efforts of a dedicated group of Advisory Board Members who have put things together.

The Billy Taylor Trio will be in concert at 5 p.m., which kicks off what is expected to be a showcase for local and national jazz artists.

With Mrs. Camay Murphy as Advisory Committee Chairman, members of the group include: Mrs. Margaret Armstrong, Hon. Clarence Blount, Leon Bridges, Dr. Calvin Burnett, Dr. Sidney Burnett, Jr.;

Hon. Clarence Burns, Mrs. Ruby Glover, L. Carl Holmes, Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, Quentin Lawson, Robert Matthews, Alec Pinderhughes, Esq., Dr. Charles W. Simmons, Dr. Reppard Stone, Dr. Mary Wanza and Charles B. Wright.

It was over a year ago that the fledgling committee began searching for a way to promote jazz and jazz history in our area. Methods were sought to involve high school and college musicians in development of their artistic skills.

It was decided that the Institute would be named after Cab Calloway, and he was persuaded to donate a large part of his collection of photographs, and memorabilia acquired during a career which spans 60 years.

Through the good offices of Dr. Calvin Burnett, president of Coppin State College (and a jazz fan) space was to be provided by the college to house the Calloway collection.

Dr. Mary Wanza, college librarian and head of the department, assumed the mantle of handling the arrangements for the housing and display of the artifacts.

The ribbon-cutting for the collection takes place prior to the concert and will be presided over by Cab Calloway and his wife Nuffy, who will be in town for a series of special events.

As for the concert itself, Dr. Billy Taylor is one of the outstanding jazz pianists of our era. Usually, he demonstrates the various styles of pianistics that have dominated the jazz scene.

In fact, his takeoff on the stride-piano technique of the late Fats Waller is a classic. Then, he usually does a complete tune with just his left hand, and you have to see this to believe it.

Billy is amazing, and although he was here recently for the Hopkins lecture series, he'll really get a chance to stretch out on this set.

* * *

Jon hendricks and Family will be in our area next Tuesday. He will be doing a concert for the Harford Community College up in Belair, MD in the college Chesapeake Theatre Stage auditorium at 8 p.m.

Always get a bit amused when you talk with youngsters about long established jazz artists, for example the HCC sponsors are quick to point out that Hendricks is a 1986 Grammy Awards winner.

That of course, was for his part in the Manhattan Transfer album "Vocalese." But our memory of Jon et al, goes back to 1957 when he burst on the jazz scene with the Lambert-Hendricks and Ross trio.

The concert is free, but tickets must be secured in advance. For more information, call 836-4340, Ext. 340.

* * *

The Jazz Closet will be jumping as usual this weekend, but don't make the mistake of expecting to see Woody Shaw there tonight. Originally, he was supposed to start tonight (Friday), but a conflict developed.

So, he'll be there just two nights, Saturday and Sunday. His is a special guest appearance with the regular weekend set headed up by Gary Bartz.

The Willie Barber Trio provides the rhythm section, with Willie on drums, Andy Rock, bass, and Freddie Thaxton, piano.

Response to the offerings at the Jazz Closet has really be overwhelming, Henry goes around with a smile on his face these days — both Henry's that is.

For the next two weeks following this one, vocalist Leon Thomas will be the guest artist. Forgot to mention that cover charge at the Jazz Closet is $5.

* * *

Over at Ethel's Place, jazz returns next week with the dual pianos of Adam Markovich and Phineas Newborn.

They'll be on tap Wednesday through Saturday. Usually, groups are booked through Sunday, but this time, the piano virtuoso's have another engagement.

Sunday, they will be appearing in concert for the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz in the Penn Harris Convention Center in Camp, PA, just outside Harrisburg.

* * *

Lest ye forget, the Left Bank Jazz Society is holding its April concert on the 27th at Moreco's in the 5400 block Reisterstown Rd.

Featured artist is Hank Crawford, remembered by many as the mainstay in the Ray Charles Big Band of the 60s.

Was listening to some of the Crawford material in our record collection, and happily had recently acquired a new release of his, which was cut last year.

Have to say that Hank is still grooving along, and the kind of music he provides is strictly the footpatting kind. This one will really be a treat.

* * *

Over in D.C. Nancy Wilson is the featured artist at Blues Alley, through Sunday night. They're selling advance tickets for this one.

The lineup has been released for the second Capital City Jazz Festival which will take place June 5-8, with most of the sessions happening at the D.C. Convention Center.

Opening session will feature McCoy Tyner along with pianist-vocalist Shirley Horn. That will happen at night, during the day, films, youth concerts and workshops will occupy festival goers.

Friday will be dedicated to the Latin influence. Featured will be Tito Puento and his Latin Ensemble, Pacquito D'Rivera's sextet.

In addition George Russel and his Living Time Orchestra, featuring alto saxophonist Sonny Fortune and Wallace Roney, Washington trumpeter.

Saturday matinee will showcase guitarist Kevin Eubanks quartet, pianist Jerri Allen's octet and a combo featuring Terence Blanchard, Donald Harrison and Mulgrew Miller.

That night is a real biggie, with Betty Carter, working with strings; Milt Jackson with his quartet, with special guest Little Jimmie Scott; Frank Wess, and Buck Hill.

The windup concert will feature the music and rhythms of South Africa with pianist Abdullah Ibrahim, Hugh Masekela and the group Ekaya.

One difference this year, there is no big corporate sponsor, only radio station WPFW-FM is helping to produce this year's festival.

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