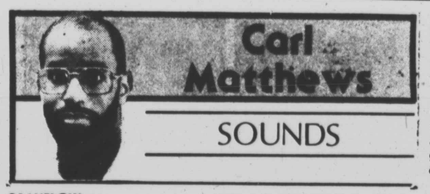

CASHFLOW
"Cashflow"
(Atlanta Artists)

This four-man band from Atlanta, Georgia has a top-10 R&B single called "Party Freak," and their debut album was produced by Cameo's Larry Blackmon.

The group includes Kary Hubbert, who does lead vocals. He names Stevie Wonder, Donny Hathaway and Michael Jackson as influences. Keyboard players are James Duffie and Regis Ferguson. Drummer Gaylord Parsons cites Billy Cobham and Tony Williams as his influences.

The album opens with the Cameo-influenced "Party Freak," a predictibly funky rocker, followed by the easy-going pop/funk of "Mine All Mine" and the disco-beat of "Can't Let Love Pass Us By."

Side two includes a solid mellow one, "Reach Out," with a sax solo by Don Myrick. "It's Just A Dream," with some interesting guitar notes by David Reeves, is among the best tracks here.

With one top-ten single to their credit, Cashflow may indeed live up to their name. Other cuts: "Spending Money," "I Need Your Love."

Cashflow

THE DRAMATICS
"Somewhere In Time (A Dramatic Reunion)"
(Fantasy)

Here is the album I mentioned in last week's column, the first Dramatics album in nearly five years.

The Dramatics were initially formed in 1962. The original line-up consisted of Ron Banks, Larry Reed, Robert Ellington, and Arthur Phillips. When the Dramatics first single, "Inky Dinky Wang Dang Doo" was released on Detroit's Wingate label, the group had Larry "Squirrel" Demps, Elbert Wilkins, and Roderick Davis, along with Banks.

It was 1967 when the Dramatics first hit the soul charts, with "All Because Of You" on the Sport label.

By 1968, when the Dramatics signed with Stax Records in Memphis, they had five members: William "Weegee" Howard, Willie Ford, plus Demps, Wilkins, and of course, Banks.

With the help of Detroit producer Don Davis and his associate, Tony Hester, the Dramatics scored their first pop hit, "Whatcha See Is Whatcha Get," a gold single in 1971. Get Up And Get Down" and "In The Rain," both from their hit album "Whatcha See Is Whatcha Get," followed.

In 1980, the group had Craig Jones, Lenny Mayes, plus Ford and, of course Banks. Their final album was "New Dimensions" on Capitol. The group then disbanded in 1983.

Members of the Dramatics' late-seventies line-up have come back together to bring you this long-awaited reunion album which includes production work by Claytoven, whose keyboard wizardry brings a contemporary synthesized sound to the record.

The album opens with "Dream Lady," a fast-paced number in which each of the boys belt out the words in an energetic, joyous style. "Razor Blade" is another example of how the Dramatics blend their classic vocal style with today's all-too-familiar electro-funk rhythms.

Ron's voice has lost none of its smoothness as we can hear on the mellow "One Love Ago," and Lenny does a respectable job on another ballad, "When Love Is Over."

The highlight of the album is the medley consisting of the album's title song, along with these classic titles: "In The Rain," "Fell For You," "Hey You, Get Off My Mountain," "Girl, Stop Your Weeping" and "Be My Girl," which should be a fan-pleaser. Also included is the pop/R&B "Luv's Callin'," the first single.

Other cuts: "Show Me What You Got," "Days Of Yea And Ney," "She's Wild."

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

New home videos: Good, bad and ugly

By Marianne Meyer

The number of new home video releases just keeps growing, so here are a few reviewed — short and sweet.

PAUL YOUNG — THE VIDEO SINGLES (CBS/Fox Video Music, $19.98) England's premier blue-eyed soul singer is featured in five video clips, three of which focus heavily on his electrifying live-performance style. In fact, some of Young's conceptual United Kingdom videos were recast in that mode for this collection, no doubt to emphasize the element which helped make "Everything You Go Away" such a big hit Between that the missing "Love of the Common People" clip, one can't rightly call this a definitive collection, just a teaser.

JIMMY BUFFETT — LIVE BY THE BAY (MCA Home Video, $29.95) Even if you consider Buffett's "get drunk and screw around" persona a childish one, you've got to admire the man's casual charms in this live performance, which was taped at Miami's Marine Stadium. Enjoy the balmy charms of hits like "Margaritaville" and "Cheeseburger in Paradise" without worrying about some drunken yahoo spilling a beer down the back of your shirt.

HOOTERS — NERVOUS NIGHT (CBS/Fox Video Music, $19.98) Deception alert! As this tape opens, an Oregon music promoter tells the Hooters to expect a tame crowd — "They only scream for Springsteen". Then the band comes on stage to absolute pandemonium. What the tape doesn't show is that this concert was filmed in the boys' home town of Philadelphia, where Hootermania reigns supreme. Lies aside, the concert is slickly done, showing off a fine mainstream band of good looks and strong hooks.

THE FOOLS — WORLD DANCE PARTY (Passport Music Video, $19.95) Who says you need big budgets for best effects? This entire four-song video was probably produced for less than what Dave Lee Roth's spent on makeup for his latest clip. But the tongue-in-cheek charms of Boston's musical madmen make up for a limited budget with unlimited enthusiasm.

MOTORHEAD — DEAF NOT BLIND (Passport Music Video, $29.95) Smoke bombs. Leather. Long hair. Bad teeth. Loud guitars. 60 minutes 12 songs. "Poison." "Killed by Death." "No Class." That last title sums it up.

Recently Released Singles

Sleepless Nights — Smokey Robinson (Tamla)
Chill — Trixxx (Cotillion)
You Don't Have To Cry — Rene And Angela (Mercury)
Hold It, Now Hit It — Beastie Boys (Def Jam)
Free Me — Tenita Jordan (Top Priority)
Don't Walk Away — Robert Tepper (Scotti Brothers)
Nasty — Janet Jackson (A&M)

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(As Long As they Last)
Wednesday
LADIES' NITE
7 p.m. Until
Thursday
BALLOON NITE
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Saturday
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Thursday
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As Long As They Last
6 p.m.-Until
ROUND ROBIN NITE
April 21th
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Friday
CONTINUOUS MUSIC
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(2-4-1) HAPPY HOUR
3-7 p.m.
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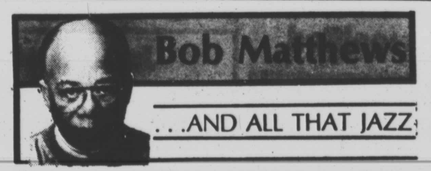

By now you have probably gotten the word on the lineup of this year's Harborlights Music Festival which kicks off June 21 in the Pier 6 Concert Pavilion.

Since we gave the lineup for the Eubie Blake Jazz Festival previously, we need only to say that a few of the events announced yesterday, fit into the jazz category.

Friday, June 27, will be **Mel Torme** and **George Shearing;** Wednesday, July 23, An Evening with **Chuck Mangione;** Fri., Aug. 8, An evening with **Cleo Laine** and **John Dankworth,** and Aug. 9, An evening with **Rosemary Clooney.**

— —

There are still tickets available for the opening concert of the Cab Calloway Jazz Institute of Coppin State College, which happens Sunday, April 20.

Billy Taylor is the featured performer, and this time it will be the Billy Taylor Trio. He will play with a bass and drums rhythm accompaniment.

Don't expect that he will lecture this time, as he did during his appearance at Hopkins recently — that time, his performance was solo, I might add.

Ticket information, call 383-5960 or 367-4292. Oh yes, it all starts at 5 p.m., and there will be a viewing of the Calloway memorabilia in the new permanent collection exhibit, immediately following the concert.

— —

Dropped into Ethel's Place for the opening night performance of **Phineas Newborn** and **Adam Markovicz,** two piano stalwarts who have never gotten the kind of publicity and recognition they deserve.

Was pleasantly surprised to find that rather than the solo piano expected, the pianists were working with bass and drums, completing a trio.

Newborn surfaced as a brilliant pianist/composer in the 50s, when he led his own group and joined with Charlie Mingus. After a long stint on the West Coast, he more or less disappeared from the music scene because of illness.

If asked what style of play he is into these days, would have so to say without question, Bud Powell. Plus, Phineas has a delicious sense of humor, which comes across in his playing.

Markovicz is from Warsaw, Poland and like most European musicians, is steeped in the lore and technique of Art Tatum and Fats Waller. The evening is divided into two halves, with Adam taking over the opening.

After about a 10 minute break — so the rhythm section can rest — Phineas takes over for the remainder. Forgive me for not remembering the name of the drummer — lost my notes — but the bass player is **Jamil Nasser.** They'll be at Ethel's Place through Saturday night. Sunday, they will play a concert for the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz in Camp Hill, PA.

— —

Got a phone call the other day from a very pleasant-sounding young lady who just wanted to inform me that **Leon Thomas** had cancelled his engagement at the Jazz Closet.

Guess he had a higher-paying gig for the date (can't blame him for that, ya know). So, she told me that Willie Shaw would be filling in.

"Willie Shaw," we queried, "must say, have never heard of him, what does he do."

Put enough doubt in her mind that maybe this wasn't completely accurate, so asked her to please wake up Henry Jr. (tee hee). About 10 minutes later, Henry called.

Seems that following Leon's cancellation, **Woodie Shaw** was still in the area. Woody was supposed to leave for a European gig, but following the bombing attack in Libya, the trip was off.

Thus, he was here — and would play at the Jazz Closet this weekend. So, if you want to see and hear two giants of jazz in action — **Gary Bartz** and **Woodie Shaw** — they start tonight.

— —

Popped into The Place Wednesday night, where **Bill Bush** still plays jazz albums, and was listening to one of the jazz-loving patrons, who bemoaned spending a Saturday night at Blues Alley.

His major complaint was not the high prices, or close quarters, but rather that the artists seem to just go through the motions, rather than really putting out.

'Twas an interesting concept that hadn't occurred to us.

— —

Can always be found at the Garrison Lounge on Monday and Thursday evenings, because that's when they play jazz tapes on the system.

So, was in my usual place under the speaker in the rear, when **Mary Brown** came by, positively beaming. She was bursting with good news, and couldn't wait to let us know.

Seems that Mary will be on duty Mondays and Thursdays from now on, which gives her the weekends off. According to Mary, it's been almost 15 years since weekends belonged to her.

We're happy for her, and especially since she is a jazz lover, and tries to make sure that the jazz tapes are properly played, with selections geared to please all the patrons.

— —

Over in D.C. this weekend, **Herbie Mann** is on hand at Blues Alley, and of course, our own **O'Donel Levy** is with him.

Might mention that **Sonny Rollins** is the featured artist at the Alley Monday and Tuesday, April 21-22. **Joe Williams** comes in on Wednesday, and plays

Continued on page 6

...and VIEWS.

This week on Essence, swing with Aretha Franklin. Get footloose with dancer Gregg Burge of *A Chorus Line*. And feel the punch of boxer Mark Breland. Plus, an update on sickle cell anemia. Join host Susan L. Taylor.

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Natalie Cole and Eugene Wilde to headline concert

One of America's best loved artists, multiple Grammy award winner NATALIE COLE, and one of black music's fastest rising young stars, vocalist EUGENE WILDE, will be the stars when Smirnoff Vodka presents the Smirnoff Friendship Concert at Constitution Hall, May 2 at 8 p.m.

The Smirnoff Friendship Concert will also benefit the Washington, D.C. Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc.

With hits like "This Will Be," "Inseparable," "Mr. Melody" and "Dangerous," NATALIE COLE has enjoyed an impressive array of gold and platinum records as well as a reputation as one of contemporary music's most gifted song stylists.

NATALIE COLE'S Concert in Washington, D.C. will mark her first major appearance since her highly acclaimed tour with FRANKIE BEVERLY and MAZE in the fall. Coinciding with Natalie's appearance will be the release of her new hit single, "Out Of This Pain."

Possessed of one of the most glorious voices in all of music, Natalie Cole, the daughter of the late, legendary Nat King Cole, has been a star for almost as long as she's been in the business.

Now entering her second decade in music, Natalie Cole's performance will be proof positive that her future in music will be even brighter than her acclaimed past.

Natalie Cole

Born and raised in Miami, Florida, balladeer Eugene Wilde's love of music resulted from the exposure generated by his parents' involvement with gospel music. A member of his family's gospel group, Eugene soon became the highlight of the act, and at age 22 he signed with Philly World Records.

His debut single "Gotta Get You Home Tonight," reached number one nationally on the Black Single's Chart. Eugene is currently represented on the charts with the hit single "Diana"and the hit album "Serenade."

Smirnoff Friendship Concerts highlighting the best in contemporary black music will take place this year in Washington, D.C., Chicago, Detroit and the New York metropolitan area.

For tickets, visit all TicketCenter outlets, including all Hecht Co. stores, 904 17th St., N.W.; the Warner Theatre Box Office and Kemp Mill Records (F Street, N.W. oly). Box Office opens 12 noon day of show. For further information call 544-7600. For charges call 385-0044. All tickets $17.50.

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