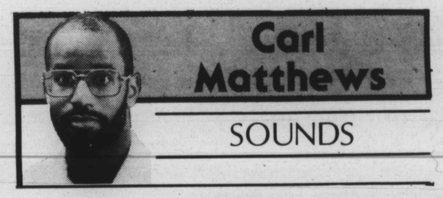

Carl Matthews

SOUNDS

THE COMMODORES
"United" (Polydor)

The folks who brought you last year's big-selling "Nightshift" single have returned to rock you once again, this time on a new label.

William King, J.D. Nicholas, Walter "Clyde" Orange and Milan Williams, The Commodores, have returned with their fifteenth album. The Commodores have been making hit records for about 12 years now.

Their first hit single, "Machine Gun," came in 1974. With albums such as "Caught In The Act," "Hot On The Tracks" and "Natural High," these fellows have racked up an impressive string of chart singles including "Slippery When Wet," "Just To Be Close To You," "Easy," "Brick House," "Old-Fashion Love" and "Nightshift."

As we mentioned last year when we reviewed "Nightshift," former Heatwave member J. D. Nicholas is The Commodores' most recent addition. He co-wrote "Land Of The Dreamer" which appears on side two of the "United" LP.

The new album begins with the single "Goin' To The Bank," about a man whose woman loves to spend money — **his** money. "Cause she won't feel so beautiful/When they repossess my car," they sing. No wimpy tune, this. "Clyde" takes the lead vocal here.

Ballads such as "United In Love" find The Commodores in fine form without having to fall back on the old Lionel Richie formula of their "Three Times A Lady" days.

The Commodores

"Land Of The Dreamer," the J.D. Nicholas showcase, is dance-rock that's every bit as effective, rhythm and message-wise, as such classics as "Too Hot Ta Trot" and "Squeeze The Fruit."

If you dug last year's "Nightshift," grab this album — you'll find this a satisfying follow-up.

VARIOUS ARTISTS
"Music From The Motion Picture Jumpin' Jack Flash"
(Mercury)

Interested in a movie about a bank computer operator who hungers for a little adventure? If so, you might want to see Whoopi Goldberg's comedy film debut in "Jumpin' Jack Flash," which was directed by former "Laverne And Shirley" star Penny Marshall.

The soundtrack album has a few bright spots. There's the upbeat disco remake of a Fontella Bass classic, "Rescue Me" done by Gwen Guthrie, whose current hit single is "Outside In The Rain." Also included is Kool And The Gang's "Misled" and The Supremes' oldie, "You Can't Hurry Love."

And of course, there's the song "Jumpin' Jack Flash." This album does **not** contain the current hit version by Aretha Franklin. The Rolling Stones original is the one included here. Notice to oldies collectors: the Stones song is in mono on this album. If you want it in stereo, get the "Hot Rocks" album.

Considering that there are now more soundtrack albums on the charts than ever, this one has just as much chance as going gold as any of the others.

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK
"New Kids On The Block"
(Columbia)

Here's a group of young singers, dancers and rappers, all between the ages of 13 and 17, who are the discoveries of producer/songwriter Maurice Starr. They're from Boston.

These youngsters produce the kind of teen-oriented "kid funk" and bubblegum soul that brings back memories of the Jackson Five in their heyday. At times, they can out-New-Edition the New Edition, as exemplified by the candy-sweetness of the opening track "Stop It Girl" or the Floaters-inspired "I Wanna Be Loved By You."

The Kids also offer a genuine hip-hop rap jam titled "New Kids On The Block," which, surprisingly, will fit in quite well in your yo jam party mixes, alongside your Run-D.M.C. and D.J. Cheese cuts. Admittedly, they lack some of the finesse of an experienced street-rocker such as L. L. Cool J, but they're trying.

Maurice Starr and his buddies also put together a very nice remake of the Delfonics' classic "Didn't I (Blow Your Mind)." Only think I don't like about the Kids' version is that they didn't include those classic harmonies on their version, but nice anyway.

V-103's Top Twenty

1. Word Up	Cameo
2. Earth Angel	New Edition
3. I'm For Real	Howard Hewett
4. Typical Male	Tina Turner
5. Shake You Down	Gregory Abbott
6. Human	Human League
7. Non-Stop	Skyy
8. Shangra-La	Teena Marie
9. Temporary Love Thing	Full Force
10. Love Always	El DeBarge
11. A Little Bit More	Melba Moore & Freddie Jackson
12. I Want To Be With You	Maze
13. Can't Wait Another Minute	Five Star
14. Time Of Your Life	Stephanie Mills
15. When I Think Of You	Janet Jackson
16. Hungry For Your Love	Hanson & Davis
17. Always	James Ingram
18. Nail It To The Wall	Stacy Lattisaw
19. Midas Touch	Midnight Star
20. Kisses In The Moonlight	George Benson

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Baltimore Symphony announces plans for European tour

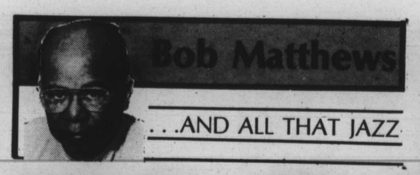
Mr. Calman J. Zamoiski, Jr., President of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra announced plans for the Orchestra's tour of Europe in May 1987. The three-week tour includes concerts in Italy, Austria, West Germany, East Germany, and England. All concerts will be conducted by Maestro David Zinman, Music Director of the BSO, and the Orchestra will be joined by violinist Shlamo Mintz, pianist Bella Davidovich, violinist Joey Swensen, and pianist Radu Lupu.

The tour is made possible with the support of the Maryland National Corporation, which contributed $750,000 to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's Endowment campaign.

The Orchestra will perform in many of Europe's most important musical capitals, in most cases for the first time. The tour includes two concerts in Vienna in the famed Musikvereinsaal, home of the Vienna Philharmonic, as well as concerts in Munich, Frankfurt, East Berlin, and London's Royal Festival Hall.

The BSO first toured Europe in 1981, performing in West and East Germany, and was the first American orchestra to perform behind the Iron Curtain.

BSO Music Director David Zinman commented, "In Europe people think of the 'Big Five' American orchestras without thinking about the other outstanding American symphonies, but the difference between these orchestras and the 'Big Five' is miniscule. The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra has something very special to show, and I am looking forward to touring with them."



Bob Matthews

...AND ALL THAT JAZZ

Got back from Connecticut last week in time to catch the last set of the Left Bank Jazz Society's concert, and am certainly glad we did.

Wanted to hear the **Joe Sudler** Big Band, and a welcome addition to the music scene it is. They play exquisite charts, some by topflight arrangers, and the band clicks like a well-oiled machine.

If there is a drawback, it is in the soloist category, for there really is no big star in the group. To the credit of LBJS, bringing in new talent is a new approach, and one we hope will continue.

Was glad to see that a busload of Philadelphians came down to show support for their local band, and from the enthusiastic response, they had a ball.

The other group on the bill was the **Buck Hill Quartet,** with **Mickey Fields** as guest star, and on the particular set we caught, that kicked off with "Jumping With Symphony Sid," and never looked back.

Buck Hill

Richard "Groove" Holmes

With **Warren Shadd** on drums, **Charlie Covington,** piano, and **Carroll DeShields,** bass, the rhythm section was totally inspiring, and Buck and Mickey really showed off.

In fact, this was some of the best blowing we have heard from Mickey in quite a while. Checked with him later, and asked what the difference was.

He said, "Most of the time I am playing with organ accompaniment, and having an acoustic bass, piano and drums behind me was really inspirational."

'Course playing along with Buck didn't hurt either, for those two really click when they get together.

Incidently, was checking with Helen Hill, Buck's wife — who really was looking great (minus a few pounds, ya know) — and the latest venture for Buck is a series of concerts in Thailand.

As an aside to LBJS, we wonder what happened to the onstage sign with the logo of the organization which traditionally hangs on the wall at the rear of the stage. The old one was classically done — this one doesn't do justice to the organization.

* * *

Seems like Baltimore is near the end of the road for the opening of the movie "Round Midnight" which will be previewed here at the Towson Arts Cinemas on November 5.

This is the movie starring **Dexter Gordon,** of course, with **Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter** and a host of other jazz greats on view.

Plan to attend the special preview of the movie, and will give you a complete review next week.

* * *

Richard (Groove) Holmes will be the artist in residence at Ethel's Place tonight through Sunday.

Don't have to tell you about Groove, since he is a familiar organist in Baltimore, having played this area many, many times. But, the setting at Ethel's Place should make an interesting backdrop for his trio.

Note that the cover charge for this one is $9, and of course Groove plays what we call "front bar of the Club Harlem" type of swinging jazz, which stays in the groove — which is how he got his nickname.

Next week, **Mad Romance** will be the featured artists, a group from the Washington, DC area, which is in the vein of such groups as Lambert-Hendricks and Ross, or Manhattan Transfer, LA Voices, etc.

This is a return to the club for them — we recommend it.

* * *

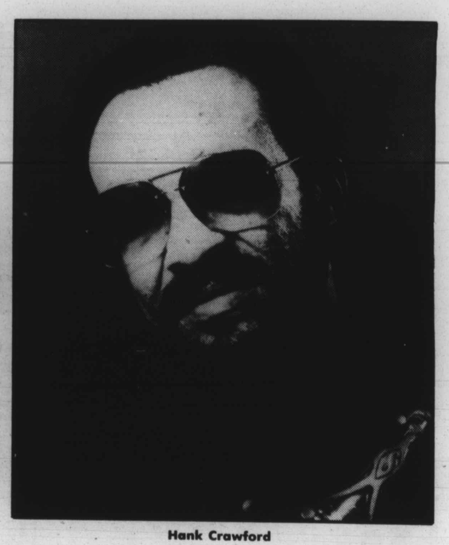
It's **Leon Thomas** at the Jazz Closet this weekend, and must confess, we have been unable to find out just what and who will be filling in during Gary's sojourn in Spain.

* * *

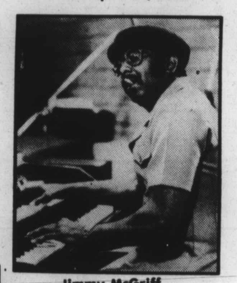
For your future planning, you can bemoan the unfortunate conflict once again between LBJS and the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz concerts.

November 16 is the date for both, with LBJS hosting the **Jimmy McGriff-Hank Crawford** group, and CPFOJ hosting the **Chicago Reunion Band.**

That band has **Von Freeman,** tenor sax; **Julian Priester,** trombone; **Wilbur Campbell,** drums; **Jody Christian,** piano, and **Victor Spruiles,** bass.



Hank Crawford



Jimmy McGriff

Scene from the movie "Round Midnight" with Francois Cluzet and Herbie Hancock discussing music matters.

Dexter Gordon (center) portrays Dale Turner, a famous jazz musician who performs at Paris' Blue Note Cafe in the Warner Brothers release "Round Midnight," the story of a jazz man's struggle to create the be-bop sound in 1950's Paris. Herbie Hancock and Lonette McGee also star.

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