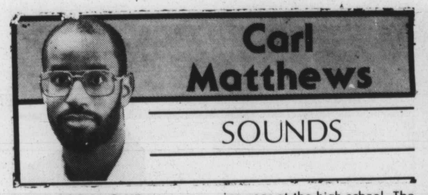


Carl Matthews

SOUNDS

TIMEX SOCIAL CLUB
"Vicious Rumors" (Danya)

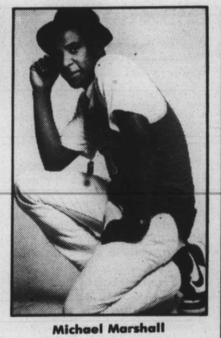
It's no lie. Timex Social Club has its very first album out, named for the smash summer hit single.

Lead singer Michael Marshall formed Timex Social Club in 1983 while he was a senior at Berkeley High School in California. Marshall and group member Marcus Thompson sat down and composed "Rumors," and the Club first played that tune the following year at the high school. The students loved it and the group decided to record it on a four-track machine at keyboardist Alex Hill's house.

The tape received immediate local airplay and "Rumors" was released as a single on the small Jay Records label.

"Rumors" hit the top ten on both the pop and black contemporary singles charts — dance charts, too.

The rest of Timex Social Club: Jay Logan, keyboards and drum machine; Steve McGraw, guitar, Isaiah Mosley, Chris Jordan, Bob Spencer, and Beat Creator, who does the "human beat box" on "360 Degrees (Natty Prep)."



Michael Marshall

You get two versions of "Rumors" with this album. You get the hit single (5:46) plus a remixed version called "Vicious Rumors (Euromix)" (4:16).

Marshall's hook-filled, danceable street rhythms dominate the album. "Thinkin' About Ya" is a logical follow-up single, sporting the same sort of beat as "Rumors" and an overall hip quality that puts it in the same league as recent hits by Full Force.

Ballad fans might be disappointed by the ballads, however. The Club's interpretation of the Goffin-King classic "Go Away Little Girl" and the Marshall original "Only You" serve as acceptable filler, at least, but it's on street funk like "360 Degrees (Natty Prep)" that these fellows bring out their best.

Other cuts: "Mixed Up World," "Just Kickin' It," "Cokelife."

VARIOUS ARTISTS
"Soul Man" (A&M)

Haven't gotten enough of movie soundtracks? Here's another one, "Soul Man."

The movie "Soul Man," which features James Earl Jones as Professor Banks, is about a rich young white kid, played by C. Thomas Howell, who darkens his skin with chemicals in order to "earn" a minority scholarship to Harvard Law School.

The song "Soul Man" was a top five pop and R&B smash when it was recorded by Sam & Dave in 1967. Sam Moore, who appeared on that original hit, has teamed up with Lou Reed ("Walk On The Wild Side") for a new version of that classic.

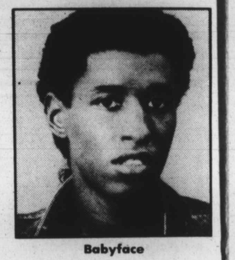
The title track is in the same key and tempo as the original, and instrumentally sounds very good. Lou Reed's vocal, however, is good for a chuckle or two, if nothing else (the overall concept) is a laugh, if you ask me).

And just think, the last time "Soul Man" hit the charts, it was done by the Blues Brothers!

Highlights of this album include Brenda Russell's "Totally Academic" and Tom Scott's "Sweet Sarah."

BABYFACE
"You Make Me Feel Brand New" (Solar)

Speaking of remakes, male vocalist Babyface has released a single called "You Make Me Feel Brand New," a remake of the Stylistics classic.



Babyface

Babyface, who is from Indianapolis, plays guitar and keyboards for The Deele ("Material Thangz"). His first solo single retains all the warmth of the original, with enough vocal pizzazz and production polish to almost guarantee chart success.

The uptempo "Faithful" is on the flip side.

V-103's Top Twenty

1. Shake You Down	Gregory Abbott
2. A Little Bit More	Melba Moore & Freddie Jackson
3. Typical Male	Tina Turner
4. Word Up	Cameo
5. Tasty Love	Freddie Jackson
6. I'm For Real	Howard Hewett
7. Human	Human League
8. Nail It To The Wall	Stacy Lattisaw
9. Lady Soul	Temptations
10. Jealousy	Timex Social Club
11. Love Will Conquer All	Lionel Richie
12. Old Friend	Phyllis Hyman
13. Don't Think About It	One Way
14. When I Think Of You	Janet Jackson
15. Talk To Me	Chico DeBarge
16. Going To The Bank	Commodores
17. Love You Down	Ready For The World
18. Kiss Away The Pain	Patti Labelle
19. Hot! Wild! Unrestricted! Crazy Love!	Millie Jackson
20. Heaven In Your Arms	R.J.'s Latest Arrival

Q: Can you tell me who the little girl is that plays Betsy and Steve Andropolous's daughter, Danielle, on "As The World Turns?" Is she related to either of the actors who play her parents? — J.F., Vinton, VA.

A: Colleen Broomall portrays Danielle, and no, she isn't related to either Lindsay Frost (Betsy) or Frank Runyeon (Steve).

Q: I'm sure that Clayton Rohner, who starred in the feature film, "Just One Of The Guys," was on "The Edge of Night," but my sister disagrees. Who's right? — T.R., Stanley, VT.

A: Your sister wins this one T.R. There was a female character named Alicia Rohmer on "EON," maybe that's where the confusion comes from?

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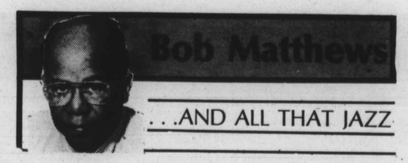

Bob Matthews

...AND ALL THAT JAZZ

Finally got a chance to see the movie "Round Midnight" which officially opens today, but previewed for the past week. There is a review in this issue by AFRO reviewer **Penny Demps,** so we just want to give our impression.

First off, despite what the critics have said, an appreciation of jazz is vital for full enjoyment of the film. In my opinion, **Dexter Gordon** reads his lines well, but I didn't get the impression he was acting — he was just being himself.

Had to tell some of the uninitiates in attendance at the preview, Dexter talks like that normally — and acts that way too. From a music standpoint, Dexter is way past his prime, and it was a bit painful to hear a shell of the tenor great.

But the performances of the rest of the group, **Herbie Hancock, Cedar Walton, Freddie Hubbard, Tony Williams, Wayne Shorter, Pierre Michelot** and host of others, were simply magnificent.

In sort — I liked it — and despite its slow pace, jazz lovers will too, especially those familiar with bebop and its people and influence.

* * *

As **Milt Jackson** wrote: "Ain't But a Few of Us Left," and the number diminished once again as word surfaced this week that **Eddie (Lockjaw) Davis** died Monday in California.

Jaws, as he was affectionately known, played a concert for the Left Bank Jazz Society at the Omni International just last year and had played Baltimore often through the years.

His "chase" recordings with **Johnny Griffin** are classics, as are some of the things he did with organist **Shirley Scott** which whom he was teamed for many years.

In fact, it was the Club Astoria over on Edmondson Ave. that Jaws and Shirley decided to split up after their engagement at the club. He went on to join Count Basie's band where he was featured soloist from 1966-1973.

He was 65.

* * *

At the Jazz Closet this weekend, **Gary Thomas** and his group are in residence, with trumpeter **Thomas Williams** as guest artist.

Rest of the group consists of **Doug Carn,** keyboards; **Jeff Harper,** bass, and **Ricky Loza,** drums.

At Ethel's Place, the vocal group **Mad Romance** on tap tonight and tomorrow, with **Joe Williams** on hand next week, Wednesday, Nov. 12-16.

* * *

For your future planning, the Left Bank Jazz Society presents **Jimmy McGriff,** organist with **Hank Crawford,** reeds in concert at the Omni International Hotel, November 16.

This bodes well to be one of those grooving sessions and dancers in the audience will find it difficult to keep from taking the floor.

Both artists have played for LBJS many times, in fact, Hank Crawford was one of the featured performers during LBJS's stint at Moreco's over on Reisterstown Rd.

At any rate, all jazz followers know of this duo, although word hasn't surfaced as to the backup rhythm section, but we have no doubts that this will be a really swinging set.

* * *

Alas, there is a conflict again, the Smithsonian Resident Associates program over at the Baird Auditorium, will be presenting the **Toshiko Akioshi** quartet in concert Nov. 16 at 8 p.m.

Of course, we really prefer here in a big band setting, since she is one of the top arrangers and conductors around today, but she is also an excellent painist, and does well in a quartet setting.

* * *

And in Camp Hill, PA on that same Sunday, the **Chicago Reunion Band** will be performing for the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz. This group includes:

Von Freeman, tenor sax; **Julian Priester,** trombone; **Jodi Christian,** piano; **Victor Sproles,** bass, and **Wilbur Campbell,** drums.

* * *

Our favorite guitarist, **O'Donel Levy,** dropped by the other day just to say "howdy," and to let me know that he is appearing at the Annapolis Hilton this weekend with **Joe Byrd,** bassist.

Seems he and **Herbie Mann** have split up, actually, for the usual reasons (money), and O'Donel is putting together a group to play dates in Florida.

On Dec. 2, he is off to Australia and will probably have Gary Grange on bass, possibly Bob Butta on piano in the group.

He also will be working with **Warren Shadd** and **Jeff Wilson** on one of his sojourns, and when we questioned this, since we had been told that Shadd would accompany **Buck Hill** to a Thailand gig, seems Shadd backed out of that trip.

Buck's wife, Helen, said she really doesn't want to go, but the trip is a part of an exchange program — and will come off.

We'll be off to Hawaii and Jamaica for the next two weeks. Will check things out on our return.

Spyro Gyra at Lyric Opera House tonight

By Frederick I. Douglass

Sypro Gyra, the group that was designated by **Cashbox** Magazine as the "Jazz Group of 1985" and that has received two Grammy Award nominations, will be appearing tonight (Friday) at the Lyric Opera House in a performance that begins at 8:00 p.m.

Hailing from New York, Spyro Gyra has gained substantial popularity for its eclectic blend of jazz, rock, Latin and rhythm & blues musical idioms.

Spryo Gyra is: Jack Beckenstein, saxophones, lyrican; Tom Schuman, keyboards; Dave Samuels, Vibraphone; Julio Fernandez, guitar, Kim Stone, bass; Richie Morales, drums; and Manolo Badrena, percussion.

1985 was a big year for Spyro Gyra with the popularity of the groups' album "Alternating Currents" and the success of a single release from the LP entitled "Shakedown." The members of Spyro Gyra are hoping for even greater success during 1986 and are touring to promote the new recording "Breakout.

Describing the sounds that can be found on "Breakout," Jay Beckenstein, whose soaring saxophone solos dominate the album, emphatically states "On our last album, I felt that there were a couple of different directions that were somewhat contrary to each other. One vibe was rock and rollish and there was another group of tunes that had a more classical Jazz feel to them. We've followed that trend in the new album, but the schism is even wider. The rock tunes are even heavier and more intense while the Jazz tunes lean toward more highly improvised compositions."

Beckenstein feels that Spyro Gyra is a group that is continuing to experience emotional and professional evolution. "We've grown a lot closer and wo're more musically tuned in to each other" he says. "We always aim to stretch out at every performance. Our 1985 tour really gave us an opportunity to grow as a performing group."

With the release of "Breakout," it immediately becomes apparent that Spyro Gyra has also grown numerically — that is, Manolo Badrena, a percussionist who has attained legendary status through his work with Weather Report and other stellar Jazz artists, has joined the musical aggregation.

"Manolo is an incredible percussionist" says Beckenstein. "He appeared as a guest artist on our albums 'City Kids and 'Incognito. He's an exciting, spontaneous musician and he's bringing a lot of new ideas to the group."

Spyro Gyra's made its debut on the musical scene in 1975 when the group began performing in Buffalo's nightclubs. Formed by Jay Beckenstein and his friend Jeremy Walls as a creative outlet for their talents, the group attracted considerable attention from Buffalo residents, enough to encourage members to embark upon a recording project.

"We leased a 16 track recording studio on a short term lease and helped pay for our recording by sub - leasing the studio to other musicians. Our tape, however, did not impress any of the record companies, so we decided to form our own label, Crosseyed Bear Records." The album attracted so much attention that Amherst Records picked it up and distributed it nationally.

Next, Spyro Gyra recorded "Morning Dance" and "Catching the Sun," two albums that quickly went gold, thereby establishing the group as a musical force to be reckoned with.

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