ALL THAT JAZZ

By Bob Matthews

Tonight (Friday) is the night when the First Annual Maryland Jazz Festival kicks off at Oregon Ridge Park in Baltimore County. And we just want to emphasize to you that the concert begins at 7 p.m. tonight, and 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Had been wondering how they planned to get in all the music that will be presented, and this early start time answers the question.

Leading off is Baltimore's **Gary Thomas,** followed by **Ramsey Lewis.** Then comes **Sarah Vaughan** and wrapping up the evening is **Tony Bennett.**

Saturday night begins with the **McCoy Tyner Trio,** along with guest artists **Freddie Hubbard** and **Benny Golson, Herbie Mann** and his Brazilian group is next up, then **Roberta Flack** with **Maynard Ferguson** closing out the night.

For your information, Maynard will not be fronting that big band with which he is usually associated, but will have an eight-piece aggregation.

Sunday's presentation begins with the **Great Guitars, Charlie Byrd, Herb Ellis** and **Barney Kessel.** Secondly, the **Count Basie Orchestra,** conducted by tenor sax man **Frank Foster. Nancy Wilson** is next, and closing out the night and the festival is **Mel Torme,** who certainly is no stranger to Baltimore.

Had rather hoped that Nancy and Mel would be accompanied by the Basie orchestra, but such is not be be—both are bringing in their own accompaniment.

For the benefit of the Washington jazz lovers who might want to make this set, getting there is simplicity itself. Get to the Baltimore Beltway (I-695) by whichever route is most convenient.

Pick up I-83, heading toward York, PA, and go as far as Hunt Valley where you will exit on Shawan Rd. West. From there, it's about a half-mile or less—follow the signs.

In case you forgot, this is an open air concert, with no seating provided, so lawn chairs or blankets are almost a must for comfort. Strongly recommend

Ahmad Jamal

bringing along picnicking supplies—that way, you won't have to wait in food lines.

This is a mighty ambitious undertaking, and we can only offer our sincere congratulations to **Elzie Street**, who continued his dream of bringing top jazz to this area.

Let the music begin—we're ready!

* * *

Every year, it is in a different location, mainly because it grows bigger each year. This year it will be held at Ft. Smallwood Pk.

What, you ask? Answer! the fourth annual Maryland Summer Fest. This is the session where the local area musicians get a chance to get together, to play individually, jam, and just plain have a good time.

Naturally, we have seen most of these musicians play many times in clubs in the area, but this is a completely different - type setting, and the name of the game is having fun—and they do, and so will you.

Have attended the last three Summer Fests, and must confess, although my love for jazz is paramount, it had to take a backseat to the food offered at this set, for being the barbecued ribs aficionado that we profess to be—this is certainly up our alley.

Everything is home cooked, such as barbecue chicken and ribs, greens, sweet potato pie, and steamed crabs galore.

But, we disgress—after all, music is the name of the game here, and the lineup is impressive.

First off, honorees for this year's Fest are alto saxophonist **Carlos Johnson,** internationally known musician; and **Rosa Pryor,** who is one of the most successful booking agent/managers in the area.

Among the many musicians scheduled to appear at the fest are: **Mickey Fields, Andy Ennis, Rick Johnson, Donald Bailey, Dave Ross, Johnny Polite, James Sauderlin, Kevin Jackson, Joe Hosea, Andy Rock, Lionel Jiggetts, Eric Thaxton, Earl Omara;**

Jennifer Jones, Lady Rebecca, Vanice James, Nikki Cooper, Morris Dow, Kevin Walker, George Johnson, Benny Washington, Vernon Wolst, Chico Johnson, The Steel Band, and many others. Kinda like the way they have spiced things up with added attractions. Dig this: there will be a swimsuit contest, and a motorcycle contest. Don't know the parameters for these but they sound interesting.

Cleo Laine

Further information: 783-0494. Incidently, there will be a musical caravan leaving from Mondawmin Mall, July 16 at 10 a.m. In case we forgot to mention it, the fest begins at noon.

The comedy musical "Simply Heavenly" will kick off the 1988 season of On Stage Downtown on Tuesday, July 12 at 8 p.m., at War Memorial Plaza in Baltimore. The show will be performed by the Arena Players. Pictured above are (left to right) Kwame Bey and Brenda Rann. For more information call the Baltimore Office of Promotion and Tourism at (301)-837-INFO.

SOUNDS

By Carl Matthews

ARROW
"Knock Dem Dead" (Mango)

One of the biggest names in the world of soca music, Arrow, returns with a new LP that is probably his hippest-sounding disc ever.

The 33-year-old singer from Montserrat (West Indies) hit the top of the charts in four countries in 1983 with the "soca national anthem," the single "Hot Hot Hot." In 1984, Arrow's "Long Time" hit England's "Top Of The Pops."

Arrow's latest LP opens with the joyous "Groove Master." The rap duo Audio Two, who are known for their single "Top Billin'," appear briefly on this cut, but the rap sounds out of place outside of a hip hop setting.

"Tell Mama" is enhanced by the Izulu Dance Theatre, and on such tracks as "Rhumba Again" and "Big Big" everyone sounds like they're having fun.

GLADYS KNIGHT AND THE PIPS
"The Best Of Gladys Knight And The Pips (The Columbia Years)" (Columbia)

Gladys Knight And The Pips have been around for more than 35 years (the current line-up has been around for more than 15 years). The early 80's hits from Gladys Knight, Bubba Knight, William Guest, and Edward Patten have been compiled on this new album, not to be confused with the "Best Of" album released on Buddah in 1976.

This LP includes such memorable Ashford And Simpson productions as "Taste Of Bitter Love" and "Landlord." Of course, the album would not be complete without "Save The Overtime (For Me)" and my favorite "My Time" (love that keyboard intro) which appears full-length here.

Also included: "Ain't No Greater Love," "I Will Fight," "When You're Far Away," "You're Number One (In My Book)," "Hero," "A Friend Of Mine."

SADE
"Stronger Than Pride" (Epic)

Helen Folasade Adu, a 29-year-old singer from Nigeria, has two platinum albums to her credit: "Diamond Life," which includes "Smooth Operator," and "Promise," which contains "The Sweetest Taboo." "Promise" topped the top album charts in 1986.

Those who loved "Promise" should appreciate such tracks as "Love Is Stronger Than Pride," which is sort of a stretched out,

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Melba Moore visits the AFRO, promotes new album

By Sheryl Michelle Jeffries

Melba Moore is the personification of the contemporary, successful woman. She has established herself as an accomplished singer, actress, recording artist. She is constantly broadening her scope and visibility as a performing artist.

Now Melba brings all of her extraordinary talent and professionalism to her record company, Capitol Records; and here in Baltimore, with her newly released album, "I'm In Love."

The conglomeration of these songs exhibits the talented songstress's voice at its best, be it ballads or uptempo tunes.

This petite dynamo visited the AFRO offices and local radio stations during her recent promotional tour in the Baltimore/D.C. area.

Moore wanted to talk with us about her new album and latest ventures and to share them with readers and fans.

"I'm pleased with the entire album. I hear growth in my singing and it (growth) is important to me as an artist," she said.

"I Can't Complain" is the current single on the airwaves and the video recently made its debut.

Moore has this to say about the song. "It was written as a duet with Freddie and myself in mind. I feel that my fans like to hear Freddie and me together... this lets them know we're thinking of them.

"I love duets because two voices immediately add a completely different perspective to a song. It's like eavesdropping on a couple's very emotional private moment. Duets can be very powerful."

The next single from the album is the duet with Kashif and is also the title song of the album, "I'm In Love."

"I wanted Kashif to sing it with me, he's an incredible vocal arranger. It wasn't intended as a duet originally, and I had been thinking of doing it alone, but I'm glad I changed my mind."

When asked what her all time favorite song was, Moore emphatically stated, "I guess I would have to say "Lean On Me" because it was a philosophy of life ... I'd like to be the person one can lean on. I never tire of doing it in my performances. I always find it interesting and fresh."

She also referred to the song "I'll Never Find Another You" in same vein as "Lean On Me."

"I fought for this one. To me, this song is me ... it's a strong message, something you can sink your teeth into and sing your brain off."

Contrary to common belief, the trademark long notes Moore frequently holds are not as difficult to obtain as one would think.

"Believe it or not, they seem to be easy to sing. It wasn't anything planned, it just happened one day while I was singing and I've been doing it ever since."

Because of her strong classical training, Melba has a profound respect for her voice. She maintains a special diet which helps protect and strengthen her voices as well as to keep her body physically fit.

"I can't drink anything cold. It has to be warm or hot ... I have to be careful so I don't end up sounding like Pee Wee Herman," she said with a laugh.

Moore is managed by Hush Productions, which is a full service management company headed by herself and her husband, Charles Huggins. In addition to Moore's career, the company guides the careers of artists including her protege Freddie Jackson, Stacy Lattisaw, Mikki Howard and the Force M.D.'s.

Hush has recently ventured into the movie making business and started a film production company called Orpheus.

"Temptation," their first film, is a black horror epic written and directed by 22-year-old actor, James Bond III. It features a cameo appearance by Moore as a medium.

Freddie Jackson has a walk on role, and it also stars Kadeem Hardison from a "A Different World" fame, John Terell from "She's Gotta Have It," and introduces Cynthia Bond in the female lead. The company is aiming for an October release in time for Halloween.

Moore worked on a second film, an animated feature called "Charlie's Friends." In the feature, she and Burt Reynolds sing a duet.

Moore is always on the look out for new talent and recently discovered a singing group comprised of three sisters and their name is Obsession.

"They are from Detroit and they are unbelievable. They are pretty exciting, energetic and are really good girls," Moore said.

Melba has recently been named Chairman of the Membership Drive for the National Council of Negro Women and will hold that position for the next five years.

In addition to traveling for the NCNW and the promotional tour junkets, Melba is readying herself to return to the stage once again in a one woman show scheduled for the beginning of next year.

—Third World

(Continued from Page 3)

"The Spirit Lives," "Hold On To Love," "Corruption," "Simplicity" and "Manners."

In addition to Third World's ten previous LP's, the band members have worked on group efforts with other artists as well as independent projects.

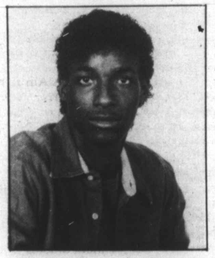
In early 1985, Third World joined forces with Steel Pulse, Freddy McGregor, Gregory Isaacs, I. Three, Aswad, Mutabaruka, The Rasbrass Horn Section and Tristan Palmer on "Land of Africa" to raise money for the starving in Africa. They also participated in the production of "Apartheid No" for the same cause.

What Third World has become is a band of musical activists, both in the sense of actively seeking to create new sounds, "a new musical form," and also to change their world through music.

Third World begins their North American tour in support of **Hold On To Love,** performing in fifteen cities throughout July and August.

The members of Third World are William "Rugs" Clarke (lead vocals), Michael "Ibo" Cooper (keyboards), Stephen "Cat" Coore (guitar), Richie Daley (bass), and Willie "Root" Stewart (drums).

For ticket information call (202)485-9666. Carter Barron is located at 4520 Colorado Ave., N.W., in Washington.



Dwayne Carlos of Baltimore portrays Carlos, in the Cockpit in Court Maryland premiere of "The Rink," which opens Friday, July 8, on the Mainstage at Essex Community College.

Anya Randall of Columbia will star as one of "Jerry's Girls" in the glittering musical revue of the same name which opens Friday, July 8, in the Cockpit in Court Upstairs Cabaret Theatre at Essex Community College.

COCKPIT PRESENTS MARYLAND PREMIERE OF THE RINK JULY 8 — Todd Van Hackett of Baltimore portrays Lucky, one of the talented song-and-dance men who comprise the members of the wrecking Tickets may be reserved through the Cockpit Box Office at 522-1269.

Photo by Norman J. McCullough

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