—Kemp

(Continued from Page 3)

and knocked it around a few times and then it was done. The song was really recorded in a day and it only took a couple of takes."

With more of the music business under his belt, this young man (in his twenties), has a lot more confidence and a more mature approach to his work and this is apparent on **"Secrets of Flying."**

"This second album is a much stronger personal statement than the first. I was able to explore a lot more this time around."

One of Johnny's expeditions was the decision to make a funky medley cover version of Marvin Gaye's classic hits of the seventies, "Inner City Blues (Make Me Wanna Holler)," and "Mercy, Mercy Me (Ecology)."

"I chose these two songs because they are closly related to one another musically and lyrically. I feel they are a complete statement, Marvin's personal statement.

"I am and have always been a fan of his, let's just say this is my tribute to Marvin Gaye. I really respected him."

With the exception of those two songs, Kemp co-wrote four out of the eight tunes on his album. He says songwriting comes easily and quickly to him.

Kemp, along with nine brothers and sisters, grew up in the Bahamas in a musically-inclined family with gospel roots.

He has always spent his entire life on stage, starting from an early age dabbing into singing, dancing, acting, songwriting, and being a musician.

With so many siblings, there was always a friendly rivalry and competition amongst each other. It turned out to be a prerequisite of sorts for Kemp seeking and obtaining the spotlight he yearned for.

Kemp credits his father Johnny, Sr., (one of the Bahamas' top entertainers), as the one who was instrumental in giving him a lot to aim for in seeking his life goals.

"Our family sang together, mainly in church. Even though I was under age, about 12 then, I had been performing in high school talent shows when the local clubs began to hire me."

By the age of 13, "Little Johnny" became a star and the next few years he played all the major hotels and night clubs. "The casinos were the best places to perform in the islands," he said.

He then went on to perform with popular bands in the islands and covered several American artists from Tom Jones to Stevie Wonder to Michael Jackson. Wonder and Jackson are also his idols.

Kemp came to New York in the early eighties doing several demos and making club date appearances.

He worked in all aspects of the music business with such groups as Change (after Luther Vandross left the fold), on their **"Sharing Your Love"** LP and the BBQ Band's **"All Night Long"** album.

Kemp feels that New York is the best place to be musically, for a recording artist, and he presently resides in Manhattan.

Working in both the Bahamas and New York, Kemp said, "During most of this time, I was storing all of these experiences in my mind.

"I was cross-filing everything with what I had done in the Bahamas. I've been very fortunate to have worked in both places.

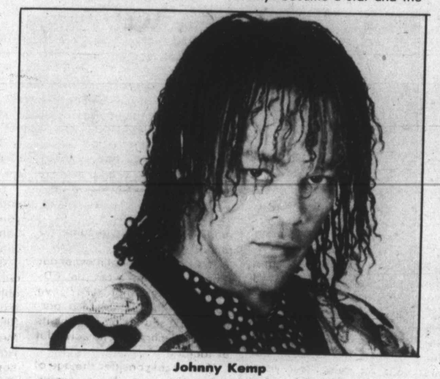
"It has widened my scope and made me appreciate cultural differences and similarities."

Kemp soon signed a deal with Columbia Records and began working with Kashif. He had much success with this debut album and the track which topped the charts was "Just Another Lover."

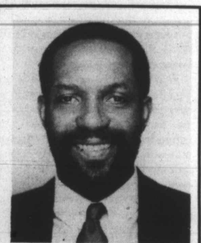
Kemp displays versatility and magnetism throughout his contemporary LP from ballads like "Feeling Without Touching" to dance music sounds like "Just Got Paid" and "Dancin' With Myself."

With all of the talent in the Kemp family, Johnny says, "I would love to produce a family act. I have nine brothers and sisters and they all are talented . . . it would be a great thing to do and I am looking forward to it."

With the success of this album, Johnny Kemp is achieving a personal high through his music and it's a feeling that he wishes his audiences can experience as well.



Johnny Kemp



"Evening Exchange" host Kojo Nnamdi and a group of Washington, D.C.-based journalists will offer in-depth analysis of both Democratic and Republican Conventions in two separate specials on WHMM TV 32, Friday, July 22, beginning at 8:00 p.m. It will be broadcast from Atlanta.

WASHINGTON

Sackler Gallery presents free events

The Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery presents the following public program in July and August. All events are free and, for these two months, will be held in the Ripley Center Lecture Hall.*

Please note that seating in the Lecture Hall is limited to 180 persons. Those wishing to attend events that do not require reservations are advised to arrive early.

Doors open 30 minutes prior to the start of the program.

Aug. 17 — "Recent Studies in Ancient Chinese Metallurgy and Bronze Casting Techniques.

A lecture detailing the history of ancient metallurgy in China will be presented by Hua Jue Ming, professor, Institute of History of Natural Science, Academia Sinica, Beijing, and author of many pioneering works in the field. Hua's lecture will include new findings from field trips taken this year. 6 p.m.

August 23—"The Building"

Patrick H. Sears, assistant director, Exhibitions and Facilities, Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and Freer Gallery of Art, will discuss the design and construction process for the newest Smithsonian museum, the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery. Topics include the museum's interior architecture and exhibition spaces. 6 p.m.

FILMS

Now through Aug. 11—Thursday evening Film Series

Five films by the celebrated Indian Director Satyajit Ray, hailed by a New York Herald Tribune critic as "one of the great naturalistic poets of the cinema," are scheduled. Ray, born in Calcutta in 1921, is known for his careful observations of Bengali life. Each evening at 6.

July 28—"the World of Apu" (1959, 103 minutes, black-and-white)

In the completion of the trilogy, Apu's new wife dies in Childbirth, leaving him to live with his son's resentment.

Aug. 4—"Days and Nights in the Forest (1970, 120 minutes, black-and-white)

As four friends vacation together, they gain insight that help them to appreciate the complex tapestry of birth, death, life and love.

Aug. 11—"Company Limited" (1971, 112 minutes, black-and-white)

An ambitious and insensitive young Calcutta executive "forgets" his humble beginnings in another of Ray's serene, insightful glimpses into Bengali life.

The Sackler Gallery is located on the National Mall at 1050 Independence Ave. S.W., near the Smithsonian metrorail station (Blue and Orange lines). Special summer hours are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., through Monday, Sept. 5.

* Enter through the kiosk at 1100 Jefferson Drive S.W.

ARLINGTON

Summer performance festival takes place

Arlington, VA — Over seventy performances of theatre, dance and music will fill the air this summer at the **ARLINGTON ARTS EXPLOSION,** Northern Virginia's largest free summer arts festival.

Now through September 9th, audiences can enjoy quality entertainment from national performers and locally-based groups.

These performances will be held outdoors at various public parks and sites throughout Arlington County. All shows are free of charge.

Six distinct series comprise this vibrant performance and visual arts celebration produced by the Arlington Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources, Cultural Affairs Division.

SUMMER CELEBRATION at the Lubber Run Amphitheatre features family-oriented entertainment with an eclectric blend of popular music, dance and theatre.

Sponsors of The Arlington Arts Explosion include: The Charles E. Smith Companies, Safeway Food Emporium, The Washington Post, Columbia First Federal Savings & Loan Association, Westfield Realty, and First American Bank of Virginia.

Media sponsors include: WGMS - AM/FM, WBMW - FM, WTTG Fox Television, and Arlington Community Television.

For more information or for a copy of the Arlington Arts Explosion Calendar, call 739-2900.

—Temptations

(Continued from page 3)

Six Box Office Monday through Friday, from noon to 6:00 p.m., and on performance days from noon through intermission.

Tickets are also available at all area Ticket Center and outlets and the Baltimore Arena Box Office.

The WJZ 13 Harborlights Music Festival is sponsored by WJZ-TV, The Pepsi-Cola Company of Baltimore, The 6 Gallant Men of Olds and Baltimore's Best, B-104, and is produced by The Baltimore Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.

The concert pavilion is located at Pier Six and Pratt Street along Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

For additional information, call the Pier Six Box Office at (301) 727-5580.

SOUNDS

By Carl Matthews

J.J. FAD
"Supersonic The Album" (Ruthless)

And now the rap trio that brought us the smash hit "Supersonic" get hyped on their first LP, produced by Dr. Dre and D.J. Yella.

J.J. Fad is MC JB (Juana Burns), Baby D (Dania Birks) and Sassy C (Michelle Franklin). Not many female rap groups are coming out of Los Angeles, so it might be interesting to compare Fad's style with some of the current hot New York artists.

From a musical and lyrical standpoint, this album is sarely lacking in solid material. The hit single "Supersonic" may go gold but it's a perfect example of "Talking loud and saying nothing" (as James Brown might put it).

"Way Out" sounds like a hastily-recorded hip-hop take-off on a song from a Flintstones cartoon. "Eenie Meenie Beats" simply rehashes the already tired "Supersonic" idea with a slightly different rhythm track. And "My Dope Intro" uses the music from West Street Mob's "Get Up And Dance" — at least this is a refreshing chnage from the stale drum-machine beats of the five preceding cuts.

J. J. Fad is (from left to right) Baby D, MC JB, and Sassy C.

RAINY DAVIS
"Ouch" (Columbia)

Rainy Davis returns with her follow-up to last year's "Sweetheart" LP.

Rainy Davis

Rainy Davis, who was raised in Brooklyn, first started in music as a member of a Bronx band known as Jamilia. Keith Sweat ("I Want Her") was also a member.

Rainy later toured with the disco group Musique, who had hit the dance charts with "Keep On Jumpin' " and "In The Bush." Her first solo hit came last year, "Lowdown So And So," from her debut "Sweetheart" which also included the Prince-penned "Still Waiting."

If ever there was a recording that might be mistaken for a Lisa Lisa track, it's "Indian Giver" from Rainy's new album, This hook-filled pop gem is typical of what you'll find on "Ouch" — a voice that may lack the depth of Deniece Williams' or the recognizability of Dionne Warwick but is well-suited to today's current pop music nonetheless. The slow funk of "Be My Man," although produced by Pete Warner and Rainy, could pass for a Full Force production. I would say that their arrangement of the classic Miracles side "Choosey Beggar" calls for a somewhat more "emotional" performance than what Rainy gives us here (and Steve Greenfield's sax solo is a trifle limp also).

Now that she has a couple of hit records to her credit, Rainy Davis is an artist that shows promise.

Music Notes

I was chatting with a reader a few weeks back and the subject of compact discs came up. He was considering buying a CD player and wanted some info: how the players work, how the discs sound, stuff like that.

I was only too glad to share some of the things I've learned about CDs after four whole months of being a genuine CD player owner.

The thing we spent most of our time discussing was: do CDs sound better than LPs? I've observed that whether a particular CD sounds as good as its LP counterpart depends on a lot of factors.

You might consider the age of a recording to be a factor, especially if you find it odd that "Hit The Road Jack" by Ray Charles, which was recorded in 1961, sounds a lot better than "Shapes Of Things" by The Yardbirds, which was recorded in 1965.

But as we've learned, age isn't the only factor.

I've got a whole collection of "strange but true" stories about CDs. Did you hear the one about the Electric Light Orchestra's "Face The Music" album? When it first came out on CD, the CD was 3 minutes shorter than the original LP even though the original LP only ran 37 minutes (a CD can hold up to about 74 minutes).

Or how about the Beatles CD that ends with a 6-second tone that's so high-pitched, only dogs can hear it?

Yep, there are a lot of CDs with oddities in them. Maybe I'll tell you more interesting stories behind "oddball" CDs in another column.

It looks like CD is here to stay. Get a CD player, and you'll be able to enjoy the "bonus tracks" that are released **only** on CD (like Michael Jackson's "Leave Me Alone"). When a CD is made right, it can bring you great sound — never has Jimmy Smith's "Walk On The Wild Side" sounded so good.

BALTIMORE

Arts program to offer free public performances

BALTIMORE, MD — The Maryland Summer Center for the Arts, a program sponsored by the State Department of Education for gifted and talented teenagers, will offer free public performances by the students from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, July 23 and August 6 in Kraushaar Auditorium, Goucher College.

For additional information, call 337-6333.

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