This Weekend

BALTIMORE

The **Arena Players'** 35th summer schedule is underway. The Playhouse is located at 801 McCulloh St. Curtain is 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, and 7:30. p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays with a 2:30 p.m. matinee on Sundays.

"Living Fast," a comedy classic is being presented August 28th through August 31st.

For tickets call (301) 728-6500.

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At the **Theater Project,** 45 W. Preston St., **"The Wright Brothers,"** runs through August 6th. For more information, call (301) 837-4636.

* * *

• On Saturday, July 30th at 8 p.m., **Jeffrey Osborne** will sing from his new album at **Shriver Hall** on the Johns Hopkins campus.

To get further information and tickets call either 301-347-1020 or 301-481-6000.

WASHINGTON

The **Whispers** perform at the **Carter Barron** Sunday, July 31 at 8:30 p.m. The Carter Barron is located at 4520 Colorado Ave., N.W. For more information call (202) 426-6943. The show starts at 8:30 p.m. and the special guest to Juanita DeShavior.

* * *

Blues Alley will be jumping all weekend. From July 28th through July 31st, the group **War** will perform. They are billed as an Afro/Cuban/Rock/Jazz & Blues band.

For reservations call (202)337-4141.

* * *

The **Carter Barron** will feature the vocal stylings of **Phoebe Snow** on Saturday, July 30th at 8:30 p.m. She will be joined by **Luther "Guitar J." Johnson** and the **Uptown Rhythm Kings.**

Photo by: Ray Gilbert
Sisson's in Baltimore is our featured restaurant this weekend. See the review on page 8.

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Coming Soon

Baltimore, MD

On August 5, 6, and 7, the **Northwest Superfest** takes place between Reisterstown Road and Woodland Avenue, at the **Lucille Playfield.** It is a free outdoor event.

The festivities include special guest recording artist, **Gil Scott-Heron.** There will also be a gospel music contest, arts and crafts, jazz, reggae and food. It happens from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day.

For further information, call 301-532-9158.

* * *

The **Towson Center** at **Towson State University** hosts an evening of melodic sounds you don't want to miss.

On Sunday, August 14 at 8 p.m., Goliath Enterprises Inc. presents **"Mr. Magic," Grover Washington, Jr.** who makes a special appearance along with the soulful singer **Jean Carne.**

For show and ticket information, call 301-321-2743.

* * *

COLUMBIA, MD

The **Merriweather Post Pavilion** has some soulful entertainers coming to town on these hot summer nights.

On August 14th, there will be an evening of flashiness and fun when the **Jets, Jermaine Stewart,** and **Stacey Q** perform.

On August 27, there will be the soulful sax sounds of **Kenny G. Stanley Jordan** will also perform, fantastical fete with his nimble fingers on the guitar strings.

At the end of the month, the blue-eyed soul singers **Steve Winwood,** (30th), and **Boz Scaggs** (31st), will dazzle their audiences on their respective nights.

For tickets and showtime information, call 202-982-1800 in D.C., 301-730-2424 in Baltimore, and 1-800-233-4050.

LANDOVER

George Michael will perform to sold-out crowds August 6th and 7th at the **Capital Centre** in Landover. This is the first stop in America of his "Faith" tour which will feature songs from the "Faith" album.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Fort Dupont Park, located at Minnesota Avenue and Randle Circle, S.E., offers many free concerts this summer on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. Call 202-426-7723 for more information.

* * *

Blues Alley has a nice lineup going into the month of August.

On August 1st, **Dianne Reeves** will sing. She is taking the airwaves by storm with her song "Better Days."

Blues guitarist **Albert King** performs from Thursday, August 4 through Sunday, August 7th.

Vocalist **Billy Eckstine** will sing Thursday, August 11th through Sunday, August 14th.

For reservations, call Blues Alley, Wisconsin Ave. below M Street, at (202) 337-4141.

* * *

Roy Ayers (Ubiquity) and the **Persuasions** appear on August 5th and 6th.

On August 12th and 13th, **Hank Crawford, Jimmy McGriff, Henry Butler,** and **Shirley Horn** perform.

Donald Byrd brings his **Quintet** along with **Richie Cole** and **Alto Madness** on August 19th and 20th.

* * *

The new gospel musical, **"Abyssinia,"** based on a novel by **Joyce Carol Thomas** and directed by **Tazewell Thompson** will begin August 5 and runs through September 14 at Arena Stage.

For tickets and information, call the box office at 202-488-3300. Arena Stage is located at 6th and Maine Avenue, S.W.

* * *

The **Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** presents an array of artists during the month of August. Showtime is 8 p.m.

The legendary artist **Harry Belafonte** begins the month of August on the 2nd and the 3rd performing his sounds heard all around the world.

World renowned artist **Pearl Bailey** ("Hello, Dolly"), performs one show only on August 4.

Jazz singer **Diane Schuur** will dazzle her audience with her three-and-one-half octave range on August 26th along with the **Count Basie Orchestra.**

For more information, call the center at (202) 254-3776.

* * *

On Aug. 23rd, the vocal group **The Orioles,** celebrate their 40th year together. They will be held at the **John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts.** Proceeds are given to Washington for the redevelopment of the **Howard Theater.**

For more information, call (703) 237-9500 or (202) 667-2401.

* * *

The **National Theater** presents evenings full of enjoyment for the summer.

The musical **"Ain't Misbehavin,'" with performances by Nell Carter** and **Andre DeShields** will run through August 6.

For ticket and showtime information, call (202) 628-6161. National Theatre is located at 1321 Pennsylvania Ave., North, N.W.

* * *

The **Carter Barron Amphitheater,** located at 4520 Colorado Avenue, N.W., continues its 36th season with a festive lineup.

On August 6th, jazz artist **Stanley Clarke** performs along with the group **Bridges.**

August 7th features an evening of enjoyment with **Miki Howard** and the group **Ovations.**

The legendary bluesman **B. B. King** performs as well as a **Sadetrius Brown** on August 13th.

The 14th features the **Manhattans, Clarence Carter** and **Gloria Brown.**

August 20th features the father and son team of jazz artists, **Wynton** and **Ellis Marsalis.**

On the 21st, the lineup includes songstress **Regina Belle,** the ever popular **Chi-Lites,** and the **Prime Degrees.**

Take a step back into time on August 27 with **Taj Mahal, Richie Havens, Terrence Simien** and the Mallet Playboys and **Donald Lease.**

On the 28th, listen to the electronic sounds of **Roger/Zapp, Uncut, Felicia,** and **Stevie B.**

For further information, call (202) 426-6943.

VIRGINIA

Kings Dominion offers a variety of talents in concert.

On August 7, Lisa Lisa and the **Cult Jam** perform with Full Force.

Expose will be "exposed" on the 14th of August.

"Mr. Fake," Alexander O'Neal performs on the 21st of August.

* * *

VIENNA, VA

Wolf Trap presents an evening of delightful artists for the month of August. All shows begin at 8 p.m.

On the first, the Trap features the jazz sounds of Hiroshima and Michael Tomlinson.

For more information, call the Wolf Trap at (301) 255-1860 or 266-1868; for tickets call 432-0200.

The Whispers 'Just Get Better With Time'

WASHINGTON — On Sunday, July 31st the Whispers perform at Carter Barron. Hot on the heels of their latest album "Just Gets Better With Time," they are bound to turn the show out.

It is very rare when you can pick up an album and be assured that every cut is going to be something special. With some artists you might get disappointed, but with the Whispers it **Just Gets Better With Time** (Solar Records) and so do the Whispers.

Every tune is a potential classic, combining tight lyrics with strong harmony and a driving beat. The entire dance side of this album keeps you moving.

"Rock Steady," the first single from the album, does just what it says, "keeps you rocking steady all night long, 'til the break of dawn," which was penned and produced by Babyface (a.k.a., K. Edmonds) and L.A. of The Deele.

Toss in songs like "I Want You," "No Pain, No Gain," penned by Leon F. Sylvers, III, Kevin Grady and Kenny Aubrey, and "Special F/X," penned by Leon F. Sylvers, III and Jeanette M. Sylvers, both produced by Leon F. Sylvers, III, and you get on "A" Side that will keep you "rocking steady" to the very end.

When you're all through rocking and ready to get mellow, flip it over and luxuriate in the moist, sexy sweetness of "In The Mood." Then close your eyes and float over the silky edges of it "Just Gets Better With Time," the title track.

The Whispers perform July 31 at the Carter Barron in Washington

Other tunes "Loves Calling," and "Give It To Me," which was penned by the Whispers' own Nicholas Caldwell, who also penned "Lady," "Say Yes," and "Are You Going My Way" maintains the mystic of the Whispers ballads that has kept women captivated for over twenty years and asking for more.

"Just Gets Better With Time," the Whispers' sixteenth album is a melding of fresh, sleekness and timeless class, which brings together a lot of talented people and creates some very special chemistry.

A combination of veterans, youth, fire and experience results in some good dancing and host romancing guaranteed to delight Whisper fans old and new.

Individually, the Whispers are:

Nicholas Caldwell was born April 5th in Loma Linda, California. The in-house songwriter of the Whispers, finds inspiration in his own experiences and those of others.

"Contemporary music and vocal arrangements, good lyrics and loving care" are his ingredients for a hit record. Caldwell's first professional gig was for Sly Stone (then a disc jockey) in San Francisco.

Leaveil Degree was born July 31st in New Orleans, Louisiana. Degree credits an enthusiastic vocal coach in junior high school with motiviating him to become actively involved in music.

A confirmed Smokey Robinson fan, Degree was a member of numerous Los Angeles street corner harmony groups, sang for a time with the Friends of Distinction and eventually joined the Whispers after Gordy Harmon's departure.

Degree's passion outside of singing is for classic automobiles.

Marcus Hutson was born January 8th in St. Louis, Missouri. Raised in Los Angeles, Hutson joined the Whispers while in high school.

Though not professionally schooled in music, he absorbed a variety of jazz, pop and R&B styles while growing up.

Hutson says that he help select the Whispers' material by "lyrics, rhythm and feel." When not working, he enjoys listening to music and watching old movies, especially slap stick comedy and sports.

Wallace "Scotty" Scott was born September 23rd in Ft. Worth, Texas. Scotty and his brother Walter were raised with a love for music, performing as The Scott Brothers in their younger years. Scotty always wanted to sing professionally and is very appreciative of the support his parents gave him and his brother early in their career. Outside of music, he enjoys spending a day at the horse races.

Walter Scott was born September 23rd in Ft. Worth, Texas. Family encouragement was an important motivation for Walter and twin brother, Wallace's pursuit of a career in music.

"Our father taught us a lot about harmonizing," recalls Walter, "that's where we learned that kind of singing."

As a member of the Whispers, Walter has the responsibility of directing the group's publishing company and is the main spokesman for the group.

He balances his music with business when not skiing or participating in tennis tournaments.

Pointing to his strong Christian upbringing, Walter emphasizes integrity in his work: "We always try to be gentlemen in everything we do."

Catch these gentlemen this Sunday, at the Carter Barron.

After two years, Jeffrey Osborne is performing again

By H. Glover Cook

Jeffrey Osborne has once more returned to the concert circuit, after a hiatus of two years. On July 30, he will appear at Shriver Hall Auditorium (Johns Hopkins University).

Two years ago Osborne started what he thought would be a project consuming a few short months, but the project lasted two whole years — building his own recording studio.

"I wanted to start producing my own records, and it took over a year just to get the studio built," says Osborne.

The two-year wait has resulted in what Osborne refers to as "the most relaxing project I've ever worked on. I was able to take my time and work at home; and as far as I am concerned, the results speak for themselves.

"I think these eleven songs represent the best performances I've ever put on a record."

"One Love (One Dream)" is the title of Jeffrey Osborne's new album. It is an album resulting from the smooth blending of Osborne's seductive vocals with his innate sense of what sounds musically "right."

This album is also the first product produced from Osborne's private 24 track home studio.

Although the majority of the album's songs are produced by Osborne, several were produced in conjunction with co-writers.

While working on "One Love" Osborne encountered what he terms a "difficulty," one most musicians would love to run across.

"I usually try to give people a lot of music, but we ended up with two songs more than we needed, and several cuts were running long," Osborne said.

"One Love" is packed with material, an entire 42 minutes of music. There are ten songs on the album and cassette, eleven on the compact disc.

"The compact disc cost so much more, that I feel I have to give something extra. In this case it's a five minute up-tempo cut called "Social Climbers."

Jeffrey Osborne performs at Shriver Hall in Baltimore, July 30.

Although Osborne is proud of the entire album package, it was editing the songs that proved to be the hardest task involved in producing the finished album.

Osborne told the AFRO, "I hate cutting my own work, and the way I sing — long continuous phrases, doesn't make it any easier."

Jeffrey Osborne is accustomed to having award winning recordings that reach large audiences through their sales. His only "sour" experience concerning the public's reception of his records occurred with the single "Soweto."

This record is named in honor of the black city extension of South Africa's most populous city; Johannesburg. Although Soweto contains over one million people, it is not shown on any map of South Africa.

This is one more in an increasing number of rules and procedures that accompany apartheid, in this case to deny the right to exist on white land to the majority of South Africa's inhabitants.

Although Osborne was quite satisfied with the outcome of the record, he says that many disc jockeys across the nation did not give the record "equal playing time" or the exposure that it deserved.

Osborne is certain that he will not have any problems with "One Love" in this respect. Although the album is a Jeffrey Osborne "signature" album (composed of the type of ballads he is famous for) it also has an array of songs that are focused on several age groups who have other tastes.

"She's On The Left" is the sort of music that is identified with the disco set. The younger listeners appreciate a good sexy ballad but prefer something a bit fast paced when socializing at the disco. This is the first single released from the album.

"La Cuenta" has a Latin influence. The title means "the check." The couple asks for the check so that they can leave where they are so that they can go to Rio. Osborne says, "I have always envisioned myself basking on the Beach at Copacabana watching the girls in swimsuits as the fellas participate in a Latin Jam session

(Continued on page 4)