By Carl Matthews THE BAR-KAYS "Animal" (Mercury)

The group that brought us such hits as "Freakshow On The Dance Floor" and "Shake Your Rump To The Funk" returns with another jam-filled LP.

The Bar-Kays are now streamlined trio: Larry Dodson, lead vocals; Winston Stewart, keyboards; and group leader Harvey Henderson, saxophone.

original Bar-Kays originated as the house band of the legendary Stax Records, and in the 1960s hit the charts with "Soul Finger" and other hits. In 1976, the Bar-Kays, with a new line-up, signed with Mercury and released such memorable dance tunes as "Shake Your Rump To ____ The Funk," "Too Hot To Stop," "Shine" and "Freaky Behavior."

On most of the LP, the Bar- pretty woman your wife ... Get Kays stick to the tried and true an ugly girl to marry you..." pop/funk formula we've heard Remember that advice Jimmy on recent records by Cameo, Soul gave us all in his smash Levert, and others. Only "Just single "If You Wanna Be Happy" Like A Teeter-Totter," written in 1963? Apparently there are and produced by Sly Stone (of Sly still lots of folks who believe it. And The Family Stone), really stands out on this LP. The guys of Cash Money And Marvelous obviously enjoyed working with with their own interpretation. tracks I've heard in years.

CASH MONEY AND MARVELOUS "Find An Ugly Woman" (Sleeping Bag)

"If you wanna be happy for the

The Bar-Kays

And so, we have the rap duo

teresting and humorous rap in a (RIAA), 70.4 million compact style not unlike that of The Fresh Prince ("Girls Ain't Nothing But

The flip side of this 12-inch features "The Mighty Hard Rocker," a mighty hard rocker which borrows bits from Jimmy "Bo" Horne's "Dance Across The Floor." A fun record.

It's nice to know that Cash Money And Marvelous won't automatically reject a woman simply because she's baldheaded and fat and reminds them of King Kong Bundy.

I'm still waiting for that answer

Music Notes According to the Recording In

dustry Association of America discs (CDs) were shipped in the first half of 1988. That's an increase of 64 percent over the number of CDs shipped in the first half of 1987, when 43 million units were shipped.

At the same time, deliveries of vinyl LPs declined, from 56 million during 1987's first six months, to 43.5 million units in the first half of 1988, a 22.4 per-

ming Artists Series.

ethereal passion."

resolve that makes for refine-

ment. The bittersweet

knowledge of the aches and

soothings of life is also part of the

J Mood. Raw or smooth in inten-

sity. J. Mood is the suave soul at

won critics polls, listeners polls,

Grammy awards in the jazz and

"in the seven-figures," as they

liner notes to 1983's Think Of

On the title tune, Wynton's

the center of swing."

His fifth jazz album, J Mood attracted."

Not only are CDs outselling LPs in many areas, but cassette sales are up also. According to the RIAA's figures, 1988 cassette sales increased around 11 percent over 1987's figures.

The vinyl LP may not be dying. but it sure is slowing down.

THE SPINNERS SEARCH FOR NEW RECORD COMPANY

By Helen Glover Cook

Each year The Spinners attract Sly; this one of the best Bar-Kays Girls. I'm waiting. Waiting to a new generation of listeners to hear from you. I just know there's their music," something that an answer record in the works begins to happen after you have been making music for as long as "Find An Ugly Woman" we have," says John Edwards, in features a catchy beat and the a recent interview. The Spinners bass line from The Pointer Sisters' will appear at The Baltimore classic "Yes We Can Can," with Fishmarket on Valentine's Day,

During an appearance in Atlantic City, a fifteen year old fan brought her mom backstage to meet her favorite singing group—the Spinners. This meeting was the beginning of a long distance romance between Edwards and the girlfriend he has now had for the last three years.

John has now been traveling on the road with the group for from an engagement in Puerto ing and selecting just the right over 12 years and has recently semi-settled down by purchasing a new house in Miami near the famous Hialea Racecourse.

Edwards says, "We do not have lot of time for ourselves.

buying furniture for his new home, he says, "I travel from warehouse to store to sale, searching for that right piece to put in my new house. This take up a lot of time. Most of the time will not be released until this I am so tired when I return from engagements on the road, I don't have too much time to do

taking a much deserved rest from recording movie soundtracks. any plans to marry anytime soon They started with the soundtrack because my girl is a career for the film Spaceballs and oriented person just as I am, so followed it with a recording of we both devote a lot of time to the soundtrack for the new Arwork, which doesn't leave us a nold Schwarzeneger/Danny Divito film: Twins.

found time to record a single with Dionne Warwick entitled, "I Don't to be on the new album which

recording studio doing what Ed-

Rico, an island Edwards thinks is mixture of songs. We want the "the most lovely island in the en- finished product to reflect both tire Caribbean." The Spinners are our style and our commitment to bringing our audience the type of recordings they want."

> The Spinners are half-way toward completion of their new album and have begun negotiations for signing with a new recording company. They are no longer with Atlantic Records, a move Edwards says, "We have gone our separate ways because Atlantic no longer has our best interests at heart." "Sometimes people or groups

split up in the same way that marriages dissolve. We are looking for a new recording label to sign with, I feel as though we won't be without a label too

A lot has been said about Wyn- One, and which will always apton Marsalis as a classical and ply to Wynton, "is to match his jazz trumpeter. You can hear him technical gifts with a conception for yourself when the Wynton comprehensive enough to render Marsalis Sextet appears in con- the soul and the desire, the will cert on Friday, February 17 in and the frailty, the celebration Murphy Auditorium as part of the and the tragedy of human life in Morgan State University Perfor- the terms of the jazz tradition to which he is most fundamentally

man in jazz continuing to refine remarkably detailed work, once his already prodigious skills as again produced by Grammy wincomposer and musical leader. ner Steve Epstein. It was record-Once again we are drawn to the ed digitally at RCA Studio A in words of annotator Stanley New York City last December on Crouch: "For Wynton Marsalis," the SONY PCM 3324 system. It is, he writes, "the J Mood expresses concludes Crouch, "a declaration everything from gutbucket to of war against the contrived and the worthless. Like all that refers "On one hand," Crouch con- to the bittersweet richness of tinues, "it is the ruminative human value, this album is a repose that follows the intimate statement of elegance and of opdialogue of actual romance, the timism, of compassion and of and educator whose admirers them are mediocre and a hand- be eighteen to enter the summer sweet silence and soft breathing pride. At its best moments, J after the act of love. On another, Mood shows how safe the warm it is the kind of clarity that comes soul of jazz is on the winter of our of solitude and provides the world."

Wynton Marsalis was born Oc-



WYNTON MARSALIS CONTINUES TO PRODUCE

JAZZ AND CLASSICAL MUSIC

WYNTON MARSALIS tober 18, 1961. Like many significant jazzmen, he is from New wasn't anything but some more the New Orleans Civic Orchestra Orleans, that city so American in its mulatto mix of cultures. His play all those scores, you find out prowess got him into Berkshire father, Ellis Marsalis, is a widely that classical musicians are just Music Center at Tanglewood a respected musician, composer Dizzy Gillespie, Hale Smith, composers' tricks, the ideas they the staff that he was allowed to

piece of writing and just some In his hometown, young Wyn-

from one place to the next."

bands, funk bands, and or- "But as far as both musical idioms are concerned," he contoires. He was given his first tinues, "I think - I know - it's trumpet at age six by Al Hirt harder to be a good jazz musician (Ellis' employer at the time) but at an early age than a classical didn't take the instrument one. In jazz, to be a good perdividual, which you don't have to be in classical music. But because I've played with orchestras and all that, some people think I'm a classical musician who plays jazz. They have it backwards! I'm a I wanted to know what it was jazz musician who can play

Wynton played first trumpet in music. After you sit up there and throughout high school and his like all other musicians, most of seventeen. One would normally as ful are excellent. You learn the program, but he so impressed use over and over, and the dif- enter. At the end of the session

(Continued on Page 9)

ONE HIT, ONE MISS by TAKOMA PLAYERS

By Valorio Smith-Maddon

The Takoma Players tention to his expanding sen- Washington are presenting two sitivity to the blues, a subject that plays by two new playwrights, has come up in his Charles Patterson and Arthur interviews with increasing fre- Johnson. The series, "Mountains quency over the last couple of That Move," is a misnomer, years. "Marsalis twirls daring least where one of the plays is phrases of off-center rhythms," concerned. Moreover, the two writes Crouch, "elemental indigo plays which are presented, are an identity which Carolyn has the playwright well. attacks, and unpredictable ac- dissimular in tone and subject gone great lengths to keep a cents." Of particular note is the matter, that it seems a shame to work of Wynton's sturdy rhythm present them both on one stage.

section: drummer Jeff 'Tain' Arthur J. John's "Shades Watts has been a charter Grey," is an engaging piece, a member since Wynton's career listener's play, with some snappy began on Columbia five years dialogue and an intriguing ago; pianist Marcus Roberts and Premise. Johnson has fashioned basist Bob Hurst joined last sum- a most interestingly menage a trois featuring a college pro-Wynton's diversity and as- fessor, his soap opera star wife

musicians he admires most— a box. Carolyn, the woman in the a troubled marriage, Cecelia is Armstrong, Ellington, Strayhorn, Monk, Wayne Shorter. He has box enrolls in Christopher Grey's strong enough in her love of her steadfastly refused the trendy writing class. Despite the lack of husband, and herself, to deal commercial trappings that have any physical appearance, the two with his affections for Carolyn. compromised so many jazz ar- become quite close, sharing in- Rodiquez could have played Grey fancies himself to be in love with her, much to the constern tion of his wife, Cecelia.

Grey moves out of his home and into his office, frequently world, and amassed record sales entertaining Carolyn. The two share an idyllic relationship—as idyllic as one can be, when one partner is unseen and the other is forced to deal with his spouse from time to time.

arrival of a reporter, (played by later in the play. Lisa Ball) who's doing a story on just written. The reporter, Ron- what has happened to render her parents. She's fallen in love

The interesting thing about "Shades of Grey" is what it has to say about such things as being acceptable to others — on your terms versus theirs, and the sometimes perilous nature of love, in all its shadings. Grey's wife, Cecelia, (played

by Johanna Rodiquez) more than suredness place him solidly in and an unseen woman who Grey and Carolyn, embodies the the continuum of those men and becomes a part of their lives via best that love can offer. Despite the fact that she's in the midst of dosen't and her breezy portrayal easily makes Cecelia almost more interesting than Carolyn.

Dr. Grey (played by James Heisel), lacks the subtlety that's "Shades of Grey", the hues of his

ference between an inspired

seriously until his classical

that scared everybody so bad. I

went into it and found out it

studies began at age twelve."

As for Carolyn, she's interesting because we wonder class, thanks to the hard work of nie, gets two for the price of so helpless. She alludes to not with David, a young man with one when she discovers Grey's being a person as we know it, so some radical opinions about beunusual student and sets about to we wonder about her life. This ing black. Mr. Johnson is conreveal her true physical identity, using of the mind serves us and cerned that Carol is about to

> This is a fine effort by first-time playwright Johnson, who said the play is based on a real-life ex- in love, hears her father's words perience from his days as an but hears her heart more. While undergraduate in a New England not ignoring him, she's too busy College. A former writer for the caught up in her own life. What AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper, could make the play work — and Black film review and the it doesn't is the knowledge of Baltimore News American, what fuels the anger of both Johnson shows a keen gift for David and Mr. Johnson. It's safe dialogue and observation. He's to say that they see a lot of each written a taut play with a lot to other in the other and

This is the latest offering from a powerful tool. Charles Patterson and his say, may trouble a great number left to figure out where the anger of black people who participated is coming from. tists' careers. He has stuck to his terests and experiences and Cecelia as a victim, but she in the Civil Rights movement.

class of yesterday. This conflict is material. embodied in the two male characters in the story, David (played by Joseph Andrew Mills) and Mr. Johnson (Ken Grant). The latter is the father of David's this play could say very clearly girlfriend, Carol (Trish McCall).

Carol, a Howard University coed has grown up amid the comfortable trappings of the middle worked so hard for.

Carol, like most young people say about human relationships. Patterson could have used that as

Unforutnately, he doesn't so

With that as such a difficult The play, examines the mind hurdle to overcome, the effects set of the black middle class to- of the actors are overshadowed day, versus the black middle by their effort to overcome the

> Patterson has a good premise and he's shown that he has much promise. With a bit more work the things it's trying to say.



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