SOUNDS

By Carl Matthews

SKYY
"Start Of A Romance"
(Atlantic)

Ten years in the business and they're still rollin': the Brooklyn-based group known as Skyy is back with a new LP.

Skyy producers Solomon Roberts and Randy Muller have been friends and musical collaborators since high school. They used to rehearse in Roberts' basement, a place they called "Hole In The Ground Studios."

The first project to emerge from "Hole In The Ground" was Randy's nine-piece band Brass Construction, who had a top-40 pop hit called "Movin' " and a platinum debut album. Another buddy of Randy's, Jeff Lane, invited Randy to arrange songs for B.T. Express, which hit the charts with such hits as "Do It 'Til You're Satisfied."

In 1978 Roberts decided to form a new group. For a while, the group was known as Fuel; the name was later changed to Skyy.

Skyy went on to hit the R&B Top 20 with such singles as "First Time Around," "High," and "Skyyzoo." "Call Me" was a top-40 pop hit from their 1981 gold album "Skyyline."

The current Skyy lineup features Denise Dunning Crawford, Tommy McConnell, Bonnie Dunning Barrino, Anibal Boochie Sierra, Dolores Dunning-Milligan, Gerald Lebon and Wayne Wilentz.

Skyy's new album is pretty much like their last release, "From The Left Side," which included the hit single "Givin' It To You." Tracks like "Sendin' A Message" and "Groove Me" on the new album are ideal for disco party action, just like most of Skyy's late 70's hits. On the mid-tempo numbers and ballads, the group sounds a bit like Starpoint.

Other cuts: "Love All The Way," "Sexy Minded," "Feelin' It Now," "Real Love."

Skyy

VARIOUS ARTISTS
"Def Jam Classics Volume One" (Def Jam)

Now this is a collection I'm sure millions of rap fans will immediately pop into their cassette players, and rap record collectors will get a kick out of it, too.

The first record released on the Def Jam label was L.L. Cool J's "I Need A Beat," in November of 1984. It went on to sell about 100,000 copies. Almost a year later, Def Jam aligned itself with Columbia Records, and the label had such rap hit singles as "Fight For Your Right (To Party)" and "I Need Love," as well as non-rap hits like "Hazy Shade Of Winter."

Some of Def Jam's most memorable tracks are included here. "Rock The Bells" is one of L.L. Cool J's best known hits. The version included on "Def Jam Classics Volume One" is not the commonly available version included in L.L.'s platinum album "Radio," but the original version that first appeared on the flip side of the "Rock The Bells" 12-inch single.

The Beastie Boys are represented here by two tracks from their platinum "Licensed To Ill" LP: "Rhymin' And Stealin' " and their top-40 pop hit "Fight For Your Right (To Party)." Judging from these cuts, I think you'll agree that this trio is aptly named.

Back in 1987, the multi-talented Davy D, once a deejay for Kurtis Blow, was on the charts with his single "Have You Seen Davy?" which is also included on this compilation. Combining original percussion with cuts and scratches from a wide range of records, "Have You Seen Davy?" is, to many rap lovers, a fine example modern day hip-hop scratch-mixing, or "turntable jazz," as some listeners have called it.

The most recent track on this compilation, "The Ruler's Back," comes from Slick Rick's current album, "The Great Adventures Of Slick Rick." In 1985 Slick Rick, along with Doug E. Fresh, gave us "The Show" and "La-Di-Da-Di." "The Ruler's Back" is Rick's announcement of his return to the rap scene after a layoff of three years. The shuffling beat that ran throughout "The Show" is also back. The trumpet line heard several times in the song was done on a Mirage synthesizer.

Other tracks on this compilation include Russell Rush And Jazzy Jay's "Cold Chillin' In The Spot," and L.L. Cool J's "Jack The Ripper," which had been previously released as single flip sides.

The Minneapolis Sound takes an offbeat look at pop musical artists from Minneapolis who are attracting attention nationwide. In addition to the Grammy Award-winning record producing team of Jimmy Jam (left) and Terry Lewis, the program looks at Prince, Alexander O'Neill, Husker Du, the Jets, The Replacements, The Wallets and Ipso Facto. The show airs Wednesday, April 12 at 10 p.m. on Channel 32.

African film will be shown at film festival

Winner of the jury prize at the 1987 Cannes Festival and widely considered one of the greatest African Films ever made, Souleymane Cisse's "Brightness" (Yeelen) will be shown as a part of the 20th Annual Baltimore Film Festival at the Baltimore Museum of Art on Saturday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Reviewing the 1987 New York Film Festival critic Elliott Stein noted: "Brightness" is not only 'the most beautifully photographed African film ever,' it seems to me the best African film ever made . . . This is a picaresque and magical road movie, fluently made, full of broad and sweeping landscapes of swamp and plain — the best looking film of the festival."

Gilbert Adair, called the film "a masterpiece, the most beautiful film ever to have emerged out of Africa" and critic Jonathan Rosenbaum opined: "Conceivably the greatest African film ever made, this wondrous work provides an ideal introduction to a filmmaker who, next to Ousmane Sembene, is probably Africa's greatest director."

Souleymane Cisse' was born in 1940 in Bamako, capital of Mali. His parents moved to Dakar and there he studied until Mali gained its independence and they returned. Cisse then obtained a grant to study in Moscow for a year, where he trained as a projectionist and learned photography.

After returning to Bamako to work, he was given another grant and spent five years at film school in Moscow. He returned to Mali and worked for the Ministry of Information as a documentary filmmaker.

In 1972, he co-produced a 30-minute short, "Cinq Jours d'une Vie," which won a prize at the Carthage Festival. His first feature, "Den Mousso" (The Girl), was the story of a young girl whose lack of power to control her own life was represented in the film by her inability to speak.

Cisse's next Film "Baara" (New Directors/New Films 1980) focused on the troubles of a porter, but was directed at the problems of Malien society as a whole. "Finye (The Wind, 1982) (New York Film Festival 1983) was a modern satire on the generation gap in post-colonial West Africa." Yeelen" is his most recent film.

The film is set in the ancient Bambara culture of Mali (formerly French Sudan) long before it was invaded by Morocco in the 16th century. The story is essentially an ancient tale of father-son rivalry in which the hero embarks on a heroic journey of initiation and ultimately confronts the jealous magic of his father.

Whoopi Goldberg stars as pool-hustling mom

Whoopi Goldberg stars in the romantic comedy "Kiss Shot," a new motion picture-for-television set within the competitive world of professional pool, to be broadcast on the "CBS Tuesday Movie," Tuesday, April 11, at 9 p.m.

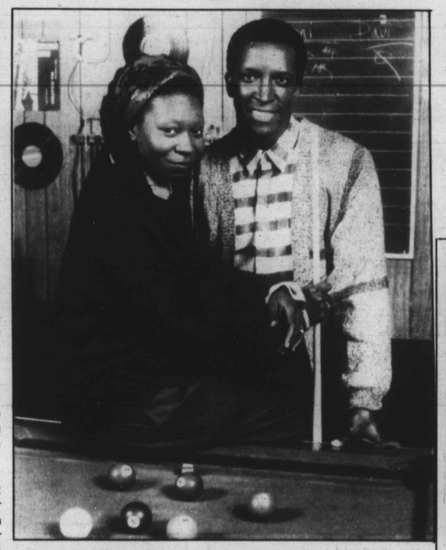
Dorian Harewood, Dennis Franz and Tasha Scott star in the warm-hearted, story about a single mother who turns her pool-playing skills into fast money when she can't meet her mortgage payments.

Goldberg stars as Sara Collins, a self-made woman in her mid-30s who has raised her now teenage daughter, Jenny (Tasha Scott), by herself. Having once had a successful job with a Silicon Valley firm, Sarah is currently out of work and facing a balloon payment on her mortgage, which she won't be able to make.

With no one else to turn to, Sarah goes back to her old waitress job and decides to brush up her high-school pool-playing skills so that she can compete in professional pool tournaments.

Through an acquaintance, Sarah meets promoter Max Fleischer (Franz), who takes her under his wing, and they go on the road to start honing her skills. After she wins numerous games in smoke-filled roadside establishments, Max feels Sarah is ready for bigger things.

He arranges for a match at a swanky party hosted by rich playboy Kevin Merrick (Harewood). Sarah is so taken by Kevin's devilishly good looks that she plays poorly and loses to him. Kevin, however, is charmed and begins to pursue Sarah in earnest.



Whoopi Goldberg and Dorian Harewood star in "Kiss Shot," a comedy to air Tuesday 11 at 9 p.m. on CBS.

Their fledgling romance now commands Sarah's attention — and her game suffers. Max, whose cut of her winnings is also adversely affected, suggests that Sarah not see Kevin while in competition.

Jenny also complains that she hardly sees her mother anymore and must compete for attention between Kevin, the waitress job and Sarah's pool tournaments.

An acclaimed actress and comedian, Whoopi Goldberg won a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress, as well as an Oscar nomination, for her role in 1985's "The Color Purple." That same year, she won a Grammy Award for her Broadway show album. Later, a guest-star stint on "Moonlighting" brought her an Emmy nomination.

Among her motion picture credits are the recent "Clara's Heart," as well as "Burglar" and "Jumpin' Jack Flash," among others. Her television appearances include the recent CBS Schoolbreak Special "My Past is My Own," as well as a continuing role on "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

Dorian Harewood has been featured in such motion pictures as "Full Metal Jacket," "Falcon and the Snowman" and "Against All Odds," among others. His television credits include the mini-series "the Jesse Owens Story ." "Roots: The Next Generation" and "Amerika." Harewood was also a regular on the series "Trauma Center" and "Strike Force."

Tasha Scott is featured in the forthcoming motion picture "Troop Beverly Hills," with Shelly Long. She was a two-time finalist on the talent variety series "Star Search."

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—Regina Belle

(Continued from Page 5)

on tour to support the release of their 1985 album, "Too Hot To Stop It," and Regina started on June 7th.

When time came to record their current album with producer Bobby Womack "Back to Basics," she was right there. The rest, as they say, is history.

Regina was first heard dueting with Gerald Alston on "Where Did We Go Wrong." The song ably demonstrated Regina's vocal powers and early gospel influences, pointing the way to her own album debut.

For over two years she has been the featured female vocalist with the Manhattans, and continues to sing with the group, opening shows for such notables as Dionne Warwick, Gladys Knight, Patti LaBelle, Melba Moore, and Jennifer Holiday.

Regina's favorite performers include the Winans, Sade, Run DMC ("they're wild!") and Barbra Streisand ("she's wonderful!"). She feels the two major influences on her own sound were Donny Hathaway and Billie Holiday.

Love of travel plays a big part in Regina's life. "I love vacationing in Jamaica," she says, "Ocho Rios is beautiful with all the waterfalls. I've also enjoyed visiting Carmel, California and would like to go to Maui." But she may not have time for vacation for a while now that the release of "All By Myself" demands her attention.

1987 was a year of firsts for Regina Belle — her first solo album, her first screen test, and the first anniversary of her marriage to Horace A. Young, III, who plays saxophone and flute, and arranges for the Manhattans.

As she becomes more and more successful and her singing career puts her more in the public eye, one thing is certain: the unique sound of Regina Belle promises to become the voice of the future.

—Night Life

(Continued from Page 3)

Roots Lounge at Vine and Smallwood St. is hosting a birthday party for **J.J.** and **Charles Morrison**, on Sunday, April 9.

The Fulton Inn (remember them from the 60s?) is back in the night life groove. They will host free birthday parties and are offering memberships. Admission is free to the those 21 and over before 11 p.m.

Every Sunday you'll find **Arnold Sterling** and the **Neutron Band** featuring keyboardist **Doug Carn** from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. and this Sunday, April 9, the **Neutron Ladies** are hosting a birthday party for **Pinkie** and **Clementine** beginning at 8 p.m.

The BSO welcomes
Guest Conductor James DePreist

Celebrity Concerts
Singleton—*Shadows*
Rachmaninoff—*Piano Concerto No. 1 (Garrick Ohlsson, Piano)*
Respighi—*Roman Festivals*
Thursday and Friday, April 20 and 21, 8:15 pm

Casual Concert
Rachmaninoff—*Piano Concerto No. 1 (Garrick Ohlsson, Piano)*
Respighi—*Roman Festivals*
Come as you are for casual and informal commentary by Maestro DePreist
Saturday, April 22, 11:00 am

Maestro DePreist, Music Director of the Oregon Symphony Orchestra, is considered one of the finest American-born conductors. Come and hear him lead the Baltimore premiere of *Shadows*, written by the prominent Black classical composer Alvin Singleton, who will attend the performances.

Celebrity tickets from $10 to $23
Casual: $9 to $14
783-8000—Information and charge orders
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