SOUNDS

By Carl Matthews

COOKIE CREW
"Born This Way" (FFRR)

Homeboys and homegirls of America... Get ready to meet the "Salt-N-Pepa" of the British hip-hop scene, Cookie Crew, in full effect with their debut LP.

21-year-old vocalists Susan Banfield ("Suzy Q") and Debbie Pryce ("M.C. Remedee"), who have known each other since nursery school, started performing in London as Warm Milk And Cookie Crew a few years ago. Their debut single "Females" hit the charts in Britain and the U.S. in 1987, and their follow-up single "Rok Da House" hit the U.K. Top Five.

About the new LP, Cookie Crew's 20-year-old D.J. Mad Maxine says, "We hope it opens the doorway for more American record labels and people to take more interest in English rap."

The drumbeat-mad, scratch-happy rhythms throughout this album will satisfy many a street music fan, but this stuff will quickly prove tiring for the non-rap listener. I found the girls' frenetic, street-wise vocal delivery on much of the material here to be unimaginative and somewhat monotonous.

The album includes: "Yo! What's Up," "From The South," "Bad Girls (Rock The Spot)," "Got To Keep On," "Born This Way," "Dazzle's Theme."

MICA PARIS
"So Good" (Island)

"So Good" is the debut LP from the 20-year-old British songstress whose single "My One Temptation" was a top-10 hit a few months back.

Last year, the "So Good" LP was certified gold in Britain just two weeks after its U.K. release. "The success I've had it Britain shocks me," she says. "I was out to prove to the British public that we don't have to just consume American artists who have incidentally dominated the English music scene, but that the British have soul and talent too."

It's easy to hear why her warm, soulful voice has drawn comparisons to such well-known stars as Anita Baker and Dionne Warwick. With Courtney Pine's flavorful opening sax solo, "Like Dreamers Do" is an extremely likeable showcase for Mica's bright, vibrant vocal delivery. She also does a fine job on "My One Temptation" her recent smash single. And ballad lovers should really go for her duet with Will Downing, "Where Is The Love" (a big hit for Roberta Flack And Donny Hathaway in 1972).

Other cuts: "Nothing Hits Your Heart Like Soul Music," "Sway (Dance The Blues Away)," "Don't Give Me Up," "Breathe Life Into Me," "I'd Hate To Love You," "Great Impersonation," "So Good."

ENTOUCH
"All Nite" (Vintertainment)

"All Nite" is the debut LP from a New York duo known as Entouch, who is currently on the singles charts with "II Hype."

Eric McCaine, who was born in Mount Vernon, is a former member of a group known as Touch, who had a dance hit titled "Without You" last year.

The other member of Entouch, known as Free, is from the Bronx.

Those who enjoy the music of such black contemporary artists as Keith Sweat and Surface should find something to like on "All Nite." The album includes "4ever," "II Steps 2 The Right," "Whatchagonnado," "Scratch My Back," "Crazay 4/U," "Just A Little Bit Of Luv."

VESTA
"Vesta 4 U" (A&M)

"Congratulations" are in order for Vesta Williams, whose current top-ten smash single is just one of the nine fine cuts on "Vesta 4 U," her current album.

Vesta, who was born in Coshocton, Ohio, released her first album, "Vesta," a couple of years ago. Vesta has also sung background vocals on records by Sting, Anita Baker and Stephanie Mills.

Vesta was the first artist ever to host B.E.T.'s "Video Soul" TV program. She's also done two guest appearances on the TV comedy, "Throb."

Vesta, who co-wrote most of the songs here, sounds confident and in-control on such upbeat tracks as "Here/Say" and "All On You." "Sweet Sweet, Love" is a competently-performed ballad which features a saxophone solo by Gerald Albright.

Other cuts: "4 U," "How You Feel," "Best I Ever Had," "Hunger," "Running Into Memories."

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ALL THAT JAZZ

with Bob Matthews

As the summer doldrums continue, there are a few bright spots on the jazz scene—b.t they are sparse.

At Ft. Dupont Park Friday and Saturday, Aug 11, 12, Tom Browne is the featured artist. The park is at Minnesota Ave. and Randle Circle, SE, with the concert beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Not so, **Marshall Keys** and the **Marshall Keys Quartet**, will be joined by pianist **Reuben Brown** in a tribute to Shorter, spotlighting his hard bop compositions of the 1960s.

This series concludes August 17 with a concert entitled "The Bebop Era" with the **Vaughn Nark Quintet** doing some of the works of **Gerry Mulligan**, and **Dizzy Gillespie.**

Wayne Shorter

Tom Brown

The summer series closes out next week, Aug 18, with **McCoy Tyner** and his group. A word to the wise, the popularity of these free concerts necessitates an early arrival at the site, if you want a good location.

* * *

For DC residents who get their AFRO on Thursdays, a quick reminder that the "Pre-Bop, Bebop, Hard Bop" summer jazz series put on by the Smithsonian Resident Association, presents "Wayne Shorter: The Blue Note Years" tonight, August 10.

Point this out because one of our cohorts was under the mistaken impression that Wayne Shorter would be appearing at this concert.

The concerts, which begin at 7 p.m., are in the Baird Auditorium at the National Museum of Natural History. Further information: (202)357-3030.

* * *

The Charlin Jazz Society of DC has announced its lineup for the 1989-90 season. The popular series produced last year called "Jazz at the Terrace," will return.

Opening on February 16, 1990 is vocalist **Marlena Shaw**. She will be accompanied by **Bob Butta**, piano; **Cheyney Thomas**, bass, and **Ron Compton**, drums.

March 9, "Trumpets and Trombones with trumpeter **Jon Faddis**, and trombonist **Al Grey**.

Final in the series will be a two-day tribute to tap dancer **Bill Robinson**. Featured will be the young dancer **Savion Glover**, along with **Sandman Sims**, and **Harold Nicholas**.

* * *

One of the mainstays in keeping live jazz perking in Balto. is Buddies, at 313 N. Charles St., which now features jazz Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

Beginning Sept. 6, Wednesday nights will be added to the live jazz presentation with the **Stan Rouse Quartet** as the house band. Of course, local musicians can sit in — and usually do.

The **Bing Miller** group is the house band for the club, which includes Bing on drums, **Andy Ennis**, tenor sax, **John Berry**, bass, and **Steve Yankee**, drums.

Must sadly report that pianist **Freddie Thaxton** died this week of cancer. He was one of the leading bop pianists in the area, and a real pro.

Details for a memorial service were not yet complete as we went to press. We last heard Freddie at one of the Monday night sessions at the Sportsmen's Club where he was playing an electric piano—magnificently.

He will be missed on the jazz scene.

* * *

Have been in discussion with **Larry Jeter** regarding the possibility of putting a jazz quiz in our column, with jazz CDs given to the winners.

Sounds like a great idea to us, but of course, it hinges on whether you think it will fly. Give us a call here at the 'Fro, (301)728-8200, or drop us a line:

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Afro-American Newspapers
628 N. Eutaw St.
Baltimore, MD 21201

—Sensuous Freda Payne

(Continued from Page 3)

braver souls in the audience locked in their seats, she went from Broadway show tunes to gospel and then to her own hits.

When she started "Bring the Boys Home," her audience exploded in applause and sang along with her as the rain continued and courageous Freda, her gown almost ruined, created one of those magic moments of show business.

Old fans and friends will get a chance to see the glamorous Freda on the stage of the Howard University Cramton Auditorium on Monday, August 14 as Coors Beer sponsors what promises to be another wondrous evening with the singer. For, this lady had to rise above her own good looks to be appreciated.

"She is polished, so dynamic and she looks great, too," says Carlton, who along with Coors are presenting Freda at the Big Show Expo, a beauty and business expo slated this weekend.

Payne will be there with a great band, the gorgeous gowns she has trademarked, but if you want to have an extra treat, close your eyes for a few moments and truly listen while she sings.

You might discover that Miss Freda Payne is some singer, ultimately worth hearing as well as seeing.

Night Life will return next week.

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