Peabo Bryson

The Knight who charms and seduces with musical red roses

Records

By Ida Peters

Peabo Bryson! He's in town tonight (Friday) at Painters Mill. The knight who charms and seduces with red roses sneaks up on his audience softly and then hits them like a steamroller with his gospel-tinged voice.

His new album "Turn the Hands of Time" is just starting up the Pop Charts. "Live and More" with Roberta Flack is 78 on Cashbox's Top 100 Albums.

On the Top R & B Cashbox Singles, "Make the World Stand Still" with Roberta Flack is 20. His "Lovers After All" with Melissa Manchester is 35. And Roberta's and Peabo's "Live and More" is 11 on R & B Albums.

Light Records artists Walter and Tramaine Hawkins, Andrae Crouch, Sweet Comfort Band, The Archers and Resurrection Band have all taken top honors in annual gospel music awards from Record World; Cash Box and Billboard Magazines.

"Love Alive II" with Walter Hawkins and the Love Center Choir was named top album by all three publications in a clean sweep.

In the Record World Magazine "Soul and Spiritual" category, Walter Hawkins was named as top male artist-soul followed by Andrae Crouch with Tramaine Hawkins named top female artist-soul, with "Love Alive II" by Walter Hawkins was named top album with Andrae Crouch's "I'll Be Thinking of You" in second and Tramaine Hawkins "Tramaine", in third. Hawkins and Crouch ran second and third in top male vocalist honors.

Billboard Magazine gave first place honors to Walter Hawkins and the Love Center Choir for the number one "Spiritual Album", "Live Alive II".

Star session vocalist Ullanda makes her Atlantic premiere with "Ullanda McCullough". All the songs on the LP were produced and written by Nickolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson for Hopsack & Silk Productions, including the first single pick "Bad Company". Ullanda's extensive credits include work on numerous major recordings, film soundtracks, commercials and tours.

Venture recording artist Clarence Carter, who's current career is as hot as his new Venture album "Burning" on the national popular music charts, is currently on tour breaking house records and burnin the ears of his audiences with his soulful song stylings in a sizzling manner

Niecy as symphony is a symphony in browns, orchid and purple . . . the new sophisticated look.

...more Neicy

(Continued from Page 15)

ribbon for the children of Atlanta and a gold pin, "Jesus Saves".

"Niecy," as she is nicknamed laughingly said that although she was born on June 3, 1950, she is very proud to be 30 but she feels like 18.

She is traveling with three giant suitcases and the Baltimore-Washington area is her sixth stop after visiting Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Greenville, S.C. and New York.

As to her stunning outfit she said she is trying to give the image of black women a more sophisticated look.

AFRO: How did you happen to come to Morgan College in Baltimore?

Niecy: This was in 1968 and I was goofing off on my grades. I wanted to go to Purdue in my home town but my music teacher Dr. Melville Bryant knew Dr. Martin Jenkins, the late President of Morgan, and he helped me get a scholarship.

AFRO: Was Dr. Jenkins from your home town?

Niecy: Yes, he knew we were from the same home town and it was my first time away from home and he made me feel secure. I lived on campus at Tubman Hall the first year and the second year, 1969, moved with Mrs. Ada Carter at 2003 Baker St.

My roommate was Brenda Ward of Virginia who finished Morgan and is now a Probation Officer in California.

AFRO: What teacher at Morgan impressed you the most?

Niecy: Dr. Irene Diggs who taught Sociology and Congressman Parren Mitchell who taught Political Science. Dr. Irene Diggs especially for her dignity, the way she carried herself, her diction, her clothes and beautiful jewelry. Dr. Diggs meant to me wisdom and knowledge which is the richest things a person can have.

Asked how she liked working with Johnny Mathis, she said they had fun and he was easy to work with as she is 85 per cent woman and 15 per cent little girl and she has admired him for so long.

As to the present, she is proud of her new album "My Melody". She is also producing and writing songs for other artists currently with Inez Fox, Jimmy Cliff, Melissa Manchester and Rocky Robbins.

The AFRO was happy to welcome Deniece Williams who worked her way thru Morgan College singing for $50. on weekends at the Casino on Pennsylvania Avenue while holding down a work-study job as a substitute teacher from Monday to Thursday. When she left Morgan to go with Stevie Wonder, she completed another year at Purdue University in her

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Jones Girls on male-female peace

By Frederick I. Douglass
Free-lance writer

When the Jones Girls come to Painters Mill Friday night, they will be spreading their philosophy that men and women, especially black men and women, have got to end the battle between the sexes and get down to the business of loving each other and working together

The biggest problem these days is that men seem to have so many problems with being honest about their inner feelings, say Valorie Jones. They worry about hurting their woman's feelings by saying exactly what's on their minds, so they end telling them little lies. Then they end up telling more and bigger lies that drive the truth and trust out of their relationship.

Brenda Jones adds, "It's not that men are necessarily trying to con women. What happens so often is that they think women are so fragile they can't handle the truth. But truth outweighs all lies and I have so much more respect for a man that's right up front with me about what he thinks and feels.

"It's getting worse now that more women are working and pursuing professional careers," Brenda continued.

Women want to be recognized as total human beings who have the right to assert themselves and make their own decisions, if they live alone or participate in the decision making process if they are married or totally involved with one man.

The Jones Girls are appearing at the Black Student Union of Catonsville Community College before 2,000 students at 1:30 p.m. today (Friday). Event is arranged thru courtesy of County Executive Donald Hutchinson and Mrs. Marie Henderson, Special Events Coordinator.

Some men can't handle independent women who have definite opinions about themselves and the world around them. So they fight their woman's struggle to be herself especially when it means that she refuses to sacrifice her own personal needs to make him happy. "I don't want to be at war with men. I just want a man to treat me like a person whose thoughts and feelings are important to a meaningful relationship.

While the Jones Girls are gravely concerned about the breakdown in communication between men and women, they still see a glimpse of hope at the end of the tunnel.

"It really knocked me out when I heard the lyrics to Kenny Gamble's tune At Peace With Women," says Shirley Jones, because it let me know that there are men who really understand the way women feel.

Top Hits

R & B Albums

1. Gap Band III / The Gap Band
2. The Two Of Us / Stevie Wonder
3. Hotter Than July / Stevie Wonder
4. Imagination / The Whispers
5. Stone Jam / Slave

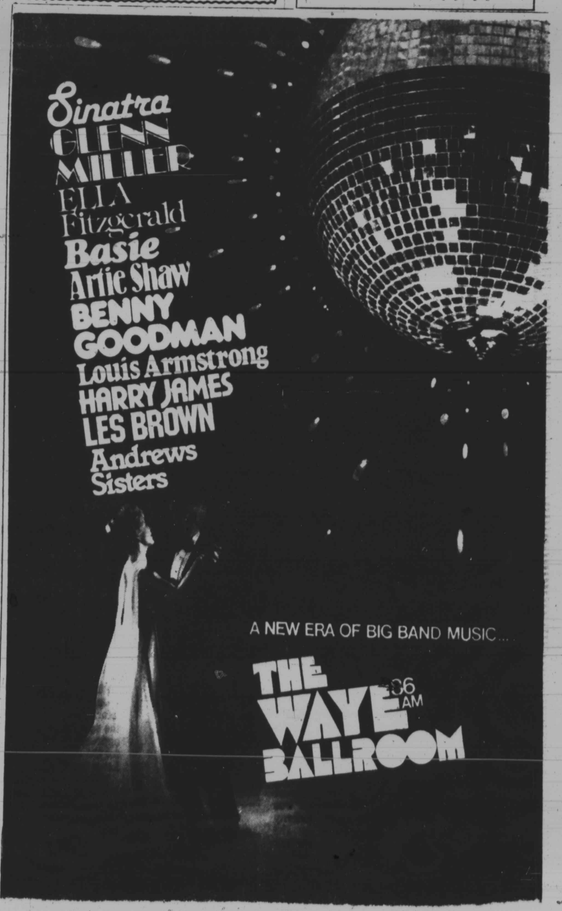
R & B Singles

1. Don't Stop The Music / Yarbrough & Peoples
2. It's A Love Thing / The Whispers
3. Burn Rubber / The Gap Band
4. Watching You / Slave
5. Thighs High / Tom Browne

Jazz Spiritual

Top Spiritual Albums
1. The Lord Will Make A Way / Al Green
2. The Hawkins Family Live / Walter Hawkins
3. Rise Again / Gospel Keynotes
4. Cloudburst / Mighty Clouds of Joy
5. Rejoice / Shirley Caesar

Top Inspirational Albums
1. Favorites, Vol. 1 / Elvis Tournoux
2. Thank You For the Dove / Mike Adkins
3. Best of B.J. Thomas / B.J. Thomas
4. Never Alone / Don Francisco



'If you can walk, you can dance'

Honi Coles

New York— Honi Coles remembers the time one of his tap-dancing students asked permission to bring along a friend for a lesson.

Sure, Coles told the student, who happened to be talk-show host Dick Cavett, and, some time later, in walked Woody Allen.

"He kept asking a lot of technical questions, like, 'Is I'm standing up on toot, how can I tap on it?' And "why does this tap sound this way and other the sounds different?"

"I told him, 'if you can walk, you can dance'."

Those seven words embody Coles' philosophy, which is tested regularly in such varied places as Yale University, the Newport Jazz Festival and Manhattan's 92nd Street YMCA.

Coles, who was 69 in April, is the leader of the Copasetics, an energetic pool of sexagenarians that Coles politely describes as "eligible to vote". Cavett, Reed Foxx and George Kirby are honorary members.

With each man a dazzling tap-dancer in his own right, they join hands to amaze and delight audiences, especially teen-agers and children too young to remember the sizzling syncopation of variety shows in the 1920's and 1930's.

In 1934, Coles played at the opening of the Apollo Theatre, for years a Harlem entertainment showcase that was the Uptown answer to Radio City Music Hall.

A star of such Broadway shows as "Bubblin' Brown Sugar" and "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes", he appeared in January with Burgess Meredith in a National television special, "Mr. Griffin and Me".

Helping to create the recent renaissance of interest in tap dancing was one of the toughest battles in Coles half-century-long career.

"No, No, Nanette", the Broadway musical, marked the beginning of the revival, Coles said.

"It was so well received that people started saying, 'bring back tap'. Show business in the 60s was ready for a 'new art form.' It all goes around in circles.

These days, the Copasetics usually get top billing. In a recent appearance, Coles and four other tuxedo-clad Copasetics, were dancing while seated in chairs.

Coles at 69 is in better physical condition than many men half his age.

"Being senior members of the Geriatric set", Coles explained, "this is how we do it when we need the breath".

But Coles is in better physical condition than many men half his age.

"A lanky-6-foot-2", he resembles Beverly Hillbillies television star Buddy Ebsen, himself a former hoofer, though more people mistake Coles for Billy Eckstine, with whose band Coles used to perform.

Free films

Admission to all film programs is free.

"The Black Athlete", which features historic footage of early black athletes and interviews with prominent players and coaches of today, will be screened along with "The Shoemaker and the Elves" at 5:30 pm Mon., March 23, at the Light Street Branch, 1251 Light St.

"Kingfish's Secretary" and "Leroy's Suite" two episodes of the "Amos 'n' Andy Show", will be screened at 6 pm. on Wed., March 25, at the Lafayette Square Center, 1510-W. Lafayette Ave.

"The Lady Vanishes", starring Dame May Whitty, the Hitchcock suspense classic about the strange disappearance of an English woman on a London-bound train, will be screened at 6.30 p.m. on Wed., March 25, at the Light Street Branch, 1251 Light St.

"Breathless" (A Bout De Souffle), directed by Jean Luc Godard, a New Wave homage to the American gangster drama starring Jean Seberg and Jean-Paul Belmondo, will be screened at 6 p.m. on Thurs., March 26 at the Central Library, 400 Cathedral St.

"Wagon Train", with Tim Holt leading the supply train through dangerous Western territory, will be screend at 2 p.m. on Sat., March 28, at the Central Library, 400 Cathedral St.

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TV Watching

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Friday

Peanuts "It's You're the Greatest, Charlie Brown", if not, at least he's trying: by entering the decathlon in the Junior Olympics. 8:00-8:30 p.m. Ch. 2.

Benson Benson's "little brother" shows up as a refugee from his uncaring stepmother, her hostile kids and his absent father. Starring Robert Guillaume. 8:00-8:30 p.m. Ch. 13.

Bugs Bunny It's spring and memories rise like sap as Bugs recalls an encounter with Elmer Fudd as a mischievous infant. Meanwhile, Wile E. Coyote finally catches up with the Road Runner after a 30-year chase. 8:30-9:00 p.m. Ch. 2.

Phenomenon of Roots An examination of the impact of "Roots". Host Louis Gossett Jr. assesses the influence of both the book and the television series with actors LeVar Burton, Ed Asner and Georg Stanford Brown. 11:30-12:30 a.m. Ch. 9.

Movie "A Raisin in the Sun". Lorraine Hansberry's prize winning drama about a black family living in a cramped Chicago tenement. Starring Sidney Poitier, Ruby Dee, Diana Sands and Claudia McNeil. 1:10-3:40 a.m. Ch. 13.

Saturday

Fat Albert The gang meets a new classmate, a retarded boy named David. Hosted by Bill Cosby. 12:00-12:30 p.m. Ch. 2.

Weekend Special Part 1 of this Emmy winning adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Gold Bug" follows an adventurous boy as he stumbles upon a treasure hunter and his mute servant. Starring Geoffrey Holder. 12:00-12:30 p.m. Ch. 13.

American Bandstand Guests include Deniece Williams who sings "What Two Can Do" and "Stranger". 12:30-1:30 p.m. Ch. 7.

From Jumpstreet Today: Stevie Wonder, who had his first hit at the age of 12, talks about growing up in public. Hosted by Oscar Brown Jr. 3:00-3:30 p.m. Ch. 22 & 67.

Sidney Poitier stars in "A Raisin In The Sun" Friday, 1 a.m.

Soul Train Guests are The Pointer Sisters who sing "Hers So Shy" and Con-Funk-Shun "Too Tight". 5:00-6:00 p.m. Ch. 5.

New Voice Prejudice and stereotyping are the themes of this show. With Kiko McKee and Claudia Martinez. 6:00-6:30 p.m. Ch. 22 & 67.

Love Boat Julie agrees to act as Gopher's girl friend to impress his old college pal. Starring Nipsey Russell and Ted Lange. 9:00-10:00 p.m. Ch. 13.

Roots This 12-hour adaptation of Alex Haley's saga of a black American family opens in 18th century Africa, where Kunta Kinte undergoes a tribal rite of manhood, only to be seized by slavers bound for America. Starring LeVar Burton, Cicely Tyson. 9:00-11:00 p.m. Ch. 9.

Hill Street Blues Furillo frustrates his superiors by refusing to ignore murder evidence that incriminates a city councilman. Starring Michael Warren. 10:00-11:00 p.m. Ch. 1.

Sunday

For Our Times An update of a 1977 program examining the efforts of a black churches and colleges in Little Rock, Ark., to help the city's unemployed. 10:30-11:00 a.m. Ch. 2.

Solid Gold Cohost Smokey Robinson sings "Being With You" and introduces Sheena Easton. 1:00-2:00 p.m. Ch. 45.

Superteams It's an all-Philadelphia final as the Eagles and the Phillies meet for the "Superteams", 2:00-3:00 p.m. Ch. 13.

Movie "Gone With the Wind", set during the Civil War, chronicles the adventurous life of Scarlett O'Hara and the dashing gunrunner Rhett Butler. Starring Butterfly McQueen. 8:00-11:00 p.m. Ch. 7.

Monday

Captain Kangaroo Actress Debbie Allen plays Laughing Lucy in a fairy tale, "The Wizard of Odd". 8:00-9:00 a.m. Ch. 2.

Brian G. Wilson (left) and Jermain H. Johnson star as young boys growing up in the rural south in the 1930s, in "Palmerstown."

Reggie Jackson discusses team strategy with Eagles' Captain Bill Bergey in the clash of the "Superteams", Sunday, March 22 on ABC. Teams are battling for $126,000.

C&P Telephone recently donated $1,000 to Children's Hospital for use towards the purchase of an EKG machine. Pictured at the donation are (from left) Evelyn Johnson, C&P; Rose Smith, C&P; Bryant Lowe, executive director of Children's Hospital; and Carl Smith, C&P manager.

TOP RANK FIGHTS OF THE 70's
THIS WEEK: ROSSMAN/GALINDEZ
5 p.m. Saturday
45 WBFF-TV

'Jazz Alive'

One of the more refreshing trends in contemporary jazz is the increasing diversity of format in instrumental performances. "Jazz Alive!" examines this exciting development in a two-hour show, March 22, on National public radio featuring pianist Tete Montoliu, Supersax, and the duo of saxophonist Frank Morgan and pianist George Cables.

The demands of solo piano recital are among the most difficult in jazz improvisation. Until recently, one of the world's outstanding practitioners, Tete Montoliu, was virtually unknown to American audiences. A native of Barcelona, Spain, Montoliu has worked and recorded all over Europe with such luminaries as Ben Webster, Dexter Gordon, Roland Kirk and Archie Shepp.

"Jazz Alive!" presents Montoliu in his first American concert hall appearance at Boston University's Morse Auditorium where he meets the challenges of solo piano improvisation with a program of jazz standards and original compositions. Montoliu proves his command of Ellingtonia and bebop with readings of Billy Strayhorn's "Lush Life" and Tadd Dameron's "Hot House", respectively.

Meanwhile, Montoliu's "Apt. 512" exhibits a technique rooted in the style of the legendary Art Tatum; while another original, "Catalonian Suite", laps the melodic richness of Spanish folk music.

Among the unique ensembles in jazz is Supersax, a Los Angeles based nonet which celebrates the legacy of saxophonist Charlie Parker, architect of the bebop revolution.