

Switch

"Guitar" Gable

(Continued from page 3)

late Esther Phillips in the 1950's and sadly recalls the time on the road when needles fell out of her bag.

"Every show she made with us was high," he says adding that she often spent so much money on dope that she had no funds with which to pay her hotel bill.

Gable also admires Shirley Caesar and B.B. King, with whom he has also worked. He has resisted efforts to get him to travel to Europe and Australia to perform.

Married to June Gable and a resident of Carey Street, his biography is due out soon, and he is scheduled to meet in the near future with his old friend James Brown, whose career is undergoing a resurgence right now.

Meanwhile, Guitar Gable is appearing at the Marble Bar on Franklin Street, a club known for a wide variety of live bands ranging from punk rock and new wave to bluegrass.

"I've got my own fans and people that come for new wave don't be there for blues and vice versa. I've run into new wave groups who are into my sophisticated tricks."

As for the blues, Gable is convinced it will not die.

"One of the Spinners once said that disco will die before the blues will."

As he makes plans to record again, he outlines his hopes for the future.

"Id like to continue doing what I'm doing, playing the blues and making dates for the rest of my life. That's it."



Carl Matthews SOUNDS

SWITCH
"Am I Still Your Boyfriend?"

Switch is back — on a new label, Total Experience — with their latest LP "Am I Still Your Boyfriend?" and new single "Switch It Baby."

Switch began as a group in December, 1976. One of the founding members, Gregory Williams, met Jermaine Jackson at Motown where Jackson helped Switch land a recording deal.

The musicians in the group would switch instruments during a performance, going from piano, to drums, to bass, etc., and from that concept came the name Switch.

Switch recorded five albums for Motown. Among their hit singles were "They'll Never Be," "I Call Your Name," "Best Beat In Town," and "Love Me Over And Over."

Switch left Motown in May of 1982. Now, in 1984, they've kept up with the times with an LP full of modern R&B, pop, funk, etc.

Their first single "Switch It Baby" is an electric dance number which is, well, your usual electric dance number. The vocals and synthesizer playing are done in a Dazz Band style that recalls the Dazz hit "Joystick."

"Treason" is a straight-ahead pop number in which the group sounds more like the old Switch: same message-filled lyrics and studio polish. The same can be said of the title cut.

And the "I Call Your Name" of this latest album is "Spend My Life With You," which also contains a spoken intro. Yep, there's still some Motown left in Switch.

The album is mainly for Switch fans. Other cuts: "I'm So Satisfied," "It's All Up To You," "Lovers Don't Hold Back," "Keeping Secrets," "Jut Can't Pull Away," "I Won't Give Up," "Forever My Love."

YARBROUGH & PEOPLES
"Be A Winner"

The duo of Cavin Yarbrough and Alisa Peoples has released a third album, this time on the Total Experience label, entitled "Be A Winner."

They've been singing together since pre-school days. Their big break came in the late 70s when Lonnie Simmons, manager-producer of The Gap Band, brought Yarbrough and Peoples to Los Angeles to work with The Gap Band and Total Experience.

The duo's first recording efforts with Simmons resulted in the gold album, "The Two Of Us" featuring the smash hit gold single, "Don't Stop The Music."

They later followed that up with "Heartbeats," another hit single and album.

Listening to "Be A Winner," their latest, is like listening to their first album again. By now, you will have noticed how much the first single from "Winner," "Don't Waste Your Time," sounds like their debut hit, "Don't Stop The Music" — same tempo and arrangement. And each title has four words, the first of which is "Don't."

All the tunes, with the exception of one, "I Gave My All (To You)," are fast tempo.

Check out "I'm Ready To Jam" on this album. This danceable tune has a structure that recalls the old '60s rock and roll hits. It sounds like a 1984 R&B remake of an old Tommy James And The Shondells hit. Hooks galore.

The title cut is a cliche-filled rocker that also sounds like "Don't Waste Your Time." Sounds like stuff from the current S.O.S. Band.

"Who Said That" features Robert "Goodie" Whitfield, another Total Experience artist, on background vocals. Goodie had a hit a couple of years back with "Do Something."

At least, the latest album by Yarbrough & Peoples won't waste your time.

Other cuts: I'll Be There, I Only Love You, The Power, Let Me Have It (From The Start).



Yarbrough and Peoples

'American Portrait'

"An American Portrait," a new series of one-minute specials that celebrates the accomplishments of lesser-known Americans, is currently in production for airing his fall on CBS.

The specials, which will feature such celebrity hosts as Steve Allen, Mariette Hartley, Mike Farrell and Peter Strauss, will be broadcast Monday through Friday, culminating with the centennial of the Statue of Liberty on Oct. 28, 1986.

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DISCO Dancing Fri. & Sat.
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KOOL JAZZ FESTIVAL COMING LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Some of the world's best-loved musicians will perform over the Labor Day weekend when the KOOL JAZZ Festival and the Eubie Blake Jazz Festival join forces at the newly titled Baltimore KOOL JAZZ Festival - Dedicated to Eubie Blake.

The festival will take place nightly at 8 p.m. from August 31 through September 2 at the Pier Six Concert Pavilion.

Produced by George Wein, president of Festival Productions, Inc., the Baltimore KOOL JAZZ Festival - Dedicated to Eubie Blake will begin Friday, August 31, with a concert starring Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers and Stanley Turrentine and his Quartet. On Saturday, September 1, vocal greats Joe Williams and Rosemary Clooney will be accompanied by Mercer Ellington and the Duke Ellington Orchestra, while on Sunday, rhythm and blues superstar Ray Charles will headline an evening that will start with a performance by The All That Jazz Swing Orchestra, winner of the second annual Jazz Quest competition. In addition, George Wein and the Newport Jazz Festival All-Stars will kick-off the KOOL JAZZ Festival with a special free performance on Thursday, August 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Harborplace Amphitheatre.

A variety of special KOOL JAZZ festival free events also will be staged throughout the City beginning Monday, August 27 and continuing throughout the weekend.

Tickets for the three-day KOOL JAZZ Festival shows at the Pier 6 Concert Pavilion are $10.00 for pavilion seating and $5.50 for lawn and cabaret seating. A discount package for $25.00 (for all three concerts) is available. Tickets are on sale at the Pier Six Box Office (Pratt Street and Pier Six), Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets are also available in person at the Baltimore Box Office at Pier Four, the Civic Center Box Office and Hechts Ticket Centers. Tickets may be charged by telephone to a major credit card by calling Telecharge at 625-1400.

Lawn and tickets can be purchased at the Pier Six Box Office on the day of the performance only.

For additional information on the KOOL JAZZ Festival call 727-5580 or 727-INFO (4636).



Nell (Nell Carter) sees through the well-worn romantic lines that Glenlawn's amorous new mayor (George Kirby) tries on her, on NBC's "Gimme a Break," airing Thursday, Aug. 23.

Patterns and Forms in African Art

Starting August 20th until September 16th, an exhibition, Patterns and Forms in African Art explores and examines the use of these elements in works from the museum's permanent collection. Of the forty works on view, 20 will be on exhibition for the first time ever and they represent recent gifts and acquisitions. One section of the exhibition addresses the theme "surface decoration of the human body," another concentrates on surface decoration on everyday and ornamental objects. A third focus is given to the patterns illustrated in woven, appliqued and beaded objects. Finally, a section explores the use of strong, sculptural forms to express religious beliefs (as in masks and figural sculpture). These exhibits can be seen at the National Museum of African Art located at 318 A Street, N.E., Washington, D.C.



A wood, fabric, fiber sculpture at National Museum of African Art.

Melba Moore

Continued from page 2

ton Marsalis, the Dells and Phyllis Hyman among the many taking place already.

The Chi-Lites performed last Sunday at the Carter Barron, and remaining shows feature jazz great Dizzy Gillispie and the Eddie Hayter Trio on Aug. 25, and conclude with the Manhattans and Rae Harris on Aug. 26.

The low price tickets usually become less attainable as the individual concert dates near, but are on sale about two weeks prior to each show. Nancy Wilson, who performed Aug. 4, was a demanded date, and Phyllis Hyman's July 28 performance was sold out days before the show.

Tickets are available at the Carter Barron box office between 1 and 9 p.m. on weekends, and at Ticketplace, 13 and F Sts. N.W. during the week.

The concerts are funded through donations by Anheuser-Busch and the National Park Service.

Chinese TV

A delegation from China Central Television has selected a series of CBS programs for the first regularly scheduled broadcasts of American television ever aired in the People's Republic of China. CCTV will broadcast 64 hours of CBS-produced programming, including "60 Minutes," "On the Road" and "World War II."

