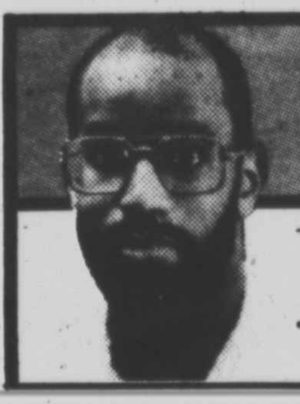

Carl Matthews
SOUNDS

GEORGE CLINTON
"R&B Skeletons In The Closet" (Capitol)

Yes, friends, crazy Clinton is back again! Here we go with another foot-stomping party-rocking funk session, featuring some of the best music Clinton's done since "You Shouldn't-Nuf Bit Fish."

Mr. Clinton has never settled for the ordinary. The roots of today's Clinton funk can be heard on the old funk classics by Parliament and Funkadelic created more than a decade ago.

As mastermind behind Parliament and Funkadelic Clinton's creativity was evident on such memorable Funkadelic albums as "Maggot Brain," "Hardcore Jollies" and "One Nation Under A Groove."

And let us not forget Parliament. No way could I forget tunes like "Up For The Down Stroke," "Chocolate City," "P. Funk (Wants To Get Funked Up)," "Give Up The Funk (Tear The Roof Off The Sucker)," "Bop Gun (Endangered Species)" and "Flash Light." I mean, really now. How many artists do you know would come out with titles like these?

Now, I wasn't extremely excited about Clinton's last album, "Some Of My Best Jokes Are Friends," but "R&B Skeletons In The Closet" is a gem of an album for anyone who has enjoyed Clinton's past creations.

With this album, Clinton continues to bring us the state of the art production and earthy full force funk, filled with his usual clever chord changes and stuff, that as always defies strict labeling. Not only that, but with this LP Clinton and crew is playing the kind of rock and roll that is likely to grab the ears of those who have never heard the man before.

Things get cooking on side one with "Hey Good Lookin'," featuring the voices of Bootsy Collins and former Miss America Vanessa Williams. It's good-time funk that shouldn't be taken too seriously. Another excellent example of the Clinton wit is the current single, "Do Fries Go With That Shake," the kind of crazy nonsense that's familiar to those who remember the "Urban Dancefloor Guerillas" album by the P. Funk All-Stars.

Another highlight on this disc is the eight-minute "Mixmaster Suite," a jumping percussion-filled cut in which Clinton takes basic elements from the current hip-hop/scratch/rap music wave and twists them around like only Clinton can. Gives new meaning to the word "fresh." This stuff is almost as wild as "The Tee Vee Toons Mega-Mix: Jane, Get Me Off This Crazy Thing!" (Maybe I'll mention that one in a future column).

"Intense" is exactly what its title implies, and "Cool Joe" is funky in a laid-back sort of way — and features more of the kind of rap you'd expect from 'ol Dr. Funkenstein.

I strongly recommend this album for all P-Funkers.

THE S.O.S. BAND
"Sands Of Time" (Tabu)

The Atlanta group known as The S.O.S. Band, who is currently in the top ten on the black charts with "The Finest," has a new album out called "Sands Of Time."

The S.O.S. Band is probably best remembered for their 1980 debut single, "Take Your Time (Do It Right)," which topped the soul and dance charts and went platinum.

They followed up their debut album with "Too," which featured the single "Do It Now," "S.O.S. Band III," and "On The Rise."

There was a certain brightness, a certain snap in the S.O.S. Band's first single — it wasn't bad for a debut hit. But with this album, I get the impression that the spark has dimmed considerably. Even on the first listen these new arrangements sound tired, little more than reworkings of tunes from their last two albums.

The S.O.S. Band, as can be easily seen from a glance at the current music charts, are still quite capable of making top ten hits. So there are many folks out there that are sure to dig this stuff, but count me out. Songs like "Even When You Sleep" and "The Finest" have a sort of "hit-factory" quality about them that tends to become a trifle stale after a few listenings.

Sorry, but I'm quite disappointed with this one. Other cuts: "Borrowed Love," "Nothing But The Best," "No Lies," "Two Time Lover."

CONCERTS

"Legends of Rock and Roll"

The second annual "Legends of Rock and Roll Concert" will be held on Saturday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Baltimore Civic Center. The legendary greats that will perform this year will include Wilson Pickett, The Crystals, The Drifters and more. For further information, call 347-2010.

Bill Harris to Perform

Bill Harris, outstanding jazz guitarist, will perform a recital of works made famous through the creative styles, techniques and imagination of several master jazz guitarists — Lonnie Johnson, Eddie Lang, and John Collins, to name a few — at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6 in the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater. For more information, call (202) 872-0466.

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KITCHEN OPEN—Daily Cooking by INA
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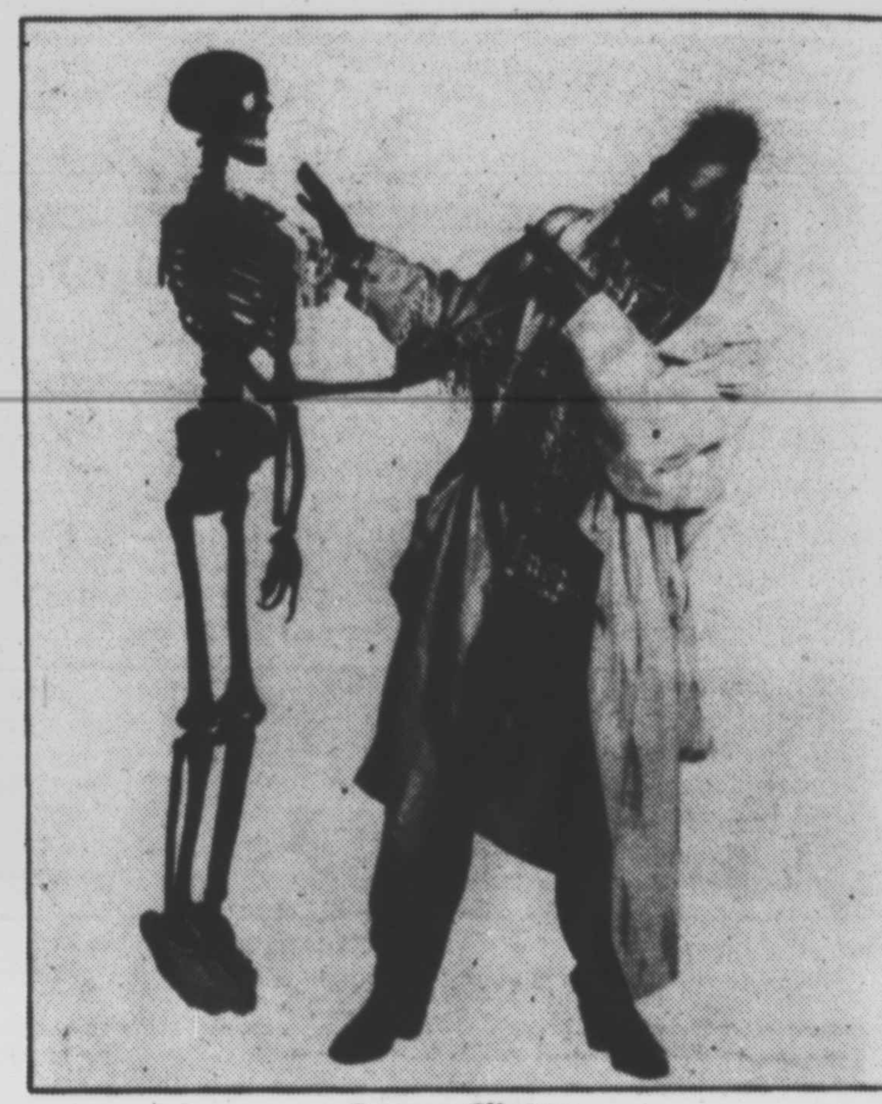

George Clinton

13 Harborlights Festival announces summer season

The 13 Harborlights Music Festival, produced by the Baltimore Center for the Performing Arts and sponsored by WJZ-TV and the City of Baltimore, presents its sixth season featuring popular music and entertainers that span four decades. Such great artists as **Natalie Cole,** Chuck Mangione, Mel Torme, Jack Wagner, **Dionne Warwick, Jennifer Holliday** and **Harry Belafonte** are among the major stars to appear.

The Pier Six entertainment series will be staged from June 21 through August 23 followed by the fifth annual 13 Baltimore Jazz Festival Dedicated to Eubie Blake, celebrated August 27-30.

The series will include the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in a special Thursday concert celebration of Rogers and Hammerstein, spectacular tap dancer/entertainer **Maurice Hines** and his company, and The Young Vic's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe."

The golden music of the sixties returns with **Jr. Walker and the All-Stars** with special **Mary Wells** on Wednesday, June 25, Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons on Friday, July 11, and Hall of Famers **Fats Domino** and Jerry Lee Lewis on Saturday, July 26. Friday, August 1 brings the 20th Anniversary World Tour of The Monkees featuring Davy Jones, Micky Dolenz and Peter Tork joined by special guest stars, Herman's Hermits, Gary Puckett and the Union Gap, and

Harry Belafonte

Maurice Hines

The Grass Roots.

Folk music enthusiasts will enjoy a great concert Saturday, July 19 with The Kingston Trio, The Limeliters, Melanie, and

Continued on page 5

Bob Matthews
. . .AND ALL THAT JAZZ

First, the good news—Artscape will be held again this year in the same place, the Mt. Royal Cultural Corridor (as it is now called).

Dates for the fest are July 18, 19 and 20--this is the good news.

The bad news is—there will be a dearth of jazz performances this year, the emphasis of the Artscape has changed. During the previous four years of Artscape, jazz lovers have delighted in some highpowered performances.

Such artists as Wynton Marsalis, Sonny Rollins, Freddie Hubbard, Betty Carter and others have graced the various stages on Mt. Royal Ave.

But, according to the schedule this year, only the Dirty Dozen Brass Band will be among the extremely limited jazz offerings.

The emphasis now is on the more classical presentations, such as the Elisa Monte Dance Company, and lots of art and scuplture exhibitions.

Underneath all this is the nagging suspicion that Artscape had become too successful, drawing overflow crowds that made the neighboring residents uneasy.

Know there will be other jazz presentations--will investigate and keep you informed on the details.

* * *

The Left Bank Jazz Society ended its season with an uptempo romp with Hank Crawford and the trio in rare form. There was a cohesiveness about the performance that led me to suspect that members of this group were not strangers to each other.

And so it was, for they had just completed a gig at Woodie's Hilltop Pub in D.C. for two nights prior to the LBJS set.

While Hank was in truly spirited form, with Reuben Brown on piano--an electric one, we might add--something was amiss. Billy Hart on drums demonstrated that he is indeed a master drummer.

Jeff Harper was a bit of a surprise, sparking the group with a rollicking rhythmic beat with flawless chordal invention.

Finally it came to me, despite the drive and imaginative, swinging play of Reuben, it didn't come across as effectively as we know it can--on an acoustic piano.

Of course this is not the fault of LBJS. They were perfectly willing to rent a piano for the occasion, but the limitations of the stage entranceways forbid putting a grand piano onstage.

Rumors abound now that LBJS will return to the Omni Hotel ballroom following their Spring hiatus. Next up for the society however, is the June 1 boatride. 'Twill be an allday affair this time.

Featured will be Richard Groove Holmes and his trio, plus the local group Diamond 'n the Ruff, featuring Sir Thomas Hurley.

* * *

Happy to report that Leon Thomas was indeed in residence at the Jazz Closet, along with music director of the club, Gary Bartz, to the exquisite delight of his many fans.

Reports from our spies indicate Leon did the gamut of his usual presentations, starting off with standards, branching into his specialty (yodelling) for the second set, and ending with some of the protest-type music for which he became famous.

He is scheduled to return to the Jazz Closet May 8, 9 and 10.

* * *

While we're on the festival kick, have to remind all who might have contemplated going to the Grand Parade du Jazz in Nice, France can forget it. The festival has been cancelled.

Yea, know you weren't planning to go away, but there was a tour available through one of the top jazz entrepreneurs, Bernice Pochonet.

* * *

Guess the next event on the festival scene is the Capital City Jazz Festival, which goes on June 5-7 at the Washington, D.C. Convention Center, and the Ellington School of the Arts.

Then too, the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz puts on its sixth annual festival June 27-29. The lineup is really impressive, and we'll give it completely next week.

We Entertain Baltimore's Best

Chuck Maxx, Program Director

Now The 24 Hour Power Station
1360 AM

— Harborlights

Continued from page 4

Glenn Yarbrough. A "Bluegrass Bonanza" is planned for Friday, August 15 with Vassar Clements, The Seldom Scene, The Original Greenbriar Boys with John Herald. Bob Yellin and Ralph Rinzler plus Peter Rowan, Mark O'Connor and Jerry Douglas. John Cafferty and The Beaver Brown Band will perform Saturday, June 28.

Vocalist Mel Torme will appear with George Shearing on Friday, June 27 and song stylist Rosemary Clooney will be in concert Saturday, August 9. The dual pianos of Ferrante & Teicher will fill the summer air on Wednesday, July 16.

Enthusiasts of the current music scene will enjoy **Rene and Angela** with **Juicy** Wednesday, July 9; **Cleo Laine** and John Dankworth on Friday, August 8 and David Sanborn on Wednesday, August 20.

Gospel superstar **Andrae Crouch** will perform Friday, July 25 with the winner of this year's "Baltimore's Gospel Greats Competition."

Performances are staged on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Continued this year are the special "late shows" for popular performers. The tickets range from $7.00 for lawn seating to $17.50 for reserved seats.

Tickets to the 13 Harborlights Music Festival at the Pier Six Concert Pavilion are available by mail beginning Sunday, April 20, care of the Morris A. Mechanic Theatre, Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201.

Beginning June 2nd, tickets will be available at the Pier Six Box Office, Hecht's Ticket Center Outlets, Baltimore Box Office on Pier 4 and the Civic Center Box Office, or may be charged to a major credit card by calling TeleCharge at (301) 625-4100, (out-of-state residents may call 1-800-638-2444).

Jennifer Holiday

Mary Wells