

SOUNDS

WILLIE COLLINS
"Where You Gonna Be Tonight?"
(Capitol)

For those who dig black contemporary music on the romantic side, lately there has been no shortage of young male vocalists ready to try to capture your heart with a song. Newcomer Willie Collins has released his debut album, "Where You Gonna Be Tonight?"

The album features songs written by Billy Nichols, McFadden And Whitehead, and Womack & Womack. Nichols wrote and co-produced the album's first single, "Let's Get Started."

The performances here, for the most part, are unremarkable. The arrangements are sure to invite comparisons with label-mate Freddie Jackson, Colonel Abrams and a host of others.

The title track is straightforward pop/R&B, with no rough edges. "Ain't No Woman," written by Nichols, reveals a Marvin Gaye influence.

Other cuts: "Restless," "Sticky Situation," "Determination," "First Time Making Love," "Girl In The Corner."

SKYY
"From The Left Side" (Capitol)

Here's the group that has given us such R&B hits as "Superlove,"



Willie Collins

"Let's Celebrate," and "Skyyzoo" between 1979 and 1984. Skyy is back with their latest album, their first for Capitol.

Their single "Call Me" was number one on the black singles charts a few years back, and the album which contained that hit, "Skyyline," went gold.

As with their past albums, Skyy's latest release is produced by Randy Muller, who is the leader of Brass Construction, another group that has had a few hit singles.

Skyy's first album, "Skyy," which featured the singles "First Time Around" and "Let's Turn It Out," was full of the same kind upbeat, disco-tinged pop/R&B that Brass Construction was creating at that time, and on Skyy's latest album, the Muller influence is still evident, and no radical departure of the old Skyy style will be found here.

Problem is, Skyy is not as big a name nowadays as, say, Cameo. Thus, non-rock-and-roll listeners may not be able to tell the music on "From The Left Side" from anything by Starpoint, Atlantic Star, The Jets, or any of various other artists, without paying attention. This is often the case with commercial formula music, which, for the most part, Skyy sticks with here.

"Givin' It (To You)," the first single, starts the album off jumpin', and is followed by the similar-sounding "Love Attack" and "Non-Stop," both of which sound like punched-up reworkings of old tracks from "Skyyline." On "Song Song" Skyy gets mellow with an arrangement sounding much like that of the Commodores' "Nightshift."

"Jealousitis" contains a few interesting lyrical and instrumental hooks, as well as being quite danceable.

DAVE HUBBARD
"Labor Of Love"
(Sybarite Music)

Jazz listeners who have enjoyed the many recordings of Lonnie Liston Smith should be familiar with the style of this accomplished saxophonist, a graduate of Morgan State University.

The "Labor Of Love" album was recorded in New York and shows what a modern sax soloist can do when he's got top-notch musicians backing him up.

The opening track, "Devika," which is dedicated to Hubbard's wife, is a warm and soulful piece, and Lonnie Smith helps create a comfortable mood on "Oasis." "Flyinhy" perks along nicely, thanks to some solid beats from Wilby Fletcher's drums and an appropriate keyboard solo by Armen Donelian. The cut also features Aurell Ray on guitar and Greg Maker on bass.

TEE VEE TOONS PRESENTS
"The Jetsons Main Title"
(Tee Vee Toons)

Time now to spotlight our Strange Record Of The Week.

You may have watched shows like "The Beverly Hillbillies" for years, but I'll bet you never thought that anybody would dance to the theme music.

Put this record on the turntable and you will hear a disco beat featuring little pieces of themes from dozens of old TV shows. When I first heard of this record I just **had** to get it and give it a spin.

Side one of this disc contains three cuts and side two contains two cuts. The first cut on side one is the theme song from a cartoon called "The Jetsons." This is the original version straight from the 1960's show (as opposed to the 1985 show, which is airing currently.) The next cut is a stereo remake of the theme by the Tee Vee Toons people.

The third cut is one of the most interesting of them all. It is a shortened version of "Jane, Get Me Off This Crazy Thing!", a disco mega-mix featuring dozens of quick-cut pieces of television theme songs from the past. Listen as they cut up music from "The Flintstones," "Yogi Bear," "Magilla Gorilla," "Green Acres," "The Addams Family," "Mr. Ed," "The Jetsons," and lots more.

An oddball novelty, sure, but I had a ball with it. I played this record several times, and now I know every television show that's represented in this mega-mix (I just **had** to know! Call me strange, but...)

I could go on and on about this record, but I'll just briefly mention that the pieces of the "Gilligan's Island" and "I Love Lucy" themes that appear here are not taken from the original TV shows, but are 1985 re-recordings. This does not make the record any less fun, however.

On side two: the full-length version of "Jane, Get Me Off This Crazy Thing!" followed by a "dub" version.

Now, don't ask me why they called the track "Jane, Get Me Off This Crazy Thing!" when the line from the old Jetsons cartoon went "Jane, stop this crazy thing!" All I know is, I want more! Hey, you guys, try cutting these themes up: "All In The Family," "The Brady Bunch," "One Day At A Time"...

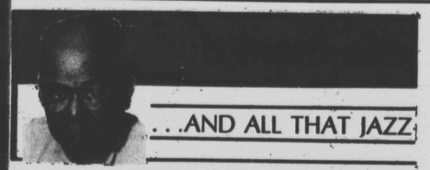
V-103's Top Twenty

1.	I've Learned To Respect	Stephanie Mills
2.	On My Own	LaBelle/McDonald
3.	I Can't Wait	Nu Shooz
4.	Kiss	Prince
5.	Heat of Heat	Patti Austin
6.	The Finest	SOS Band
7.	Never As Good As the First Time	Sade
8.	Crush On You	The Jetts
9.	Greatest Love of All	Whitney Houston
10.	Rock Me Amadeus	Falco
11.	High Horse	Evelyn King
12.	Party Freak	Cash Flow
13.	If Your Heart Isn't In It	Atlantic Star
14.	Love's On Fire	Aleem
15.	Stay	Controller
16.	Under the Influence	Vanity
17.	Do It To Me Good	Michael Henderson
18.	What's Missing	Alexander O'Neal
19.	Rock the Bells	L.L. Cool Jay
20.	Oh Louise	Junior

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June 1 is the date, and the **Left Bank Jazz Society** is the organization which is hosting a day-long Bay cruise to Annapolis. It's to be an all-day affair.

'Course you knew that — and so did I — but suddenly, the realization dawned — this cruise starts at 9 a.m. — do you hear! — NINE A.M.! Ah well, 'tis a Sunday, and churchgoers are already astir at this hour.

Just teasing, of course, but wanted to bring home the fact that this time, it is an all-day cruise. The MV Port Welcome is expected to arrive in Annapolis around noon.

There'll be a two-hour layover there, then the return trip to Baltimore will take about three hours. And here is where extra special happenings occur.

The Society will bring out the steamed crabs, for a free steamed crabs and beer session. Oh yes, the beer is free too (courtesy of Coors). There will be Pepsi for the anti-alky folk.

The event is being billed as a picnic-cruise, so picnic baskets are permissable carry-on items—the carrying of alcoholic beverages aboard the vessel, however, is strictly forbidden.

Music will be continuous, with **Richard (Groove) Holmes** Trio as the headliners, with Diamond 'n the Ruff as the alternate music group. It features **Sir Thomas Hurley** on organ, so you know this will be a stomping good session.

Tickets are $25 for this one, and believe thee me, they are moving. Bear in mind that only so many tickets can be sold—after all, the boat can't load more than its officially listed capacity.

For further information, call the Jazzline, 945-2266.

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Over at the **Jazz Closet**, where **Gary Bartz** has been doing a masterful job of keeping mainstream jazz alive and cooking, Gary will be joined this weekend by vocalist **Nikki Cooper**.

Of course, Nikki has her own night, Tuesdays, at the club, so Henry Baker thought teaming them up would give her greater exposure, and it sounds like a great idea to us.

Woody Shaw is back in town, and Henry is attempting to hold Woody to his promise for a reappearance at the club. Hope it materializes, for that last set with Woody and Gary was a gas.

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Over in D.C., the **One Step Down** has a swinging package on tap tonight and Saturday. Pianist **Joanne Brackeen** will be there, along with **Cecil McBee**, bass, and **Kenny Washington**, drums.

Personally, am really high on Joanne's work. Caught her at a session of the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz in Camp Hill, PA, and she brought the house down.

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All of which reminds us that there has been a major change in the lineup for the Central Pa. Festival, scheduled for June 27-29. The **Paris Reunion Band**, which is scheduled for the Friday night set, has a substitution.

Instead of **Johnny Griffin** on tenior sax with the group, it will be **Joe Henderson**. The rest of the group will be **Woody Shaw, Benny Bailey, Slide Hampton, Kenny Drew, Nathan Davis, Idris Muhammad** and **Jimmy Woode.**.

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At **Ethel's Place** through Sunday night, the vocal group **Mad Romance** is the featured attraction.

First heard the group last year during the Jazz Quest auditions—and must say we were tremendously impressed with them.

For the sake of comparison, they are the style of **Manhattan Transfer** or **Rare Silk** or **L.A. Voices.**

All of which means they are enormously influenced by the things pioneered by the **Lambert-Hendricks-Ross Trio** of years past. Using this as a base, they have built a repertoire with a lot of original things.

They're from the D.C. area, and have appeared often just across the river from Washington in the Alexandria, VA clubs. A real class act, you'll like them.

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Had occasion last week to introduce a couple of real jazz lovers to some of the high-tech advances that have come about over the past few years in the audio-video field, as concerns jazz presentations.

While VCRs have proliferated, a lot of jazz fans are unaware that there are many, many jazz videos available, most in hi-fi stereo with Dolby sound.

Naturally, the proper equipment is necessary to get the full benefits of the presentations, but if you really love jazz, then you'll have to make arrangements to see and hear such videos as "One Night at Blue Note," or the Manhattan Transfer's "Vocalese."

Just thought we'd bring this up, since a lot of jazz fans are unaware that such things exist.

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Over at **Blues Alley** in D.C., venerable violinist **Stephane Grapelli** is on hand through Sunday night... **Charlie Byrd** is in residence at the **King of France Tavern** in Annapolis.

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