Carl Matthews

SOUNDS

LUTHER VANDROSS
"Give Me The Reason" (Epic)

The fact that the title track from this album appeared in the soundtrack of the movie "Ruthless People" and is still in the top 60 on the pop music charts may be the reason lots of people are going to purchase this album.

They'll be getting the latest LP from a very experienced musician who has sung on numerous radio and TV commercials, has sung for such groups as Change ("Searching") and has produced and arranged for several other artists.

This same Luther Vandross first became a really big name when he released his 1981 album, "Never Too Much," which included the hit title track as well as "Sugar And Spice (I Found Me A Girl)," "Don't You Know That?," "I've Been Working," "She's A Super Lady," "You Stopped Loving Me," and "A House Is Not A Home."

A couple of years later, he was still hitting the charts, with hits from his "Busy Body" album, including his duet with Dionne Warwick, "How Many Times Can We Say Goodbye." "Busy Body" was the album that asked the musical question: Is Luther Vandross's telephone number really 556-9980? (Look at the album cover again and you'll see what I mean).

Rather than those perfectly unified strings you heard on "Never Too Much," you'll find the talents of Nat Adderly, Jr. and his wonderful synths on Luther's latest. The uptempo "Stop To Love" is a typical Vandross composition, and Cissy Houston and the rest of the female back-up singers are in top form here.

On "I Gave It Up" we once again find how Luther manages to put a "When My Baby Comes Home"-type song on every LP, and on the next track you may find it "So Amazing" how Vandross can still handle those real mellow ballads.

This year's Vandross oldie-but-goodie: "Anyone Who Had A Heart," the Burt Bacharach and Hal David classic made fresh by ol' Luther.

Luther Vandross

REBBIE JACKSON
"Reaction" (Columbia)

Rebbie's brother Michael wrote her first hit single, the title track from last year's "Centipede" album.

Her latest single, the title track from her new album, was produced and arranged by Dave Conley of Surface, who has worked with such artists as Gwen Guthrie's ("Ain't Nothing Going On But The Rent"). Reggie Lucas and Tito Jackson produced other cuts on the album.

Although parts of this album have the energy and atmosphere of "Centipede," the uptempo tracks lean more toward the current Janet Jackson style. This is not to say that she's copying Janet, but there's enough similarity between, say, Rebbie's "Ticket To Love" and the dance tracks from Janet's "Control" for the average listener to notice.

Rebbie, in the Jackson tradition, is definitely looking for some chart action here. "You Don't Know" seems to have been made from the same mold as New Edition's "Count Me Out," and "You Send The Rain Away" is done in the sort of mellow vocal style that characterized Helen Reddy's old hits. So the album isn't all hot synth disco-funk. Variety is the spice of records by Jackson sisters.

Rebbie Jackson

BEASTIE BOYS
"It's The New Style" (Def Jam)

There's nothing new about the style of this record. This is your typical Rick Rubin rap production, with the usual oddball brand of Beastie Boys humor. The cut "It's The New Style" is more fun nonsense done to a beat that sounds like Run-D.M.C.'s "Walk This Way," and "Paul Revere" sounds like a spooky "Rock The Bells."

So Mike D. and his crew, whose last master blaster was "Hold It, Now Hit It," continue to live up to their name. Rap ain't nowhere near dead.

V-103's Top Twenty

1. Word Up	Cameo
2. When I Think Of You	Janet Jackson
3. Count Your Blessings	Ashford And Simpson
4. Earth Angel	New Edition
5. I'm For Real	Howard Hewett
6. The Rain	Oran "Juice" Jones
7. Midas Touch	Midnight Star
8. Lady Soul	Temptations
9. Can't Wait Another Minute	Five Star
10. Typical Male	Tina Turner
11. I Wanna Be With You	Maze
12. Shake You Down	Gregory Abbott
13. Walk This Way	Run-D.M.C.
14. Stay A Little While, Child	Loose Ends
15. Ain't Nothin' Goin' On But The Rent	Gwen Guthrie
16. Reaction	Rebbie Jackson
17. Jealousy	Club Nouveau
18. Old Friend	Phyllis Hyman
19. Always	James Ingram
20. Nail It To The Wall	Stacy Lattisaw

Superstars Ashford and Simpson make a special guest appearance on "The Equalizer," airing Wednesday, October 15 on CBS.

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Bob Matthews

...AND ALL THAT JAZZ

Despite what all the economists say about what a healthy economy we are having — night club owners don't agree, for business is not booming—all the signs indicate this.

Guess this is why there are so many specials available these days. For example, the Jazz Closet has now instituted a policy of Ladies' Night on Sundays. What this means is that ladies get in free for the Sunday shows.

The **Gary Bartz Quartet** is still the main attraction at the club, and beginning tonight through Sunday, **Woody Shaw** will be the special guest artist.

Don't have to tell the dedicated jazz fans what a treat this is, for when Woody and Gary team up — you can expect musical fireworks.

It will be just the quartet next weekend, then on October 24-26, and Oct. 31-Nov. 2, the guest artist will be vocalist **Leon Thomas**

* * *

The Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz holds its October concert Sunday, Oct. 12 at the Sheraton East, just outside Harrisburg, PA.

Of course, the smart way to go is to join the bus trip, which Ruth Binsky is heading up. The bus leaves from in front of Sparkie's Cleaners in the 4700 block Liberty Hgts. Ave. Call 542-2000 for further details.

Featured artists at this concert will be **James Moody,** alto sax and flute, along with **Rufus Reid,** bass; **Kirk Lightsey,** piano, and **Kenny Washington,** drums. Originally, **Eddie Gladden** was listed as drummer, but it will be Kenny.

* * *

The Left Bank Jazz Society's next concert is scheduled for Sunday, october 26 at the Omni International Hotel, and will feature **Joe Sudler's** big band out of Philadelphia.

In addition, the **Buck Hill** Quarter, with **Mickey Fields** as guest artist will also be on the bill. And if you've ever heard these two team up — they really inspire each other.

The concert is back to its traditional time of 5-9 p.m., and the price has been lowered to $8 in advance, $10 at the door. Information still available on the Jazzline, 945-2266.

* * *

Sadly, we must announce that those jazz nights at the Garrison Lounge are no more. Seems ASCAP was demanding licensing fees for playing tapes, and the Garrison management, yielded to the pressure and stopped the Monday and Thursday night music.

Ah well, the happy hour with the 2-for-1 policy is still in effect from 4-7 p.m.

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Dropped by the Sportsmen's Lounge on a rare Wednesday when there was no meeting of the Jazz Listeners Club, and discovered Jerry who plays jazz recordings on Wednesdays and Saturday evenings.

Was happy to hear a lot of straight ahead acoustic jazz being played. Jerry really has a fantastic collection of albums at the club — no tapes, and we like the way he handled a request for a vocalist.

Seems someone wanted to hear some **Pattie LaBelle** — who we think is a great artist, but let's face it, she's not a jazz singer. So, since the customer is always right (in theory anyway) Jerry found a LaBelle album, then picked out the shortest cut to play.

* * *

Speaking of jazz records, after a lot of years as manager of jazz recordings expert for Music Liberated over on Saratoga Street, **Larry Jeter** has moved.

He's now at Douglas Records in the 200 block W. Lexington St., in the mall, where he says he will be able to stock more jazz records, CD's and videos.

Wish him all the best, for in our book, Larry is one of the most knowledgeable person we know regarding jazz records. Simply amazing for a man his age. And, he's not a bad drummer either, in case you didn't know.

Lately, have been getting into a lot of those barroom - type discussions over the size of privately - owned record collections — and we vote for Larry, who has over 5,000 albums.

* * *

Went by the Sphinx Club last Thursday night where **Biddy Wood** and **Randy Tilghman** put on what has become a very successful 1st Thursday of Love.

Don't know where they got the name, but **Carlos Johnson** and Zone One band are the featured artists, and Carlos is still doing his thing — including singing and patter.

Noted he had **Charlie Covington** on organ for this gig, and they were really swinging. The quality of the music makes its too painfully obvious that the sound system at the Sphinx Club has got to be upgraded.

Felt sorry for the musicians who are on stage giving their all, and a strident, muffled, distorted sound comes out of the woefully inadequate speaker system.

Vocalist on this particular night was **Delores Lynn,** who is making a return to the show biz scene. She kinda dropped out of the business, while raising a family, and three of her children were on hand to wish mama well.

* * *

Ran into **Dave Ross** who reminded me that they are having what's being called a jazz gala each Sunday at the New Famous Ballroom over on N. Charles St.

Dave gave me the lineup of musicians who will be on hand this Sunday, and so help me, simply can't find my notes. **Nevertheless,** it goes on from 5 to 9 p.m. each Sunday, with a miniscule door charge.

Carlos Johnson

Delores Lynn

Guitarist Lonnie Brooks performs in Bethesda

Lonnie Brooks, the Louisiana-born, Chicago-bred guitarist, will perform for one night on Sunday, October 12 at Twist & Shout (Bethesda American Legion Hall), 4800 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Performing with Brooks will be his 4-piece touring and recording band. Showtime is 8:00 p.m.

Brooks performs over 150 nights a year nationwide. He plays a unique mixture of Chicago blues and straight ahead rock 'n roll interwoven with Louisiana swamp pop.

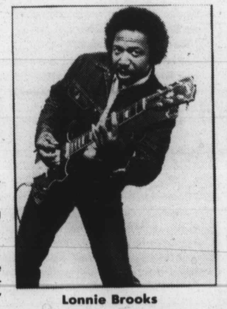
Brooks has just finished recording his fourth LP for Alligator Records. As yet untitled, the LP has an expected release date of October 30. Label-mate and protege blues/rock guitarist Johnny Winter makes a special guest appearance on the new record.

He has twice been nominated for Grammy Awards, most recently for his explosive performance on the LP, "Blues Deluxe", a live album recorded at the world's largest music festival, Chicagofest.

In 1979, he received his first nomination for a scorching performance on Alligator's "Living Chicago Blues" anthology album.

His debut solo for Alligator, "Bayou Lightning," won the Grand Prix due disque Award for "Best Blues Album of the Year" from the Montreux Jazz Festival. Since then, Brooks has cut two more Alligator LPs.

Brooks' song, "Don't Take Advantage of Me", from his most recent LP was recorded by Johnny Winter for Winter's first video. The video received airplay on MTV for over a year.



Lonnie Brooks

Gala Jazz Affair

Godfrey's Famous Ballroom will be site for a Grand Gala Jazz Affair every Sunday this fall, from 5 until 9 p.m. Dcve Ross will be the host. Godfrey's Famous ballroom is located at 1717 North Charles Street. For further information, call 962-1444 or 466-7986.

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