Carl Matthews SOUNDS

GRANDMASTER FLASH
"Ba-Dop-Boom-Bang" (Elektra)

For those of you who can't get enough of that turntable scratch/mix wizard, this latest offering by Grandmaster Flash is just the thing for your boom box.

And yet, for those of you who have never dug rap music since it first became big in the late seventies, this album, unfortunately, will give you even more reasons to stay away from it.

When you get down to the nitty gritty of the raps on "Ba-Dop-Boom-Bang," it is likely you'll get the impression that Flash is really not saying anything he hasn't already said on "The Source" (his last album) or "They Said It Couldn't Be Done."

Grandmaster Flash (Joseph Saddler) is a self-trained DJ, composer and producer from New York who, a few years back, released an album titled "The Message" on Sugar Hill Records.

His gang was known as Grandmaster Flash And The Furious Five back then. The "The Message" album included one of his best performances, the title track, as well as a shortened version of "It's Nasty (Genius Of Love)."

Grandmaster Flash

Other earlier Grandmaster Flash 12-inches on Sugar Hill, such as "Freedom" and "The Adventures Of Grandmaster Flash On The Wheels Of Steel," appeared later on various compilation albums.

Later, Furious Five member Melle Mel left Flash and got some other fellows together to record as Grandmaster Melle Mel And The Furious Five. Melle Mel was the one who recorded such singles as "Jesse," "Pump It Up," "Beat Street" and "White Lines (Don't Don't Do It)."

Saddler got some new friends together to record as Grandmaster Flash for Elektra, and their first Elektra album was "They Said It Couldn't Be Done."

With that album, Flash deviated a bit from straight rap, trying for a more R&B type of sound, but for the most part that attempt backfired. One of the better tracks on that album was "Larry's Dance Theme," but the extended remix of that song was a lot better than the version on the album. Unfortunately, the remix was available only as the flip side of the 12-inch single of "Girls Love The Way He Spins."

The follow-up album to "They Said It Couldn't Be Done" was "The Source," but it was largely a rehash of the style of the previous album. The single "Style" was one of the lamest versions of the "Peter Gunn" theme I'd heard in some time.

With the latest album, Flash gets back to his roots — the kind of funky fresh rap and scratching we know he can do well.

But despite the excellent production and superb scratching, the message itself is far from original or even a little bit clever.

Where Flash shines on this album is in his turntable work. "Tear The Roof Off" is a fine patchwork mix with snatches of oldies by Parliament, Teena Marie and even Foster Sylvers. And the rap on "U Know What Time It Is" does capture the Cameo style in an interesting way.

But what once you start paying attention to the actual percussion tracks, you'll soon find a tiring sameness to both the tempo and rhythm after extended listening, which is unfortunate since these are some of the hottest beats that Flash has ever made.

Flash of course is not a typical rock and roll artist, and therefore I am not looking for the greatest album of 1987 from this man. But as long as he still has a bunch of great 12-inch singles still left in him, he'll continue to ba-dop-boom-bang on the dance charts.

MEL & KIM
"FLM" (Atlantic)

Mel & Kim are two sisters from London who recently got lucky with their very first hit single, "Showing Out (Get Fresh At The Weekend)."

The production team of Stock, Aitken and Waterman, also known for their work with Bananarama ("Venus") and Dead Or Alive ("Brand New Lover"), helped get "Showing Out (Get Fresh At The Weekend)" to the top spot on the British and German charts.

The music on "FLM," for the most part, is pretty straightforward dance/pop. Nothing too high-tech or complex, and quite listenable, but the material isn't outstanding, and so I'll not be surprised if this one turns out to be a one-hit album.

Mel and Kim

V-103's Top Twenty

1. Sign 'O' The Times	Prince
2. Keep Your Eye On Me	Herb Alpert
3. Don't Disturb This Groove	The System
4. He Wants My Body	Starpoint
5. There's Nothing Better Than Love	Luther Vandross
6. Always	Atlantic Starr
7. I Got The Feeling	Gregory Abbott
8. I'd Still Say Yes	Klymaxx
9. I Know You Were Waiting (For Me)	Aretha Franklin/George Michael
10. Stone Love	Kool And The Gang
11. Just To See Her	Smokey Robinson
12. Watch Out	Patrice Rushen
13. Same Ole Love	Anita Baker
14. Back And Forth	Cameo
15. Sexy Girl	Lillo Thomas
16. Lean On Me	Club Nouveau
17. Happy	Surface
18. I Don't Want To Lose Your Love	Freddie Jackson
19. Imagination	Mikki Howard
20. New Dress	Cheryl Lynn

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Bonnie Matthews Butler Meanderings and Meditation

Guess who's coming to Baltimore this summer for the Harborlights (Pier 6) concert series?

Your clue: three of the people, among the many, haven't played Baltimore in quite some time.

Give up? O.K. Does **Sammy, Diahann** and **Dionne** ring a bell?

Well, ding-dong-ding, they'll be here! Yes folks, I'm talking about **Sammy Davis, Jr., Diahann Carroll** (with new hubby Vic Damone) and **Dionne Warwick.**

But, they're not the only ones on tap. Also scheduled to appear is "Twist King" **Chubby Checker; Freddie Jackson** with **Ray, Goodman** and **Brown** and **Najee; Phyllis Hyman** and **Ramsey Lewis; Grover Washington, Jr.;** The **O'Jays** and The **Manhattans** and Michael McDonald.

Whew, what a line-up. This promises to be an exciting series. We'll keep you posted.

* * *

The big concert in town this weekend is the **Luther Vandross** and **Shirley Murdock** date at the Baltimore Arena this Saturday, and the show is sold out.

I hear that Luther does away with the lavish stage sets and concert regalia this time around. The new look, I'm told, is bare with only the simple settings, his excellent voice, his slim body and his backup singers sharing the stage.

You're in for a treat.

* * *

WE HEAR RUMORS: Word is circulating that Grammy Award-winning recording artists **New Edition** have broken up. No confirmation yet on the reason, but rest assured, as soon as we get the word, we'll let you know.

Also heard through the grapevine that **Starpoint,** from Annapolis, Md., was dropped from the **Cameo** tour.

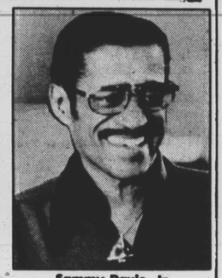
We're also checking this one out and as usual, we'll give you the "dip" as soon as we hear it.

* * *

Must commend the Palladium and PAC Productions for the outstanding concert they held there Monday featuring the all-female group **Klymaxx.**

The way the room was set up was conducive for hearing live music. When they held their first concert featuring Dennis Edwards, the show was good but the seating arrangements left much to be desired.

This new setting works fine, fellas, so keep it that way.



Sammy Davis, Jr.

Diahann Carroll

Dionne Warwick

Had the chance to talk with **Klymaxx** after the show and was most impressed with the sense of humor these ladies displayed.

Not only do they play great music, all of these ladies have personality plus, and it came across during their turn on stage.

A special thanks goes out to **Vincent McKnight** who was pleasant and eager to serve the over 500 people in attendance.

If the Palladium keeps up this

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It's Great, Glorious Gospel Music!

Enter Now and Be a Part of the Fifth Annual Kentucky Fried Chicken Gospel Music Competition.

This year, your church could sponsor one of the eight finalists and share $12,000 in prizes.

Kentucky Fried Chicken is putting out the call to all church-sponsored gospel choirs, ensembles, male and female soloists in the Baltimore/Washington area. If you are selected by a panel of judges, you could be one of the eight finalists performing on stage, July 19th, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts during the gala finale.

To qualify, stop by a participating Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant and ask the store manager for an official entry blank. Send it, along with a 10-minute performance sampler on a standard audio cassette to: KFC GOSPEL MUSIC COMPETITION, P.O. 28279, Central Station, Washington, D.C. 20005.

All entries must be postmarked by **MIDNIGHT, MAY 17, 1987** to be eligible.

All entries and tapes become the property of the Kentucky Fried Chicken Gospel Music Competition and will not be returned.

All tapes and completed entry forms received by the deadline will be reviewed by a panel of nationally known gospel experts. Entrants chosen to be semi-finalists will perform at area churches during the spring preliminary auditions.

For more information about the competition, call the KFC GOSPEL LINE 842-3455, or outside Washington, call 1-800-433-6072.

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