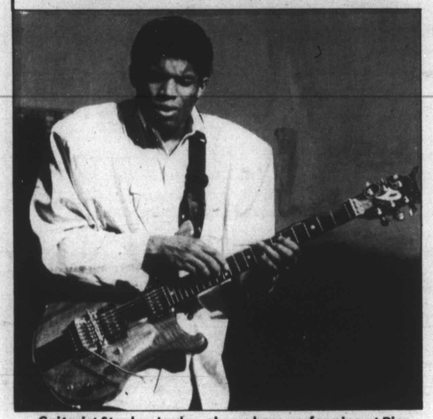
This Weekend



Guitarist Stanley Jordan, shown here performing at Pier Six, will open for saxophonist Kenny G on August 27th at the Merriweather Post Pavilion.

VIENNA, VA.

Wolf Trap presents several evenings of entertainment and delightful artists at the end of August. All shows begin at 8:00 p.m.

On Friday, August 26, **The Robert Cray Band** will perform new songs from the "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark" album plus oldies but goodies.

George Benson will bring the lights of "Broadway" when he performs on Saturday, August 27th. He will feature songs from his new album **"Twice the Love."**

"The Man With the Horn," **Miles Davis** will appear along with the John McLaughlin Trio on Sunday.

For performance information, call 703-255-1860; and for tickets call 1-800-448-9009.

VIRGINIA

Kings Dominion offers a variety of talent in concert during this season.

There will be a gospel extravaganza with artists **Deniece Williams, Pat Boone,** the **Imperials** and **Kim Boyce** on Saturday at 5 p.m.

From D.C. call 202-432-0200 for ticket information, from Baltimore, call 301-481-6000 or call toll free 1-800-448-9009. Park admission is required to attend concerts.

WASHINGTON

The **Carter Barron Amphitheater,** located at 4520 Colorado Avenue, N.W., continues its 36th season with a festive lineup.

On the 28th, listen to the electronic sounds of **Roger/Zapp, Uncut, Felicia,** and **Stevie B.**

For further information, call (202) 426-6943.

The **Roxy** will be rocking during these warm summer nights. The club is located at 1214 18th Street, N.W.

This Saturday, August 27th, the **House of Assembly** brings their "high energy reggae" to the club.

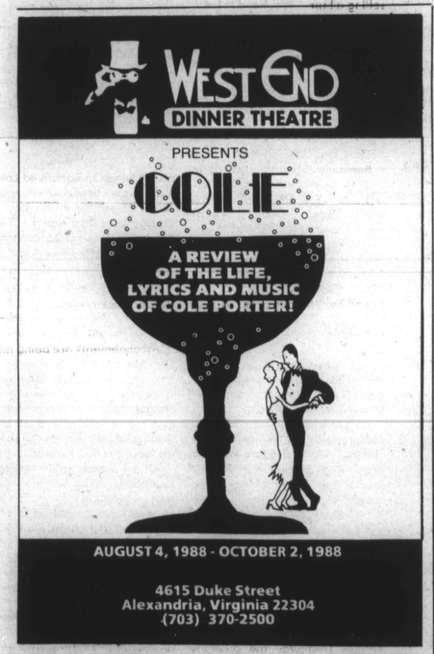
Tickets can be obtained at the **Roxy** or Ticket Center at 202-432-0200. Call the 24 hour concert line for more information at 202-296-9292.

COLUMBIA, MD

The **Merriweather Post Pavilion** has some soulful entertainers coming to town on these hot summer nights.

On August 27, there will be the soulful sax sounds of **Kenny G. Stanley Jordan** will also perform, fantastical fete with his nimble fingers on the guitar strings.

For tickets and showtime information, call 202-982-1800



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Coming Soon

BALTIMORE

The **WJZ-TV 13 Harborlights Music Festival** at the **Inner Harbor's Pier Six Pavilion** is still in progress. On Wednesday, August 31st at 8 p.m., the father and son team of **Wynton** and **Ellis** (father) **Marsalis** will perform together.

* * *

WASHINGTON

The Busboys will be serving up some hot music on Thursday, September 15.

Tickets can be obtained at the **Roxy** or Ticket Center at 202-432-0200. Call the 24 hour concert line for more information at 202-296-9292.

* * *

The 9:30 Club, located at 930 F Street, N.W., features a medley of artists for your enjoyment.

On Saturday, September 10th, hear the sounds of the great **Bo Diddley** along with **Kristi Rose** and the **Midnight Walkers.**

Sade performs at the Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia, MD on September 1, 1988.

On Friday and Saturday September 16th and 17th, pump it up with **Trouble Funk.**

Call TELETRON at 1-800-233-4050 for tickets and for concert line information, call 202-393-0930.

Plunky and Oneness will perform at Triples Nightclub in Hillcrest Heights, MD on September 1, 1988.

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In This Issue

Cover Story....3
All That Jazz ..4
Sounds 5
Nightclubs.....7
Restaurants....7
About TV.....8

Wolf Trap features Robert Cray, Benson, Miles Davis

Legendary trumpeteer Miles Davis will be at Wolf Trap August 28th.

The Wolf Trap is ending its August concert series with some heavyweights. On August 26th, blues guitarist and singer Robert Cray takes the stage at 8 p.m. On Sunday, August 28th, the legendary jazz trumpeteer Miles Davis performs. On Saturday, August 27th, George Benson takes the spotlight.

If you've got the feeling you've been hearing George Benson everywhere you go of late, you're not just imagining pleasant things.

True, the utterly distinctive sound of this premier guitarist, vocalist and songwriter is, once heard, hard to get out of your head. Or heart.

But, in point of fact, George really has reached a new plateau in his formidable career.

That's quite a claim when you consider the breadth and scope of George Benson's musical portfolio, yet the proof is there for anyone to hear and enjoy.

Consider, for example, the over-the-top Benson and his group received on a 1987 concert tour of the U.S. and Europe, playing everything from stadiums to bull fight arenas.

Or the acclaimed status "While The City Sleeps," released that same year and featuring the hits "Kisses In The Moonlight" and "Shiver," was accorded by both the press and public.

Consider also the jazz guitar line-up of the decade, when Benson and long-time creative partner Earl Klugh teamed up for "Collaboration," one of a handful of classic contemporary jazz offerings, and a gold-seller to boot. A follow-up Benson/Klugh tour of Japan met with the same enthusiastic response as their earlier 17-city U.S. tour.

Yet, even this flurry of activity really only served as a warm-up to "Twice The Love," George Benson's 10th Warner Bros. Records release and a stunning new chapter in an extraordinary career.

Although George Benson first came to popular attention with the smash 1976 single, "This Masquerade" (from the triple-platinum selling LP, "Breezin' "), he had already established himself among jazz buffs as a guitarist of singular ability.

Benson began his musical career in Pittsburgh, where he won an amateur singing contest at the age of four. At age eight he was singing and playing ukelele on local street corners and two years later had landed a recording contract with RCA, for whom he cut several singles.

At age 18, after hearing a recording by the legendary jazz sax player Charlie Parker, Benson developed an abiding love for jazz, landing a gig in Brother Jack McDuff's organ trio in 1963.

Through his association with McDuff, he met a number of jazz greats, including John Coltrane and Kenny Burrell. It was guitarist Wes Montgomery, however, who served as Benson's greatest musical inspiration. Montgomery was to become the young musician's friend and mentor throughout the Sixties.

It was in the latter half of that decade and the first years of the Seventies that George's reputation as a uniquely talented guitarist grew.

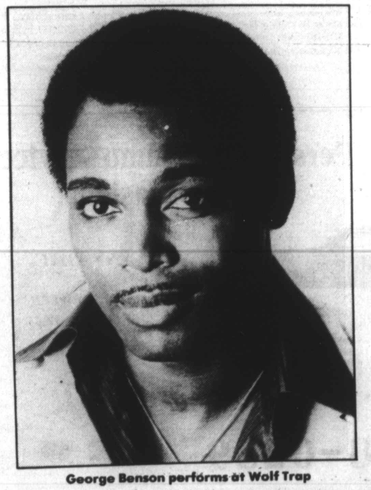
He recorded a number of albums for a variety of labels and graced LPs by such greats as Freddie Hubbard, Hubert Laws, Herbie Hancock and Miles Davis. Much of Benson's best music from that period can be found on a series of six albums he recorded for CTI, including the Grammy-nominated "White Rabbit."

"Breezin' " was Benson's first album on Warner Bros. Records and it proved to be an auspicious debut.

"This Masquerade," the only vocal on an otherwise instrumental album, became the first song in music history to hold the number one spots on the jazz, pop and soul charts.

"Breezin' " went on to earn three Grammy awards in 1976, including Best Pop Instrumental and Best R&B Instrumental. It remains the best-selling jazz album of all time, having sold 6 million copies worldwide.

"In Flight" was George's million-selling, 1978 follow-up. Later that year he scored another smash single with a live version of the Drifters classic, "On Broadway," from yet another platinum-selling album, "Weekend In L.A." That LP garnered him a Grammy for Best Male R&B Performance in 1978.



George Benson performs at Wolf Trap

Robert Cray brings the blues to Wolf Trap at 8:00 p.m. on August 26, 1988.

"Livin' Inside Your Love," Benson's 1979 offering, was followed a year later by "Give Me The Night," which launched two more Top Ten hits, the title cut (number one on pop and soul charts) and "Love X Love."

Benson's Grammy awards in 1980 included Best Male R&B Performance, Best R&B Performance and Best Jazz Vocal Performance.

A compilation release, 1981's "The George Benson Collection," yielded the number one single, "Turn Your Love Around," followed by "In Your Eyes" in 1983 and "20/20" in 1985.

Also in 1985, a compilation album of Benson's best love songs appropriately entitled "Love Songs," was released in the U.K., and almost immediately went triple platinum.

It was followed by the aforementioned "While The City Sleeps," released in late 1986 and prompting a command performance tour that had bigger, and more enthusiastic crowds than ever before.

Meanwhile, in his rare spare time, George and a crack team of support musicians were beginning preproduction on a new album. The idea, for Benson was unique.

"We used each producer as if he were in to produce just a single. That way the diversity was there, tied to the common thread of my interpretation. It was a risk that I think really paid off."

One spin of "Twice The Love" qualifies the last remark as wild understatement. Matching the all-star production line-up with a stellar cast of supporting musicians, the ten cuts of "Twice The Love" highlight performances by, among others, Siedah Garrett, Marcus Miller, Lenny Castro and Paul Jackson, Jr.

From the propulsive rhythms of "Everybody Does It," to the lissome balladry of "Stephanie" and "Living On Borrowed Love," to George's brand new single, a reworking of the Curtis Mayfield classic "Let's Do It Again," "Twice The Love" is one of Benson's most accessible, innovative and sheerly entertaining albums.

Surprising as it may seem, Benson's extraordinary burst of creativity doesn't even stop at "Twice The Love."

Arrangements are being made for Benson to record with the London Symphony Orchestra, working with pioneering arranger Robert Farnon, with an eye toward an album of standards and new material in the inimitable Farnon fashion.

All of which adds up to a legendary artist working at a new peak of his talents. For fans of great music, consummately conceived and immaculately executed, that's very good news indeed.

This weekend at the Wolf Trap features two legends and one in the making. For ticket information call the Wolf Trap located in Vienna, VA. Call (703) 255-1868 for more information from noon to 6 p.m. on non-concert days.