AREA ENTERTAINMENT

SOUNDS
By Carl Matthews

SMOKEY ROBINSON
"Love, Smokey" (Motown)

Way back in 1959, the first 45 released by Berry Gordy's newly-formed Tamla Records label was "Come To Me" by Marv Johnson. (Barrett Strong's "Money (That's What I Want)" was not the first release on Tamla as is commonly thought).

Smokey Robinson worked side by side with Gordy in the early years of the Motown Record company (which distributed Tamla). In Sharon Davis's 1988 book "Motown: The History," Smokey told a little story about what happened with Johnson's first hit:

"We were going to release 'Come To Me' in January or February (1958) but we didn't have any records to distribute to the radio stations. The weather was so bad, ice and snow all over the highways. The company wasn't going to truck them down to us, so as Berry and I had this old car we started up to Awaso to get them."

Well, after slipping and sliding all over the highway and landing in a ditch, "they had to call the snowplow to get us out," recalled Smokey. "After all this we picked up the three hundred records ... and eventually ... got the records out to the station." "Come To Me" became a local Detroit hit.

That was over twenty years ago. Today, in 1990, Smokey and Motown are still around. "Love, Smokey" is the latest release from the man who wrote such hits as "My Guy," "The Way You Do The Things You Do," "Ain't That Peculiar" and "Tears Of A Clown."

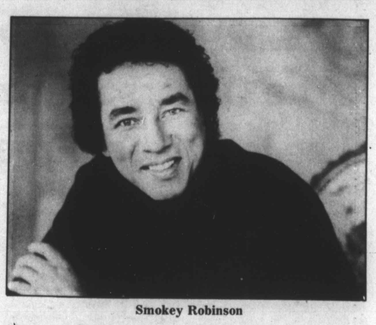
Songs such as "Love Is The Light" and "(It's The) Same Old Love" on his latest album are thoroughly contemporary in both composition and texture. Yet the spirit of those old classic 60's Motown ballads — you remember "More Love" and "Ooh Baby Baby" don't you? — seems to be still present in Smokey's delivery and lyrical content.

What Smokey's latest record lacks, though, is its own unique flavor. "Love, Smokey" sounds like any of his last five albums. Even the George Duke-produced "Jasmin," one of the best tracks on the album, doesn't stand out as much as it should.

But Smokey is still quite good at what he does, and for those who are just discovering the "Smokey" sound, this LP is as good an introduction as any.

Recently Released Singles

- *99 Worlds* — Peter Wolf *(MCA)*
- *What It Takes* — Aerosmith *(Geffen)*
- *Hold On* — En Vogue *(Atlantic)*
- *Sir Lancelot* — Calloway *(Solar)*
- *U Needa Lover* — Keisha Jackson *(CBS Associated)*
- *The Funk Shop* — 2 Live Crew *(Skyywalker)*
- *On The Road Again* — Audio Two *(First Priority)*
- *Ghetto Heaven* — The Family Stand *(Atlantic)*
- *I Don't Need Another Love* — Dionne Warwick (With The Spinners *(Arista)*
- *Rub You The Right Way* — Johnny Gill *(Motown)*
- *Say U Love Me* — Def Con 4 *(Reprise)*
- *The Music* — Just-Ice *(Sleeping Bag)*



Smokey Robinson

AND ALL THAT JAZZ
With Bob Matthews

The jazz scene is a bit bleak this weekend, which gives us a chance to comment on some of the happenings.

Have been doing a lot of listening lately to some of the new jazz artists on the scene, and must say that they are really taking care of business.

Didn't catch Joey Francesco at the Left Bank Jazz Society set the other week, since we have a thing about jazz organ sets.

But have heard nothing but praise for the 19-year-old prodigy who is cast in the mold of Jimmy Smith and Jimmy McGriff. (Yes, I have both of his albums).

Then, there are the Harper Brothers whose latest album is a real smoker, and harbinger of great things to continue.

Was talking to Leon Manker who informs us that he is avidly trying to book the group for LBJS, and things are looking good.

Caught Courtney Pine's group at the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz set in Harrisburg last week, and must say we were totally impressed.

Pine generates an energy on his horn which pulses through, creating the "wall of sound" made famous by Coltrane, Wayne Shorter and others.

He has mastered the circular breathing technique, and in our opinion, went a bit overboard in demonstrating it.A lot of it seemed to be scalar exercises that really didn't swing.

But the surprise of the group was the spectacular playing of Baltimorean Cyrus Chestnut on piano. He has become the complete accompanist, and as a soloist, he ranks with the best in the business.

Charnett Moffett was on bass, and the rapport between bass and piano was a really fun thing to watch. Codaryl Moffett was on drums.

The other group of young performers making a splash on the jazz scene is Superblue. The have come out with their second release, and all they need is greater recognition from the jazz world.

For 50¢ You Could See The Pyramids Tonight.

That's all it takes to win big in the Maryland State Lottery's Pick 3 and Pick 4 games. Just pick any 3 or 4 digit number. Or let the Lottery's computer "Quick Pick" the numbers for you. For just 50¢, you can play your favorite number straight or boxed. Or play a $1 bet straight to win $500 in Pick 3. And $5,000 in Pick 4. So play the Maryland State Lottery's Daily Numbers Game today. And see the pyramids tonight.

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32,000 Daily Numbers Winners Every Week.

CENSUS '90
Stand Right Up for Who You Are.
Answer the Census.

Perseverance is secret of success, says top-ranked computer firm

By Aditya McDuffy
Special to the AFRO

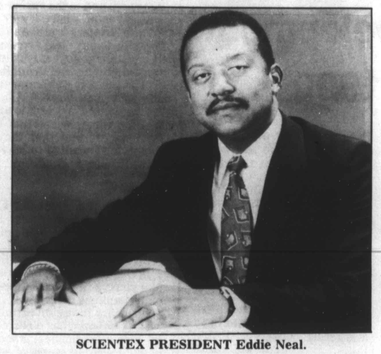
With clients such as the Department of the Army, Farm Credit Administration, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and the Department of the Interior, it is no surprise that The Scientex Corporation, is one the nation's largest Black-owned businesses.

"Excellence in engineering, services and products through professionalism and innovation while benefiting employees and community" is the Washington based company's motto. The engineering and management's firm also has branches in Rockville, Md. and Charlotte, NC.

According to Scientex President Dr. Eddie Neal, the company's success is based on "hard work and perseverance. We've been operating for over 10 years and staff members are really putting in their best."

Dr. Neal's enthusiasm is also shared by staff members, including, Kevin Cannon, a two year plus employee, who credits Dr. Neal himself with keeping morale high.

"Eddie can relate to the lowest employee on the rung as well as top management in terms of communication. He's a people person and very good as far as working with employees go," Mr. Cannon said.



SCIENTEX PRESIDENT Eddie Neal.

And the company has a noteworthy list of workers, including its top echelon staff of; Sudhamay Basu, director of Engineering Science, Julie Anna Cirillo, director of Finance and Administration, Paul H. Elicker, director of the Center for Privatization and Mary B. Reaves, director of Management and Technical Services.

In addition, the company recently announced the appointment of John D. Wilson as Vice President of Scientex International and Thomas D. Reese, as Vice President, Technology Systems.

Under Dr. Neal's leadership, Scientex racked up $8.06 million in sales in 1988 and ranked 81st on Black Enterprise Magazine's annual list of the 100 largest Black-owned businesses.

Of that achievement Dr. Neal said, "It makes me feel proud because we were listed in the B.E. top Business list 10 years ago with little over $1 million in profit."

Since the company's beginnings in 1977, Scientex has served more than 100 public sector and private sector clients worldwide. To broaden its scope it merged with Analysis Group, Inc. in 1989.

The move was designed to give the company "more market strength," Dr. Neal said.

The company's growing strength is reflected in the honors it has received. It was named EPA Minority Business Enterprise of The Year in 1986, the National Prime Contractor of the Year in 1987 and one of the Washington Business Journal's top small business non-defense contractors in the Metropolitan area for 1989.

Scientex is also involved in community activities. In March 1987 it received an award from Mayor Barry's Youth League for its contributions to the growth and development of youth in the city and has also worked with Mr. Barry's office on programs dealing with juvenile delinquency.

The sky is the limit for the company, and according to one employee "There is no doubt that we will be on that list (BE Magazine) again."

AFRO Intern Uka Onuma contributed to this report.

PACK YOUR BAGS
Conference Update

BLACK COUNTY OFFICIALS

The National Organization of Black County Officials, Inc., (NOBCO) will convene its Sixth Annual National Economic Development Conference in Savannah, Ga. on May 23-27, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Officials will be joined by mayors, state and local legislators, interested businesspersons and students, to discuss topics ranging from minority opportunities in tourism, the role of the Black church in the local economic development process, to opportunities for international trade and foreign investment.

For information call (202) 347-6953.

TRANSAFRICA FORUM

Washington-based lobby group TransAfrica will hold its annual weekend, Friday June 1 and June 2 in the city.

Events will include a foreign policy conference, a luncheon, annual membership/chapter meeting and a dinner at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

Call the Hilton for reservations on (202) 483-3000 or TransAfrica on (202) 547-2550.

PHYSICIANS MEET

The 95th Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly of Black Physicians will take place at the Bally Grand Hotel, Las Vegas, July 28-Aug. 2.

The convocation brings together physicians and medical researchers to exchange views on diseases adversely affecting Black people, such as hypertension, diabetes, AIDS, heart disease and substance abuse.

For information contact Lillian Calhoun of Calmar Communications, Inc on (312) 670-3540 or William C. Garret, National Medical Association, on (202) 347-1895.

Highway construction hearing set

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Commonwealth Transportation Board will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, April 12, to discuss the allocation of construction funds for the 1990-91 fiscal year in the 14-county Richmond district.

The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. in the main conference room of VDOT's district, 2400 Pine Forest Drive, off Route 1, one mile north of Colonial Heights.

Secretary of Transportation John G. Milliken will be providing opening remarks.

This is one of nine pre-allocation hearings being held across the state. Funding for interstate, primary and urban highway systems is reviewed. In addition, funding for public transit will be discussed at the Richmond district hearing.

"The purpose of the hearing is to get comments from local government officals and the general public that will help us update our Six-Year Improvement Program," said Constance S. Sorrell, administrator of the Richmond district.

"Because transportation priorities are constantly changing it is necessary to modify the program every fiscal year," she added.

The Richmond district consits of 235 miles of interstate highways and 1,150 miles of primary highways. Eight cities and towns receive allocations for urban transportation improvements.

As March 1, there are 60 construction projects underway in the district with an estimated value of $266.5 million.

In fiscal year 1990-90, the projected allocation in the Richmond district for construction on the interstate system is $11.4 million. The primary system allocation is $28.3 million and funding for urban projects is $18.7 million. Public transit funding is $5.8 million.

Projects on the secondary road system are considered in separate hearings held jointly by the county boards of supervisors and VDOT's resident engineers. In fiscal year 1990-91, the Richmond district's allocation for secondary roads in the 14-county area is $26.1 million.

Talking Tax

1990 Taxpayer Service Locations and Hours
With tax time here again, we've compiled a list of offices in your area where you can receive help in filing those difficult forms.

Maryland Offices

Baltimore
Fallon Federal Building - First Floor
Hopkins Plaza
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Annapolis
West Woods Business Park
190 Admiral Cochrane Drive, Suite 170
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Cumberland - (LaVale)
Braddock Square Mall
Winchester & Vocke Roads
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Easton
One Mall Place
Suite 110
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Elkton - (filing season only)
Brown Building
1 Brown Court
Monday thru Friday
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Frederick
Monocacy Shopping Center
922 East Street
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Hagerstown
201 South Cleveland Avenue
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Metropolitan Washington Offices

Washington,D.C.
500 N.Capital Street N.W., - First Floor
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Landover
Metro - Plex I, Room 300
8401 Corporate Drive
Landover, MD
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Wheaton
Wheaton Plaza Shopping Center
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia
Skyline Office Building
5205 Leesburg Pike
Monday thru Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Richmond
IRS Federal Building
400 N 8th St
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Midlothian (collection/examination)
479 S Lake Blvd
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

#1Court House Plaza
2100 Clarendon Blvd
Arlington, VA
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Telephone Tax Assistance
Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
(301)962 - 2590 in Baltimore
(202)488 - 3100 in Washington, D.C.,
Montgomery and Prince George's Counties
Toll-Free 1 - 800 - 424 - 1040 in all other
Maryland Counties

Forms and Publications
1 - 800 - 424 - 3676

Tele - tax Recorded Tax Information
Touch-tone phones - 24 hours a day
Rotary phone - 8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
(Monday thru Friday)
(310)466 - 1040 in Baltimore
(202)882 - 1040 in Washington, D.C.,
Montgomery and Prince George's Counties
Toll-Free 1 - 800 - 554 - 4477 in all other
Maryland Counties

VSU gets grant

Virginia State University recently received a $3,000 grant from Alcoa Foundation of Pittsburgh to provide scholarships for students majoring in business information systems.

The grant will support three $1,000 scholarships for students who have achieved at least a 3.0 grade point average.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

POPULATION GROWING

Americans aged 35 to 44 increased four times faster than the rest of the population from 1980 to 1988, the Commerce Department reported.

The population aged 14 to 25 dropped from 46.5 million in 1980 to 40.9 million in 1988.

The nation's total population continued its annual one percent increase. The country's population totaled 250 million on March 6, 1990, a 10.4 percent increase over the 1980 census. Projections indicate that the population could reach 300 million in 30 years.

America is the fourth most populous nation in the world.

The first 10 most populous nations of the world according to the department are, China (1.1 billion), India (833 million), Russia (289 million), America (250 million), Indonesia (188 million), Brazil (151 million), Japan (123 million), Nigeria (115 million), Bangladesh (115 million), and Pakistan (110 million).

LOW-INTEREST LOANS

Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer has announced that the Department of Housing and Community Development has $3.2 million available in low- interest loans through the Community Energy Plan Program (CELP).

"The CELP is one of the more creative financial packages designed to help those institutions who have the greatest need to conserve energy. The program will enable institutions and local jurisdictions to direct more of their limited income to programs serving people rather than to energy cost," the governor said.

SUMMER JOBS

Over 11,000 summer jobs are available in Ocean City, Md., this summer, according to the city's Chamber of Commerce. They include, but are not limited to, positions in food service, hotel/motel, amusement parks, speciality stores, boardwalk stores, etc.

The Chamber of Commerce will hold a job fair, Saturday, April 7 at the Convention Center, 40th St & Costal Highway between 9a.m. and 3p.m.

Over 75 employers will be represented at the event. For information call (301) 289-8559.

Va. job fair

Many of Virginia's top corporations will be participating in the Virginia Business Opportunity Fair to be held April 3 and 4 at the Richmond Marriott and Richmond Centre. The event brings together minority businesses and major corporations to discuss contracting opportunities.

The two-day activities include workshops, a business card exchange reception, a banquet and trade fair. For information call Gus Thomas at the Virginia Regional Minority Supplier Development Council on (804) 780-2322.

VSB lobbies public

The Virginia State Bar (VSB) is seeking public input on a proposed revision to an unauthorized practice of law rule regulating lay adjusters.

Current unauthorized practice of law rules include a provision for non-lawyers to assist in the investigation and negotiation of settlements related to casualty claims. The rule change would prohibit a non-lawyer from representing a claimant who has a casualty claim. VSB Council will consider the matter at its June 14 meeting.

Copies of the proposed revision are available for inspection at the offices of the Virginia State Bar, Suite 1000, 800 E. Main St., Richmond, Va. between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.