

SOLAR

102.5 FM
Stereo

SOUL TO THE CAPITAL 24 HOURS A DAY

NEWSLETTER No.2

OCT/NOV 1985

Price 20p.

Firstly, it's own-up time: We asked you to send 20p. postal orders for this newsletter, only to discover that postal orders start at 25p.! Well, hopefully we have made up for this by adding an extra coupla sides, making the newsletter 16 pages in all; however future editions will cost 25p. - so please, postal orders only next time - no need to send cheques or cash (the next newsletter - No. 3 - will be the Christmas/New Year edition, and once again, please send large C4 SAE to Solar Radio, Unit One, 8-20 Well St., Hackney, London E.9. - stating "Newsletter No. 3" on envelope).

Now, let's revert back to that memorable Solar closedown on Sunday September 29th; we meant it to be a happy rather than a sad occasion, so we invited a number of guests to the studio - at one point there were nearly 30 people there! The laughter and general merriment was due to a surplus of alcohol being consumed by one and all - many DJs being rather the worse for wear - but it all added to the fun of the event. The "Spacecruiser" was a last-minute idea, but it worked a treat, with the Ally Pally broadcast attracting nearly 300 people at the end - very atmospheric, and memorable indeed, even if there were some horrible squeals and feed-back hums! The last two records played on Solar, at around 11 PM, were the Blackbyrds' "Walking In Rhythm", and the Cool Notes' "Have A Good Forever" - very fitting! As for the top 100 chart, some people were surprised that, say, Lisa Lisa, a 1985 record, culled more votes than classic tracks by Marvin Gaye and EWF - but then, all the votes came in a mere 7-day period, with a largely younger audience taking the trouble to vote; maybe if there had been more time, a more balanced chart would have emerged; nevertheless, the top ten, at least, looked pretty reasonable. Incidentally, you may have noticed a long gap between the numbers 7 and 6 records - sometime around 8.30 or 9 PM (Louie Louie playing some of his raves throughout); that was because some bright spark, who shall be nameless, removed 2 of the top 6 records from the studio! They were eventually recovered, I'm relieved to say.

So now, let me recall some of the good times, and some of the bad times at Solar. Firstly the good times: We came on the air late October 1984, on the old Horizon frequency of 102.5, where we remained throughout - with virtually all the original Horizon team. Our aim was to (a) keep the old Horizon format, but improve on it, incorporating specialist shows, such as R&B, Afro, Salsa, Gospel etc. into our schedule, as well as jazz and reggae - and to vary the daytime content somewhat, in order to avoid the bland non-stop disco format which other pirate stations seem to adopt - and indeed certain legal stations too (!); and (b) to really intensify our campaign to become legal - a battle that has been half-won at least, since the community radio project was announced by the Home Office in July. One of our early triumphs was the Ethiopian appeal, where, in November/December 1984, we raised over £3000 - the weekend that we opened the phone lines for pledges was one I'll never forget - the overall response and vibe was great! Then, after our Christmas non-appearance, we came back around New Years Eve, with the 1984 Top 100 chart (followed by Larry C. and myself singing an appalling unaccompanied "Auld Lang Syne!"); then on New Years Day, there was that memorable link-up with JFM - the first such thing in pirate history! Later on, a number of JFM stalwarts were to join us - Dave Collins, Clive R., Marc Damon, for starters, but also Adrian Sykes, Roger Barry, Jim Colvin, Paul Dodd, and Barry Stone did varying numbers of programmes as well. Another highly successful venture was the inclusion of well-known media guests onto certain shows - most particularly Bob Jones'.

The disappointments were many, I'm afraid. Firstly, the busts...we lost two studios, one in December 1984, where, apart from Paul Buick getting nabbed, and eventually making page 5 of the Sun, numerous records, belonging to Paul, Sammy Jay, and myself, were confiscated; and one in July 1985, where Mark McCarthy was the victim, although thankfully, there wasn't as much to take. There were many transmitter busts, the most disastrous occurring on Christmas Eve - an action which put us off air during the Christmas period - which, after all the preparation that had been done, was an absolute disaster. On top of this, there were various instances of sabotage - the worst one being when our aerial was cut down - an action that had nothing to do with the DTI. One regret of mine was that the record-of-the-week panel programme, eventually moved to a Sunday, although very successful as a phone-in, never extended to include a live panel of 4 - something that I had envisaged from the beginning. The station never had the money to build a proper production studio, where such a programme might have been recorded, and the risks involved in bringing 4 different guests into the studio weekly, were too great; besides, there wasn't an over-abundance of microphones, let alone room! Then, on the all-dayer side, we had to put up with certain name artists failing to show up for P.A.'s on more than one occasion; and despite the fact that our first Cinderella Rockerfellas all-dayer was the best and most relaxed one ever, with a 50/50 black/white split, the "Miss Solar 1985" competition devised for the second one, was, perhaps, an ill-judged move, since the number of entries was painfully small; some nasty-minded people accused the contest of being racist and sexist (possibly because of the ad, made in all innocence, which said "Ladies, show off your sun-tan etc.") - when all we wanted to do was have a little light-hearted fun - with a nice prize at the end of it for someone. Some people, it seems, take things far too seriously, Oh well, you can't please all people all the time..

On to brighter things...our application is now with the Home Office, and will be considered along with no less than 30 others for South London (for North London, there's 64 applications!). Because of the extra month granted for the completion of applications, it might not be until January, or even later that we hear the result - although we could know a lot quicker. We feel that the application, which has been very carefully put together, is a strong one, with a splendid financial plan, more than enough financial backers, a programme schedule which is twice as good as the previous one, and an advisory panel which includes well-known names in the community, and music business. More about this in newsletter no. 3 - which will also include a list of funny anecdotes (incidentally when writing in for newsletters, please state on envelope "Newsletter No. 1, 2, or 3" - from now on, 25p. each). Finally, there are legal radio programmes to listen to - Robbie V. of course on Sunday nite 9-11, Radio One...Peter Young's "Soul Cellar" back on Capital, 11-midnight Sunday; earlier, from 7-9, Steve Walsh on Radio London; John Leech weeknights 6-9 on Essex Radio, and again on Saturday nights - with yours truly from 9-1, complete with new Echoes Street Sales Chart from 10-midnight (Essex has now moved to 96.3 & 102.6 FM); and Martin Collins, weeknights 7-9, & Sundays 2-5 PM on Chiltern. (...TONY MONSON)



SOLAR GIGS

Even if you can't hear your favourite DJs on the radio, you can see many of them live in various places - and let's face it, if you're going for a night on the town, you might as well go somewhere where you can hear some decent music in a good atmosphere. Here is the current list of who's playing where - and when:

Les Adams (The Mix Doctor) can be found at the Sussex Tavern in Norbury, on Tuesday and Thursdays evenings, complete with a brand new sound system, digital delay units, and all the up-to-date mixing devices. If anybody can out-mix Les, either on or offstage, I've yet to hear about them. Incidentally, you can find the special Les Adams mix of 'She's Strange' on the B-side of the new 12" (you may have heard another Les Adams mix of this tune on Solar in the past).

Paul Buick, Dave Collins, and Louie St. Clair can be found at Camies Nite Spot, Rosina St., Hackney, every Thursday night, playing all the hot sounds - Camies being a club which was virtually unknown a short while back, but which has now become one of East London's most talked about venues, due to the heavy Solar Radio involvement. Dave Collins can also be found there on a Saturday night. Incidentally Dave has just started a new gig on a Friday night at the Royal Standard, Virginia Water, Surrey.

C.J. Carlos (you know, the swashbuckling one - "In the chair...and why not... the music you want to hear, the music we like to play") has got to be one of the most successful club jocks in the South of England - and you can catch his antics at the Limelight club, White Horse Lane, Crystal Palace, on Thursdays and Saturdays; and the Oasis, Roseberry Place, Dalston, Fridays and Sundays. Incidentally, you can also catch "Grandad" Marc Damon at the Limelight club on a Sunday night, along with John Osborne.

Solar's electro/hip-hop expert Chris Forbes, can be found on a Thursday night at the Peoples club, Praed St., off Edgware Rd., along with Tim Westwood - starts at 10PM, finishes at 6AM! By the way, Chris Forbes, and disco-mix champ Roger Johnson. are doing a re-make of Doug E. Fresh's 'The Show', which may be on the streets by the time you read this.

That cool night-time DJ Steve Goddard, who has one of the most interesting oldies' collections in London, can be caught at Silks, in the Shepherds Bush Centre, playing some of his classy faves, on Thursday nights; Steve will be starting a Sunday night stint at Camies from December 29th, along with Steve Walsh.

That quiet and ever-so-modest guy Jerry Green, who you used to hear late on a Monday night playing some blinding music, can be found at the Royal Oak, Tooley St., Bermondsey, playing similar classy stuff, along with such unknowns as Gilles Peterson, Jeff Young, and Pete Tong (!) - the Royal Oak is fast establishing itself as a haven for real soul fans, who tire of the more commercial and discofied sounds. Jerry also works the Lakeside club, Frimley (near Camberley, Surrey), on a Sunday night, in similarly good company - Chris Hill, Robbie Vincent, and Chris Brown appear there on a rota basis. By the way, just in case you didn't know, Jerry works daytimes at the North-West's top record shop for years, Record & Disco Centre, Rayners Lane - making sure the punters avoid buying the dross, and buy decent stuff instead!

That smooth-talking guy with the deep voice - Tony Hodges - can be seen in person at Oceans in Bracknell (along with various special guests, such as T.C. Curtis) on a Friday night; and at Foxes nightclub, Woburn Green, Bucks. on a Saturday. Tony is another guy who sells all the latest stuff during the day - at Slough Record Centre, Farnham Road, Slough.

Brian Hurst, a guy with a somewhat dynamic stage presence (which means you can't exactly ignore him!) funks up the plush Burford club in Burford St., Hoddesdon, on Fridays and Saturdays - with people coming from miles around to catch some hard soul 'n funk sounds.

Jude James is a busy man; as well as running errands for Big Momma during the day (!), he funks up Cheeks winebar, Forest Rd., Walthamstow, Thursdays and Saturdays; later on, on Saturdays, he and Nick Lawrence hot up the Silver Lady; while on Mondays and Wednesdays, he attempts to educate the tourist crowd to some decent music at Hombres, 79 Well St., Soho - as well as play to the more funky regulars. By the time you read this, Jude should be a father for the second time (it seems we've been waiting for ages!).

That amiable fellow Barry Jameson can be seen doing his thing (whatever that means) at Goochies winebar, Victoria Park Rd., Hackney, on Thursday nights; and at Flappers, Temple Mills Lane, Stratford, on Saturdays.

Veteran soul man Bob Jones - otherwise known as Jonesy, gets to play the "real" soul sounds, both old and new, at the afore-mentioned Royal Oak in Bermondsey on a Monday night, along with Ed Stokes; while on a Friday night it's soul and jazz with Bob at the Sirloin, Friday (!) Hill, Chingford. If you want to hear the genuine stuff, and are not too worried about the danceability factor, Bob's your man.

Solar's famous drive-time man Gary Kent can be found playing some distinctive sounds on a Friday night, at one of the nicest, cosiest venues in the South-East - namely the Golden Pond, South Ockendon; right out in the real countryside!

Nick Lawrence, that cuddly character from the East End, does his thing every Thursday and Friday at the Pickle 'ouse, Hackney; earlier in the evening on a Thursday, he joins Adrian Sykes and H, or Aitch (who's actually Sammy J's brother Henry under a pseudonym - but don't tell anyone!) at the Royal Oak; while on Saturday, he joins Jude James at the Silver Lady, West Green Road, Tottenham. If you didn't know already, Nick has an unbeatable collection of late 70's jazz-funk classics.

If you fancy entertainment and fine music Sunday lunchtimes, join Mark McCarthy at Shakers winebar, 28 Market St., Watford, between 12 and 2. You've heard Mark's fine choice of music - now go and see him in action.

The Dagenham area may not seem the funkier of places, but Tony "Otis" Monson attempts to remedy the situation by playing some hard soul, funk, and jazz - old and new - at Poseurs cocktail bar, 715 Green Lane, on a Friday night; the venue is in the middle of nowhere - somewhere between Goodmayes, Ilford, Chadwell Heath, and Becontree Heath - not so many miles from Jifs Records. Free admission, of course.

If it's real jazz you're after, Gilles Peterson is your man, and he plays his usual blinding mixture of hard jazz, Latin, and samba at the Belvedere Arms, Sheen Rd., Richmond, on a Sunday night; however Gilles is equally at home with alternative soul and r&b, and that's what you can hear at the Belvedere on a Thursday - in both cases, admission is free; while on Fridays, it's jazz and alternative soul with Gilles at the Royal Oak.

Moving over to Kingston, you can find Mark Richards playing all the up-front sounds at Hadleys, London Rd., on Thursday and Friday nights - from 11 to 2.

Gary Taylor, another guy who has a strong leaning towards the more purist side of soul, and interesting off-beat back-catalogue obscurities, gets to play a varied mixture of music at the Prince Of Wales, West Rd., South Ockendon, on a Tuesday night; the What winebar, Kings Walk, Stanstead Village, on Wednesdays; and Thurrock Civic Hall, Blackshotts Lane, Grays, on Thursdays - this is an under 18's night, and Gary Kent does a spot as well.

The irrepressible Barry Tee, Solar's resident loonie, can be caught in action at Moonlights, Stratford, on Saturday nights, playing a good selection of tackle, old and new

To'mek is a guy with a long-running musical background, and you can see him on a Thursday night at the Princess Royal, Hereford Rd, W.2. (off Westbourne Grove), playing 40's, 50's and 60's material, which he labels "Soul routes"; on a Friday night at the same venue, he plays soul, funk and salsa; then later on he appears at the Bass Clef, Coronet St., near Old St. tube, along with some of the best in British Latin bands.

Gary Van Den Busch, otherwise known as Disco Gary (!!!), appears on a Saturday night at Silks, Shepherds Bush Centre, and on a Friday at Olub Musique, Southend Rd., Croydon, playing a variety of classy stuff. Gary's night-time Solar shows used to be an absolute delight musically - very atmospheric indeed!

Finally, Solar's bright, smooth early morning man Alistair Wright can be found boogieing away on a Thursday night at Freeways in Wandsworth; it's an over 21's night, and despite rumours to the contrary, you won't hear anything by Liquid Gold or the Village People - and nothing from the Spanish top 10 either!!!

SOLAR RADIO ALL-TIME TOP 100

1. FATBACK, I Found Lovin'
2. MAZE, Joy And Pain
3. RUFUS & CHAKA KHAN, Ain't Nobody
4. FREDDIE JACKSON, Rock Me Tonight
5. TEENA MARIE, Portuguese Love
6. CAMEO, She's Strange
7. KENI BURKE, Risin' To The Top
8. CARL ANDERSON, Buttercup
9. McFADDEN & WHITEHEAD, Ain't No Stopping
Us Now
10. LONNIE LISTON SMITH, Expansions
11. CHERYL LYNN, Encore
12. LUTHER VANDROSS, Never Too Much
13. HEATWAVE, Always And Forever
14. TEMPTATIONS, Treat Her Like A Lady
15. LISA LISA, I Wonder If I Take You Home
16. DENNIS EDWARDS, Don't Look Any Further
17. BREAKWATER, Work It Out
18. MTUME, Juicy Fruit
19. MARVIN GAYE, What's Going On
20. CAMEO, Single Life
21. MARVIN GAYE, Let's Get It On
22. PHYLLIS NELSON, Move Closer
23. JEAN CARN, Don't Let It Go To Your Head
24. MARVIN GAYE, Sexual Healing
25. WILLIE BOBO, Always There
26. HI TENSION, You Make Me Happy
27. LUTHER VANDROSS, A House Is Not A Home
28. S.O.S. BAND, Weekend Girl
29. ISLEY BROTHERS, Between The Sheets
30. GAP BAND, Outstanding
31. EARTH WIND & FIRE, Fantasy
32. LOWRELL, Mellow Mellow (Right On)
33. JAMES BROWN, Sex Machine
34. SHALAMAR, Night To Remember
35. TOM BROWNE, Funkin' For Jamaica
36. MAZE, Twilight
37. McCRARYS, Love On A Summer Night
38. GWEN McCRAE, Funky Sensation
39. ROSE ROYCE, Magic Touch
40. MAZE, We Are One
41. CHANGE, Searching
42. O'JAYS, I Love Music
43. ATLANTIC STARR, Silver Shadow
44. CANDI STATON, Young Hearts Run Free
45. DONALD BYRD, (Falling Like) Dominoes
46. RENE & ANGELA, Secret Rendezvous
47. FUNKADELIC, One Nation Under A Groove
48. LOOSE ENDS, Hangin' On A String
49. CHANGE, Change Of Heart
50. COOL NOTES, You're Not Too Young To
Fall In Love
51. GLENN JONES, You're The Only One I Love
52. ROY AYERS, Poo Poo La La
53. STAPLE SINGERS, Slippery People
54. O'JAYS, Darling Darling Baby
55. D-TRAIN, You're The One For Me
56. KLEEEER, Intimate Connection
57. MAJOR HARRIS, Love Won't Let Me Wait
58. SISTER SLEDGE, Thinking Of You
59. HOWARD JOHNSON, So Fine
60. SLAVE, Just A Touch Of Love
61. CHANGE, The Glow Of Love
62. ROY AYERS, Running Away
63. HOLLAND-DOZIER, Why Can't We Be Lovers
64. DEXTER WANSEL, The Sweetest Pain
65. POSITIVE FORCE, We Got The Funk
66. JOCELYN BROWN, Somebody Else's Guy
67. COLONEL ABRAMS, Trapped
68. UNIVERSAL ROBOT BAND, Barely Breaking Even
69. DOUG E. FRESH & THE GET FRESH CREW, The Show
70. ALEEM, Get Loose
71. NED DOHENY, To Prove My Love
72. ATLANTIC STARR, One Love
73. EARTH WIND & FIRE, September
74. CAMEO, Attack Me With Your Love
75. CHAKA KHAN, I Feel For You
76. WALTER JACKSON, Touching In The Dark
77. WHISPERS, It's A Love Thing
78. PATRICE RUSHEN, Forget-me-nots
79. SKIPWORTH & TURNER, Thinking About Your Love
80. BRASS CONSTRUCTION, Movin'
81. HOWARD JOHNSON, Keepin' Love New
82. RICK JAMES/TEENA MARIE, Fire And Desire
83. MAZE, Happy Feelings
84. PRINCESS, Say I'm Your Number One
85. GROVER WASHINGTON JR., Mr. Magic
86. SAHARA, Love So Fine
87. RENE & ANGELA, I'll Be Good
88. NINA SIMONE, My Baby Just Cares For Me
89. EARTH WIND & FIRE, Reasons
90. LEO'S SUNSHIP, Give Me The Sunshine
91. TANIA MARIA, Come With Me
92. LIGHT OF THE WORLD, London Town
93. KLEEEER, Open Your Mind
94. AMII STEWART, Friends
95. WINDJAMMER, Tossing And Turning
96. EARTH WIND & FIRE, That's The Way Of The World
97. WILTON FELDER/BOBBY WOMACK, (No Matter How High
I Get) I'll Still Be Looking Up To You
98. STANLEY CLARKE, Heaven Sent
99. ROSE ROYCE, Wishing On A Star
100. STEVE ARRINGTON, Way Out

BUBBLERS:

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| GEORGE BENSON, Greatest Love Of All | NORMAN CONNORS, You Are My Starship |
| LONNIE HILL, Galveston Bay | JONES GIRLS, You're Gonna Make Me Love Somebody |
| HOWARD JOHNSON, So Fine | O'JAYS, I Love Music |
| REAL THING, You To Me Are Everything | TEENA MARIE, I Need Your Lovin' |
| ROYALE DELITE, (I'll Be A) Freak For You | ATLANTIC STARR, Thank You |
| COOL NOTES, Have A Good Forever | FREDERICK, Gentle |
| MAZE, Back In Stride Again | MERCY MERCY, What Are We Gonna Do About It |
| JELLYBEAN, Was Dog A Doughnut | HARLEQUIN 4's, Set It Off |
| WHODINI, Friends | COLLAGE, Romeo Where's Juliet |

SOLAR RADIO 'All Time Jazz top 100', compiled by Giles Peterson.

1. MILES DAVIS Milestones (CBS)
2. FREDDIE HUBBARD Gibraltar (Pablo)
3. EDDIE JEFFERSON Jeanine (Inner City)
4. ART BLAKEY Night In Tunisia (Blue Note)
5. JON HENDRICKS I'll Bet You Thought (Arista)
6. JACKIE & ROY Don't Be Blue (Conc'd)
7. LONNIE SMITH Apex (Groove M'chant)
8. NORMAN CONNORS Mother Of The Future (Buddah)
9. PAT LONGO I Believe In Love (Townhouse)
10. CEDAR WALTON Latin America (CBS)
11. MARK MURPHY Milestones (Riv'side)
12. JOHN KLEMMER Brazilia (ABC)
13. SIVUCA Ain't No Sunshine (Vang'd)
14. JANET LAWSON 5TET So High (Inner City)
15. ART BLAKEY Ping Pong (Riverside)
16. JOHN COLTRANE Giant Steps (Atlantic)
17. MILES DAVIS So What (CBS)
18. CHICK COREA You're Everything (Polydor)
19. WILLIE BOBO Always There (CBS)
20. AIRTO Celebration Suite (WBA)
21. LONNIE LISTON SMITH Expansions (RCA)
22. CHICK COREA Central Park (P'dor)
23. ASTRUD GILBERTO Take Me To Aruanda (Verve)
24. DAVE PIKE Spirits Samba (Muse)
25. LEE MORGAN Sidewinder (Blue Note)
26. ART BLAKEY Moanin' (Blue Note/Prest.)
27. DIZZY GILLESPIE Mas Que Nada (Jasmine)
28. CAL TJADER Shoshana (Concorde)
29. RICHIE COLE New York Afternoon (Muse)
30. EDDIE JEFFERSON So What (Inner C.)
31. DUKE PEARSON Sandelia Dela (Blue Note)
32. ART BLAKEY Cubano Chant (CBS)
33. SERGIO MENDES Roda (A&M)
34. MCCOY TYNER Love Samba (M'stone)
35. WEBSTER LEWIS Barbara Anne (Epic)
36. WORKING WEEK Venceremos (Paladin)
37. DAVID BENOIT Life Is Like A Samba (Avi)
38. JOHN COLTRANE Mr P.C. (Atlantic)
39. ART BLAKEY So Tired (Blue Note)
40. ELLA FITZGERALD So Danco Samba (Verve)
41. DAVE BRUBECK Take Five (CBS)
42. BOBBY MCFERRIN Dance With Me (WEA)
43. MARK MURPHY Two Kites (Muse)
44. GEORGE DUKE Brazilian Sugar (Epic)
45. SEAWIND Free (Horizon)
46. WES MONTGOMERY Full House (R'side)
47. DUKE PEARSON Stormy (Blue Note)
48. MARK MURPHY Down St Thomas Way (Muse)
49. MANFREDO FEST Jungle Kitten (Tabu)
50. ART BLAKEY Mission Eternal (Prestige)
51. PAULHINO DE COSTA Simbora (Pablo)
52. KARMA Kwanzaa (Horizon)
53. PHAROAH SANDERS You've Got To Have Freedom (Theresa)
54. GEORGE DUKE My Soul (MPS)
55. CAL TJADER To CRees Que (Galaxy)
56. SUE RANEY Cinnamon & Clove (Discovery)
57. TITO PUENTE Giant Steps (Concorde)
58. MARK MURPHY Desafinado (Muse)
59. CLARE FISCHER Descarga Yema Ya (Discovery)
60. JOANNE GRAUER See You Later (MPS)
61. IVAN 'BOOGALOO' JONES Black Whip (Prestige)
62. RAY BARRETTO Pastime Paradise (CTI)
63. ASTRUD GILBERTO Girl From Ipanema (Verve)
64. ART PEPPER Mambo De La Pinta (Contemporary)
65. TANIA MARIA Yatra Ta (Concorde)
66. PATSY GALLANTE Te Caliente (Miracle)
67. JEFF LORBER The Samba (Inner City)
68. FLORA PURIM Moondreams (Milestone)
69. RAICES Bamboo (Atlantic)
70. BOBBY MCFERRIN Moondance (WEA)
71. WAYNE SHORTER Witch Hunt (Blue Note)
72. FUSE I In Celebration (CTI)
73. CHET BAKER Salsamba (Musica)
74. JANET LAWSON 5TET Sunday Afternoon (Inner City)
75. DAVID LAHM Shazam (PAJ)
76. JAYME MARQUEZ Vera Cruz (RCA)
77. FLORA PURIM Casa Forte (Milestone)
78. ROGER GLENN Rio (Prestige)
79. TANIA MARIA Come With Me (Concorde)
80. JAMES MASON Sweet Power Your Embrace (Chiaroscuro)
81. RAICES Lenguas (Atlantic)
82. TUBBY HAYES Southern Suite Pt.2 (Phonogram)
83. HARRIS SIMON New York Connection (Broadwalk)
84. JAY HOGGARD Sao Pablo (Contemporary)
85. REVERIE In Every Way (Encounter)
86. PAZ AC DC (Paladin)
87. ART BLAKEY Song For A Lonely Woman (Prestige)
88. BOY KATINDIG Whatever Happened To Love (Pausa)
89. NAOYA MATSUOKA Pau De Acucar (WEA)
90. MANHATTAN TRANSFER Shaker Song (WEA)
91. THELONIUS MONK Round Midnight (Riverside)
92. JUDY ROBERTS Never Was Love (I.City)

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| 93. AL JARREAU Spain (WEA) | 97. BILLY TAYLOR 310 Mambo Inn (Prestige) |
| 94. SEAWIND He Loves You (CTI) | 98. BARBARA CAROLL From The Beginning (Liberty) |
| 95. RICHIE COLE Blue Bossa (Muse) | 99. JACO PASTORIUS Used To Be (Epic) |
| 96. NINA SIMONE My Baby Just Cares For Me (Charly) | 100. SERGIO MENDES Mas Que Nada (A&M) |

PRESENTER-PROFILE:

CLIVE 'R' (Richardson)

AGE: 39
 DATE OF BIRTH: January 14, 1946, Bromley, Kent.
 SCHOOL: Cray Valley Technical High.



Clive became a soul fan in 1962 when the purchase of the Contours' 'Do You Love Me' (issued on UK Oriole American!) brought him into contact with the emergent 'Motown Sound', and he became an early member of Dave Godin's now-legendary Tamla Motown Appreciation Society, being privileged to meet the Supremes, Marvin Gaye and Berry Gordy Jr himself on their first visits to England.

In 1964 Clive's attention was caught by Don Covay's 'Mercy Mercy' hit, and he formed a Fan Club for Covay (obtaining permission during Don's UK tour). The Club magazine brought him into contact with more London-area soul fans who also published fan-club mags, and they pooled their resources in 1966 to launch 'Soul Music' magazine; the name was changed to 'SHOUT' in 1967, and Clive soon became sole (!) editor, continuing to publish the mag. for nine years, establishing a worldwide reputation for pioneering discographical research and soul journalism.

Thus it was through his writing and research that Clive came to be sitting behind the turntables, guesting frequently on David Simmons' BBC Radio London shows 'Soul 76' and 'Soul 77', but at that time he also worked for 18 months at Black Wax soul record shop in Streatham, where one of the import suppliers was - Tony Monson! Since Tony and Clive lived just ten minutes' drive apart, a firm acquaintance was soon formed! During this time, Clive also gained experience of disco work, being resident jock for some 3 years at the Lord Kitchener in Welling.

Back in the world of journalism, Black Echoes was launched in 1976, and Clive became a freelance weekly contributor, first with a regular retrospective column about vintage soul acts, and later as reviewer of import soul singles, until this became incorporated into Tony Monson's import LP review column.

It was Tony's involvement with JFM Radio which brought Clive into the realms of 'pirate' radio, initially co-hosting a monthly oldies show on JFM with Terry Davis, then when the pirates began 7-day broadcasting, he had his own Saturday night 'R&B Party', a Sunday midnight Blues & Gospel show (the first gospel show on UK radio), and a midweek soul oldies show. Being an inveterate 'vinyl junkie', his ever-expanding collection of R&B oldies and new soul provided ample material!

The January '85 studio-bust of JFM and precipitous departure of another Solar DJ gave Clive the opportunity to join the ranks of Solar Radio and bring more vintage r&b, blues, deep soul and gospel to the London airwaves, while still writing occasionally for specialist magazines, music encyclopaedias & LP notes.

RECORD COLLECTION: 'Many Thousand' LPs and 7-inch singles
 FAVOURITE FEMALE ARTIST: Ruth Brown / Linda Jones /Mavis Staples
 FAVOURITE MALE ARTIST: Johnny Adams /James Brown
 FAVOURITE GROUP: Dells /Swans Silvertones
 MOST ENJOYABLE GIG: James Brown 1967 /Mighty Clouds of Joy 1983
 AMBITION: To present R&B / Gospel programme on legal radio.

PRESENTER PROFILE: 'Wing Commander' Patrick Meads
AGE: 36
DATE OF BIRTH: March 23, 1949, Stepney, London.
SCHOOL: Bishop Thomas Grants School, Streatham.



Patrick first became hooked on radio way back in 1964 - Easter Sunday to be precise, the day that Radio Caroline began broadcasting. He recalls that he was spellbound, unable to resist the urge to tune in to Caroline every possible minute of every hour of every single day from that Sunday onwards. A dream was also born that day for Patrick, to become a disc-jockey just like his heroes on the North Sea. But this was not to be; instead he joined - no, not the Royal Air Force....the record business!

It was whilst working for EMI Records as a salesman around 1971/72 that Patrick first met the young Mr Monson. He called on a new audio/record shop in Brighton and upon entering the basement (where the funk section was), tripped over Tony, who was lying buried beneath a pile of hot imports. Tony said 'Hi, Man!' and they became firm friends.

Patrick stayed in the record business, still keeping tuned to all that radio had to offer, but nothing more. Then, come the early 80's and a long spell of unemployment he decided to try his hand at DJ-ing, having done some hospital radio work at St Thomas's in London: now through answering an ad he was off to Italy where he joined Radio Nova, a pop pirate broadcasting to the south of France.

Patrick returned in late July of '82, suntanned, experienced as a DJ, broke and still unemployed. Every radio station in the UK rejected his demo tapes, and in mid-'83 he re-joined the record business, saying goodbye to being a DJ.

Early in 1984, however, his old chum Tony rang him out of the blue and invited him to get involved in Horizon - then came Solar Radio and the 'Wing Commander' Patrick Meads Saturday morning show. Patrick's aim is above all to entertain and involve his listeners - he believes that radio should be fun.

Regular weekly features 'Reggae Riddle' and 'London Lovers' achieved an amazing response. Patrick says of 'London Lovers' that having done something similar at Radio Nova, he thought it would be good to discreetly and enjoyably help some lonely Londoners to meet others - and it worked! What of the 'Wing Commander' bit? "Well" says Patrick, "that's my imagination, like my show, my idea of fun, the magic of radio, anyway....must fly!".

RECORD COLLECTION: Vast and very varied
FAVOURITE FEMALE ARTIST: Nancy Wilson, Nina Simone
FAVOURITE MALE ARTIST: Sam Cooke, Curtis Mayfield
FAVOURITE GROUP: Isley Brothers, The Maytals
MOST ENJOYABLE GIG: James Brown at the Rainbow, circa '71/72
AMBITION: To get back on-air and dig out my flying gear again!!

Look out for further 'Presenter Profiles' in the next issue of the SOLAR RADIO Newsletter...

U.K. LPs

ISLEY JASPER ISLEY: "Caravan Of Love" (CBS)

Just in case you haven't sussed, this is one of the strongest LPs of the year - every track a winner! Obviously the title track is a crossover smash, released by popular demand; but "Insatiable Woman" and "I Can Hardly Wait" are equally fine slowies; "If You Believe In Love" is a mid-tempo grower, which I can see being a follow-up single; while for the ravers, "Liberation" and "Dancin' Around The World" work a treat.

ROY AYERS: "You Might Be Surprised" (CBS)

What can I say? This man is so consistent in his brilliance that other lesser musicians must be envious. "Hot" is proving to be the dance-floor winner - pure hard-hitting funk; "Virgo" is more jazzy and instrumental, but equally compelling; "Programmed For Love" is the most fascinating track, however, with its slow sexy "Juicy Fruit"-ish groove, but computer-lingo rap - how inventive can you get?!

EVELYN "CHAMPAGNE" KING: "A Long Time Coming" (RCA)

A very solid album indeed, with the single "Your Personal Touch" just one of the dance-floor raves - "Chemistry Of Love", "Spellbound", "If You Find The Time" and "High Horse" all have danceable appeal. For my money, though, the two killers are the slowish but slinky groover "I'm Scared", and the Sam Cooke classic "A Change Is Gonna Come", which may have a more straightforward rock-inspired rhythm, but actually works a treat - although I doubt if many other Sam Cooke fans would agree!

TEDDY PENDERGRASS: "Workin' It Back" (Asylum)

I never thought I'd really get into a Teddy P. album again, but I've got to admit this is a killer - if only for the pure quality of the songs and arrangements. Best tracks are Teddy's own ballad "Love 4/2", Womack & Womack's "Lonely Color Blue", and the slightly faster "Want You Back In My Life", where he duets with Vanessa Townsell. The rest of the album is pretty decent, with "Love Emergency" being another Womack & Womack composition of note - although I'd prefer their version, I think.

PATTI AUSTIN: "Gettin Away With Murder" (Qwest)

Not too consistent an album really, but noteworthy for two tracks - the Terry Lewis/Jimmy Jam thumper "The Heat Of Heat", which cooks along in the same manner as Alexander O'Neal's "Innocent", and is tearing up dance-floors everywhere; and the insidious mid-tempo groover "Only A Breath Away". A far cry from her debut 1969 killer 7" "Family Tree"!

JEFF TYZIK: "Smile" (Polydor)

Yet another classy album, with both sides of the single here - the "Secret Fantasy" (Tom Browne)-ish "Sweet Surrender", and the Chuck Mangione-ish instrumental "My Heart's Desire". But there's loads more... "Smile" and "Face" are joyous funky brass instrumentals, while "Prized Possession" and "Love Won't Wait" are decent vocals, featuring, respectively, Phil Ballou and Gavin Christopher on vocals - but with plenty of Tyzik sax too.

SKIPWORTH & TURNER: "Skipworth & Turner" (4th & Broadway)

Both the singles are here in their entirety - "Thinking About Your Love" and "Hot Pursuit"; but the real killer cut is the bouncy instrumental "Nepenthe", which has a strong late 70's feel - like a cross between MFSL, Sine, and Northend (remember "Tee's Happy?"). Other vocal cuts such as "Let Me Down Easy", "Street Parade" and "This Is The Night" are mid-tempo and classy, while "Could Not Get Over You" is a searing slow ballad.

ZAPP: "The New Zapp IV U" (Warner)

The Troutman brothers, Roger and Zapp, just keep coming up with ideas - and "Computer Love" is poignant fascinating vocoder-vocal stuff, in the same bag as the afore-mentioned "Programmed For Love" (Roy Ayers). I also like both sides of the single - the bouncy "It Doesn't Really Matter", where a number of soul superstars are name-dropped; and "Make Me Feel Good" which is an old-fashioned but rousing swing-funk instrumental, with Wes Montgomery and George Benson overtones. "Itchin' For Your Twitchin'" is best of the rest.

ANGELA BOFILL: "Tell Me Tomorrow" (Arista)

Angie's first album, from whence came the wonderful "Under The Moon And Over The Sky" remains her best, and probably most rare; however this album is worth purchasing for one track alone, namely the wispy Japanese-flavoured "Still In Love" - pure magic folks! Otherwise best tracks are probably "Midnight Shine" (originally A-side to Bobby King's "Lovequake"), "Generate Love", which has similar chord-changes to the Whispers' "And The Beat Goes On", and the slowish chugging title track, written by two of my songwriting heroes David Lasley and Randy Goodrum. "Still In Love" was written by Derek Bramble.

AL GREEN: "He Is The Light" (A&M) (Producer: Willie Mitchell)

I've enjoyed (The Reverend) Al Green's recent gospel albums - but this is the strongest yet - with distinct crossover appeal. The current single "Going Away" has much of the charm of his 70's classics, and tracks like "True Love" and "Building Up" have nearly equal appeal. "Power" is an ear-catching slowie, while "Be With Me Jesus" and "Nearer My God To Thee" have a slightly more traditional feel - very nice indeed. My favourite track however is the handclapper "You Brought The Sunshine" - originally recorded to great effect by the Clark Sisters, and released on 12-inch - excellent stuff indeed.

KASHIF: "Condition Of The Heart" (Arista)

Nothing exceptional here, but pretty consistent, with best tracks probably being the slowish melodic title track (which is the current single), the attractive slow groover "Dancing In The Dark", the Lewis/Jam-ish "Stay The Night", the bouncy "I Wanna Have Love With You", and the electro-ish instrumental "Movie Song".

AL JARREAU: "Live In London" (WEA)

A recording of his Wembley concert last year, and while there are no real surprises, it makes good listening - especially "Black And Blues", "I Will Be Here For You", "High Crime", and "Roof Garden".

BREAKFAST BAND: "Water's Edge" (Makingwaves)

One of our most talented outfits, of course, and although they have been through a lot of changes and general hassles over the last coupla years, the music's still good - albeit a bit nearer to jazz-fusion than jazz-funk. Most dynamic tracks are probably "That's The One" and "Hugo's song" - although my favourite is the Latin-tinged "Batter Loco".

U.S. LPs

JUICY: "It Takes Two" (Private I)

An absolutely essential buy - since there is not one duff track on here! This group are possibly the strongest team to emerge since Asford & Simpson, Atlantic Starr, or Rene & Angela. "Love Is Good Enough", "Stay With Me", and "Forever And Ever" are all melodic and breezy dancers - the latter track having distinct crossover, almost singalong appeal; "Nobody But You" is a slinky handclapper, with neat synthesizer backing; "Sugar Free" is a hypnotic S.O.S. Band-type slow chugger = amazingly not produced by Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis - but you'd never know it! "It Takes Two" is a highly attractive slow toe-tapping groover, while "Slow Dancing" is the closest thing to a ballad - definitely "Between The Sheets" tackle! What more is there to say? Oh yes, "Bad Boy" is here too (the recent single - another goodie). By the way, Juicy is actually Katreese and Jerry Barnes, and Deodato, no less, produced the whole package.

CLARENCE CARTER: "Messin' With My Mind" (Ichiban)

One of the best albums of the last coupla months, with no sign of a release date. Apart from the excellent catchy title track (also on a single), you can find some truly fine ballads, like "So You're Leaving Me" and "I Was In The Neighbourhood"; some blues, as in "Love Me With A Feeling"; and some naughty-but-nice brassy funkies such as "Fast Young Lady" and "It Ain't What You Do". Clarence made some great records in the 60's - and this LP shows off his vocal style to great effect. Highly recommended.

ROSIE GAINES: "Caring" (Epic)

One of the most impressive debut LPs I've heard in ages - and if Solar were broadcasting now, I'm sure this would be one of the most played albums. You probably know the recent

joyous 12-inch "Skool-ology (Ain't No Strain)" - but for pure magic, check out the lilting 6/8 time "You've Gone Too Far", the slinky sensual echoey slow toe-tapper "Wake Up", and the exotic gentle mid-tempo flowing "Good Times", which will surely achieve the same sort of stature as "Galveston Bay", or even "Don't Let It Go To Your Head" in time. This LP has style and originality, and I think that it could achieve the same sort of long-lasting appeal as the classic Anita Baker album.

NICOLE: "What About Me" (Portrait)

Another lady of talent - and indeed, I'm sure by now you've heard the absolutely wonderful slinky duet with Timmy Thomas "New York Eyes" - possibly the finest track Timmy's been involved with since "Why Can't We Live Together" - and a likely crossover hit if released. Best of the rest are the fast bouncy "Don't You Want My Love", and the Heatwave classic "Always And Forever", which - shock, horror, gasp - I actually prefer to the original - vocally at least!

CHERELLE: "High Priority" (Tabu) (Produced by Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis)

Huge album of the moment, not least for the highly catchy mid-tempo groover "Saturday Love", which has all the charm of "Weekend Girl" - plus a duet with the excellent Alexander O'Neal to boot. "Will You Satisfy" is slower, but very slinky and insidious. "New Love" is best of the faster numbers, with teen appeal, perhaps, a la Madonna, but certainly crisp and funky enough; while "Where Do I Run To" makes an attractive ballad.

CENTURY 22: "Flight 2201" (TBA)

Another impressive debut album from a group who include George Shaw (the key man), Benjamin F. Wright Jr., and - wait for it - Wilton Felder! Best tracks are the instrumental "Jasmine", which reminds me of Alphonse Mouzon's "By All Means"; "You Drive Me Crazy", which is a slowish slinky pulsating groover featuring vocals and sax - the sort of thing Brick might have done in the late 70's; and the heavy beaty funkier "You're The Only One", which might sound a bit out of touch with today's dancers, but I find a pure delight - in the same sort of vein as that highly underrated Ronald Snijders album of recent continental fame (or lack of it).

JOE SIMON: "Mr. Right" (Compleat)

An LP for real soul fans. Joe, who has been making records since the 60's, has one of the most distinctive, poignant voices in the business, and this album is laden with beautiful soulful slowies, with simple uncluttered arrangements - such as "It Turns Me Inside Out", "My Best Was Good Enough", and "Always On My Mind" - previously a hit for Elvis Presley. Other fine tracks are "Mr. Right Or Mr. Right Now", which is slowish and rhythmic, "Let Me Have My Way With You", which is a highly melodic mid-tempo chugger, with sweet back-up female vocal chorus; and "One Last Night (Dance Version)", which is the only possible club track, with its understated but insidious mid-tempo handclapping rhythm, and haunting middle break.

RANDY GOODRUM: "Solitary Nights" (GRP) (Co-produced by Dave Grusin & Larry Rosen)

Randy is a singer-songwriter who falls into the same category as David Lasley, Michael Franks, and Ned Doheny - and even though this is not strictly soul, but soft rock, I have fallen in love with it. There is actually one highly tasty tight mid-tempo piano-led instrumental "Dolph". The rest of the tracks are lazy vocals, best being the mid-tempo tuneful "Holdin' Out For Love", the gorgeous atmospheric semi-slowie "Silhouette", which is enhanced by synthesizer backing; and "Mr. Sandman" - a track originally recorded in the mid-50's by the Chordettes, and now taken at dirt-slow lazy pace, with very simple but highly effective backing. Ideal late-nite stuff.

HIROSHIMA: "Another Place" (Epic)

Another LP that is getting sadly overlooked. The mastermind behind this band, whose 4th album this is, I believe, is Japanese gentleman Dan Kuramoto, and, although it takes quite a few listens, I can honestly say that side one is an absolute delight. Starts off with the haunting Eastern-flavoured instrumental "One Wish"; this is followed by a lovely slow exotic vocal entitled "Save Your Love For Me", featuring Barbara Long; then it carries on with two more ethereal instrumentals, "Another Place", and the slower "I Do Remember". Side two tends to flounder a bit, but there is one melodic, semi-funky mid-tempo vocal entitled "Stay Away"; haunting chorus.

DIANE SCHUUR: "Schuur Thing" (GRP) (Produced by Dave Grusin)

The track that's hotting up hip clubs everywhere is the jazz-swing classic "It Don't Mean A Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing", taken at breackneck pace, with Latin-ish rhythms, jazzy sax arrangement, and scatty vocals - pure bliss! The rest of the album, though, goes through a variety of styles - for example, "Love You Back" is a highly decent down-tempo funkier; "Needle In A Haystack" is a light, rhythmic, almost pop-inspired number; "Someday We'll All Be Free" is done in ballad-style, and works well as a female vocal; while "Take Me To The River" is a revival of the Al Green/Syl Johnson classic, with slowish beefy rock arrangement. Her strongest LP to date.

JIMMY McGRUFF: "State Of The Art" (Milestone)

If you're a vintage McGruff freak, you certainly won't be disapointed by this raunchy, delightfully dated instrumental LP, with such organ-led swing-style numbers as "Headbender" and "Cheesesteak"; the Crusaders-style "New Wave Blues" (which reminds me of their classic "Put It Where You Want It"); sleazy supperclub-type slowies such as "Stormy Weather", "Don't Ever Doubt Me" and "Slow Grindin'"; and - treat of treats - a great jazz-funk handclapper, entitled, dare I say it, "Hip Hop Bebop" - but having no resemblance to any hip-hop record I've ever heard! This LP is being unjustly ignored.

CORKY HALE: "Harp Beat" (Stash)

One of the most talked about LPs of recent weeks, not least because Corky is a female harp-player, and much of this is harp-funk! Best tracks are the slightly vocal Alphonse Mouzon-ish "Nothing Higher"; the instrumental revival of Al Jarreau's "Roof Garden"; the fast Latin-ish "Yesterdays; and - my favourite - "Up In Smoke", which is fast, funky, but tuneful, featuring, amongst others, Jerry Friedman, Jeff Mironov, Lew Soloff, and Randy Brecker. Worthy of your attention.

KIRK WHALUM: "Floppy Disc" (CBS)

More good instrumental jazz-funk, Kirk being a notable saxophone player, who is joined by Gary King, Michael Colina, and Bob James, no less. My favourite track is the slowish mellow funkier "Kyle's Smiles", which is a real grower; other goodies are the even mellower late-nite softie "Afterthought"; the rather more rousing "Rodeo" and "Playing House"; and the light airy melodic "Time I Learned". Don't care too much for the title track though!

LONNIE LISTON SMITH: "Rejuvenation" (Doctor Jazz)

Originally released in Japan before the USA, this is Lonnie at his delightful mellowest, and really there is no standout track - the whole album is just pure atmosphere! It's all instrumental, and you can take your pick between tracks like "Island In The Sun", "London Interlude", "The Eternal Quest (In Search Of Time)", which was co-written by guru Sri Chinmoy - or anything else. Exotic all the way.

HERBIE MANN: "See Through Spirits" (Atlantic)

Mr. flute-player supreme is back - and this album is worth purchasing for one track alone - the driving funky percussive 9½ minute instrumental "Keep The Spirits Singing" - recorded live somewhere. The rest of the album contains a mixture of vocals and instrumentals; I especially like Herbie's instrumental revival of "What's Going On" - refreshingly different, and scarcely recognizable at first.

EAST COAST OFFERING: "Walkin' With You" (MCA) (Produced by Tim Eyermann)

Their last LP caused a bit of a buzz, and while this veers into the bland MOR territory at times, I do like the mid-tempo plodding funky title track, which has just a few vocals chanting out the title to good effect. There's also a nice revival of the Delfonics' classic "La La Means I Love You" - slightly spoiled by twee female vocals chanting out the title from time to time; and a light but jaunty jazz-funk instrumental called "Take Me By Surprise". "Once Nightly" is best of the slowies.

ALPHONSE MOUZON/LARRY CORYELL: "The 11th House" (Pausa)

An instrumental album with jazz-rock overtones, but containing a coupla highly funky toons - best of which is the absurdly catchy "Uptown", followed by "Old Friends".

Other recent LPs: Ralph MacDonald's "Surprize" (Polydor) contains his recent underrated single "Laying In His Arms", plus a number of nice songs, best of which are "Just Hold Me"; the instrumental "Santa Cruz"; and the danceable "You Need More Calypso", which I tired of quickly...Chaka Khan's sister Taka Boom is back with a fair selection of goodies on an album entitled "Middle Of The Night" (Mirage) - which is also the title of her single; best tracks are the mellower ones, like "Climate Of Love", "Butter Me Up", and "Love Bank"...Carl Carlton's "Private Property" (Casablanca) came and went without a murmur - but the track "Thank You For Sticking Around", which falls into a tuneful mid-tempo groove, definitely deserves more attention...Fire Fox consist of two rather raunchy-looking ladies, but I'm afraid their Ollie Brown-produced debut LP "Fire" (Atlantic) isn't up to much - except for the title track, which is on 12-inch anyhow...Paul Laurence's "Haven't You Heard" (Capitol) has been going great guns, mainly due to the mid-tempo goodie "Strung Out", and the hard-hitting "Racism" - although the other strong cut "There Ain't Nothin' (Like Your Lovin')", can be found on the B-side of his U.K. 12-inch...Krystol's "Talk Of The Town" (Epic) contains one gorgeous slowish cut "Hard To Believe", with genuinely soulful vocals from the girls, but this has got sadly lost on an otherwise mediocre album...Bobby Bland makes consistently good, albeit uncommercial albums - but his latest, "Members Only" (Malaco), might well garner extra sales, due to the highly soulful melodic title track, the equally soulful slowie "Can We Make Love Tonight", and his version of Elvis Presley's "In The Ghetto" - not to mention yet another version of the bluesy classic "I Need Your Love So Bad"!...Two Latin-jazz albums of note are Tito Puente's "Mambo Diablo" (Picante), which has versions of "Take Five", "Lush Life", "Pick Yourself Up", and "Lullabye Of Birdland" on it; and Poncho Sanchez' "El Conguero" (Concord Jazz) - my favourite track being "Tin Tin Deo".

JAPANESE LPs

NANCY WILSON: "Keep You Satisfied" (Interface)

If you can only afford one Jap. album this year, go out and buy this - you won't be disappointed! Nancy has been making albums for more years than I can remember, and her sophisticated jazzy tones are a delight on such tracks as the Temptations' "Just To Keep You In My Life", George Michael's "Careless Whisper", the superbly funky up-beat jazz number "We've Got Love" (hip dance-floor filler) - and a number of wispy slowies, such as "Early Morning", "Winter Green And Summer Blue", which has a haunting harmonica solo from Toots Thielemans; and my favourite, "Just To Keep You Satisfied" - great late-nite stuff - utterly ethereal. Somebody should release this album fast over here.

Other Jap. LPs: Randy Brecker & Eliane Elias have released an album called "Amanda" (Canyon) on which you can find the funky driving "Splash"; the fiercely fast Latin-ish "Samba De Bamba"; and the gentle wispy bossa-nova-ish "Amandamada" - the last two having a few female chorus vocals in the background...Larry Graham is back with an album called "Fired Up" (Warner-Pioneer) - yet to be released in the USA incredibly, from which my favourite track is the slowish mellow funkier "Love All The Hurt Away"; on a more funky and fast note, however, there's "What We All Need Is More Love" and "Fired Up"; while the slightly more down-tempo "Tearing Out My Heart" is also the recent U.S. 7-inch...Naoya Matsuoka's "Splash & Flash" (Warner) is selling on account of the highly danceable fast Latin-ish title track...Yasuki Agawa's "Lady September" (Invitation) doesn't contain another "L.A. Nights", but there's some pleasant vocal numbers, best of which is the mellow atmospheric "I'm Waiting", which someone could do a great cover version of; and the old-fashioned but neat sexy fast funkier "Voo Doo" - where the female chorus works better than the solo female vocals!...Rie Akagi's "Puzzle" (Eastworld) is noteworthy for a flute-led interpretation of AWB's classic "Pick Up The Pieces"; other good tracks are the fast striking Latin-tinged "Jugo De Pina"; the more laid-back "Stranger In Paradise" classic; the fascinating afro-reggae pop number "Momo No Hana"; and - incredibly - Leo Sayer's "You Make Me Feel Like Dancin'" - all instrumentals...Teruo Nakamura's "Super Friends" (Eastworld) contains one really excellent jazz-funk vocal, featuring Lonnie Groves on vocals, Larry Carlton, Mark Gray, Steve Gadd, Marcus Miller etc. - entitled "When You're Near" - reminding me very much of Hubert Laws' classic "Family"; the rest of the album isn't bad either...Finally for lovers of rather straighter jazz, check out the Manhattan Jazz Quintet's "Autumn Leaves" (Paddle Wheel) featuring Lew Soloff, George Young, David Matthews, Charnett Moffett, and Steve Gadd; I especially like "Jordu" and "Recado Bossa Nova".

12" SINGLES

I don't need to tell you about all the biggies, but there are a few goodies that are being missed; on the import front, California Executives' "I Don't Know Why" (Williams), is one of the most striking dirt-slowies around (7½ minutes of it), complete with blinding sax break towards the end; likewise Ebo's "I'd Rather Be By Myslef" (Domino) - just under 7 minutes of dirt-slow magic, complete with impassioned rap towards the end... On the mid-tempo front, I'm surprised to see the Catch 12" "Amnesia" (Variety International) not doing better - a really tuneful sound with appealing slightly quavery male vocals.

On the U.K. side, I'm glad to see Johnny Dean's excellent lazy "Sitting Around My Table" dirt-slowie picked up by Move records and doing a bit - extended, incidentally, to 6 minutes (watch out for "Move Into Soul Part II", featuring excellent David Sea track, amongst others)...Oliver Cheatham has come up with another fine double-header - "Turning Point"/"Play Me. Trade Me" (Move) - when is his album, first featured on Solar months ago as part of an Oliver Cheatham interview with Sammy Jay, going to be released?...Flip over that rather dreadful Eighth Wonder 12-inch, and find the mellow Sade-ish "Open Your Mind" - very nice indeed, showing some surprising hidden talent.

U.S. "LITTLE LABEL" 7" SINGLES

ANTONIO: "Another Lonely Night"/"Don't You Want My Love" (Waylo)

Absolutely gorgeous soulful slowie with great close-harmonies during the chorus; fits in great next to the current Meli'sa Morgan 12-inch, currently being raved about. Flip is mid-tempo, tuneful, and highly classy as well. Worth shopping around to get.

Other indie 7" of note: Ray, Goodman & Brown's "Say You Will" (Panoramic) is slowish, laid-back, and melodic, with the usual impeccable harmonies...Hard Cover's "Do You Care (Like You Say You Do)" (Shanty Town) was written and produced by Holland-Dozier-Holland, and is a tight insidious semi-slowie, with strident female vocal lead - do I hear Lamont in there somewhere?...Jerry Butler is back on the scene - with Theresa Davis - on a good catchy mid-tempo duet, with some crossover appeal...Andrew Barrax' "I Just Seem To Forget" (Bama) is a snappy handclapping mid-tempo funkier, with appealing deepish male vocals - picking up quite a bit of interest...Clarence Jackson's "Do It All Over Again"/"Wrap It Up" (R&R) is a two-sided goodie - top-side being a striking slowie with gruff vocals, flip being a tuneful mid-tempo plodder with synthesizer backing. (...TONY MONSON)

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T. shirts & caps available with the JIFS logo £3.50 each

Mail order service also available

Please bring this ad. along to the shop, along with the vouchers below and get probably the cheapest Import Albums around.

 <div data-bbox="486 1556 766 1736" style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>50p OFF MARKED PRICE IMPORT ALBUM</p> </div> <p>CANNOT BE USED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. MAXIMUM TWO VOUCHERS PER ALBUM.</p> <p>VALID UNTIL..... Subject to the conditions displayed in the shop.</p> <p>JIFS RECORDS 244 HIGH ROAD, CHADWELL HEATH, ESSEX 01-599 1471</p>	 <div data-bbox="1109 1556 1388 1736" style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>50p OFF MARKED PRICE IMPORT ALBUM</p> </div> <p>CANNOT BE USED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. MAXIMUM TWO VOUCHERS PER ALBUM.</p> <p>VALID UNTIL..... Subject to the conditions displayed in the shop.</p> <p>JIFS RECORDS 244 HIGH ROAD, CHADWELL HEATH, ESSEX 01-599 1471</p>
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JIFS RECORDS 244 High Road, Chadwell Heath, Essex RM6 6AF
Telephone: 01-599 1471