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Songwriter Bofill Looking For Cosmic Funk

Maybe raw cherry bark and hyssop tea won't give you a voice like that of Angela Bofill, but for the 27-year-old with a heart of gold, natural food is a way of life (she carries a trunk of herbs

with her on the road).

"If we have to have categories, why can't we just call ourselves 'earthlings'," she pondered during our interview, "This business of male against female, black against white, American against Russian, simply has no future." Bofill has a commitment to message songs and chooses her material very carefully for lyrical content.

"I want to do some really cosmic funk, to save our planet," she told me. "I would like to write and perform with Stevie Wonder, too; he's written some great things on universal love. In fact, I don't care if he just comes along and plays harmonica.

"I do a lot of reflecting," she says of her songwriting, "on my own life and on the state of the world today. I have my own philosophies, I suppose because I'm always on the move and, of course, New York is not the calmest place. I have had to develop a peaceful center, philosophically speaking.

Bofill not only has a bachelor's in Music from the Hartford Conservatory of Music, and is thus qualified to teach, she writes much of her own material. She was first identified by a rich multi-media jazz suite, "Under The Moon And Over The Sky", the lead cut on her first album.

"We just love her to pieces," a spokesman for Arista said. The label has put a major commitment behind promotion of her third album, "Something About You". "I think she's kind of regarded as the baby here," I was told. "We're all very proud of

With a two-and-a-half octave range, Bofill on stage combines the originality of Stevie Wonder with the warmth of Gladys Knight, the soft funk of Lionel Richie and the kind of pop appeal for older audiences (that will ultimately take her to Las Vegas) of an Eydie Gorme.

Opening for Bofill was composer Rodney Franklin ("Hill St. Blues" and "The Grove"). Despite his catchy jazz piano compositions, the man has no real sense of theatre. Not all artists

belong in front of a concert audience.

The double bill of Michael Henderson and Bobby Womack was a predictable sellout in Washington, D.C. Henderson is a solid showman, too funky for Las Vegas but with a full-bodied voice that stings with just the right after taste, like vintage wine. His re-do of "Make It Easy On Yourself," available in the stores as a single, could easily give him a strong basis for crossover pop appeal. He seduces an audience gracefully. Womack, doing his own thing as always, was an equal show-stopper. My interview with him will come in a later column; he's back on the charts with LP "The Poet" and single "If You Think You're Lonely Now". And record execs thought this author of 600 songs and hits for the Rolling Stones, Janis Joplin and Sly Stone was all washed up. .

Al Green, Genobia Jeter and Shirley Caesar matched up for three hours of Grammy quality gospel, but promoters take note, the concert is all Caesar's. Green's top bill diminished as 30%

walked after her hour.

Mayor Andrew Young was photographed at Atlanta's allwhite Piedmont Driving Club. Peter Duchin's orchestra played for the \$100,000 fundraiser for Piedmont Hospital. Dessert was napoleons with Grand Marnier cream filling.

"Ragtime" star Howard E. Rollins, Jr., will be guesting on NBC soap "Another World" for four weeks, starting March 9. Aretha Franklin is in Jamaica taping 90-minute TV special with James Brown. Over 150 stations have signed to air that feature.

Sex kitten Pia Zadora, a frequent luncheon companion when I lived in Las Vegas, is delighted that her new movie with Stacey Keach and Orson Welles is breaking box office records in New York despite sniping from the New York Times reviewers. I haven't seen "Butterfly" yet, so can't comment. Hubbie Mesulam Riklis bought the book rights and financed the movie to give her a film break. With \$250 million, he can afford it. She's a frequent performer at his Riviera Hotel & Casino in Vegas.

Lloyds of London has popped for \$3 million to try to bale out MGM's "Brainstorming" rather than pay \$15 million to shelve the Natalle Wood project. MGM still might if they don't like the

results.

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Tuesday Evening

March 9, 1982

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8 15 30 45	Simon & Simon	Father Murphy	Simon & Simon	Life On Earth 	The Waltons	Happy Days Laverne & Shirley	vs. Denver	Happy Days Laverne & Shirley
9 15 30 45	CBS Movie: ''Between Two Brothers''	Bret Maverick	CBS Movie: 'Between Two Brothers'	River Of Sand	Merv Griffin	Three's Company Too Close For Comfort	0 0 0	Three's Company Too Close For Comfort
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Wednesday Evening

March 10, 1982

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8 15 30 45	BugsBunny BugsBunny	Real People	BugsBunny BigsBunny	National Geographic	The Waltons	Greatest American Hero	TBS Theatre:	Greatest American Hero
9 15 30 45	CBS Movie: ''A Shining Season'	Facts Of Life Love Sidney	CBS Movie: "A Shining Season"	Marx Brothers	Merv Griffin	The Fall Guy		The Fall Guy
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Thursday Evening

March 11, 1982

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