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Vibes art music personalities

Drummer Moves to a Different 'Beat' lot influenced by Earth, up because I felt I could

By John W. Templeton Staff Writer

His music is complex ers." with pulsating rhythms from six different instruments--the product of years of playing with some of the preatest musicians in sou and disco music--but Hamilton Bohannon has a very simple purpose in mind.

"I just like sto be a different person." said the drummer and bandleader in his hotel room prior to fast Saturday's show at the Winston-Salem Coliseum.

"I hear a lot of groups-the majority of the groups -which sound like everybody else," he added.

: "I wouldn't be satisfied sounding like anybody else; there's so much music out there." Bohannon said with a shrug. "Mostly everybody is influenced by Sly (and the Family Stone); a

Wind and Fire and a lot try become a professional muto be like the Ohio Play- sician."

And the Aller and the set of the Alt Color the set

By high school. Bohannon had started, a dance However, Bohannon has band. He received a music carved out a niche of his

scholarship to Clark Colown in the crowded record lege, where he received a world. His sound has been A in music erimation ermed the bear for the

In Atlanta, his career rhythms he creates fnot only with his drums, but began to take off. ohannon began playing in the band with such instruments as of Gordon George', a musiguitar and keyboard. cian who also emceed the 'My music is about be-

ing happy; most of my major concerts in the city. music is up-tempo, foot Also playing in the band as stomping, hand clapping. George's valet and guitarist You won't hear anything

negative in my music." IThe roots of the Bohannon sound go back to the where he was born. "I was into music before I started school. But I was also a pretty good baseball player. When I was 8 or 9, I

played on a grown-up team.

As I got older. I gave that

was Jimi Hendrix. During 1965, George was emceeing a Jackie Wilson show, which included rural town of Newnan, Ga., Gladys Knight and the Pips, Moms Mabley and Stevie Wonder, who was to play a major gole in Bohan-

non's career. "He (Wonder) was inside the hall on the stage playing the piano," said

By Joe Daniels





ship."

drummer, but he wanted there." he said. me as much for a friend as anything else " added Bo- (being on my own). I had a His newest venture is an hannon. "He was different big band before with 12 upcoming album by Carofrom everybody else on the horns; then, I had none. It line Crawford, vocalist with tour, no drinking, no smok- was a big thing to go from a his group. "My goals righ. ing habit. I didn't drink or big orchestra to an all now are to get her album smoke wither and we were rhythm group. both younger than every-

one else." with Wilson and company still sticks out as the greatest thrill in Bohannon's mind. "We went all over the place," he recalled.

After two years with was made number one road band leader for Motown. For five years, he toured with Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross and the Supremes, the Four Tops, The Temptations, Smokey Robinson and the Spinners.

The time then came for Bohannon to leave Motown

Bohannon. "I just walked as the company phased out such a set up is not for up and started banging on its in-house band in favor of everybody. top of the piano. That's picking up musicians for "You can hurt yourself if what started our friend- limited periods. "I left you try to write and can't

Bohannon has made his and to make my latest

mark since the early 1970s album, "Summertime That cross-country tour with danceable tunes with Groove" gold." he said. simple lyrics. Some critics Bohannon said he tried to of disco music attack the keep his private life to repetition of bohannon and himself, but he did reveal other disco stars.

you don't hear anything stars--he likes to listen to Stevie Wonder, ohannon simple with all the syncopa- semi-classical music in his tion we do," he retorted. spare time and he likes to "It's never easy to get a hit go to church every Sunday. record. After you record,

there's no guarantee you'll life to the public the get it played."

tion are areas Bohannon has to concern himself with. He writes and produces all his music and

that 10 per cent is pure owns three music publishhappiness with no stress ing companies, but he said

The already exciting foot- doing one of their many

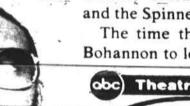
ball game got even more original sets. Although the intense at the half as the vocals were not strong at heams departed and the the beginning (due to PA marching band rivalry filled problems), they made up

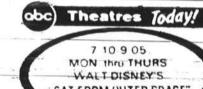
Sounds

sound check".

copied into the brain. His Clearly, his fans are hy- show was boring and was pnotized by his driving deficient in originality.

Bohannon







Motown because there was write," he said. "So the "I joined him as his nothing else I could "do best thing to do is to let someone else write and you "It was quite different just be the artist."

cut and possibly go gold

two things not generally

"If you hear my music, assoaciated with disco

"I give 10 per cent of my other 90 per cent I keep to Production and distribu- myself. That includes all the problems in my private life. I deal with that myself. "What I hope to gibe in

and strain," he concluded.

Machine's Drum Majors cranked them up and they RAN onto the field. As well as they excuted their precision drills, the sound power vamp (a little too long) and suffered greatly. One could tell that they worked very hard at learning the steps but neglected the music somewhat.

It's very hard for bands doing precisions to containf the volume with different sections moving in different directions. There were signs of their growing into some of the strenuous techniques - that - other MEAC marching bands employ. Their selection and arrangements of songs was yery good.

The Marching Rams took command of the field and opened to the fanfare of "Last Dance" and proceeded to do a precision drill to the tune which immediately yon over the audience. They also clinched the crowd with the band's rendition of "Close The Door" by PENDERGRASS.

Finally, the band and audience joined together for a chorus of Foxxy's "Get Off". Although the precision was a little weak. they sounded and looked their best of the night on this cut as the group divided, bounced, sand and danced across the field.

The Marching Rams lack the power of the earlier days. It's drop in membership has also taken its toll in sound elasticity. There is much talent strolling around the WSSU campus. but if you find out why the younger generation is hap-Press Conference. You'll' soon be getting a NOBEL PEACEPRIZE ...

ISREAL, a new local group took the invitation to be the opening act at the BAR KAYS show this past Saturday night. The show was promoted and produced by an outside agent but was in conjunction with the WS State University Student Government Association (One wonders why Mr. Georgie Woods wasn't contacted...)

Clad in robes and wigs,

ISREAL opened the show

for it by the end. The The A&T Marching rhythm section is fat and meaty and John Hauser adds the right spices with his locally unparalleled lead The majority of the songs need musical ideas to continue to hold audience attention as long as they performed them.

> This group is from Winston and has serious financial backing, a hard working team including muscians, staff and road crew (all the goodies it takes to get it on). They soon will be releasing one of their recently recorded cuts.

The BAR KAYS have made five Piedmont-Triad appearances in the past nine months. The same show was used on all five engagements. It was minus the smoke screen but still was tight, lively and exciting. They are presently working on their soon to be released LP* LILGHT OF LIFE on Mecury Records. Talking to LARRY DOB-SON the lead vocalist, I discovered the new album is being remixed and should be pressed and packaged by the end of the month and released in October.

The show turned out a little after two AM and a very tired crowd turned their backs and went to the next gig (Probably the already congested La Terre XXI). It seems that only a few people can promote the W-S Coliseum for nonecomplicated engagements. If the support from WSSU Student Body Saturday was a preview of HOME. py doing nothing, call a COMING 78', the Student Government had better direct their attention towards the "High School Jet Set" that really turned out for the affair...

> BOHANNON, next up was a little upset because he wanted to headline the show. To make known his



Shelly Bynum

He Takes Over When the Others Take Off!

resentment, he left to go to the hotel thirty minutes before he was to go on. He showed up an hour later and still put on his entire act. Performing his old and new hits. Hamilton at one

point was snouting repetitiously "We don't need no



