



**THE HEAT...New Musical Group**

## New Musical Group Is Making Giant Strides

By JOANNE MOORE  
Post Society Writer  
It's hot, it's smoking, it's HEAT!

For those of you who are not hip to this new group in town, take a moment to check this out and learn about them.

HEAT is a group of talented young artists who are making a collective effort to produce a unique sound that will thoroughly entertain audiences and at the same time make some financial gains for themselves.

The group was organized last October by a very dedicated and determined gentleman by the name of Robert Metz. They began with a five piece band and four singers and called themselves "The Sensations".

After realizing the name Sensations had already been coined by another group, they came up with another name described their mood, their objective and their sound. They were named 'Heat'.

"We gave our first performance on October 27 at the McCrory Branch YMCA at a community Halloween dance. We pulled about \$42 on that first night," recalled Mr. Metz.

After seven months of playing together, the group now averages about \$500 to \$600 per performance said Mr. Metz.

The group currently consists of a seven-piece band and four vocalists. "We've made several replacements throughout the group since we began in an effort to better the group," he explained.

HEAT has a very versatile sound, Mr. Metz informed. "We play jazz, blues, soul, hard rock and beach music (songs by the Drifters, Tams and Zodiacs)," he said. This is an attempt to please the varied audiences that the band performs for.

Practicing twice weekly, the band is constantly seeking to perfect its sound. Mr. Metz said that since his group is expecting to cut its record within the next month or so, perfection is a must.

Contributing to the group's sound are lead guitarist Steve who is from Manhattan, N.Y.; Gerrard Benson, base player, who is from Charlotte; Drum Player, Bobby, a New York City slickster; organist Thomas Lesesne a native of Pittsburg, Pa.; Richard from Knoxville, Tenn. playing the

Congos; another Charlottean, Ernest on the Trumpet; saxophone man Henry Jackson a local artist; and vocalists, LaJewel Gibson, Larry Shuler and Jackie Torrence.

The band has made appearances in Charlotte and several cities throughout North and South Carolina. With good management behind them and Metz says that poor management is often many group's downfall, HEAT will continue to present its fiery sound to audiences all over the country.

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