

Movies

Theatres

Dining

# ENTERTAINMENT

## THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlotte's Finest Growing Community Weekly

Dancing

Shows

Lounges

Thursday, March 23, 1978-THE CHARLOTTE POST-Page 1B

New Rufus,

Chaka Khan

### LP Strikes Gold

Street Player, Rufus and Chaka Khan's sixth ABC album, has been certified gold by the R.I.A.A.

The LP, released Jan. 20, follows the immense success of the group's 1977 album, Ask RUFUS, which recently received platinum certification.

In honor of the group's on going sales achievements, ABC Records recently held a special dinner for the group at LeDome Restaurant in Los Angeles. Top ABC executives, group management representatives, and band members were among those in attendance. During the evening, Street Player gold albums

"Stay" is the new single from Street Player. Rufus and Chaka Khan embark on an extensive, two-month national tour beginning March 17 in Houston, Texas.

Channel 9 To Air

"King Of Kings"

Easter Sunday

The classic Easter epic, "King of Kings," an elaborately told story of Jesus of

Nazareth, will be presented on Chamel Nine Easter Sunday, March 26 at 3:30 p.m. on Academy Award Theatre.

The original Cecil B. De-Mille film opens in the house of Mary Magdalene who later becomes one of Jesus's most devoted followers. As the story unravels, the life and works of Jesus are highlighted and the characters of each of his disciples are developed.

Flip Wilson To

Appear On Milton

Berle Special

Johnny Carson, Gene Kelly, Donny and Marie Osmond, Gregory Peck, Frank Sinatra, Mario Thomas, and Flip Wilson heighten the star list of "A Tribute to Mr. Television Milton Berle" on Channel Nine Sunday, March 26 at 9 p.m.

They join Lucille Ball, Joey Bishop, George Carlin, Angie Dickinson, Kirk Douglas, Bob Hope, Gabriel Kaplan, Kermit the frog, Carl Reiner, and Don Rickles.



R. D. HUDMON

...Taught himself to play

## R. D. Hudmon's Music Is

### Classified As Classical Soul

By Cynthia Bell  
Post Staff Writer

"Closer To You" represents one of the best rhythm and blues LPs released in the 70's. R.D. Hudmon, who recorded this album says, "I'M SINGING what I feel. I can't do a song if I don't feel it."

R.D.'s music can be classified as Classical Soul. His style of music is strictly rhythm and blues. He has been influenced by many great soul artist like Otis Redding, Wilson Pickett, Sam Cooke, Percy Sledge, and Solomon Bur-

rk. Born under the sign of Leo, R. D. became interested in piano at the early age of six. He couldn't help but pick it up since both his mother and sister played. R. D., however, taught himself to play, first on the black and then the white keys. "It's a self-taught thing, really," says R. D.

His first performing experience was in church where he sang and played gospel songs like "The Lord Will Make A

Way" and "What A Friend We Have In Jesus." He can remember liking church and singing with the choirs. At a very young age, he played for three different church choirs until he made his first record at the age of 12.

"Everybody in my community would want me to come over and play piano for them and sing gospel songs," says Hudmon. "I never stopped going to church. I was a real hard believer in God and I still am - but I got out of playing for the church," he recalls. He felt that he had a greater potential and he wasn't reaching it with the church.

He met a local group called "The Stolen Children" and his father put-up money for the group to make their first recording.

Friends heard him playing blues on the piano at a party at his house and insisted that he go to Atlanta and let Joe South hear him. His parents were skeptical at first but finally agreed for the trip. R. D.

made a demo of "Yesterday", the old tune and Joe South really like it.

Gwen Kesler had started her own distributorship and Hudmon went to work for her as a record promotion man working about 25 different labels as well as his own record on the side. Joe Galkin, the Miami-based promotion man, who had promoted successful artist like Otis Redding, Solomon Burke, and Joe Tex for Atlantic persuaded Atlantic to pick up the rights to Hudmon's own "How Can I Be A Witness." Sales for the single sky rocketted and Hudmon gave up his job as promotion man and returned to live performances. This single was awarded a gold record for its sales in South Africa.

He released two follow-up singles, "Whatever Makes You Happy" and "This Could Be The Night", which paved the way to his debut LP "Closer To You."

Sammy Davis, Jr.

To Be Featured

On Oscar Show

Sammy Davis, Jr. will be featured in a special production number on the 50th Annual Awards Presentation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Producer Howard W. Koch announced today.

Davis will sing "Come Light the Candles" described as a ballad relating to the evening, Oscar's Golden Jubilee Celebration. He will be accompanied on the piano by Marvin Hamlisch, who wrote the song with Carole Bayer Sager.

This will be Davis' sixth appearance on the Oscar show, dating back to 1959. He has performed on every occasion, singing nominated or specialty songs and serving as master of ceremonies twice. He last appeared in 1974.

Oscars for outstanding film achievements of 1977 will be presented Monday, April 3, at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Los Angeles Music Center. The show will be telecast live by the ABC Television Network, starting at 7 p.m., Los Angeles time.

Roberta Flack's

Newest Album

Strikes Gold

"Blue Lights in the Basement," by Atlantic's recording artist Roberta Flack has been certified gold for sales over 500,000 units. Both the album and the single "The Closer I Get To You" (recorded with Donny Hathaway) are enjoying success on pop and rhythm and blues charts.

A special surprise luncheon was held for Ms. Flack when she was presented her gold album for "Blue Lights In The Basement." This album is the seventh for the label and many of Atlantic's executives were on hand to help her celebrate number seven.

Currently Ms. Flack has launched a 19 city tour across the United States. She will appear in Charlotte on April 23 at Ovens Auditorium with CBS recording star Bill Withers. Musicians to accompany Ms. Flack in concert will be Harry Whitaker who is musical Director, arranger, and plays keyboards, Howard King (drummer), James Mtume on percussion, and Brenda White getting down on vocals.