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## THE CHARLOTTE POST

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### Kool Jazz Festival Star

## McCann Is Dynamic Creator

By Karen Parker  
Post Staff Writer

When you hear about a producer who helped entertainers like Lou Rawls and Roberta Flack record their first albums, you know that has to be a dynamic creator.

It's someone who's enveloped in an aura of musical grandeur. It's Les McCann.

"McCann the Man," someone described that album as a haunting free-form expression. After all, McCann has an ever-changing style. You'll be able to grasp it all at the Kool Jazz Festival. McCann will be on stage

Friday, June 22, the first night of the three-day festival in Hampton Coliseum (Hampton, VA).

McCann's introduction to professional entertaining is humorous, yet it illustrates a sense of determination. The story goes: McCann left Lexington, KY., at age 17. He departed promising when he returned he would "be somebody."

McCann joined the Navy, with a strong desire to perform with the Navy School of Music. However, incapable of reading sheet music, he was turned down. One day McCann heard Errol Garner playing "Lullaby of Bird-

land." He was so entranced he broke formation, took an about face and went over to hear that beautiful distraction.

"I got in a whole lot of trouble," McCann recalled. But, through an officer he was provided with a place to practice his new love: piano. Later, McCann entered the All Navy Talent Show. He won, and subsequently appeared on the "Ed Sullivan Show."

McCann, also known as The Father of Fusion, was the first musician to teach at Harvard in the Learning From Performers program. He's had many acclaimed European tours. He went to Africa with Ike & Tina Turner, Wilson Pickett, Santana, Roberta Flack and many others. The film "Soul to Soul" was made from that tour. McCann was the narrator.

But you won't want anyone narrating McCann's Hampton act. You'll want to witness McCann on the keyboard, on the horn, and certainly vocally. "My music is inspired by my faith in people—people changing for the better," McCann commented. If you want to be a part of the inspiration which McCann described, meet him at the Kool Jazz Festival next month.

Now take a look at the artist list. The lineup is Friday, June 22, 7:30 p.m.: Gladys Knight & the Pips, B.B. King, Les McCann and Stanley Turrentine with Shirley Scott. Saturday, June 23, 7:30 p.m.: Al Jarreau, David Sanborn and Patti Austin with the Tom Scott Band; Sunday, June 24, 3 p.m.: Patti LaBelle, Pointer Sisters, Bob James, and Pieces of a Dream.

Tickets are \$15 and \$14 per night. All seats are reserved. For more information, write or telephone the Hampton Coliseum, P.O. Box 7309, Hampton, VA. 23666; (804) 838-4203.



Les McCann

.....To perform at Kool Jazz Festival

### Druid Hills Club To Sponsor Fashion Show

The Druid Hills Garden Club met recently at the home of Eva Wiley.

Plans were discussed for the upcoming fashion show. Persons interested in modeling were encouraged to notify Mrs. Ellis. It was decided that music for the fashion show will be provided by children.

Another topic for discussion was the idea of a Youth Garden Club. Each member was asked to contact enough children for this project. Minnie Connor will organize the youth.

Also at the meeting, Edna Gaston was voted third vice president and project chairperson. Sadie English presented new ideas for the club to consider.

Members, Minnie Connor and Roberta Lyles shared

with the group the ideas they learned at a recent flower arranging workshop. Important facts were given on container sizes, frogs, wire colors and flowers for producing beautiful arrangements.

In attendance at the meeting were: Inez Ellis, Sadie English, Sophease Blackmon, Edna Gaston, Minnie Connor, Roberta Lyles, Della Simmons, Hattie McCree, Lois Love and Hazeline Lane.

### "Solid Gold Hits" To Air

"Solid Gold Hits," a half-hour rock music strip, featuring the industry's top artists in performances as well as the newest music videos, premieres June 4 at 12 midnight on WSOC-TV, Channel 9.

Grant Goodeve, best known for his starring role on the long-running "Eight Is Enough" and his recurring role on ABC's hit series, "Dynasty," is the host.

In the tradition of the hour-long "Solid Gold" series, which airs each Sunday at 7 p.m. on Channel 9, "Solid Gold Hits" will premiere with such major recording artists as Rick Springfield, Duran Duran, Culture Club, Frank Stallone, Huey Lewis and the News, and Missing Persons.

The "Solid Gold Hits" dancers will demonstrate their versatility in jazz.

### CPCC Chamber Choir

#### Stages Broadway Revue

Belle Banks has an answer for Johnny Carson if he ever asks her choral group the famous question, "How far is it off Broadway?"

It's so far off Broadway they call their musical revue "580 Miles Off Broadway."

In Hodson Hall on the Davidson College campus, to be exact.

Belle is part of the North Mecklenburg Community Chorus, a chamber choir voice class of Central Pied-

mont Community College's North Area Learning Center.

The 48 people in the choir will sing and dance to the nostalgic sounds of Broadway music through the years at a concert this Friday and Saturday night.

Members of the choir range in age from 20 to 75. Director is J.D. Morrison, who teaches at West Mecklenburg High School and is Choir director at Steele Creek Presbyterian Church.

"This is the largest choir we have," said Gene Byrant, head of CPCC's Music Department. "They do some pretty sophisticated music and the show is choreographed. It's been delightful to watch the group grow."

When the Chorus presented its first concert year before last, it was a sell-out. And this year's show promises to be standing room only also.

Admission is \$3 for the 8 p.m. concerts. For additional information or for reservations, call Mrs. W.A. Hough at 875-6935.

### DeWalt Wins

Derrick DeWalt, son of Ms. Barbara DeWalt, 2817 Bancroft St., Charlotte, received the Martin Luther King Award at Lawrence University's Honors Convocation.

The King Award is given to a senior who best mirrors the excellence for which Dr. King is remembered.

DeWalt will graduate from Lawrence June 10 with a major in history.

Dewalt graduated from Independence High School in 1979.