

## ARTS

## Bob Marley and the Wailers rocked for justice

By MICHELLE TENHENGEL  
Arts Editor

As the average discophile enters a record store, he probably heads toward Madonna's glossy latest hit, Rat's newest tune, or some other MTV garbage that has infiltrated the shelves, but what about reggae? "Reggae?" the shopper would ask, "Ain't he that famous baseball player, Reggae Jackson, of the California Angels?"

But, reggae (not Reggie) is the musical blood of the Jamaican people that unites them in songs of love, ganja, Jah and injustices encountered by the Rastafarians — followers of the Holy Piby which is known as "The Black Man's Bible" and led by Haile Selassie, the late Ethiopian emperor, who believe the black man will reign supreme someday.

There are many reggae groups that have outstanding songs and albums. Performers such as Peter Tosh, Yellowman, Aswad, Black Uhuru, Steel Pulse, Toots and the Maytals, Jimmy Cliff, Desmond Dekker, Bunny Livingston, Burning Spear, The Slickers, Pablo Moses and others have more than earned their space on the record store shelves. But the god of the reggae world, undoubt-

edly, is Bob Marley.

Marley, born in Jamaica Feb. 6, 1945, to an African mother named Cedella Malcolm and a white English father named Captain Norval Sinclair Marley, broke onto the music charts with the Wailers' first hit single "Simmer Down" in late 1963, early 1964. "Simmer Down" was a plea to the gangs of Jamaica to stop their violence and halt the crimes that had reached epidemic proportions.

However, the song and subsequent releases with the same motif made the street criminals celebrities. Not until R & B greats Jimi Hendrix and Sly Stone revitalized the reggae sound by motivating the Wailers to continue their music did reggae get the attention it deserved.

Marley and the Wailers brought attention to the social and political problems people of the Third World, particularly the Rastafarians, were suffering at the hands of the white man. Marley and the Wailers began to weave their music with political themes of injustices done by the government and police to the Rastas. "Rebel Music (3 O'clock Road Block)" and "Them Belly Full (But We Hungry)" brought to the attention of the government that the

oppressed blacks of the Jamaican ghettos were a strong and volatile political force.

After 11 records under the Island label, Marley had reached stardom. By 1976, he and the Wailers were internationally known as a musical and political force. Each concert on their tours was a sell-out and millions of albums were sold in countries in which they never even performed.

For the years to follow, Marley became a leading political and spiritual figure until May 1981, when he died of brain, liver, and lung cancer. Buried with his Gibson guitar and the Bible open to the 23rd Psalm, he ended the first chapter of reggae as it is known today.

Marley gave the music world many reggae songs that are now standards by which other reggae artists are compared. Marley's most powerful songs are the ones which make political and social statements. For example, "Get Up Stand Up" makes political, social and religious statements such as "Stand up for your rights" and "Mighty God is a living man," which refers to Haile Selassie.

Another example is "Exodus," the Wailers' album released in 1977. The title song, "Exodus," is a message

about Jah's people and the suffering that has been inflicted upon them. "Men and women will fight you down/When ya see Jah light/Let me tell you, if you're not wrong/Everything is all right/Walk, through the roads of creation/We're the generation/Who trod through great tribulation/Exodus, movement of Jah people . . ."

Marley was a musical prophet who preached the words of love, peace and brotherhood for all. Yet he held a very powerful position as a spokesman for the Jamaican Rastamen. Marley's life was even threatened on Dec. 3, 1976. In 1979, the Wailers' "Survival" album contained a song about the assassination attempt on Marley's life called "Ambush in the Night" with the lyrics: "See them fighting for power/But they know not the hour/So they bribing with their guns, spare parts, and money/Trying to belittle our integrity/They say what we know/Is just what they teach us/We're so ignorant/Everytime they can reach us/Through political strategy/They keep us hungry/When you gonna get some food/Your brother got to be your enemy."

Other songs that are considered Bob Marley's greatest hits are

"Kaya," "Jamming," "I Shot the Sheriff," "Is This Love," "Redemption Song," "One Love/People Get Ready," "Natural Mystic," "Guiltiness," "Easy Skanking," and "Three Little Birds" that should be included in any reggae collection.

By the early 1970s, reggae had expanded its popularity into mainstream English and American music. Stars in the pop industry like Stevie Wonder, the Rolling Stones and the Clash recognized and incorporated the reggae-funk sound in their music. It was not until 1974, when Eric Clapton dropped a bomb on the music world by reaching the Number One spot on English and U.S. charts with his version of Marley's "I Shot the Sheriff," that reggae and Marley had earned their rightful spot in music history.

## WEEK'S FARE

## TODAY

**31** The Native American/Indian display of art, craft, poetry and literature will end at Internationalist Books.

Chamber Music from the Library of Congress will feature young artists from around the world in the library's summer chamber festival. Selected works from Milaud, Ulysses Kay, Mozart, and Saint-Saens will be performed at 9 p.m. on WUNC.

## FRIDAY

**1** Tootsie will be shown in the Union Auditorium at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra with Lukas Foss, music director and conductor will perform selected works from Bach/Schoenbert, Mozart, and Beethoven at 9 p.m. on WUNC.

The Raleigh Little Theatre will present "Jack and The Beanstalk" at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. For reservations call 821-3111.

C. W. Metcalf and Friends will present mime theatre with one of the master mimes in the country at 8 p.m. at the ArtSchool.

Hotel Europa will have Beach Night in the King's Club starting at 9 p.m.

The Durham Theatre Guild will present Lorraine Hansberry's drama "The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window" at 8:15 p.m. Please call 688-4259 for reservations.

## SATURDAY

**2** C. W. Metcalf and Friends will present mime theatre with one of the country's premiere mimes at 8 p.m. at the ArtSchool.

The Durham Theatre Guild will present its final performance of "The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window" by Lorraine Hansberry at 8:15 p.m. Please call 688-4259 for reservations.

"The People's Pharmacy," with pharmacologist Joe Graedon will discuss on this week's show "Sports and Fitness" with guests Dr. Robert McMurray, Bob Lyles, and Chip Span on WUNC at 8:30 a.m.

"Sophisticated Lady" with jazz singer Carol Sloane will at 10 a.m. on WUNC 91.5 FM.

"Gary Shivers on Jazz" with

WUNC's general manager and resident jazz expert will air his show at 11 a.m.

"A Prairie Home Companion" will present a "A Prairie Summer Home Concert" at 6 p.m. on WUNC.

## SUNDAY

**3** Sunday Jazz Series at the ArtSchool will present "Focusing on the Blues," a concert of blues music with Rich Ruhlén from 7 to 10 p.m.

The North Carolina Museum of Art will present films on French art featuring "The Impressionists," "Degas," "Renior," and "Cezanne" starting at 3 p.m. The admission is free.

"A Prairie Home Companion" will be aired at 3 p.m. on WUNC.

"International Festival" with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra will be aired with Riccardo Chailly as conductor. Featured works will be Ernst Bechert: Four Pieces for Orchestra; Bartok: Piano Concerto No. 3; and Beethoven: Symphony No. 2. Show time is at 9 p.m. on WUNC.

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"The Orange County Special" will present an unknown variety of traditional, folk, jazz, and blues at 9 a.m. on WXYC 89.3 FM.

"Jazz on Sunday Afternoon" will be aired on WXYC at 12 p.m.

"Northern Hemisphere Live" will have special guest Ken Friedman, a record producer and congressional

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