

# Record



## Corner



Jim Berry

**ON THE JAZZ SCENE...**  
The highly popular German group...Passport...has a new release on the shelves...and if you've enjoyed some of their other albums, such as "Looking Through," then you'll enjoy this one.

It's entitled "Sky Blue," on Atlantic Records. Perhaps part of this group's appeal is that no one expects 7 German musicians to have such a smooth jazz sound.

This album starts slow on side one...but the pace gradually builds until one selection flows into the next. Best cut on side one is "Ataraxia, Part 2," while all of side two is good...the highlight being, "The Secret."

"Freestyle," is the newest from Bobbi Humphrey, and although it just arrived in town last week, the fellas down at the Soul Shack say its already one of the best selling jazz albums.

Bobbi's flute magic receives great backup from the guitars of Eric Gale and David Spinozza...two musicians who must be making a fortune playing backup since they released two solo albums of their own recently.

Bobbi's latest was produced by percussionist Ralph McDonald.

Another jazz LP people are beginning to take note of is the latest release by Jan Akerman. Akerman, like Passport, brings a European flavor to his jazz...this album was recorded in Holland. It, too, is very smooth...with few abrupt changes. Album highlight is "Gate To Europe."

A semi-rock album that should have some crossover jazz appeal is Pete Carr's latest LP...called "Multiple Flash." Carr...like Gale and Spinozza has been very busy as a backup studio musician...He's played with Bobby Womack, Wilson Pickett, Bob Seger, and Rod Stewart...among others...

Carr showcases all of his talents in this album...he plays the spectrum, from rock to jazz to funk.

This is the first time Pete has really been in the forefront since he played lead guitar for the Muscle Shoals Sound Rhythm Section.

This album is mostly instrumental...the one exception is a live version of "Knockin' On Heaven's Door..." on which Carr demonstrates he can also sing.

Another album that has crossover potential is "Rings Around the Moon," by Frank Carillo. Here's another name that doesn't jump out at you at first...but the people he's played with give some indication of his talent as a guitarist...Billy Preston, Eric Clapton, Ringo Starr, and Yvonne Elliman.

Carillo has now put together his own band...the result is an album that has a nice touch of fresh, funk rock.

Parts of the album are a little out of control...but it has some good moments.

### Soul Sounds

Mass Production is back...hoping to keep building on the success they've achieved from two previous albums...Their new album, which should be here soon, is "Three Miles High," on Cotillion Records.

Mass Production for a long while was confused with Brass Construction...in both name and sound. They still maybe hard to tell apart at times...but the most noticeable differences are a stronger keyboard section...and better vocals by Mass Production.

The first single released from the album is "Just Wanna Make A Dream Come True," it's pace is what you're used to getting from this group...fast-paced dancing music.

Some others you may be hearing are "Grove Me," and "Slow Bump."

The hottest soul album in Charlotte right now is Come Get It, by Rick James. Everyone is buying it for James' nine minute version of "You and I."

This is the first album for James and his "Stone City Band," it's available on Motown's Gordy label.

There isn't much else on the album after his hit...with the possible exception of "Stone City Band, Hi."

### Disco Tracks...

Casablanca's answer to Saturday Night fever is finally here...The two-record set of "Thank God, It's Friday," the soundtrack for the movie of the same name...has hit record shelves here...and so far, record store owners say that's where it's staying.

The LP features some big names...among them Diana Ross and Donna Summer...plus all the other disco groups and musicians that play for Casablanca's Records' disco music making factory.

The theme song for the movie is sung by a group called "Love and Kisses."



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# "Westside Story" Is WBTV Movie

Director Jerome Robbins discusses some of the social and moral aspects of "West Side Story," illuminated by a number of the show's songs, which are performed by Carol Lawrence, Mickey Calin and Larry Kert, in a rebroadcast of "Contemporary Theater and Religion," on "...Behold Wondrous Things-1958," Sunday, June 4, at 10 a.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

As the Reverend Sidney Lanier, host of the original broadcast, says, the theater and the church "share a ministry for the 20th century," helping people cope "with the complexities of the age." These attempts at coping are reflected in the songs chosen from the popular Broadway musical and movie. As Riff, gang leader of the Jets, Calin sings "When You're a Jet," which lists the familiar

aspects of gang life. Kert, who plays Tony, the recently "retired" member of the Jets, sings "Something's Coming," a surprising note of hope. Then Kert and Lawrence (as Maria, sister of the rival Sharks' leader) sing their love duet, "Tonight." And Calin sings "Cool." They are accompanied by pianists Joseph Lewis and Sanford Gold.

Robbins, who also choreographed this story of a

modern-day Romeo and Juliet, feels that it is a story of faith, acted out in the shadow of the "H-bomb...and corruption." Introducing "...Behold Wondrous Things-1958," CBS News Correspondent Charles Collingwood outlines the events of that year: Nicolai Bulganin ousted as Soviet Premier by Nikita Krushchev; the French, under De Gaulle, grant independence to Algeria; and in Rome, Pope Pius XII dies and is succeeded by Pope John XXIII.

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