

# Heart Throb Peabo Bryson No Longer Passed Over

"When I was 18, I couldn't even get a date," Peabo Bryson tells me. "I looked like I was 12; I didn't even weigh 100 pounds."

Bryson, whose senuous new Capitol album "I Am Love" reflects an expansive new depth of maturity in both vocal style and lyric intensity, is candid about acknowledging the debt he owes others in overcoming a bad case of early success egotism.

Not that he's given up the Bryson of the natty white suits, shirts open to the waist, crooning passionately while women swoon, but Bryson has tempered that by reaching back to his roots as a gentleman of the old school. "I'm still a farmboy on the inside," he confides. "I may seem chic-de-la-chic on stage, but I haven't forgotten by Southern manners."

The sophistication that is Bryson, however, is a far cry from the Carolinian upbringing that found him working on a farm from age seven. At 12, he won a talent contest, was a working singer by 14 and by age 16 was touring the world.

"I am Love" is Bryson's eighth album, a solid continuation of the songwriter's career on vinyl and still charting after four months. Along the way have been significant solo ventures ("Crosswinds") as well as duet recordings with Roberta Flack, Natalie Cole and Melissa Manchester. The mood of "Love" is mellow and expressive, revealing of Bryson's own character. "In reality," he says, "I am my work, the accumulation of all the characters in my songs seen through all those perspectives. I project all the images because I've personally played all the roles. I relate more to those who want and were denied than to those who had everything and were turned down."

These days, no one turns Bryson down.

## STROBE

by Tim Walter

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dollop of rock and a generous dose of funky down-home R&B jazz and you've got The Dregs' bright, new "Industry Standard," one of the most exciting albums introduced so far this spring.

The Dregs were once known as the Dixie Grits. That evolved into the Dixie Dregs before they became strong, new contenders in the Arista stable of artists. Too powerful to be ignored, the rock-powered jazz is grabbing from the first lick to the last riff.

"Industry Standard" also includes the first vocal tracks ever on a Dregs LP, with guest vocalists Patrick Simmons (Doobie Brothers) and Alex Ligertwood

### No Real Secret To Skyy's Success?

According to Solomon Roberts Jr. of the Salsoul recording act Skyy, there's no real secret to the success of their No. 1 R&B single "Call Me" from the album "Skyyline." "I guess it struck a nerve," says Sol of the song, "and sounded good too. I think people could either identify with the situation, or at least imagine it."

Likewise Skyy's next single is something everyone should be able to relate to -- the rollicking good times of "Let's Celebrate." Explains Sol, "We made it sound like a real party, but the song is actually about something different -- the celebration of love between two people. It's them announcing to themselves: 'We love each other.'

(Santana). Asia's guitarist Steve Howe drops by for "Up In The Air," a classically melodic but entirely too short (at 2½ minutes) excursion into the romantically ethereal.

I suspect you'll hear this album on many differ radio formats; previous albums "Unsung Heroes" and "Dregs Of The Earth" topped the charts for months as the "most-played" jazz oriented LPs on album rock stations.

Both Bryson and The Dregs were signed to record contracts in 1976. Ironically, that was the same year for the discovery of Scott Hamil-

party. So it starts out as a personal salute to love, but by the time we get done it's about something everyone loves -- a good party."

### Dukes Of Hazzard

Cletus is in charge of Hazzard while the Dukes, Boss Hogg and Rosco are held at the Duke farm by escaped prisoners, on "The Dukes of Hazzard," Friday, April 2 at 8 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

Two dangerous criminals escape while being transported through Hazzard and hide out at the Duke farm, holding Luke, Bo, Daisy and Uncle Jesse prisoner.

ton, Concord's stunning tenor saxophone discovery whose full-bodied, mature sound has been sweeping the jazz world.

At 27, Hamilton blows a traditional sweet cool on an old Selmer tenor that, at 30, is older than he is. He's a melody improviser in the family of a Coleman Hawkins or a Ben Webster with just a touch of Buddy Tate.

Concord's latest Hamilton release (he's on 15 other albums) is a collection of great classics called "Apples & Oranges." Included are East and West Coast sessions with Dave McKenna, Bob Maize and Jake Hanna on three cuts and Jimmy Rowles, George Mraz and

Joe LaBarbera on the others. You'll find everything from "Tenderly" to "Silk Stockings." It's only fair to warn you, you can't buy just one. You'll be back in the store for other Hamiltons after you hear this one.

A tip to friends and relatives visiting Washington, D.C. Arm yourself with The Shoestring Gourmet for the best inexpensive restaurants. This city is a wallet-buster without it. You'll make back the \$7.45 on one well-chosen meal; order from P. O. Box 5029, Alexandria, VA 22305. All the other information guides you need are available in town and are generally free, but this guide is vital.

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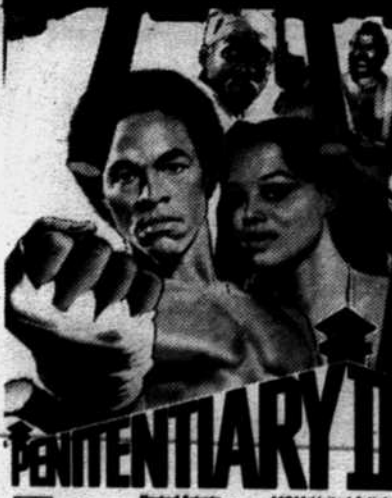
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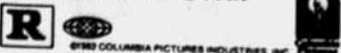
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