

THE CHARLOTTE POST

"Charlotte's Fastest Growing Community Weekly"

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Pieces Of A Dream Receiving Deserved Recognition

By Loretta Manago
Post Staff Writer

The pieces of a much sought after dream of recognition is falling into place for the Philadelphia-based jazz group, Pieces of A Dream.

In two short years Pieces Of A Dream has recorded two albums, "Pieces Of A Dream" and "We Are One" which have propelled them into a wider bracket of receptiveness. They were fortunate to have been taken under the wing of Grover Washington who produced both albums. "In the studio with the band, Washington had nothing but respect and admiration for their professionalism. The group handled themselves as well as any musicians I've worked with...they know how to really let a tune speak."

Long before Grover Washington came on the scene Pieces Of A Dream has been around. Cedric Napoleon, Curtis Harmon and James Lloyd have been playing together since 1975 when all three were attending Ada B. Lewis Middle School. "Napoleon initially played trumpet but switched to bass upon



his music teacher's recommendations. Harmon, whose father and grandfather are also musicians, remembers first banging out rhythm on his toy drum set at age eight. Lloyd took his first piano lesson at age six and won a full scholarship to Jenkintown Music School when he was 10.

It was Harmon's father who started Pieces Of A Dream on the circuit. A seasoned musician and leader of the Danny Harmon Quartet, Harmon

helped smooth the road for the striving group. "Because I've paid my dues as a musician, I've sort of outlined the road for them so it wouldn't be as bad. I've tried to save them from playing dives and bad influences.

Their experience with the Danny Harmon Quartet inevitably led to other professionals' growing interest in them. "After sitting in with them at the Blue Alley in Washington during Radio Free Jazz's convention there, Milt

Jackson asked them to be his band on a 16-week tour. Local engagements with Count Basie, Mercer Ellington, Lionel Hampton, Deniece Williams and others proved their level of musicianship again and again.

Not a group to sit on any past achievements Pieces Of A Dream has continued to improve its art through studies at Philadelphia's Temple University. During the past few years the group has performed numerous benefits for senior

citizens and church organizations and has participated in fundraisers for Lupus and sickle cell anemia research. And like others who have taken an interest in Pieces Of A Dream, they have taken an interest in younger jazz players in Philadelphia.

"Pieces Of A Dream had to prove to skeptical au-

diences early in their career that they had much more to offer than precocity. The first trial is behind them, they've won the acceptance and praise they've deserved." With their latest album, "We Are One" their second trial is also behind them and that is: a youthful spirit and musical maturity can work together.

"Miss North Carolina" USA Pageant Scheduled

Announcing the 1984 Miss North Carolina USA to be held January 12-14, 1984 in Winston-Salem.

The reigning Miss North Carolina USA, Payge Pinson, will crown her successor on the live prime time telecast on WXII-TV, Channel 12 in Winston-Salem and on a regional network. The winner will represent our state in the 1984 Miss USA Pageant to be televised nationally on CBS.

The Preliminary and Final Competitions will be held at the Roger L. Stevens Center for the Performing Arts and con-

stant headquarters will, once again, be at the Hilton Inn in Winston-Salem.

The search is on for women to compete for this prestigious title as well as for a prize package including \$1,500 in cash; a screen test; an all-expense-paid trip to the 1984 Miss USA Pageant; an all-expense-paid trip to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; and much, much more to be announced. All contestants receive special gifts.

If you are a single woman between the ages of 18 and 24 as of May 1, 1984, you may qualify. No performing talent is required. For free entry information send a postcard with your name, address, telephone number and birthday to: Miss North Carolina USA National Headquarters, Tel-Air Interests, Inc., 1755 NE 149 Street, Miami, Fla. 33181. Or call 305-944-3268.

The Miss North Carolina USA Pageant is a production of Tel Air Interests, Inc., one of the leading motion picture and television production companies in the Southeast, in conjunction with Miss Universe, Inc., a division of Paramount Pictures.

Summer Theatre

The CPCC Summer Theatre presents Irving Berlin's ruggedly spectacular and wonderfully captivating musical, "Annie Get Your Gun," June 23 through July 9, at 8:15 p.m. in Pease Auditorium.

Tickets are \$4.75 each.

Music-Video LP

Sony To Introduce Video Software Innovation

The Sony Corporation's Software Division, which introduced the Video 45 in March, is about to debut another video software innovation in June—the Video LP. The initial Video LPs contain approximately 25 minutes of stereo music-video, and retail at a price far below that of conventional full-length music

videos. The debut Beta HiFi Video LPs are \$19.95 (The first VHS Video LPs are \$24.95).

Sony's initial three Video LPs will involve to other breakthroughs: they are the first commercially-released videos of digitally-recorded performances. And they are Sony's first video releases of jazz. The

debut Sony Video LPs include:

Live Hamp—a 24-minute and 30-second concert by Lionel Hampton and his 20-piece band recorded at Paul Anka's Jubilation Club in Las Vegas.

The Bill Watrous Refuge Band—a 24-minute and eight-second live performance by an ensemble

whose trombonist-leader has won DOWNBEAT's Reader Poll and Critics Awards for seven years.

Rob McConnell and The Boss Brass—a 25-minute and 36-second live performance by the big band that has won Leonard Feather's 1981 Golden Feather Awards as Band of the Year, four Juno nominations and numerous Gram-

mies.

All three Sony Video LPs were produced by Gary Reber and Wesley Ruggles Jr., the developers of the surround sound technology used in motion picture theatrical prints to achieve the effect known as "Dolby Stereo." The Video LPs will be duplicated directly from the original digital surround sound encoded masters. Says Ruggles, "It is theoretically impossible to have any higher quality audio. The audio performance of the Beta HiFi VCR is better than the finest studio 24-track analogue recorder. It's as pure as if it's right off the microphone at the recording session."

COMING JUNE 30TH

POST'S BEST DRESSED MEN AND WOMEN

WATCH FOR IT!