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## THE CHARLOTTE POST

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### Since Becoming Solo Artist

## "Busy Body" Is Perfect Description Of Luther Vandross

By Loretta Manago  
Post Staff Writer

"Busy Body" may be the title of Luther Vandross' latest album, but it is also a perfect description of what Vandross has been since his emergence as a solo artist.

When Vandross released his first album, "Never Too Much" in 1981, it wasn't long before he had earned two Grammy nominations - "Best R&B Vocal Performance - Male" and "Best New Artist."

On his first album, Vandross saw his music turn to platinum and while "Never Too Much" was still on the charts, he released his second album, "Forever, For Always, For Love."

During the time that Vandross was putting his career together, he also produced the album that returned Aretha Franklin to the top of both the R&B and Pop Charts after a seven-year absence.

While "Forever, For Always, For Love" was riding high on the charts, Vandross embarked on a national tour and produced Cheryl Lynn's album, "Instant Love" and his second LP for Aretha Franklin, "Get It Right."

Seemingly, there was no time for Vandross to stop and see how popular he had become. Before he started work on his third album, Vandross was back in the studio with Dionne Warwick producing her album, "How Many Times (Can We Say Goodbye)."



SINGER LUTHER VANDROSS

### ...Coming to town

Looking back at the last three years, Luther Vandross has been a major influence on the entertainment scene he has been a very busy body.

The hectic schedule which Vandross has paced himself is not unusual. As a matter of fact, it coincides with the frantic pace that has brought him to where he is today. He has spent years working diligently

behind the scenes. An earlier songwriting effort of his, "Everybody Rejoice (A Brand New Day)" was featured in both the Broadway musical and the film version of "The Wiz." Vandross arranged the vocals on "No More Tears (Enough Is Enough)," and on David Bowie's "Young American" album. He has sung backup for Chic, Sister Sledge, Bette Mid-

ler and Roberta Flack.

It was Vandross' backup work with Quincy Jones' "Stuff Like That" that brought his capabilities to the attention of advertising agencies and resulted in a very lucrative jingle career. Vandross can be heard on a wide variety of commercials including Kentucky Fried Chicken, Seven-Up, Burger King, the U.S. Army and Miller

Beer.

At the same time that Vandross was establishing his jingle career, he also began expanding his vocal talents by singing with groups Bionic Boogie and Change.

Vandross' lead vocals on the group Change's singles, "Searchin'" and "The Glow of Love" took the group to a golden plateau. But when the group decided to go on tour, Vandross decided to strike out on his own. He has been a busy body ever since.

This year, still maintaining a hectic schedule, Vandross will produce a track for Teddy Pendergrass' debut album on Elektra Records. He comes to Charlotte Friday, March 30, at 8 p.m. at the Coliseum. Vandross will appear with Debarge and the Deele. After his tour, Vandross will, no doubt, be back in the studio gearing up for his next album. "My fourth album is going to be a real surprise, I already know what vocal arrangements I'm going to use."

## Nitty Gritty Dirt Band To Perform Here April 4

Riding the crest of their new hit single, "Dance Little Jean," the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band arrives in Charlotte on April 4 for a performance at 7:30 p.m. in Spirit Square's NCBN Performance Place.

Tickets are \$12 and are available at the Spirit Square Box Office, 318 N. Tryon St. in Charlotte. Box Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Call 704-376-8888 for ticket information. Tickets ordered by phone will be held for five days without payment. Checks, American Express, VISA and MasterCard are accepted.

Country, pop, country-rock - the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band has explored many music avenues in the last

decade. "Let's Go," their first album in two years, with its hit single "Dance Little Jean" is the band's latest success. In their 17-year history, the band has had many hits, including "Will the Circle Be Unbroken," the album that featured Earl Scruggs, Mother Maybelle Carter,

Doc Watson and other country music greats. The original members of the band return for this Spirit Square performance. They are Jeff Hanna on guitar and lead vocals, Jimmie Fadden on drums and harmonica, John McEuen on banjo, fiddle and steel guitar, and James Ibbotson on guitar, bass and vocals. The newcomer Bob Carpenter is on keyboards.

## Very Special Arts Festival Planned For Springfest '84

The Community School of the Arts and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools have joined together to sponsor a Very Special

Arts Festival during Springfest '84. The Very Special Arts Festival, open to anyone, will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, April 27 on the grounds of the First Pres-

byterian Church, 200 W. Trade St. in uptown Charlotte.

The Festival is a culmination of a year-round Very Special Arts Festival (VSAF) Program carried out nationally through the National Committee, Arts With The Handicapped. It serves as a catalyst to increase learning

skills and demonstrate the impact of the arts through workshops, in-service training and performances for disabled and non-disabled children, educators, parents and others. Over 400 preschool through school age students from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and other community agencies will participate. "We

feel that by having both disabled and non-disabled students participate within the unique public setting of Springfest, we are opening up the doors of acceptance into the cultural and educational mainstream for our exceptional children," said Paul Herbert, Associate Director with the Community School of the Arts. "A slogan, of sorts for

the Festival program is 'Don't tell us what we can't do, tell us what we can do.' It is surprising to find out what we can accomplish if given the opportunity," said Herbert.

The Very Special Arts Festival Program is jointly supported by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts in

Washington, D.C., a federal agency. The Very Special Arts Festival on April 27 is made possible through grants from the Karl and Anna Ginter Foundation and the Robert Lee Stowe, Jr. Foundation.

For more information on the Very Special Arts Festival Program, call the Community School of the Arts at 377-4187.