

# The Manhattans Will Headline Star-Studded Lineup

By Loretta Manage  
Entertainment Editor

One of the first lessons to learn in the entertainment field is finding the key to survival. That's what The Manhattans have done. Early in the formation of their group they decided not to go the route of trends; instead, they decided to stick with the basic—talent, quality and style.

Keeping to that simple format has allowed The Manhattans the type of longevity that has meant 20 years of recording artists. The smooth, resonant harmonies that so characterizes The Manhattans, today had its birth on the street corners of Manhattan. It is the same sound that The Manhattans will bring with them when they perform at the Kool Jazz Festival in Hampton, Va., Friday, June 28, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The Manhattans' story began with five guys—Blue Lovett, Kenny Kelley, Sonny Bivins, Richard Taylor and George Smith, who all vowed to get together after their stints in the service were up and pursue their first love—music.



The Manhattans  
.....Polished balladeers

It wasn't until The Manhattans won third prize at an Apollo Theater talent contest in 1964 and were

spotted by Joe Evans, a former alto sax player with in the Motown touring orchestra, who had just start-

ed Carnival Records, that the aspiring group got a break. Evans liked what he saw and signed them to his newly formed label.

Their first release, "For The Very First Time" was only a local hit in the city of New York, but their following releases, "I Wanna Be (Your Everything)," and "Searching For My Baby," broke out as national pop and R&B hits. By 1968 The Manhattans had earned NATRA's "Most Promising Group" award.

Moving to a different label the following year, The Manhattans soon caught the attention of Columbia Records, signing a worldwide contract with them in 1972. "For the first time The Manhattans were able to work on their own production in the studio."

Also, by this time some personnel changes had transpired. In 1970 when the Manhattans were on a black college tour, The Manhattans met a young man whose voice was so impressive at a simple sound check that the group invited him to become a part of The Manhattans. The man was Gerald Alston. He declined their first offer, but later when one of The Manhattans, George Smith was struck fatally ill, the offer was again made to Alston and on the second invitation, Alston accepted.

Seven years later The Manhattans were to lose yet another member.

Richard Taylor, joining the Muslim order, went his separate way, thereby making The Manhattans a quartet. However, despite the changes in personnel, the quality that has been a trademark of the group has prevailed, making them

one of the most enduring groups around today.

Although The Manhattans are known for their ballads, they are in no way confined to one style of music. They cross the barriers singing country as well as Broadway hits. They have proven over the years that it is talent, not trends, that constitute success.

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## Public Television Program Deals With Problem Of Spouse

The problem of domestic violence and alternatives for abused women will be addressed during "Battered Wives, Shattered Lives: A North Carolina Follow-up," a half-hour program airing Monday, June 17, at 10 p.m. over the nine channels of The University of North Carolina Center for Public Television.

The panel discussion program, produced by the Center, follows a 9 p.m. documentary on spouse abuse titled "Battered

Wives, Shattered Lives" that will be shown nationally over PBS. "Battered Wives, Shattered Lives: A North Carolina Follow-up" will provide specific referral information from the North Carolina perspective.

Panelists include District Judge Richard G. Chaney of Durham; Faith Holden, executive director of the Onslow County Women's Center in Jacksonville; Julia Nile of Turning Point in Greensboro; and Phillip J. Kirk, Jr., state secretary of the North

Carolina Department of Human Resources. Moderator is Valeria Lee, manager of WVSP-FM radio in Warrenton.

"Battered Wives, Shattered Lives" examines the growing problem of domestic violence, its causes and ways that women can remove themselves from destructive situations.

Narrated and hosted by actor Edward Asner, the national program combines interviews with victims, police officers, court officials, social workers and offenders.



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