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Holloway Leads Well-Known Band

By Loretta Richardson
Post Staff Writer

Over 40 years in the music profession has afforded Johnny Holloway, leader of the local musical aggregation, Johnny Holloway and the Hi-Tones, a wealth of opportunities in the business.

But no opportunity has touched him to the depth that teaching music has. For 36 years Holloway taught music in the school system. Many of his years were spent at West Charlotte Senior High School. The remainder of the time was spent as a floating musical instructor throughout the school system.

"Nothing can compare to seeing kids perform and watching them grow," confirmed Holloway. "When I began teaching I had only planned to teach for a year." That one year turned into 36 for Holloway.

Even before Holloway was teaching, music had already made its place among the Durham native's priorities. Music lessons came as early as age nine and by the time Holloway was 18 he was leading and assisting as director of the 337th Army Band. His college experience introduced him to the string, the brass and the woodwind families. Most instruments that fall within any of the three categories, Holloway has proficiency in playing.

In the late 40s, 50s and 60s Holloway played with the big name bands throughout New York and Ohio. Once, Holloway commented, he played at Carnegie Hall. "I just happen to be in the right place at the right time, when the opportunity came up. At the time, it was a career high."

When Holloway gave up the life on the road, he organized a

group of local musicians that have been entertaining the Charlotte area for a quarter of a century. The Hi-Tones, one of Charlotte's most respected groups specializes in jazz classics, and contemporary selections. The group can also provide a variety of beach, ballroom, swing, old and new standards and top 40s music.

Grady Seigle, James Hogan, Ravin Robins, John Mobley and Lee Webber make-up the Hi-Tones. Pianist-composer, Grady Seigle is widely known as a keyboardist and composer. "Grada", a Latin Jazz composition, is his most popular among musicians.

Known as "Mr. Guitar", James Hogan plays his own style but has been influenced by George Benson. He has played with Roberta Flack, the Tams Jr. Walker and CJS All Stars.

A versatile percussion and vocalist John Mobley, a 10 year old veteran of the group formerly played with the Zodiacks.

As vocalists, the Hi-Tones has the talented Lee Webber and Ravin Robin.

The musical entourage, most recently, playing "Jazz at the Park" at Park Hotel sponsored by the Charlotte Jazz Society has the versatility of expanding to a 10 member aggregation or reforming to a small trio.

Groups like the Charlotte Jazz Society Holloway credits for exposing jazz to the public. "Jazz has been exposed before, but the rock climate seemed to dominate. The Charlotte Jazz Society and other groups have been instrumental in getting jazz more play. I personally feel that more people would like jazz if they got a



Johnny Holloway
...Leader of the band

chance to hear it more. Unfortunately, it is not one of the most predominant forms of music on the airwaves."

In its on-going series of "Jazzin' Concerts", the Afro-American Cultural Center invites you to "Beat, Boogie and Bongo with Jim Brock and the Montuno Jazz Orchestra" on Friday, October 16. The 7 p.m. until 11 p.m. event, sponsored by the AACC Program Committee, will be held in the Center's amphitheatre on Seventh Street. The \$5 admission cost includes beverages and hors d'oeuvres.

The Montuno Jazz Orchestra, led by Jim Brock, blends Cuban salsa with Afro/Brazilian sounds. Brock has recorded two albums, and is a much sought touring veteran who is both a percussionist and drummer. The group makes it impossible for audiences to listen without moving to the up-tempo music played by Brock along with Donnie Marshall on drums, Glenn Kawamoto on bass, John Thornton on trumpet, Tim Gordon on saxophone and flute, and John Sharp playing guitar.

For more information about the concert, contact the Afro-American Cultural Center at 374-1865.

Charlotte Has No Pageant Contestants

J. Morris Anderson, the executive producer of the 20th annual MBA Pageant Television Special announced from his offices in Philadelphia that he was extremely concerned that there is no contestant representing the great city of Charlotte in this year's pageant and tv special.

The 1987 20th annual pageant will be held in West Palm Beach, Florida this year between November 6 and 7, 1987 and will be aired during Black History Month. Check local tv guide for specific air date and local tv station.

Anderson said, "It is urgent that Charlotte be represented in this, the 20th anniversary celebration of the MBA Pageant and television special."

"This is the final year the MBA pageant will be accepting contestants-at-large," Anderson said. "So we are urging as many ladies as possible to apply for the pageant this year wherein they will be accepted as candidates directly into the national television special program," Anderson stressed.

Contestants must be between 17 and 29, high school graduates or equivalent, appear in a swimsuit, perform a two minute talent routine and answer a question. "Starting next year, MBA Pageants all over the United States will be run by the 'Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority on the local level. At that time contestants from Charlotte will have to contact the Charlotte chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority to compete in the Charlotte MBA pageant wherein only the winner of the Charlotte pageant will be allowed to go to the MBAP National finals," Anderson emphasized.

For an application to enter this year's national pageant and television special directly as a contestant-at-large from Charlotte call area code (215) 844-8872 or send a postcard to MBA Pageant, P.O. Box 25668, Philadelphia, PA 19144.

Winans To Stop In City On First National Tour

There is some music that transcends categories, time-frames and taste. It's music that encourages as it entertains, crosses boundaries even as it sets new standards of excellence. It's music from the heart. And there's no better example of this special brand of sound than that created by The Winans.

The proof is on *Decisions*, the group's brilliant new album on Qwest Records. Produced by Marvin Winans and featuring nine original tunes, *Decisions* is one of those rare offerings that is both deeply satisfying and thrillingly unexpected. Marvin, Carvin, Michael and Ronald Winans have, in short, delivered one of the most polished, passionate and purely musical albums of the year. And they did it with the help of some very famous friends. Aside from executive production from Quincy Jones and a top-notch line-up of stellar studio talent, *Decisions* also features the memorable combination of the Winans and Anita Baker on the LP's first single, "Ain't No Need To Worry." It's a combination of talents that music fans only dream about. On *Decisions* that



The Winans

dream has come true.

Born and raised in Detroit,

Michigan, The Winans --Marvin, his twin brother Carvin, and Michael and Ronald -- served their musical apprenticeship in the local church, singing in the choir and harmonizing in their spare time. Part of a family of ten, The Winans broke into various vocal combinations, performing throughout the Detroit area. They were often featured in church concerts on the city's east side and were also regulars at various school talent shows.

More concerts followed, with steadily increasing crowds at each show. The group's acclaim was reaching beyond the local circuit, eventually catching the attention of Andreas Crouch, who brought them to Light Records. The phenomenal success of the single, "The Question Is," taken from the debut album, *Introducing The Winans*, served notice of the arrival of an important new musical force. The song received favorable attention and heavy play, from critics and radio stations across a broad spectrum of formats. Ini-

tially, the group wasn't sure of the artistic value of "The Question Is," written by Marvin. In fact, they had never intended to record it, but at the insistence of Crouch the tune was included on the album with spectacular results.

"We write songs that have a practical point of view," explains Marvin on the group's remarkable composing skills. "Something that happened to me might have happened to you too." It's an approach that has earned The Winans Grammy nominations for not only *Introducing The Winans*, but also the follow-up LPs, *Tomorrow* and *Long Time Comin'*.

It was only natural, with the group's growing acclaim, that they should attract the attention of legendary producer, talent scout and creative entrepreneur Quincy Jones. Early in 1985, he signed the group to Qwest Records. "History in the making," is how Qwest Records A & R representative John Brown describes this merger of a major new talent with a respected and influential musical innovator. The truth of the assertion could be heard on *Let My People Go*, The Winans' Qwest Records debut.

Let My People Go went on to garner a Grammy as one of the Best Albums Of The Year, further enhancing the reputation of a group that was already being singled out by fans and critics as one of the '80s most appealing new arrivals.

After extensive touring, taking the Winans from coast to coast, the brothers re-entered the studio to begin work on a follow-up.

The result is *Decisions*, featuring "Ain't No Need To Worry" with Anita Baker. For The Winans, it is a new highwater mark in music making. For fans, it's a cause for celebration.

The Winans will be in concert on Friday, October 16 at 7:30 p.m. Appearing with them will be the William Brothers and Wisdom of Gastonia. Tickets are \$16.50, \$17.50 and \$18.50.

Michael Franks

Performs At

Spirit Square

Jazz man Michael Franks will perform in NCNB Performance Place at Spirit Square Center for the Arts at 7:30 and 10 pm on Thursday, Oct. 22. These concerts were originally scheduled on Feb. 13, 1988 and were moved to accommodate the artist's touring schedule. This appearance by Michael Franks is part of the Summering Jazz series and is sponsored by WFAE, 90.7 FM.

Single tickets for this show are \$16 and \$14 and will go on sale Monday, Oct. 12 at the Spirit Square Box Office. Discounts are available for full-time students, senior adults and groups of ten or more. For ticket information, call 704/376-8883, 9 am - 5 pm, weekdays and 12 - 5 pm Saturdays.

This jazz singer/songwriter is known for his emotive, highly visual compositional style. In addition to writing much of the music he performs, he has written, arranged and often performed with Ashford & Simpson, Diana Ross,

Glady Knight and the Pips, Steely Dan, Donald Fagan, and most recently, with Madonna on the hit

"Crazy For You" and Phil Collins on "Against All Odds". Franks has toured the United States and France, performing in clubs, concert halls and on university campuses.

"Rollin'" Kept Crowd Laughing

By Loretta Richardson
Post Staff Writer

"Ain't no tonic like laughter," a line taken from the routine of Alfred Bradley and Robert Hatcher in the recent vaudeville performance of *Rollin'* had more truth to it than imagined.

On Saturday evening at McDonald's Cafeteria the tonic was flowing profusely with classic routines from Pigmeat Markham and Moms Mabley. With the skilled performances of Hatcher and Bradley, laughter rang ceaselessly and resoundingly throughout the four walls of McDonald's Cafeteria.

The two actors giving stellar performances, kept the audience uncontrollably, uproariously laughing as Bradley and Hatcher with the assistance of a musical

recording that mimic the locomotions of a train journeyed from one theater house to another from one city to another reliving the days of vaudeville.

Quite brilliantly, Hatcher and Bradley between routines gave a glimpse of what life on the TOBA circuit was like. A lot of times it was being ripped off by white agents, going hungry, not because you didn't have money in your pocket, but because you weren't allowed in then segregated restaurants.

Their material came from Bert Williams & Alex Rogers, Charles Gounod, Langston Hughes and the creators of *Rollin'*, Stewart & Stevens. It included songs called "Huggin' & Chalkin'", "Nobody", and written material like "Banquet In

Honor" and "Simple on Military Integration".

Before Hatcher and Bradley, members of the International Black Writers Conference shared their readings. Most impressive were Carolyn Leak skit, "Yo' Mama", Frankie Johnson's poem, "God's Gotta Way". Others to share their work were Ivey Dixon, Mari Macon and Janis Strickland.

A special segment of the program included recitals from the Anita Stroud Foundation who resided poems from Ms. Johnson's book of children poetry, "Tots, Tales & Tidbits". The children participating were Joyonda Edwards, Faith Gill, Jason Gill, Nicole Grier, Shaunpri Grier and Antonio Gleaton.