

ENTERTAINMENT

MY TUNE

by
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The arts of mankind are many. They have been grouped in many different ways through the years. For example, there are the visual arts—painting, sculpture, architecture—the aural arts—music, spoken verse—and those which depend for their effect on a combination of the two—rhetoric, theater, opera, ballet. Further division brings us to the creative or temporal arts—music, spoken verse—and those which are created once for all—sculpture, architecture, cinema.

The temporal arts have one thing in common. They all depend in one way or another upon visual symbols which convey the artist's intentions to the performer and, through him, to the listener or the spectator. Since we are dealing with music here, we will speak of the performer.

The symbols used by the artist have been developing for 1,500 years. They are still unstandardized. One will find different idiosyncrasies within a country. What effect has this arbitrary system had upon the performer through the years, and how will it affect the performer and the whole of music 50 years from now?

From humble beginnings music has grown into a highly technical field where the performer is given little freedom. There are exceptions, of course—the mannered music of jazz is one, but even here the performer's "freedom" is being taken away. The effect is not so noticeable because the modern

performer has been conditioned to believe that he or she should do no more than what is written on the manuscript. The performer of old was given only a skeleton "harmony" on which he extemporized freely. The interpretation of the performer was of utmost importance. The performer was expected to know all the peculiarities of the style in which he performed. Today, almost everything is on manuscript.

It is quite obvious that the performer, in the traditional sense, is becoming obsolete. Even to the point that the modern trend is seemingly to do away with the performer altogether. Modern innovations such as the computer are the major causes. When we walk into any store these days, we hear music (background music). This is not live music but music that has been pre-taped and replayed over and over again. One might say: "Well, the performer was needed to record the music." That's true, but let us speculate for a moment.

The latest innovation has been electronically and computer-produced music that can match the sound of most modern instruments and more. What happens if this innovation is perfected; where does that leave the performer? It would probably be much cheaper to buy a computer than to pay expensive performers, editors, publishers and so on. What will happen to them? With the computer doing all the work, what will become of emotion, "feeling," and "mood" in music?

Cyril Poitier Older Brother Dies Of Cancer In Miami, Family Mourns

MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—Cyril Poitier, the older brother who helped raise actor Sidney Poitier, died Nov. 13 of cancer, his family said. He was 80.

Poitier, the oldest of eight brothers and sisters, was born on Cat Island, Bahamas. He moved to Miami in 1929 at the age of 15 and two years later married Albertha Sands.

In 1981, the couple renewed their wedding vows in an elaborate ceremony to make up for the brief wedding they had as teenagers, the Miami Herald reported last week.

In addition to raising 10 children of their own, the Poitiers took in Sidney, a disruptive 15-year-old sent to Miami by his father to be straightened out by his big brother.

"He went to Washington Carver

School for a while, but quit and worked in a grill. I was very strict with him. He'd always look up to me, listened to my advice," Cyril Poitier said in 1984 after his brother had received an Academy Award for his role in "Lilies of the Field."

"Once I found him rolling dice in the street with a gang," he said. "I walked up to him with a strap in my hand, but he saw me coming and took off like the wind. He could run fast, that boy. When I got home again, he was in the yard playing with the kids. I just hadn't the heart to belt him then. But I told him never to do it again. And he never did."

Over the years, Cyril Poitier held a number of jobs, from handyman to bell man to luggage carrier at Miami

International Airport.

He also got a taste of movie-making, appearing with his brother in Let's Do It Again, Piece of the Action and Uptown Saturday Night.

For the past 10 years, Cyril Poitier worked with another son, Bernard, who runs Poitier Funeral Home in Miami.

In addition to his wife, daughter, son and actor brother, Poitier, a founding member of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, also is survived by sons Cyril, Jr. and Anthony; daughters Ethelyn Hamilton, Doretha Thomas, Carolyn Upson, Juliette Higgs and Deborah Poitier; brothers Reginald Poitier and Jackson Burnside; and sisters Ruby Sears, Delores Poitier and Maude Hamilton.

illumElex will also provide visual with an educational display illustrating recent advances in lighting technology, as well as the impact that energy-efficient lighting systems have on the environment. The display will be located inside the Radisson Hotel, next to the Fayetteville Street Mall entrance.

"We operate in 21 states throughout the South and Eastern United States, but we wanted to do something special for the people of Raleigh, since this is our hometown," says Harold Chappell, president of illumElex.

New Raleigh Laser Art Sculpture Comes To Life, System Operates Home

What type of art moves faster than a speeding bullet, covers several city blocks and yet doesn't weigh an ounce? People visiting downtown Raleigh on evenings between Dec. 5 and New Year's Eve will get a chance to see for themselves, when North Carolina's first laser art sculpture comes to life.

The specially commissioned "floating" light sculpture, formed by two laser beams reflected off mirrors mounted on the tops of downtown buildings, is the creation of Chris Robinson, an art professor at the University of South Carolina.

The lasers will be turned on at

approximately 6:20 p.m. on Dec. 5, in conjunction with the lighting of the governor's Christmas tree. The prime viewing areas for the laser display will be in front of the Civic Center and along Fayetteville Street Mall, although spectators will be able to see the lights from a distance of several city blocks.

Corporate sponsorship of the sculpture comes from Raleigh-based illumElex Corp., the nation's largest independent lighting management services company, with additional support from the Downtown Raleigh Development Corp.

In addition to the laser sculpture,

Jermaine Tells His Side Of The Jackson Family Fraud

NEW YORK, N.Y. (AP)—Meet the happy Jackson family: Jermaine says LaToya is brainwashed, LaToya says her parents sexually assaulted her, Jermaine says Michael is a product of surgery and skin-lightening, Michael rarely says anything.

It's all in the name of publicity: spell it J-A-O-K-S-O-N.

An unreleased version of Jermaine's song, "Word to the Badd!" is leaked to radio stations? And it sets up a controversy with Michael? And both Jermaine ("You Said") and Michael ("Dangerous") are releasing new albums?

A mere coincidence—not!

For his part, Jermaine is downplaying his spat with Michael, but letting LaToya and her tell-all biography have it with both barrels. In a recent interview, Jermaine was fiercely proud and unflinchingly upbeat about his family—until LaToya came up.

Mention of her much-publicized book gets the soft-spoken Jermaine's voice rising. LaToya accused her father of physically and sexually abusing the Jackson children, and her mother of standing by while it occurred.

"LaToya is beautiful, but she's

brainwashed. My sister is influenced by her husband, who would discredit anyone for his own greed," says Jackson.

"My mother and father are great parents. They did a great job. It hurts them. You know what hurts the most? We worked and worked... trying to build something for ourselves. She wasn't a part of that, and she doesn't have the right to tear that down."

"As for brother Michael, Jermaine spoke positively about their relationship despite "Word to the Badd!" and their dueling albums.

"No. It's great, because he ain't heavy, he's my brother. It's one of those things. Michael's a tremendous talent. He's the greatest out there, as far as I'm concerned. And that's speaking as an entertainer, not as a brother," says Jermaine.

Jermaine's record won't include his controversial version of the song "Word to the Badd!", which featured lyrics questioning Michael's plastic surgery and skin lightening. A sanitized version appears on the album.

But Jermaine has some other advantages this time around. Big time producers L.A. and Babyface were brought in to work with the 36-year-old Jackson; they're hopeful the

result will be more hits like "Let's Get Serious," "Let Me Tickle Your Fancy," "Do What You Do," and "I Think It's Love."

Jackson moved his family from Los Angeles to Georgia for almost a year to make the album, relocating to his producers' home base. While the shift south caused some problems, it also had several benefits—including new friendships with the production team.

"We had all this time. You never get a chance like that, to go to games together, to work out and train together, to play basketball," Jermaine said. "We went to some Braves games. I became a Braves fan before the Series."

Jackson is joined by Living Colour guitarist Vernon Reid on one track, while the four-man group Color Me Badd contributes backing vocals on "Word to the Badd!"

The latter group, whose debut album is a major hit, asked Jermaine for autographs and pictures when they met—an experience which brought Jackson back 25 years to the Regal Theater in Chicago.

"Smokey Robinson was on the show. I'll never forget it. We were on the talent show part... and we got a chance to shake his hand. They [Smokey and the Miracles] were

wearing black turtlenecks, and we shook his hand, and we didn't want to let go," says Jackson.

The "we" are the Jackson Five: Jermaine, Jackie, Tito, Marlon and Michael. Their hit "ABC" is freely sampled on Naughty By Nature's raunchy rap hit "O.F.F." and Jermaine said he is definitely down with the record.

"I was knocked out. The first time I heard it, no one had told me about it. I was watching MTV, and I said, 'Wait, this sounds like our song. This is our song! They're doing our song!' and I called up Jackie and told him," recalls Jermaine.

Jackie already knew about the hit song, which introduced a lot of people to the Jackson Five. Jermaine's five kids were already hip to the Jacksons—they'd seen their dad and his brothers in a rerun of the old Jackson Five cartoons.

"They kept on staring at the TV, and staring at me—back and forth, bing, bing, bing... Then they said, 'Is that you?' I said, 'Yes, we did that before you were born,'" Jermaine says, laughing.

"And now I have to hear it in the house, 'ABC.' 'I Want You Back,' all this old Jackson Five stuff. They're into it."



READY FOR THE WORLD — MCA recording group. Ready for the World, recently performed at Troneros here in Raleigh. They're back with Straight Down To Business, a new non-nonsense album that delivers the group's trademark sound of R&B on the funk tip and the musical

quality that fans have come to expect from the six-man band. The team spends the time between albums—writing, recording, have weekly presentation days, rewriting and more recording.

★★★★★

First Night Raleigh On Celebration For Year

Imagine the spirit of Mardi Gras or Disney World's Main Street on Fayetteville Street Mall and you have First Night Raleigh, a community celebration of New Year's Eve with performances, visual art, entertainment and culture in unexpected places in downtown Raleigh.

Produced by Artsposure, First Night Raleigh will be the largest New Year's Eve celebration ever held in eastern North Carolina, offering something for everyone—from the child to the senior citizen—who wants to be part of a festive celebration of the passage of time. From Capitol Square to Moore Square, First Night Raleigh will offer a feast for the imagination and serve as a delightful, alcohol-free alternative to traditional New Year's Eve indulgences.

Originating in Boston in 1976 as a part of the nation's Bicentennial celebration, the First Night concept has since been successfully replicated in more than 70 major cities across the United States and Canada and promises to become the nation's dominant cultural tradition for celebrating New Year's Eve by the year 2000.

All First Night Raleigh activities will take place in downtown Raleigh beginning in the afternoon with children's programming. At dusk, the many performing and visual artists participating in First Night Raleigh will lead a fantastic People's Procession through downtown Raleigh prior to the evening's performances. The night will be full of the unexpected and the unusual with visual art and performances taking place continuously in atriums, lobbies, churches, galleries and storefronts throughout the downtown

area. The evening will culminate on the Civic Center Plaza with a fireworks and light show that will mark the beginning of Raleigh's Bicentennial Celebration.

Hendrix Gets Star For '60s Best Music

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (AP)—Rock innovator Jimi Hendrix was honored last week for his 1960s psychedelic guitar pyrotechnics with a posthumous star in the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

His father, Al Hendrix, and brother, Leon Hendrix, joined more than 300 fans on Hollywood Boulevard for the unveiling of the star outside Book City Collectables, which has a shrine to Hendrix along an entire wall.

Hendrix died of a drug overdose in 1970 at age 27. The star was imbedded in the coral and gray sidewalk between stars honoring actor Art Carney and director Fred Zinneman.

"It was a long time coming, but good things happen to those who wait," Al Hendrix told the fans, many of them wearing tie-dyed shirts and rocking to Hendrix guitar riffs screeching from loudspeakers.

The Hendrix star, the 1,943rd unveiled along the Walk of Fame, was sponsored by Warner Records, which is releasing a boxed set of four Hendrix compact discs.

His albums included "Axis: Bold as Love," "Band of Gypsys" and "Are You Experienced?" He also was famous for such songs as "Purple Haze," "Foxy Lady,"

Nonviolent Rap Group, Leads In Music World

DALLAS, Texas (AP)—Rap group Public Enemy wants to be known for its public service.

Group members Flavor Flav, Terminator and Chuck D spoke to teenagers Friday about the dangers of drug abuse, gang violence, black-on-black crime and dropping out of school.

"The purpose that we're here today for is that education is way more important than me teaching you how to dance," Flavor Flav told an auditorium of excited young fans at Dallas' Lincoln High School. "It all starts here by respecting your teachers, because they have the information you need to get a diploma."

According to a U.S. Centers for Disease Control study, homicide is the leading cause of death among black males 15 to 24. During the one-hour presentation, rap group members stressed the importance of avoiding America's violent subculture.

Public Enemy's appearance came only days after Dallas set a record for homicides, passing the 444 killings of 1990. Dallas police say 45 percent of the victims were black.

Strictly Business Soundtrack Marks New Superstars

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif.—Uptown/MCA Records announces the release of the Warner Bros. feature "Strictly Business" soundtrack, featuring new and unreleased cuts from platinum-selling superstars Stephanie Mills, Heavy D and the Boyz and L.L. Cool J. The "Strictly Business" soundtrack is a collection of 11 fun and memorable tunes featuring some of today's hottest black talent.

Also included are songs by Jeff Redd, Mary J. Blige, Grand Puba (of Brand Nubian), Jodeci, Nice & Smooth, Leaders of the New School, Rare Essence and La Quan. The album's first single is Uptown/MCA recording artist Jeff Redd's "You Called and Told Me," to be followed upon the film's release by L.L. Cool J's "Strictly Business."

"Strictly Business" is a contemporary romantic comedy about rising young black executive Waymon Tinsdale III ("The Cosby Show's" Joseph C. Phillips) whose life—a perfect job, a perfect condo, a perfect BMW and a perfect socially correct fiancée—is turned upside-down by the gorgeous, flamboyant Natalie ("Jungle Fever's" Halle Berry), whom he sees in a restaurant.

Garner Road Ballet Class Moves In Motion

On Mondays at 7 p.m., little ballerinas can be seen entering the Garner Road YMCA ballet class. Each child gives 110 percent to become the best ballerina possible.

Instructor Karen Hanks of Raleigh has studied dance at the N.C. School of the Arts, Howard University and UNC-Greensboro. Karen believes in having fun and working hard.

The ballet class is exposing youth to classical music. The class is also building coordination, poise, and self-confidence. If you are interested in joining the ballet class, call 633-1256.



JERMAINE JACKSON