

# Record World Black Oriented Music

## Black Music Report

By KEN SMIKLE and LAURA PALMER

■ NEW YORK—In town last week was Patti Labelle, whose latest Epic album is "Released." On this LP she introduces two new approaches to her music—co-writing her own material and singing in a more subtle style. "In the time that we had off," she explained, "I started writing songs with Bud Ellison and Rev Batts. When we went to New Orleans to record, our producer, Allen Toussaint, wanted to hear everything that we had. I wanted him to hear two of the songs, "Love Has Finally Come" and "Get Ready." The other three songs I didn't think we should record. Allen said 'you must be crazy, these songs are great.' Since he was the producer, I said okay. Writing is not my forte, but I did it. I'm not trying to cover each album with all Patti Labelle material, they're just important songs to me. We all contributed to the music and the lyrics. Though Bud and Rev would come in with all the music, we'd sit down and make changes." Her more subdued vocal approach is something that Patti felt was necessary for her to initiate and "it was a conscious effort on my part. I'm tired of screaming it out. I don't have to scream it out any more. Everybody's heard me screaming and they know what I can do in that area. It's time to sing it where you can sing it with me. Before it was like overkill." Her next album will be a live date and she says that she will approach that situation in a style that is appropriate for the stage. She is also thinking about doing one or two old Patti Labelle and the Bluebells tunes over again, like "I Need Your Love" and "Oh My Love." "Those were real pretty songs, but I don't think I want to dig back too deep. I will be doing "The Patti Labelle Story" as an album and on stage." The talented songstress will be making her debut on Broadway in a one week performance at the Winter Garden Theatre starting April 22nd. She will also be playing in legitimate theatres around the country.

Dave Clark has joined Malaco Records as vice president of R&B promotion and publicity. This is only the seventh job Clark has held in his forty-three years in the music industry. Malaco's is currently enjoying a hot single in London by Fern Kenny entitled "Talk To Me," which is distributed there by Warner Bros.

Hiroshima made its first New York area appearance last week at the Bottom Line and was asked back on stage for two encores. The group is a refreshing blend of traditional Japanese drama and music, and contemporary black music. The combination makes for a very well-rounded performance that everyone should try to catch.

The first Annual Communications Testimonial Dinner will salute Benjamin Hooks, the first black commissioner to the FCC and current executive director of the NAACP. The affair will be held at the Park Sheraton Hotel in Washington, D.C. on May 12th. For ticket info call (212) 247-1519.

LOS ANGELES—Music mastermind Quincy Jones was recently honored by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, receiving his star on Hollywood's "Walk Of Fame." The celebration actually was two-fold; as it turns out, Friday (14) was also Quincy's 47th birthday. The ceremony continued on to the Brown Derby, where Q's friends and admirers lunched and then sang the traditional birthday tune. Among the numerous guests were Michael and Marlon Jackson, Paulinho DaCosta and jazz greats Benny Carter and J.J. Johnson . . . Last Monday, Mercury Records held a listening party for Con Funk Shun's latest release, "Spirit of Love." After the group's three consecutive (Continued on page 129)

## Black Oriented Album Chart

MARCH 29, 1980

- 1. THE WHISPERS**  
Solar BXL1 3521 (RCA)
- 2. LIGHT UP THE NIGHT**  
THE BROTHERS JOHNSON/A&M SP 3716
- 3. OFF THE WALL**  
MICHAEL JACKSON/Epic FE 35745
- 4. RAY, GOODMAN & BROWN**  
Polydor PD 1 6240
- 5. EVERY GENERATION**  
RONNIE LAWS/United Artists LT 1001
- 6. THE GAP BAND II**  
Mercury SRM 1 3804
- 7. LOVE SOMEBODY TODAY**  
SISTER SLEDGE/Cotillion SD 16012 (Atl)
- 8. ANGEL OF THE NIGHT**  
ANGELA BOFILL/Arista/GRP GRP 5501
- 9. LADIES' NIGHT**  
KOOL & THE GANG/De-Lite DSR 9513 (Mercury)
- 10. BIG FUN**  
SHALAMAR/Solar BXL1 3479 (RCA)
- 11. SKYLARKIN'**  
GROVER WASHINGTON, JR./Motown M7 933R1
- 12. PRINCE**  
Warner Bros. BSK 3366
- 13. WARM THOUGHTS**  
SMOKEY ROBINSON/Tamla T8 367M1 (Motown)
- 14. GLORYHALLASTOOPID**  
PARLIAMENT/Casablanca NBLP 7195
- 15. RAPPER'S DELIGHT**  
SUGARHILL GANG/Sugarhill SH 245
- 16. DANCIN' AND LOVIN'**  
SPINNERS/Atlantic SD 19256
- 17. 10 1/2**  
DRAMATICS/MCA 3196
- 18. SIT DOWN AND TALK TO ME**  
LOU RAWLS/Phila. Intl. JZ 36304 (CBS)
- 19. FUN AND GAMES**  
CHUCK MANGIONE/A&M SP 3715
- 20. BRASS CONSTRUCTION 5**  
United Artists LT 977
- 21. MASTERJAM**  
RUFUS & CHAKA KHAN/MCA 5103
- 22. NO STRANGER TO LOVE**  
ROY AYERS/Polydor PD 1 6246
- 23. THE DANCE OF LIFE**  
NARADA MICHAEL WALDEN/Atlantic SD 19259
- 24. SKYWAY**  
SKYY/Salsoul SA 8532 (RCA)
- 25. TWO**  
G.Q./Arista AL 9511
- 26. L.A. BOPPERS**  
Mercury SRM 1 3816
- 27. ROBERTA FLACK FEATURING DONNY HATHAWAY**  
Atlantic SD 16013
- 28. MOUTH TO MOUTH**  
LIPPS, INC./Casablanca NBLP 7197
- 29. THE BLUE ALBUM**  
HAROLD MELVIN & THE BLUE NOTES/Source SOR 3197 (MCA)
- 30. LIVE & UNCENSORED**  
MILLIE JACKSON/Spring SP 2 6725 (Polydor)
- 31. 8 FOR THE '80s**  
WEBSTER LEWIS/Epic JE 36197
- 32. 1980**  
GIL SCOTT-HERON & BRIAN JACKSON/Arista AL 9514
- 33. SUPERCHARGED**  
TAVARES/Capitol ST 12026
- 34. LADY T**  
TEENA MARIE/Gordy G7 992R1 (Motown)
- 35. WE'RE THE BEST OF FRIENDS**  
NATALIE COLE & PEABO BRYSON/Capitol SW 12019
- 36. HIROSHIMA**  
Arista AB 4252
- 37. IN 'N' OUT**  
STONE CITY BAND/Gordy G7 991R1 (Motown)
- 38. CATCHING THE SUN**  
SPYRO GYRA/MCA 5108
- 39. ON THE RADIO—GREATEST HITS VOLUMES I & II**  
DONNA SUMMER/Casablanca NBLP 2 7191
- 40. YOU KNOW HOW TO LOVE ME**  
PHYLLIS HYMAN/Arista AL 9509
- 41. PIZZAZZ**  
PATRICE RUSHEN/Elektra 6E 243
- 42. LIVE! COAST TO COAST**  
TEDDY PENDERGRASS/Phila. Intl. KZ2 36294 (CBS)
- 43. MASTERPIECE**  
MASS PRODUCTION/Cotillion SD 5218 (Atl)
- 44. YELLOW MAGIC ORCHESTRA**  
Horizon SP 736 (A&M)
- 45. NEVER BUY TEXAS FROM A COWBOY**  
BRIDES OF FUNKENSTEIN/Atlantic SD 19261
- 46. JUST A TOUCH OF LOVE**  
SLAVE/Cotillion SD 5217 (Atl)
- 47. WHERE THERE'S SMOKE**  
SMOKEY ROBINSON/Tamla T7 366R1 (Motown)
- 48. WINNERS**  
KLEEEER/Atlantic SD 19262
- 49. SURE SHOT**  
CROWN HEIGHTS AFFAIR/De-Lite DSR 9517 (Mercury)
- 50. HOT BOX**  
FATBACK/Spring SP 1 6726 (Polydor)

## PICKS OF THE WEEK

### RELEASED

PATTI LABELLE—Epic JE36381



On her latest album, Patti displays a more controlled but no less stirring vocal ability.

Her talents have also stretched out into composing, which she shares with other co-writers on five of the nine tunes. Cuts to watch on this Allen Toussaint produced package are "I Don't Go Shopping" and "Ain't That Enough." There's good potential pop airplay with "Don't Make Your Angel Cry."

### I'M COMIN' HOME AGAIN

CARMEN McRAE—Buddah B2D 6501



One of the finest vocalists to ever grace a song, Ms. McRae is in excellent form here. Backed

by an all-star gathering of talent, such as Freddie Hubbard, Buster Williams and Hubert Laws, she effortlessly glides through this varied material. This double LP package is a must for jazz airplay and should have a place on all R&B stations that play just good music.

### THE MASQUERADERS

Bang JZ 36321 (CBS)

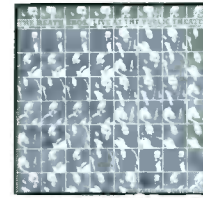


This stand-up male quintet hasn't issued an album in some time and this release demonstrates

that they haven't lost anything to time. Group member Lee Hatim is the principle writer of all eight tunes, and James Stroud has produced a good musical setting. The LP contains good up-tempo and ballad numbers with "Into Your Soul" and "Desire" the hottest singles contenders.

### LIVE AT THE PUBLIC THEATRE

THE HEATH BROS.—Columbia FC36374



On their third magnificent release, brothers Jimmy and Percy along with Stanley Cowell, Tony

Purrone, Akira Tana and Reuben Bassini come away in fine form. This live date includes five new originals, an ever-present Ellington tune, "Warm Valley," and the group's first single, "For The Public," produced by Jimmy's son Mtume. A winner, period.