

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Deniece Williams: 'My Melody' Has Something For Everyone ...

"If you observe my musical career closely, you'll see constant change--the distinct evolution and constant growth of Deniece Williams, and that I am proud of!"

Her fourth solo album, simply titled **My Melody**, is, at once, her most courageously ambitious and aesthetically satisfying work to date. Every song, penned by Ms. Williams and produced by her in collaboration with Philly studio wiz, Thom Bell, caresses her voice with haunting ease.

C.A.Y.A. Offers Free Circus Passes And Summer Program

The Central Area Youth Association (C.A.Y.A.) is sponsoring a field trip for youth and parents to the Seattle Police Guild's Circus on Friday, July 3, leaving C.A.Y.A. at 3:30 p.m.

something for everyone. "Suspicious" is a beautiful song that boasts a mix of subtle reggae, a touch of symphonia and European Calypso. Ms. Williams calls her "Sweet Surrender" cut a mini-opera, yet its soaring grandeur is never so overpowering that it eclipses the simplicity of this 3 minute-plus masterwork. The title song is the crimson ribbon that binds this neat package.

"My Melody is a song about life, being up, being down, being happy about life and being angry with life. I'm saying that

regardless of what happens in my life, it's mine, and I'm going to live it my way!

"You see, we're all individuals. God gave each one of us a melody that belongs to no one else. On this album I'm singing about the melody that belongs to just me. **My Melody** is the essence of me."

She submitted a tape of her materials to Earth, Wind & Fire's Maurice White, but it was that indomitable Deniece Williams voice that initially swept Mr. White off his feet. He produced her

debut album **This Is Niecy**, which not only certified gold, but contained the hot charting single "Free" and garnered the talented lady "New Female Vocalist of the Year" nominations from both Record World Magazine and the Rock Awards.

Deniece's second album was also produced by Maurice White and aptly titled **Songbird**.

Shortly thereafter Deniece recorded a duet with the legendary Johnny Mathis. Their hit single "Too Much, Too Little,

Too Late" introduced her to an even broader market and resulted in a second Mathis-Williams teaming on the 10 incredible cuts that compile the **That's What Friends Are For** lp.

Her next solo album, **When Love Comes Calling**, strengthened Deniece's grip on success. The single "I've Got The Next Dance" discoed in the top ten for weeks while the hauntingly beautiful "Touch Me Again" dared to defy the commercial trends of the time and bravely hinted at the Deniece Williams-yet-to-come--the ever changing, ever growing artist.

My Melody truly belongs to Deniece. She is the singer, composer, and the co-producer.

"I used to think that because I wanted to do it all that maybe I was wearing too many hats, but working with people like Stevie Wonder and Maurice who do so many things at once made me realize that it can be done. A great part of the excitement is in the challenge of doing it all and making it better and better.

"And, of course, working with a genius like Thom Bell was absolutely inspiring. Watching him work is fascinating because he has an incredible imagination. There was a constant energy flow between us



Deniece Williams

which made for a fulfilling collaboration."

Industry hub-bub has deemed Ms. Williams a studio slave driver and an unrelenting perfectionist. "I'm guilty as charged!"

she laughs. "When I undertake a project I never give less than my best. I don't like to cheat. I have an obligation and a responsibility to a lot of people I may not know

personally but who take me into their homes to live with them, to sing to them and to provide pleasure for them. That is an obligation and I must not fall short of that"

Garden Party, Barbecue For Clara Fraser Defense Fund

Jubilant supporters of Clara Fraser's sex and political ideology suit against City Light are celebrating at a barbecue and garden party on Sunday, July 5.

The public is invited to join them in hailing Fraser's recent technical victory on the issue of transcript payment for her forthcoming Superior Court appeal.

Festivities will be held from 2:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Sally Pangborn's home, 221 35th Ave. East, in the Madrona District. Musical entertainment and children's games will be featured along with an ex-

tensive menu of picnic food.

The repast will include barbecued chicken and meats, a variety of salads, homemade desserts, and similar summertime fare. Tropical drinks will compliment the meal. Dinner donation is \$5, \$2.50 for

children.

Proceeds from the event will go the Fraser Defense Fund. Fraser's next court date on her appeal is in September. For directions, information, or transportation, call 632-7449 or 632-1815.

Benefit For Atlanta Children

The Seattle Mariners will host a sports benefit for the Atlanta children at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1 at the Moore Theatre on Second and Virginia.

The Mariners' comedy

and variety act will feature the group, Contents Under Pressure. Reserved seats are \$6 and \$4.50. Tickets are available at the Bon and suburban outlets.

1981 Pacific Northwest Writers Conference

The Pacific Northwest Writers Conference will be held at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma on July 23-25, with three days of outstanding programs.

The conference begins with a complete day of workshops in poetry, basics, juvenile, short story, novel, non-fiction, articles and scriptwriting.

Donald E. McQuinn, author of Pulitzer Prize nominee **TARGETS**, and forthcoming **WAKE IN DARKNESS**, will be the guest speaker at the Awards Banquet on Thursday evening, at which 16 cash prizes will be given, in addition to a Grand Memorial Prize of \$300.

Friday and Saturday will be divided into 20 panel sessions, covering all aspects of writing and publishing, with talks by visiting writers, agents and editors. Each conference attendee is entitled to an appointment with an editor, publisher or agent. These appointments can be made Thursday and interviews will be conducted on Friday and Saturday.

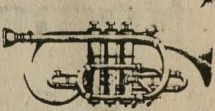
A special event this year will be the "Talk Fiction" day on Friday, when attendees will have an opportunity to drop in at Stuen Hall and talk infor-

mally over a cup of coffee with authors such as John Saul, Willo Davis Roberts, Frank Robinson, Walt Morey and Dayton Hyde.

On Saturday, for the first time, interpreters for the deaf will be provided at both the Article and Inspirational Panels. The conference would appreciate a phone call to

Gladys Johnson at 364-1293 if this service is to be used, so that future service may be planned.

On campus accommodations and meals will be available. For more information contact Executive Secretary, Pacific Northwest Writers Conference, 1811 N.E. 199th, Seattle, Wa. or call (206) 364-1293.



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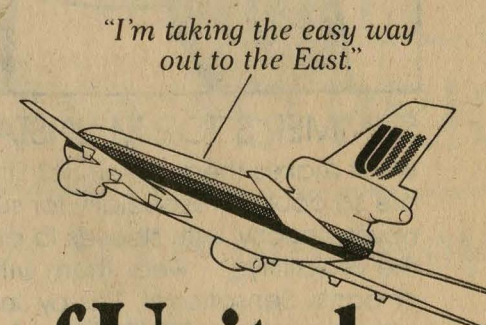
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