what's happening in the entertainment world

Around About Midnight

by: Sylvester Ford

A Review Of The Carla Thomas Show

Music Just For You
by James W. Leigh

Written about as a lady, a queen, an entertainer, Carla Thomas has opened at the Heritage House and what a nice opening it was! Not only did Carla Thomas put on a great vocal display but, in addition, she brought with her the rather groovy music of the Sound Corporation for the dancing pleasure of the audience. Two shows wrapped up into one, each of equal talent, is a rarity these days and you should go and see them for yourself.

Carla Thomas can best be described as lovely. Hailing from Memphis, Tennessee, she reminds you of the south as you pick up on her effectious warmth and realness. From her opening number "Pick Up The Pieces" to her closing number, which she has recorded for Stax Records, "Gee Whiz", Carla---let's call her by her first name, she would appreciate that---digs her audience. In between these numbers, Carla sang and sand. She has a capacity to lull you to her softness even when teaching the ladies to say B-A*-BY the right way to achieve the desired results. At other times, she was the height of coolness -- which I describe as that ability to be almost naive while being terribly suggestive. Fluid, graceful, Carla walks quite proudly, handles herself on the stage with aplomb. Her singing of "I Like What You Are Doing To Me" and "I May Not Be All You Want, But Honey, I Am All You Got", was done with the tonal qualities of Sara Vaughn mixed with a little of the style of Dakota Staton. But comparisons cannot be made that closely because Carla sings as she only can sing. One wonders what she would do with a song like "Stormy Weather" of "God Bless The Child". My bet is that she would sing them like the Queen she is.

The Sound Corporation is a group of six young men who are musically well balanced and throughly professional. You need to hear the flute players! They are very good and add s different sound. Their music is danceable, effectious and full of interesting dips and turns that indicates that they do not just play, they have thought about what they are going to play. The singing of the members fo the group is allright probably because this reviewer has not caught the place of falsetto singing in Black music. I', willing to be enlightened. But the music they play creates their place in the Black cultural stream---that part that has not been invaded yet, real rhythm and blues.

The stylish vocalizing of Carla Thomas plus the beats of the Sound Corporation combine into a show that is truely entertaining and one that makes you feel good that you have heard them. Even the usually blaise hostess could not wait to get off to work to dance to that music. No one can blame her. It is not often that a group can really communicate at that deeper level where nothing can be explained, it can only be felt. Carla Thomas said that if you were 21 that you knew what she meant--well, many of us are over 21 and knew what she menat--and for we can only say thank you and warm wishes to you and the Sound Corporation for tripping to Seattle from Los Angeles to bring us your brand and interpretation of our music.

Action, action, and more action. "Hey", how goes it. Its me coming back at you with what's going on in this town of ours. In jumping off this week, one of the action plus spots we visited was The Aquarius on the North End of town where that out-of-sight group, The Tower of Power had the club on fire, on fire with their music that is. The place was packed with people and everybody seemed to be having a good time. I know we did. We had a ball. "Oh", by the way while visiting the Club, got a chance to say a few words to the Tower of Power and they to me. So if you don't mind one thing that I really got off on was when they told me that they always look for ward to coming to our city because the people are out-of-sight. Well they won't get an argument out of me because I think so too. Another place that had a lot of action going on was the Beautiful Show Biz with jazz giant Johnny Hammond the cat I think the organ was invented for, the brother played and the people were stunned by the way this brother did his thing. Everybody seemed to have a ball, having fun listening to the groovy sounds of Johnny Hammond Smith, also another place that was really down with the action this week, the everpopular Trojan Horse with a group I think is very wild and the group I'm talking about is the Happy Bunch-five brothers and sisters doing their thing, their thing will make you happy. So if you get a chance go and see what I'm talking about.

Get-Ready

Coming to our town in the near future a dynamic jazz man and to all you jazz buffs if you dig jazz, this is the man you've got to see Mr. Gene Jug Ammons, please keep reading for time and place. Also like to mention now playing in our city the Sweetheart os soul- the very pretty-very talented Carla Thomas through this weekend don't forget to plan this lady with it. Where else? The Beautiful Heritage House in our part of town. Hear tell, I heard that Nancy the baby Wilson is on her way to the jet city, let's hope the rumors are true, everybody digs Nancy.

People, Places and Things

Some of the people seen enjoying themselves good friend Lamar of Lamar's Tavern, Spencer Haywood of the Sonics, or should I say KYAC the big man with the big sound Jazz, dig him sometimes on your radio, Bernie Foster of THE FACTS newspaper and my man Tam Henry of KYAC, Ernestine of Honeysuckle, Helen of Helen's Diner and my man Overton Berry at the Doubletree Inn.

Ford's Choice

1. I'll Always Love My Momma — The Intruders
2. Nobody Wants You When You're Down — Bobby Womack
3. We'll Work It Out — Willie Hutch
4. Give Your Baby A Standing Ovation — The Dells
5. Natural High (On my way) — Bloodstones

Man how time goes, but you know how that is, I've got to split. But like always I had a ball, hope you dug it a little too, so until next time I'll see you later.

Benefit Jazz Concert At Waterhole

The Water Hole presents a benefit jazz concert for BAM (Black Academy of Music). The Seattle Community Orchestra, a 14 piece band under the direction of Joe Brazil, will be featuring live Sunday, June 10, 8:30 pm at the Water Hole.

Also supporting the regular jazz concert show on Sunday will be the Bobby Tuggle Quartet-Bobby Tuggle, Joe Brazil, Eddie Creed, Milt Gerrard.

The Seattle Community Orchestra is a workshop orchestra established 2 years ago within the community, focusing on youth. The orchestra is comprised of high school and junior college students. BAM was initially funded through federal, city and state support. The orchestra now is supported by Model Cities plus performances to raise its funds for their much needed equipment, instruments and materials. Seattle's profes sional musicians have, from conception of the program, freely donated their time to assist and instruct the BAM members in musical reading and playing, composition and arranging.

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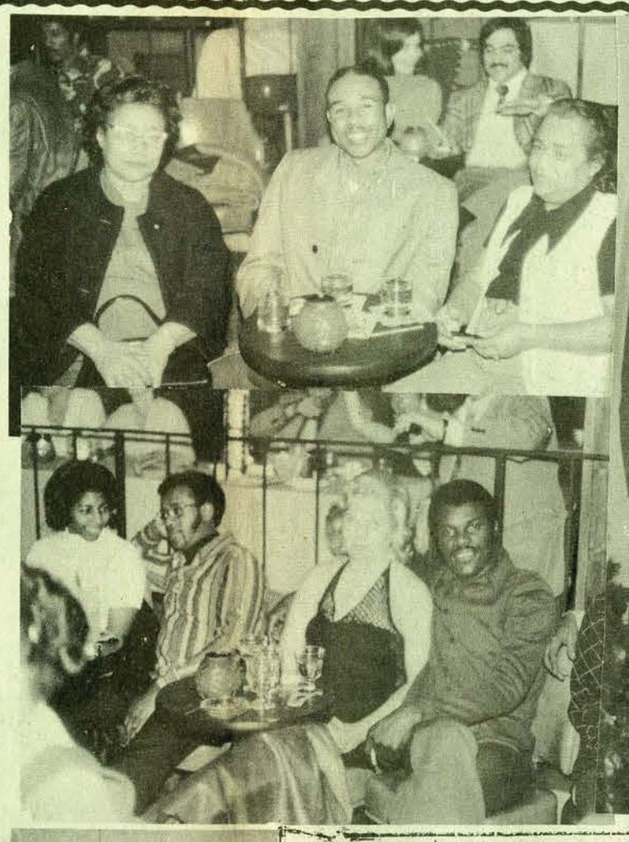
820 Empire Way S. Photos by the Busy Beaver



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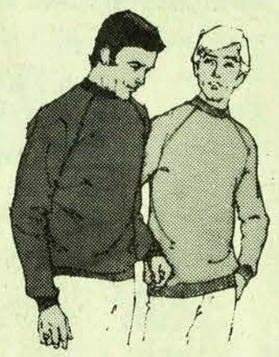

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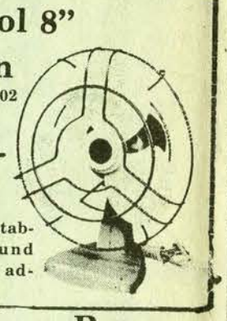

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