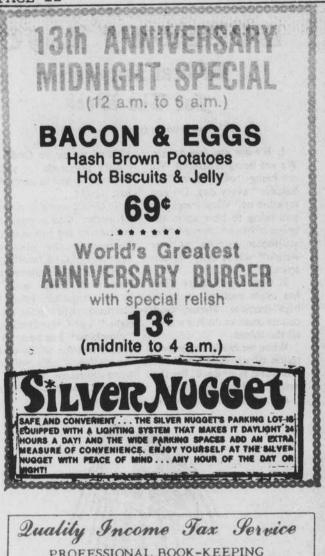
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LAS VEGAS VOICE

Jon Hendricks is a rare artist who has managed to stay ahead of his time throughout an illustrious career as a performer, lyricist, and jazz singer. With the pioneering vocal trio Lambert, Hendricks and Ross, he was also the originator of a vocal style so distinctive that not only do several of the most prominent figures on the contemporary scene name him as a prime influence, but many cintinue to re-discover his work.

Artists ranging from the Beatles to the Rol-ling Stones acknowledge Hendricks' influence on their music, while more currently one can hear unmistakeable traces of Hendricks' insphear unmistakeable traces of Hendricks' insp-ired artistry in the recordings and performan-ces of Bette Midler, Dan Hicks, Barry Man-ilow, the Pointer Sisters, Joni Mitchell and countless others. Manilow has gone as far as to record two of Jon's best known composi-tions, "Cloudburst" and "Avenue C". Hendricks was born in Newark, Ohio, the ninth child in a family of fifteen children. (He was also the seventh son of a seventh son, a fact of no small significance in blues parlance.) Ion started singing in church at the

parlance.) Jon started singing in church at the parlance.) Jon started singing in church at the age of seven, and two years later he had embarked on his professional career." People heard me, and I was singin' so hip that I began to get work. For a period during my teens, I was supporting my entire family of seventeen." Young Hendricks worked fre-quently with pianist Art Tatum, a neighbor and good friend of the family who was already establishing himself as one of the finest musicians of the era. Having gone about as far as he could in

musicians of the era. Having gone about as far as he could in the bustling music scene of Toledo, Ohio, (working gigs at the Waiters and Bellman's Club) Hendricks came to New York in 1955 seeking the big time. He began to develop his unique knack for writing lyrics to classic jazz tunes, and soon the first big payoff came when one of his compositions, "Cloud-burst," recorded by Don Lang, went #1 on the English pop charts. At about the same time Jon had just met singer Dave Lambert, whose scatting vocal style fascinated him and the pair began work on an album called "Sing a Song of Basie," which featured Jon's lyrics to Count Basie's music. The record was one of the first ever to employ the use of multof the first ever to employ the use of mult-iple track recording techniques and during the sessions Lambert and Hendricks met a young studio singer from England, Annie Ross.

The rest, as they say, is history. The three took to each other immediately and be-fore long Lambert-Hendricks & Ross were one of the most popular performing groups both here and abroad. The group won top hon rs in France as Best Jazz Vocal Group for seven consecutive years. Music fans everywhere loved the trio and it was during this period that many of today's idols were probably listening to the innovative sounds of a group that still has considerable impact of a group that still has considerable impact on much of the music being made today. Cricic Ralph J. Gleason commented "the voca! trio was the best thing to happen to jazz since Charlie Parker." 'Lambert, Hendricks & Ross eventually broke up when Dave Lambert was killed in an auto accident. Hendricks continued to write and parform His lyrics to the bossa nova

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auto accident. Hendricks continued to write and perform. His lyrics to the bossa nova tune "Desafinado" made it the hit standard, "Slightly out of Tune." In 1961, he wrote a musical production entitled "Evolution of the Blues" to be performed at the Monterey Jazz Blues'' to be performed at the Monterey Jazz Festival that year. After spending five years living in England and working jazz clubs there and on the continent, Hendricks returned to the States and assembled a company to per-form "Evolution of the Blues" in San Fran-cisco. The show, which traces the history of the blues as the native American art form and features Hendricks in the starring role, is unmitigated success. Into its third year and unmitigated success. Into its third year and still runnign, "Evolution of the Blues" one of the most popular shows in San Francisco history. It is scheduled to open on Broadway,

history. It is scheduled to open on Broadway, New York City in 1977. Jon's years in England won him immense popularity, landing him awards as Best Jazz Vocalist two years running in the prestigious Molody Maker poll. In spite of his stature as an artist, until "Tell Me the Truth", his first aloum for Arista, Hendricks had not recorded in the United States in decade. "The situation had to be right," he says, "It huser" thesen as excited about a record

"I haven't been as excited about a record I've done since "Sing a Song of Bassie." The album, which was produced by Ben Sidran and features the talents of the Point-

The album, which was produced by Ben Sidran and features the talents of the Point-er Sisters and Boz Scaggs, plus the ever popular "many others", including his wife Judith, is a showcase for Jon Hendricks the writer, the arranger, the composer and scat singer sans peer. As Ralph J. Gleason says in his liner notes, "Hendricks still has that almost eerie ability to make his voice take on the texture and timbre-the sound, in fact, of a tenor saxophone." Hendricks grew up listening to and loving, vocal stylists like Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, Fats Waller, Bill Eckstein, Babs Gonzales, Joe Carroll, Bon-Bon and Buddy Stewart, and feels that "you have to listen to everybody. A performer can't afford the luxury of narrowmindedness." Hendricks has written a television special, "Sing Me A Jazz Song," for the Soundstage series on PBS, featuring Annie Ross, Eddie Jefferson, Leon Thomas and himself, which is currently being shown nationally. He is also busy writing lyrics for the new Georgie Fame album. His new group, Hendricks, Hendricks, Hendricks and Hendricks, consisting of Jon, his wife, Judith, his daughter, Michele, and his son Eric did the Monterey Jazz Festival 1976 with the Count Basie Band when Basie was sidetracked with a heart attack and shook the festival audience up! They have been described sidetracked with a heart attack and shook the festival audience up! They have been described as "better than Lambert, Hendricks & Ross," to which Jon has a smiling "no comment." Currently featured in the San Francisco pro-duction of "Evolution of the Blues," the group will make its debut in the Broadway produc-tion. Recently, they were seen on national television on the "Peter Marshall Variety Show". "We get a bigger sound than LH&R." says Jon, "because we have four people in-stead of three. My family proves the saying that the only way to find jazz singers (who can sing LH&R) is to raise 'em yourself." sidetracked with a heart attack and shook the