

Entertainment



**ARTIST
OF THE WEEK**

By Lady Essence

Capitol Records has a new group out on the market which is just sparkling with talent. The group, MARZ.

Marz is the brainchild of Marvin Ennis, a 23-year-old songwriter and singer with the uncanny ability to work in almost any kind of music form from country to avant-garde (he hasn't tried opera yet!). A native of Annapolis, Maryland, he grew up in a family of piano players with a wide range of tastes. Ennis began composing songs early, in Junior High; after he graduated from high school, Marvin put in time creating commercial jingles in Atlanta.

During the next few years Ennis plunged into the music profession in earnest, taking on a work schedule that would exhaust a less energetic artist. He toured as keyboardist with Casablanca artists, Starpoint, and contributed a tune to their first LP (as he did to the Reddings' *Class*). In searching for his



GOOD TIMES ROLL AT TROPICANA

The Tropicana Hotel's Fountain Theatre will come to life like never before, as the original, legendary "greats" from the rock 'n roll era of the 50's and 60's bring back the sounds of yesteryear.

Titled, "Let the Good Times Roll," the show will feature such well-loved stars as Little Anthony, The Diamonds, Lou Christi, Cornell Gunther and The Coasters, The Crystals and Donny Brooks. The show's format, reminiscent of the famous Brooklyn Paramount, will invite theatre patrons to dance to the stars greatest hits; a first of its kind offering for Las Vegas entertainment in Strip showrooms.



'50s legend...Cornell Gunther, with the Coasters, heads a group of stars in the Tropicana Fountain Theatre's "Let the Good Times Roll."

"Let the Good Times Roll," opening Feb. 17 through March 2, will perform twice nightly, at 10 p.m. and 12:30 a.m., with three shows on Friday, at 10 p.m., 12 a.m. and 2 a.m.

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own expressive vehicle, Ennis' eclectic nature found him playing a key role in not one but two popular bands around the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. area. The first was Effort, a progressive jazz group that continues to enjoy a following today.

The second was, of course, Marz. Formed in 1979 around the nucleus of Ennis (keyboards), William Pettaway (guitar), Gerald Mackell (guitar), Keith Rowell (keyboards) and Perry Hudson (vocals & percussion), the group waited for the right opportunity to cut an LP.

Make It Right, their first album proves that the band's timing was perfect. Produced by Lionel Job, the LP bubbles over with one powerhouse track after another. Among the highlights: The first single, "Hooked On That Lovin' Thing," a raucous item designed to raise any party to the boiling point; the suave yet funky "Everybody Get Up," "One More Minute," with its glittering romantic melody; and "You Got Me Cryin' Again," a heart-stopping emotional ballad featuring Gloria Floyd's supercharged singing. In short, *Making It Right* has confidence, energy and melodic keenness — the hallmarks of a great LP.

MARZ has plans on producing many more albums such as this one. They are a fresh musical force to the record industry; so, listen and believe!

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