

El DeBarge Premieres First Solo Album

ROWE

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El DeBarge, El's first solo album, establishes him as one of the contemporary music's most promising male vocalists. As lead singer, songwriter and producer for one of the most successful family acts, DeBarge, El was at the center of hits like Rhythm Of The Night, All This Love, Who's Holding Donna Now, I Like It, Time Will Reveal and You Wear It Well. A true crossover artist, DeBarge's singles topped the Pop and R&B charts as well as the adult contemporary and dance playlist, propelling the All This Love, Love In A Special Way and Rhythm Of The Night albums to gold and platinum status.

Quickly following the hits came successful concert tours, impressive appearances on both landmark Emmy Award winning "Motown 25, Yesterday - Today - Forever" and "Motown Returns To The Apollo" T.V. specials and the film "Berry Gordy's The Last Dragon." El now finds himself ready for the next logical step in his progressive career; his first solo album.

For his solo project, El teams with some of pop

music's most accomplished producers, songwriters and musical talents including: David Foster, Burt Bacharach, Carole Bayer Sager, Jay Graydon, Peter Wolf, Robbie Buchanan, Diane Warren, Michael McDonald, Phillip Ingram and Vanity. The high-tech "Who's Johnny," the album's dynamic first single and theme from the Tri-Star productions "Short Circuit" — directed by John Badham ("Saturday Night Fever," "War Games")— was cowritten and produced by Peter Wolf (responsible for Starship's hit "Sara"), while two other Wolf productions—the flowing "I Wanna Hear From My Heart" and the tender "Don't Say It's Over"—were both penned by Diane Warren, who wrote DeBarge's number one hit, "Rhythm Of The Night."

Two other Diane Warren songs—the urgent "Private Line" and the seductive "Secrets Of The Night"—were produced by session ace Robbie Buchanan. El's solo debut also marks the re-teaming of he and Jay Graydon, who produced and co-wrote with Randy

Goodrum the ballad "Lost Without Her Love." Other Graydon tracks include the up tempo "Thrill Of The Chase," the melodic "When Love Is Gone Away" and the powerful "Someone."

making with an original new song "Love Always" written and produced for El's debut solo album.

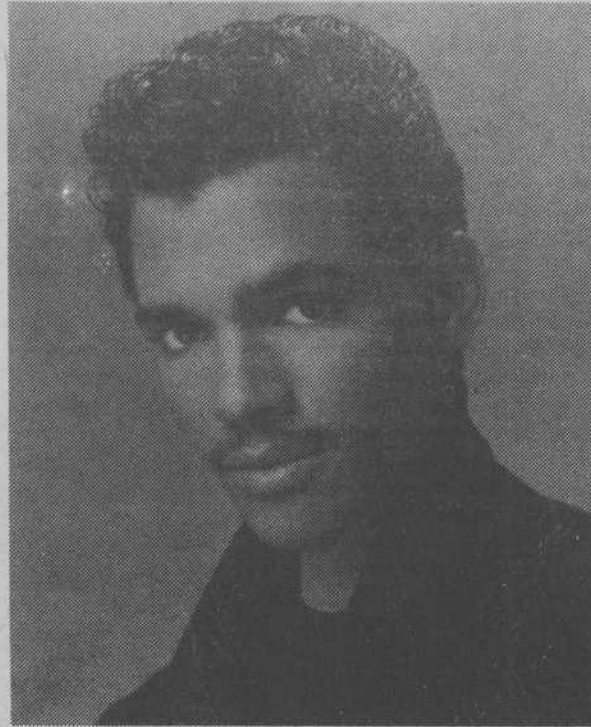
"We tried to come up with a well-balanced album that offers a little of everything.

James and Marty DeBarge, weaned by their mother and relatives on gospel music and performances in church, left their native Grand Rapids, Michigan, and were introduced to Motown via brothers Bobby and Tommy DeBarge, then augmenting the Motown group Switch. It is little wonder that he would quickly become a key member of the DeBarge unit; his mother recalls the innate interest that led her to dub a youthful El "The professor" because "he always carried a briefcase around." Soon, his curiosity would extend itself to the piano, intricate vocal harmonies and flowing arrangements that he would come to showcase on DeBarge albums.

Today finds El a maturing young artist who continues to develop as a full-service entertainer.

And it is a love for music that makes El tick. It is an interest he one day plans to extend to the silver screen. "I won't rush it, but it's something I look forward to doing. It might be fun with the right part."

In the meantime, El's hands are full. In pop music, an artist's importance is usually measured by his accomplishments. While considering this, keep in mind that El DeBarge has only just begun.



El DeBarge

Burt Bacharach and Carole Bayer Sager ("That's What Friends Are For," "On My Own") continue their magic

I feel there are some great songs as well. I'm probably my own worst critic when it comes to my work but I think we've made a record that can appeal to many popular tastes." "It's a big step for me," concedes El, "and it's exciting."

It seems only a short time ago that El, Bunny, Randy,

immortality to the world class contribution of her dad, and native son, to jazz and the total sphere of entertainment

Elizabeth Higginbotham lead the vocal reproach against scholars for ignoring "Women of Color in U.S. History." It gave those attending the annual meeting of the organization of American Historians something to think about... The Metro Council of NAACP Branches will focus its 8th annual Corporate Recognition spotlight on William H. Blakeley, Jr. and William T. McCaffrey... Don't tell lovely Rayna Cuffee that there is any other store in the world like Bloomingdale. She left \$1500 worth of camera and its equipment on a counter at Bloomie the other day and twelve hours after reporting her carelessness, it was returned intact...

Sonny Carson's Malcolm X May Parade is planned as the biggest scene B'klyn has ever seen... The N.Y. Urban League's 21 annual Frederick Douglass Awards Dinner topped all its others. Sixteen hundred guests packed the hall to set a record. This brainchild of the indefatigable Mrs. Theodore "Ann" Kheel has really come of age. The social, religious and political attention was top draw. The lovely "Miss Organization America," Harriet R. Michel, has added a vitality to the branch that's contagious.

STAY LOOSE... Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

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