

The Gap Band Is Back

With its Capitol Records debut, the Gap Band, one of the most influential groups in the history of R&B, has made its way back, funkier than ever. With Round Trip, the Wilson brothers, Ronnie, Charlie and Robert, are back, proving themselves to have been among the chief inspirations of the new jack swing.

On their first album of new material intended for release in nearly five years, the group responsible for such funky hits as "Party," "Early In The Morning" and "You Dropped A Bomb On Me," offers up more of the musical grooves and strong vocal style that they've long been famous for, with new stone-to-the-bone tracks like "It's Our Duty," the rocking "Antidote" and "Addicted To Your Love". But the band also proves itself to be definitely up with the times and onto some fresh sounds for the 1980s, with cut such as "I Like It"; "Jam," a def rap number which samples Gap Band hits to poke fun at all those who

have jumped on the group's party train; the classic-in-the-making ballad "We Can Make It Alright"; and Kickin' pop/R&B first single "All Of My Love." "That's a dif-

ferent first single for the Gap Band," admits Ronnie, "but because of the hiatus from our career, we didn't want people assuming that we were borrowing our grooves

from the younger groups." In 1977, the Gap Band released a self-titled album on the RCA-distributed Tattoo Records, before landing at Mercury Records where

they gained a national reputation behind such Top 10 black hits as "Shake" and "Open Up Your Mind."

The band's breakthrough came with the 1980 release of Gap Band III, which turned to platinum on the strength of chartbusters including "Burn Rubber On Me" and "Yearning For Your Love."

On Round Trip, the Gap Band delivers two more impressive ballads -- "Wednesday Lover" and "Let's Talk About Love" -- in the classic tradition of "Yearning..." featuring the unrivaled emotion-packed lead vocals of Charlie Wilson.

The Gap Band is back after fulfilling legal obligations to RCA Records, following the success of 1983's Gap V with its black and pop chart smash "Party Train." Touring on their own in America and overseas in Europe and Japan, the band proved to be one of the most popular and one of the few black groups able to go out on tour without a current hit record.

Now after finding a new

home at Capitol Records in late 1988, the Gap Band is enjoying the opportunity to finally be as creative as they've always wanted to be. With help from many of the same nucleus that contributed to the band's previous albums, Ronnie and Charlie have seized the opportunity to demonstrate that they haven't lost any of their producing and writing abilities.

"There are a few million fans who already know the Gap Band, and they'll be pleased to finally get to hear a new album -- a real one," promises Ronnie, who produced the LP with brother Charlie. "But the audience we're really appealing to is those who have never heard us before. We don't want to date ourselves."

While the new jacks are sure to once again look toward the Gap Band for some hit groove-making tips, that's all right with the Wilson brothers. "It doesn't bother us at all," says Ronnie. "We're still inventive. The original is always better than the copy."



The Gap Band

Sentinel's Top Ten

Top Singles

Miss You Much	Janet Jackson
Spend The Night	The Isley Brothers
Back To Life	Soul II Soul
Can't Get Over You	Maze featuring Frankie Beverly
Baby Come To Me	Regina Belle
Two Wrongs Don't Make A Right	David Peaston
Rock With You	Bobby Brown
My Fantasy	Teddy Riley featuring Guy
Home	Stephanie Mills
Smooth Operator	Big Daddy Cane



Janet Jackson

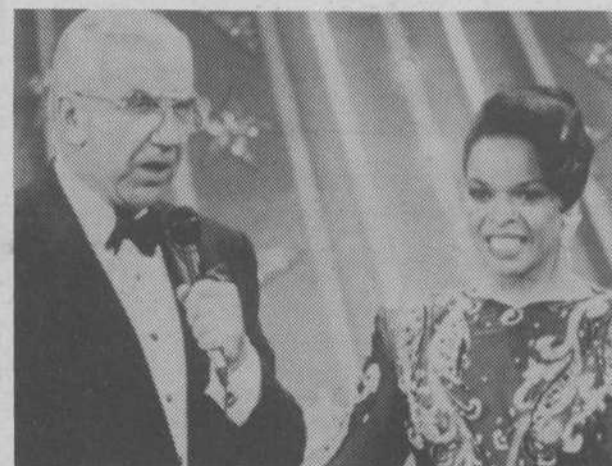
Star Search VII Semi-Finals Round I Airing The Weekend Of November 17, 18, 19, 1989

The Star Search semi-finals are here! After 10 weeks of competition, the contestants with the most wins will compete in Show #712 airing the weekend of November 17. The winners in the adult categories will return and compete with the semi-finalists of Round II and vie for the \$100,000 grand prize awarded at the STAR SEARCH '90 finals. Junior Dancers will compete this week for the grand prize of \$20,000.

Hosted by Ed McMahon, STAR SEARCH features the nation's most promising new performers competing in eight categories: Male Vocalist, Female Vocalist, Comedy, TV Spokesmodel, Adult Dance, Junior Vocalist, Teen Vocalist and in Round I, Junior Dance. Round II will feature Teen Dance and a whole new Band category.

This week will determine who will be going to the STAR SEARCH '90 Finals!

STAR SEARCH is produced by Television Program Enterprises, a division of TeleRep, Inc., a Cox Enterprises Company.



Ed McMahon with female vocalist champion Angela Teek.

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