

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Ebony Etchings, etc.

### "BIG BAND GOSPEL: JAZZ MEETS GOSPEL..."

Both gospel and big band music are distinctly American music forms, but only now have they been married. Randall-Keith Horton, an accomplished composer, arranger and conductor, has combined these two musical genres in "Big Band Gospel," a collection of nine spiritual and love songs on the New Sound Records & Tapes label.

The songs, which range from the strong and joyful gospel sound of "The River of Live" to the delicate lyrical "Family," all proclaim a love of God and right-living. The love songs also place the love between man and women within the larger embrace of God. Horton has broadened the traditional interpretation of gospel. In doing so he has also made an incursion into popular music. The result is a new music, one which offers African American young people especially, an alternative to the often destructive messages in rap and rock. Horton has filled a void.

This "Big Band Gospel" CD and cassette features the Randall-Keith Horton Gospel Orchestra sometimes by itself, sometimes with soloists, and sometimes with the 19-voice Rakeiho Gospel Singers. Two of the songs feature exquisite

soprano solos by the Rev. Diane Moffett, pastor of Elmhurst Presbyterian Church in Oakland, California. The songs are gentle "Don't Forget Love" and "Trust In God." The songs, written by her husband, trumpeter Mondre Moffett, were recorded live at Oakland's Love Center Church.

African American families, whether broken or whole, will certainly find loving respectful messages in the lyrics as of Adam's Song" (with a vocal solo by Edward Sneed) and "Song for Jennifer" (with vocal solos by Mattis Johnson and Amos Carter.) There is both a single and extended version of "Song for Jennifer," which Horton wrote in honor of his sister. The song "Family" features a vocal solo by Anita Latin.

Big band music audiences will hear some fine jazz tenor saxophone solos by Kirt Bradford (Mustopha Hashim) — a veteran of the Jimmy Lunceford Band era — and Noel Jewkes, as well as bass solos by Spencer Allen.

In a statement relative to his new gospel jazz musical concept album producer Randall-Keith Horton said, "this first 'Big Band Gospel' album is dedicated to the family—God's family, your

family (or family-to-be), and to all who have a real hope for the healing of our nation."

"Big Band Gospel" is available on New Sound Records & Tapes. The label is located at 100 Smith Ranch Road, Suite 301, San Rafael, Calif. 94903. The phone number is (415)492-2878.

### "TINSELTOWN TOPICS..."

'nita whitaker's 20-second appearance in the movie "The Bodyguard" that is currently racking up big numbers at box offices around the country, seems to have given new life to the former "Star Search" winner's career. Now, she and her manager are busy going over all the offers coming in for her to play various roles in feature films going into production. Speaking of 'nita, her recent one night special engagement at the New York Company Cabaret here in Tinseltown, was a smashing success!!

Noted Hollywood based arranger and conductor H.B. Barnum has teamed up with Marla Gibbs' Crossroads National Education and Arts Center to present a Christmas Carol Marathon that will get started on Friday, December 18th, and continue through Sunday, December 20th. This fantastic idea that calls for a \$3.00 admission price tag plus a new toy, will take place at Marla's Vision Complex (formerly Crossroads Theatre), located at 3341 West 43rd Place. Some of Hollywood's popular and talented celebrities already committed to perform reads like the who's who of show biz!! Jasmine Guy, Freda Payne, Nancy Wilson, Stewart Damon, Dionne Warwick, Gary Marshall, Mike Howard, Jackee, Reynaldo Rey, Smokey Robinson, Lou Rawls, Robert Guillaume, LIFE Choir, Faithful Central Voices of Faith Choir, Christ Memorial

## HE'S SUPER BAD



The ageless Godfather of soul music, James Brown (right), was in town recently to accept an award from Mrs. Black Nevada, Deborah Pope (left), for his accomplishments and contributions to the recording business. Don Hearon, CEO and founder of Hearon Records looks on, as the event kicks off the North Las Vegas Invitational Record Expo. Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

## SENTINEL-VOICE TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1.) I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU - Whitney Houston
- 2.) RUMP SHAKER - Wreckx -N- Effect
- 3.) IF I EVER FALL IN LOVE AGAIN - Shai
- 4.) I GOT A THANG - Low Key
- 5.) RIGHT KIND OF LOVE - Jeremy Jordan
- 6.) WORK TO DO - Vanessa Williams
- 7.) I'D DIE WITHOUT YOU - PM Dawn
- 8.) WICKED - Ice Cube
- 9.) HERE IT COMES - MC Serch
- 10.) GOOD ENOUGH - Bobby Brown

**NEW #1 SONG:** I Will Always Love You

**PICK HIT OF THE WEEK:** Wicked

**FURTHERMORE:** Whitney makes a huge jump from #10 to #1 after debuting last week in the T'10. Don't expect to see that change for a few weeks. Wreckx-N-Effect remains the #2 song, unable to take over the top spot. Shai, Low Key and Jeremy Jordan, as they did last week, creep closer to the top. Ice Cube knocks Shabba Ranks out of the T'10 with his Wicked cut.

**TOP JAZZ CATS FROM THE CAT HIMSELF:** 1. Mr. Fingers - Introduction 2. Brecker Bros. - Return Of... 3. Norman Brown - Just Between Us 4. Rastine - Afrodisiac 5. Everette Harp - Everette Harp 6. Boney James - Trust 7. Larry Carlton - Kid Gloves 8. Joe McBride - Grace 9. Grover Washington Jr., - Next Exit 10. Shadowfax - Esperanto

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WW



Whitney Houston

Top 10 compiled by:  
DJ Willie-Will

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Radio Choir, Marcus Flanagan, Carlos Lacamara, David Asche, Mary Jo Keenan, Stephanie Hodge and numerous others.

Proceeds from this star studded holiday season show will be used to assist in the feeding of the hungry. The toys collected will become a part of the "Toys For Tots" program, and distributed by members of the United States Marine Corps. Tickets can be purchased at the Vision Complex box office and other designated locations around town! If more information is needed, call (213)291-7321 or (213) 462-0723...and that's Hollywood this time!! Until the next time, Lanier.