

MUSIC BEAT

Music of the Caribe

by Jim Stiak

This week's Big Name in town is Joan Armatrading, who brings her rich tones and relevant poems to the Hult Tuesday. Born a Sagittarius on the Caribbean island of St. Kitt's, Armatrading began performing in the early 60's in Birmingham, England. Ten albums later, she's carrying her Afro-Caribe influences and unique musical phrases on a lengthy tour through Europe, North America and Australia.

The pulsing beat and Rasta lyrics of reggae return to the WOW Monday in the form of the Twinkle Brothers. Singer and songwriter Norman Grant has kept this group going for 23 years, releasing an album a year since 1975. Unlike most reggae groups, they're actually from Jamaica, being one of the oldest bands on the island.

There'll be a wicked stew cooking at the WOW Friday night, when The Hoodlums, The White Liberals and Johnson Unit all leap into the musical caldron. Something for everybody there. A little crime, a little guilt and a little thorozone. . . .

Gypsy moth or no, the show must go on. The Dexter Theater hosts its first event of the spring, a Saturday night of bluegrass, folk and country. The foot-stompin' fiddle of Big Sue, Uncle T and Johnny, and a new group with a familiar name, The Everly Triplets, will do their thang at this "family event" with a beer and wine garden.

And in the "if wishes were finches, beggars would fly" department. . . . Condolences go out to Linda, who, upon hearing that "The Boss" was tying the knot, commented, "If I'd known that was what he wanted, I would have become a beautiful model." There but for fortune. And a finishing school.



Mozart Players Celebrate Handel's 300th

George Frideric Handel, whose 300th birth year is being celebrated in 1985, has long been admired for his *Messiah*, and astonishingly, for little else. A highly prolific composer, Handel achieved tremendous international fame at the same time that his obscure contemporary, J.S. Bach, was laboring in a provincial German city, unknown to the vast majority of the musical world.

During Handel's lifetime, his music was respected and enjoyed throughout Europe, while Bach's remained all but unknown. In later years, however, a curious fate has befallen it. While the music of Bach was "discovered" in the early 19th century, and has become a staple of our musical diet, very little of Handel's vast output of music is regularly performed today.

The reason for the neglect of Handel's work is hard to fathom, for this is truly great music, full of sensitivity, vitality and humanity. Handel was certainly more than a one-work composer, and no matter how much we are nourished and inspired by his *Messiah*, we are the poorer for our lack of exposure to his other great and uplifting works.

In their concert on the 25th of

May, the Oregon Mozart Players will be doing their part to counter this undeserved neglect. They will be celebrating Handel's 300th birth year with a concert entirely devoted to his works. Featured will be three compositions which demonstrate the variety of Handel's creative output, a work for orchestra, a solo concerto, and a work for vocal soloists, chorus and orchestra.

The concert will open with a performance of the Suite in F Major from one of Handel's most famous works, the "Water Music." Then, harpist Jane Allen will join the orchestra for a rare performance of the Concerto for Harp and Orchestra in B flat major. Following intermission, soprano Cherine Bauer, tenor Kenneth Jones and the Eugene Chamber Singers will collaborate with the orchestra in a gala performance of Handel's "Ode to St. Cecilia's Day." This work, set to the words of the poet John Dryden, shows the breadth of Handel's creative imagination and spirit, with vigorous choruses and playful orchestral sections balanced by heart-rendingly beautiful airs for the solo voices. It is truly a treat not to be missed!

—Robert Irving

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If this applies to you, or if you are simply curious to know more about yourself physically and emotionally, Rolfing is for you.

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Oregon Mozart Players

Robert Hurwitz, Music Director
Saturday, May 25, 1985
HANDEL
Suite in F Major from the "Water Music"
Harp Concerto in B Flat, Op. 4, No. 6
Jane Allen, harp
Ode for Saint Cecilia's Day
Cherine Bauer, soprano; Kenneth Jones, tenor;
The Eugene Chamber Singers, James Miller, Director

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