



BROTHERS JOHNSON

It would be a total understatement to say that 1976 was the year The Brothers Johnson arrived. Their emergence was an overnight success story that might well have come from the mind of an overzealous Hollywood film producer.

From virtual obscurity to overnight stardom, The Brothers Johnson skyrocketed onto the charts with their debut A&M album *Look Out For #1*. Released in February '76, the album was gold by the first week in April and achieved platinum status for sales of over a million units six weeks later. Catapulted by the success of their gold singles "I'll Be Good To You" and "Get The Funk Out Ma Face," they lit up the sky. The release of *Right On Time*, their new album, marks the start of a new chapter in their ongoing - and fascinating - story.

"It was really amazing for Louis and me," George Johnson, the 24-year-old guitarist and elder Johnson says. "It all happened so fast for us in terms of being The Brothers Johnson, but we're not really new to the music business; we've been playing since we were seven and eight years old."

"We had a local band in Los Angeles called The Johnson Three plus 1 we formed with our older brother Tommy, our drummer, and our cousin Alex Weir, who played rhythm guitar. We kept the band together through junior and senior high school and got a pretty good reputation around L.A. playing school dances and as the opening act for some major performers."

"One day we were trying to audition a keyboard player over at Billy Preston's house when Billy walked in. He dug the way I played guitar and asked me to join his band. It was 1971, I'd just graduated from high school, and I was eager to get on the road. Here was my 'big break.' I learned a lot playing with Billy, but the entire time I was with him I was trying to figure out a way to get Louis into the band. One night in Canada the bass player quit, and I told Billy about Louis."

"When George came home off the road," Louis recalls, "we used to work on our material and inevitably, he'd show me the songs he'd been playing with Billy. When George called that night from Canada and said I had the gig, I caught the first plane out and without a rehearsal with the band, I found myself onstage that night playing in front of 17,000 people. It freaked Billy out. He was skeptical at first, but I knew all the songs and it felt so good being back in a band playing with my brother again."

During their two-year tenure as members of Preston's God Squad, The Brothers contributed three songs to his albums: "I Wonder Why," "Heart Full Of Sorrow," and the hit single "Struttin'."

"We learned a lot of playing with Billy, but it was inevitable we'd leave because we had aspirations of eventually putting together our own band. After we left, we stayed home and wrote day after day, just working on our songs and playing all the time. Louis had a good reputation around the L.A. studios for his style of bass playing, and he began to get lots of calls for recording sessions. It was on one of those calls that we had the biggest break we've ever had, and probably ever will have."

Quincy Jones was recording his *Mellow Madness* album and preparing to start a tour of Japan. He told a friend he was looking for two young guitar and bass players. His friend told him he knew two cats who used to play with Billy Preston, were out of work and eager to get into something. Quincy placed the call, and an hour later The Brothers were in his studio showing off their wares.

Quincy Jones picks up the thread of the story: "Louis and George walked into my house with their guitars, sat down and started to play, and I really could not believe what I was hearing. Louis had a style of bass playing where he literally beat the bass with his thumb, giving off a melodic percussive sound, while George would answer his bass lines with these quick guitar passages. It was as if they were talking to each other through their instruments, and the sound of their music just freaked me out...I couldn't believe it! Right then and there I knew I had to have them for the band, and eventually produce them in an album of their own material."

The Brothers relationship with Quincy has been, to say the least, multifaceted. They refer to him as their "producer, mentor, brother, guru and friend."

"He used four of our songs on his *Mellow Madness* album: 'Is It Love That We're Missin'?', 'Listen (What It Is)', 'Just A Little Taste Of Me,' and 'Tryin' To Find Out About You.'"

"When we toured Japan with him, he was constantly working with us, showing us different ways of playing chord changes and teaching us how to read and write music. Our relationship with Quincy has been a joy to behold; believe me when I tell you that being with him is like nothing I've ever experienced before. It really is beautiful."

Record World Magazine, in its annual poll, voted The Brothers Johnson the Top New Duo, Top New Singles Duo, and Top New Album Duo in the Pop, Rhythm and Blues and Jazz categories.

Look Out For #1 was Chapter One - but look out for Chapter Two: *Right On Time* is exactly what it says it is.

Jefferson dance students earn Ryan scholarships

Two scholarships given in the memory of Shen Ryan, a Jefferson dance student who was killed last fall, will be presented at the Jefferson High School Student Dance Recital May 26th.

One scholarship is the "Shen Ryan Memorial Dance Scholarship" and the other a scholarship for the Reed Summer Dance Workshop.

Shen Ryan was a student in her junior year in the dance program at Jefferson High School's Performing Arts Center at the time of her death in December, 1976. She was one of the most promising young dancers with whom the dance staff at Jefferson has ever worked: she was fluent in a variety of dance styles, ballet, modern, jazz, ethnic, and tap; she was a seasoned performer having had several years of television and live-audience performing experience with the Park Bureau and at Jefferson; she was a very disciplined student-a student who opened herself to an instructor's point of view and who learned each day she spent in the studio.

Shen had a goal which she quietly and consistently worked for: to become a professional dancer. At the time of her death, she had \$700 saved toward this goal and post-high school training. It was her intent to complete her studies at Jefferson and then continue training in New York.

It is in the spirit of Shen's achievements, her determination, and goals as a dancer that this memorial scholarship fund has been started. Talented arts students have little access to scholarship money; this scholarship is viewed as a

beginning for other students who, it is hoped, will be inspired by the determination of a very promising young dancer whose ambitions were so senselessly thwarted.

The Shen Ryan Memorial Dance Scholarship will award \$700 annually to a promising young dancer completing training from the Jefferson Dance program. The recipient of this scholarship must be a student who has studied in the Jefferson Dance program (or PPS magnet dance program) at least two years; be a student who has at least 3.00 overall GPA; Be a graduating student, (either male or female) who is completing high school requirements; have professional goals in dance; have professional potential in dance; continue post high school education and training in dance.

In Memory of Sharon (Shen) Ryan a scholarship in Shen's name will be offered by Judy Massee and V. Keith Martin, co-directors of the Reed College Summer Dance Workshop.

This scholarship will be a full tuition scholarship to the Reed Summer Dance Workshop and will include as many courses as the recipient chooses to take. It will be awarded annually to a Jefferson High School student for each summer the workshop is held.

The Shen Ryan Scholarship will be awarded to a student selected by the Jefferson Dance Department on the basis of talent and dedication to the Art of Dance.

The recital will be held May 26th at the Performing Arts Center Theatre.

Women's Conference set for June

The Oregon Women's Conference, the first government sponsored conference specifically to deal with women's issues, will be held in June.

The United States' response to the International Women's Conference held in Mexico in 1975 was to appropriate \$5 million to study how the issues identified by the international conference relate to American women. The International Women's Year Conference wrote an extensive report on barriers to equality for women.

Each state will have its own conference to address the issues, elect delegates to a national conference to be held in Houston in November, and to send resolutions to the national convention.

Co-chairpersons of the Oregon Coordinating Committee are Gladys McCoy and Charlene Holmes. The sole role of the

committee is to organize the state conference. The eighteen delegates to the national conference will be elected at the state conference and any woman can submit an application to be considered for election.

During the three day conference, to be held June 3rd, 4th and 5th at Willamette University in Salem, over one hundred topics will be explored - from home-making to inheritance tax law, from child care to retirement planning. Noted speakers will discuss the role of women in the state, the nation and the world. The conference will also feature women's art and films by and about women.

Realizing that many women cannot travel to Salem for the conference, the Coordinating Committee has scheduled fourteen "Speak Outs" across the state. These meetings will deal with specific issues.

Art Center classes begin

The North/Northeast Youth Development Program today announced the formation of Free Classes in Radio Broadcasting, Photography, Woodworking, Leathercraft, and Broadcast Electronics.

The classes, to be held at the Albina Women's League Community Arts

Center, 8 N.E. Killinsworth Street, will begin Tuesday, May 24, 1977. Prospective students, ages 14-25, may enroll until Friday, May 27, 1977 during the day or at the N/NE Youth Council meeting Tuesday, May 24, 1977 at 7:30 p.m.

For additional information call the Arts Center at 281-7573.

Work/study in health available

Applications are being accepted from college undergraduates for the Summer Work-Study Program for Minority Students in Health Administration. The program offers minority students the opportunity to receive on-site experience and exposure to the health field following placement in participating health care facilities for a ten-week period. A stipend of \$1250 is offered for the 1977 program which runs from June 20th through August 26, 1977.

The purpose of the Summer Work-Study Program for Minority Students in Health Administration is to attempt to bridge the gap between the 17% minority group representation in the population and the very small number of minority members in administrative positions in the health field. It is evident that minority representation must be greatly increased in decision-making roles in order to make vital, significant changes and improvements in health care delivery for non-white patients.

The program offers student participants orientation classes, rap sessions, seminars, and selected speakers from the health profession to broaden their aware-

ness of the careers available in health administration and to encourage their continuing their studies at the graduate level.

In 1976 contracting facilities included Kaiser Foundation, Emanuel Hospital, Veterans Hospital, Project Health (Multnomah County), and St. Vincent's Hospital, among others.

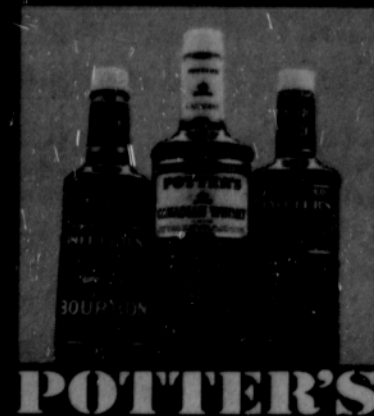
The deadline for applications has been extended to Monday, May 30th.

Byron Walters, Faculty Coordinator for the program indicates that "this program offers students an exceptional opportunity into the health administration field which is not available in many areas of the country."

The PMSC-sponsored program receives funding through the Association of University Programs in Health Administration and public and private donations.

Interested undergraduates are encouraged to contact Mrs. Lorraine Duncan, Special Programs Director, Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee, or Byron Walters, Faculty Coordinator, at 288-8391, or stop by PMSC offices, 220 N.E. Russell, to receive an application for the work-study program before the deadline.

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