



A NEW YEAR'S INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL HENDERSON

Exclusive - By Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W. - Among the talents which makes up the entertainment business, nothing is as pleasurable as watching a star twinkle creatively in a world where original talent takes second place. Michael Henderson is such a star who spoke with Grassroot News reporter Lanita Duke, about his development in music.

Duke: How did you get started in the music business?

Henderson: When I was thirteen, I started with Stevie Wonder, the Temptations, Four Tops, Marvin Gaye, The Spinners and The Jackson Five. I was the boss for the whole Motown family. Then, I started to musically interact with Norman Conner, and spent seven years with Miles Davis.

Duke: You seem to have a unique involvement in music due to the fact that you started in Soul and went into jazz. How do you explain your conversion?

Henderson: Jazz is the mother of R&B. I think that everybody takes their new thoughts and ideas from jazz. Jazz is the slickest form of music that we have and it's also why it's the lowest paying.

Duke: One of the main influences in Jazz is Gospel. Did the Black church indirectly have an effect on your music?

Henderson: Oh, of course! R&B came from the church. That beat and plus all the people from Motown developed their talents through gospel.

Duke: When the world was introduced to Michael Henderson, the introduction was that of a romantic singer. In your latest release *Wide Receiver* have you departed from your introduction?

Henderson: No I haven't. There are four slow songs on that album. I'm a very young man and I got sick of younger people walking up to me saying that their parents listen to me after midnight. The younger kids in the Black



National Public Radio's JAZZ ALIVE! launches 1981 with a special, four-city New Year's Eve broadcast that will culminate with San Francisco's Keystone Korner, showcasing saxophone giants DEXTER GORDON (1) and SONNY STITT and others. The JAZZ ALIVE! New Year's Eve festivities will be heard on NPR member station KBPS-1450 A.M. Radio, Wednesday, December 31, from 6:30 p.m. until midnight.

JAZZ ALIVE! NEW YEAR'S EVE SPECIAL AIRS LIVE ON KBPS

Musician/composer/author Ben Sidran hosts the New York segment of the program, with Al Pryor as host from Detroit. Pianist/composer and regular JAZZ ALIVE! host Billy Taylor takes over in Chicago, with educator/composer/trumpeter Gerald Wilson and noted jazz historian and critic Leonard Feather doing the honors in San Francisco.

"We've pulled out all the stops this New Year's Eve to throw the best jazz broadcasting ever," says producer Tim Owens. "The talent couldn't be more exciting and the combination promise to please and surprise."

JAZZ ALIVE! launches 1981 with a CROSS COUNTRY NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY which will be broadcast on KBPS LIVE via satellite from 6:30 p.m., until midnight on Wednesday, December 31.

Festivities come from New York City's Seventh Avenue South; Detroit's Dummy George's; Chicago's Rick's Cafe Americain; and San Francisco's Keystone Korner.

Heralding the New Year in a veritable feast of jazz sounds and styles, JAZZ ALIVE! features the electrifying Brecker Brothers; the warm, full-bodied swing of the Houston Person/Etta Jones Quartet; the smooth, lyrical sounds of trumpeter Clark Terry; and the masterful bebop craftsmanship of saxophonists Dexter Gordon and Sonny Stitt, pianist Red Garland, guitarist Kenny Burrell, trumpeter Woody Shaw and much more.



GOSPEL LIGHTS: Denise Wrihten, Naomi Wrihten, Ganette C. Andrews, Ganette Andrews, Debra Wrihten.

Gospel Lights celebrate anniversary

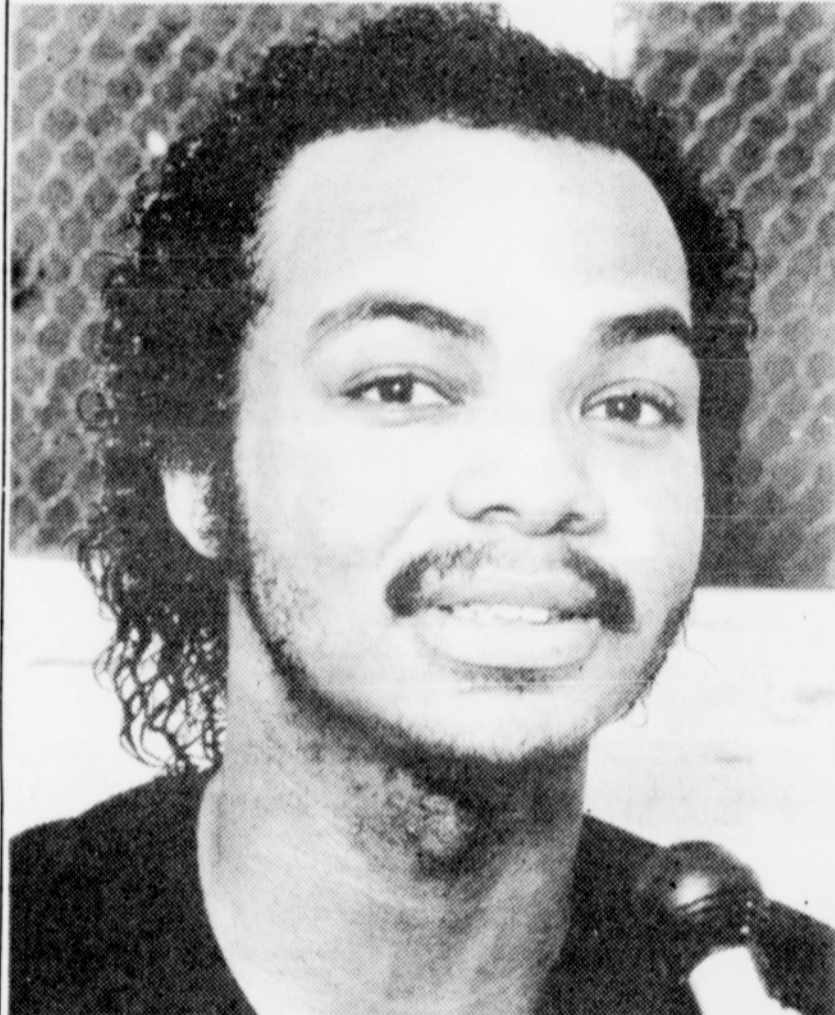
By Pam Smith

There's a Gospel group in town...and they're spreading the word of Jesus through song and actions. Under the direction of Naomi Wrihten, the *Gospel Lights* have a sincere dedication to the community and to issues which are concerned with equality for all.

The Church of the Living God P.G.T., is the home base of this organization, however, the group gives concerts in an average year to nearly 80 other audiences. In addition they have a regular broadcast on K.G.A.R. Radio entitled, "Gospel Train," and have made special appearances on KBLE in Seattle.

This year, the *Gospel Lights* performed six (6) major concerts from which the proceeds went to the Black United Front, the NAACP, the Urban League and KGAR. The group's community involvement doesn't stop there. They have sang at the State Penitentiary, Homes for Women, Portland Community College, and King Neighborhood Facility to name only a few.

Recently, they celebrated their 4th year anniversary with the Salvation Army Moore Street Center, by having an Awards Night. These awards were given to the best Soloists, Duets, Choirs and Groups in the community.



MICHAEL HENDERSON

(Photo: Richard Brown)

community don't know who Michael Henderson was. They didn't want to hear the slow songs, so I went back to doing something I did a long time ago. Now I'm starting to funk a little bit and still keep the slow songs and let people get off. People spend their money and should enjoy the whole album. Plus I'm suppose to enjoy what I'm doing instead of being Mr. Suit wearer.

Duke: Would you call yourself a Soul vocalist?

Henderson: No. It's too bad people label music. That's why Jazz has the problems that it does now. If people didn't label music, I think that it would just be called music. I would like to see that day but I don't think that it will happen too soon, because of the way Radio stations and program managers are. I'm not a soul singer. I'm just a singer. I can play any type of music. I can create and produce music. So many people spend their time typecasting music that they hold it back.

Duke: Do you think Motown can withstand the latest blow, like Disco?

Henderson: They already have done it. Now you find white acts recording old Motown songs. So Motown lives even longer.

Duke: What does 1981 have in store for Michael Henderson?

Henderson: I'm going to funk a little bit and try to keep myself happy along with everybody else. I'm not going to hold up some macho image that's really not me. Women that are out there today are different from a year ago, and five years ago. They are not going for the same things.

Duke: What advice could you give our readers for 1981?

Henderson: Be patient. If you're going to be in a profession, try to have some love for it. Try to be creative. You need a lot of luck because there's somebody out there doing the same thing that you are doing.

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO SAVE ON YOUR FOOD BILL?

We offer savings of up to 40% and more on fine quality wonder and Hostess products, plus large discounts on other baked goods. Besides our everyday low prices, we feature in-store specials daily. Just look for the "bargain" signs on the displays in our store. Discover for yourself what thousands of smart shoppers in the area have found.

You'll be amazed at the savings you make at our Wonder Thrift Shop!

Food stamps gladly accepted

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
You must be completely satisfied with every purchase or we will cheerfully refund your purchase price.

WONDER-HOStESS THRIFTSHOP
115 N. Cook St.
Corner of Vancouver & Cook St., Portland, Oregon
Open Mon thru Sat—9am-6pm—Closed Sundays

POWERFUL!!—HUMOROUS!!—HEARTRENDING!!
YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS

"Sizwe Bansi is Dead"
an outstanding Oregon Shakespearian Festival Production
January 24 and 25, 1981
7:00 P.M.
BUCKLEY CENTER AUDITORIUM
UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND

Tickets Available:
Meier & Frank downtown ticket office
H.C. Plummer and Co. Real Estate,
317 N.E. Killingsworth
and at Door

Sponsored by Black Colleges Conference Committee for Scholarship Fund

SEE SPORTS ON GIANT SCREEN T.V.

JOE'S PLACE

1801 N.E. Alberta

Ice Cold BEER SERVED HERE

INFLATION BEATER

Happy Hour at the ROCKS
Monday - Friday 5-9

House Brand Drinks 55¢ Beer 25¢

Movies Shown Daily

OLD FIGHTS
MUHAMMAD ALI
JOE LOUIS and OTHERS

WEDS. LADIES THURS. NIGHT **WED. AFTER FRI. HOURS**

Ladys no cover
2 Drinks for the price of one **SAT. Till 4:30**

AFTER 9 DISCO

The Best Souvlaki In Town

WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY

Michael J.

15 N.W. 6th 228-1308