

# HAPPENINGS



Glenn Kaiser, Stu Heiss, Jim Denton, John Herrin and Wendy Kaiser.

## Resurrection Band

The Resurrection Band achieves the rarely-found balance between uncompromising Christian advocacy and bracing rock musicianship. Since forming 11 years ago, the five-member Chicago-based group has refined their hard rock attack while continuing to write songs with a Biblical perspective. "Some people still see us as a dichotomy," Kaiser concedes. "But for us, there's no conflict between playing rock and being committed to Jesus. For younger people, rock is a common denominator—we want to use it to tell them about the Lord."

The group's album, released in November '82 by Light Records, spreads that message with all the rock-driven energy the band can muster. Their instrumental thrust is stinging and dramatic, whether charging through a heavy metal-tinged number ("Military Man," "White Noise") or a tune with new wave overtones ("So In Love With You," "Reluctance"). The lyrics are equally potent—"Babylon" depicts the modern world in flames, while "Area 312" and "The Prisoner" portray spiritual hunger. The words and music combine to focus on the struggles of being a Christian in the 1980s.

During the first year of its existence, the Rez Band toured diligently, performing from Florida to Michigan. At the time, Jesus People U.S.A. numbered 35 dedicated Christians who travelled across the country by van and car. Kaiser recalls those days with fondness: "As a travelling ministry, we were able to make impact on whole communities, because we'd go to areas no one else would visit. We'd stay in towns of 10,000 people for two or three weeks, and by the time we left, everybody there knew us. We'd play concerts every night, sharing with Christians, non-believers and anyone else. It was very exciting."

The Resurrection Band exists to reach listeners with the Word—and to deliver it with the best rock 'n' roll they can offer. "All of enjoy rock—it's part of our culture," says Kaiser. "At the same time, we need to express ourselves as Christians. Combining rock and the Lord might be controversial to some, but that's okay. As long as we get people to think—that's the important thing."

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## The Dynasty Sound

The American Heritage Dictionary defines "dynasty" as a succession of rulers from the same family that maintains power for several generations. The definition applies to Solar Records group Dynasty, which has scored several hits on their own and whose member collectively and individually have powered still more hits by Solar labelmates the Whispers, Shalamar and Carrie Lucas.

*Right Back At 'Cha!*, released in October '82, is the fourth and latest collection in the Dynasty legacy, and according to lead vocalist Linda Carriere, it crystallizes the group's vast musical growth during the past year. "Dynasty has grown in such leaps and bounds since the beginning stages," says Carriere, who co-founded the group in 1979 with Kevin Spencer and Nidra Sylvers; Leon Sylvers and William Shelby joined in '81 in time for Dynasty's third album. "We're settling into our relationships with ourselves and with Solar. Everything has jelled, from our relationships as friends to those as performers. That's why we all feel *Right Back At 'Cha!* is four steps ahead of our last LP."



William Shelby, Nidra Beard, Leon Sylvers, Linda Carriere, & Kevin Spencer.

Kevin Spencer notes that the new effort stresses a band sound, one that's more economical instrumentally. "We didn't use any strings or horns, so we can reproduce the same sound in concert." Producer Sylvers adds that Dynasty's vocal potential is realized even better on the new album. "It's so strong overall because it features more of our vocalists than ever before. I'm more excited about *Right Back At 'Cha!* than anything I've done before because it's artistic, yet accessible to most people."

Dynasty's debut, *Your Piece Of The Rock* LP, released in July 1979, showed great promise—the single "I Don't Want To Be A Freak (But I Can't Help Myself)" made the R&B Top 40. But with their July 1980 *Adventures In The Land Of Music* LP, Dynasty proved they were on the scene to stay. The album climbed to #11 on the black music charts, sparked by the singles "I've Just Begun To Love You" (#6 R&B/pop-charted) and "Do Me Right" (Top 40 R&B).

Dynasty toured the States as part of the extensive '80-'81 Solar Galaxy Of Stars package following the release of *Adventures In The Land Of Music*. Then they returned to Los Angeles to chart the course of *The Second Adventure*, assembling new songs they'd started on the road. "Here I Am," released as a single in advance of the August '81 LP, bulleted up the charts into the R&B Top 30, as did the follow-up single "Love In The Fast Lane."

"During the last year," says Leon, "Dynasty not only concentrated on writing material for *Right Back At 'Cha!*, our third album, but also developed and produced other artists. We've all been very busy developing our other talents."

In early '82, Sylvers established Silverperson Productions Inc., as he says, "to be a production entity for young writers, artists and producers, like Kevin Spencer, William Shelby, Dana Myers and Linda Carriere—an avenue for all the people I've worked with to put our talents out there without being ripped off." One off the first Silverperson Productions efforts was the recently-released Arista LP by new group Real to Reel, co-produced by Sylvers, Spencer and Shelby.

Sylvers added that he was especially impressed by the knack Linda Carriere has for production. During the recent sessions for *Right Back At 'Cha!* (released in October '82), he notes that "she proved not only to be a great singer and composer, but great at the controls as well."

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