

HAPPENINGS

A Good Sound Of Silk

It's all too rare these days to find a new band with the skill, imagination and sense of history you'll immediately recognize in Rare Silk—a completely unique pop/jazz singing quartet. Made up of three women and one man, Rare Silk's impeccable harmonies are both intricate enough to win them the respect of hard-core jazz fans, of the old and new school, and accessible enough for general pop listeners. Their debut album on Polydor/Polygram, *New Weave*, should immediately establish them among the highest rank of vocal groups, among such luminaries as Lambert, Hendricks and Ross and The Manhattan Transfer.

The group comes out of Boulder, Colorado, where they began as an all-female threesome in 1978, including Marguerite Juenemann and sisters Gaile and Marylynn Gillaspie. They started out doing background vocals for commercials in Boulder but soon got their own show on KGNU Public Radio. In 1979 the three singers added a trio of musicians to back them up. At the time they were performing '40s style swing. Marylynn and Gaile, whose father is a jazz trumpeter, grew up listening to a lot of the big band sound. "We used to listen a lot when we were young to the Dorsey Brothers band, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra."

Rare Silk's early swing influence soon won them the attention and respect of Benny Goodman, after they opened a show for him in late '79. Goodman invited the singers to join him on a world-wide tour that included the Aurex Festival in Japan, the Playboy Jazz Festival at the Hollywood Bowl and culminated in a sell-out concert at New York's Carnegie Hall. This led to a USO tour of the Far East, concluding with a guest segment on the Merv Griffin Show.



In January of 1981 Todd Buffa was asked by the singers to join them, adding a whole new dimension to the group. They began to leave the swing sound behind, exploring a more eclectic vocal jazz style. Their influences by then spanned two generations of jazz, from Billie Holiday and Benny Goodman to Miles Davis to Al Jarreau. The foursome's reputation spread so quickly that in August of '81 they turned up on *Downbeat's* readers and critics polls for Best Vocal Group—quite an achievement for a group that had yet to record an album. Their popularity was all based on local Colorado fans and their live jazz festival appearances. The group placed on the prestigious poll in 1982 as well.

In August of '82 the group was signed by Polygram. Now Rare Silk's debut is here, featuring original music by the singers as well as reinterpretations of such classic jazz songs as Freddie Hubbard's "Red Clay" and Chick Corea's "Spain." The record features guest spots by such top talents as Randy Brecker (who, besides playing trumpet also did the horn arrangements), alto sax player Gary Bartz and Bruce Foreman. Rare Silk's able backup trio consists of Michael Berry (drums), Kim Stone (bass), and Jim Ridl (keyboards). It all adds up to that rare combination of technical skill and emotional spontaneity that will appeal to listeners of all tastes.



Use this season's pastels to blossom like a lovely spring flower. Model Sheila Johnson enhances her beauty with sunlit shades of berry.

A Fresh Lovely Look

Find out how to give yourself a lift with this season's new look in an array of luscious pastels by reading "Spring Radiance" in the April *Ebony*.

In the past, shades such as baby blue, pink, and lilac didn't flatter black women because they were formulated to compliment white skin tones. This spring cosmetic companies that cater to black women have designed eye, cheek, and lip color in pastel shades that really light up fair, medium, and dark complexions. Red has been spruced up for spring with glowing gold and yellow undertones.

The explosion of new color is also refreshingly evident in hair color—imagine yourself in a radiant raspberry henna!—and enticing mascara shades like green and violet. Whatever combination of spring's new palette you choose, you're sure to be welcomed everywhere... like a breath of fresh air!

A Great Geneva's Tradition Is Back!

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Hats Hats Hats

Listen! The Mordenestic Social Club will give you a prize for the hat you are wearing—go back as far as the '30s, '40s, and up to now, the '80s—and dig out a bad hat or mad hat as long as it is a hat.

April 2, 1983 at the Royal Esquire Club
Music by Lloyd Allen Band.

Donation \$3.00 advance, \$4.00 at door. Prizes—Prizes—Prizes. Proceeds go to help someone and Token of Love.



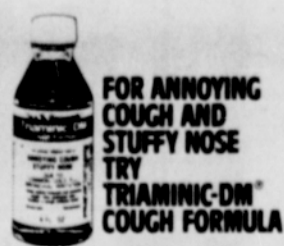
Lois Marie Lewis Are They Really Dreams?

"The Professional Amateurs" will be appearing at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate, March 18, 1983, at 8:00 p.m., in *Are They Really Dreams*, a play written by Lois Marie Lewis.

These vignettes on the poetic expression of life are worth seeing. For reservations call 243-7930.



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EVERGREEN EVENTS PROUDLY PRESENTS

Friday
HONI COLES AND THE COPASETICS
April 1, 1983
8:15 PM
Civic Auditorium
Portland

From New York City still making tap dance history after five decades in the business. Honi Coles and members of the Copasetic Club will dazzle and delight the whole family. Featuring Leslie "Bubba" Gaines, Charles "Cookie" Cook, "Buster" Brown and guest star Branda Bufalino to live jazz. Like the Preservation Hall jazz band, the Copasetics are "originals!"
(in EUGENE, March 30, Hull Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets through Evergreen Events in February, then at U of O and Hull Center Box Office)

Historic American Tap Dance Review

Dazzling, unpredictable and astonishing tap dance to live jazz... danced by the originals... legendary dancers who made tap dance history in the 30's and 40's... after fifty years or more, they're still the best in the business!

TICKETS: 224-3351
\$5.75, \$7.75, \$9.75, \$11.75
(includes 25¢ city user fee)

Charge By Phone!

EVERGREEN EVENTS

1216 NW 21st Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97209

Eugene Tickets —

Hull Center & U of O

Saturday
CARMEN McRAE!
April 2, 1983
8:15 PM
Civic Auditorium
Portland

THE LADY IS A LEGEND! She makes lyrics live and breathe with meaning, she makes tragedies and celebrations of life out of every song. She is the greatest interpreter of ballads, and the greatest woman singer of jazz in our time. "Ralph Gleason After thirty years of international tours, awards and albums, she's hotter than ever. Meet Wave with Cal Tjader, spent 7 weeks on the Billboard Charts this fall! (1982) Celebrate a legend in her own time with an exuberant welcome from the jazz capitol of the Northwest!"

OPENING the Carmen McRae concert will be Portland Oregon's own jazz drummer, Ron Steen, and his trio. He plays the kind of jazz he wants to play without making any kind of commercial compromises. A 33-year-old musician, young in the music business, plays today's music but who is firmly entrenched in the philosophy of purity of jazz believed in by his early heroes.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1983 8:15 pm
Civic Auditorium

TICKETS: EVERGREEN EVENTS 224-3351
\$7.75 \$9.75 \$11.75 \$14.75
(Includes 25¢ city user fee)
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Lunch 11-5 p.m. • Dinner 5 p.m.-11 p.m.
Sunday: Lunch & Dinner, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.