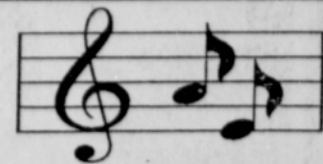




ENTERTAINMENT



Vesta

It doesn't take but a few minutes to recognize that Vesta is an artist of unique and seemingly limitless talent. The way her voice slides easily from flat-out uptempo material to soothing love ballads displays her versatility. The way she expertly balances a variety of emotions on her newest A&M album *Special* shows her to be a performer in confident control of her music.

Countless pop or R&B singers today appear impressive on the surface. They can dance, they can rap, they can act...but when it comes to standing there and actually singing the song, they aren't fooling anybody. "I call that more model than vocal," Vesta volunteers, agreeing that more and more people are demanding the talents of real singers. "Without a doubt, I think that trend is already in motion--with the likes of Anita Baker, Freddy Jackson and Luther Vandross," she says. "As long as those people are sellin', there's hope. But there'll always be a market for real singers--people are always gonna want to go and see someone really deliver."

And delivering is what Vesta Williams is known for--whether on her two previous albums, *Vesta* and *Vesta 4 U* (which boasted the #1 R&B smashes "Sweet Sweet Love" and "Congratulations") or on her grueling schedule of outside commitments. These range from session singing behind such artists as Sting, Anita Baker and Stephanie Mills to TV and radio commercials for Diet Coke, Nike-Air Jordan, Budweiser and Revlon.

Vesta is quite pleased with how *Special* turned out--and can't disguise her pride in not only co-producing nearly every track of the album, but in co-writing all of the songs. (She's also just co-written the song "I'll Go Crazy" with Gerald Alston for his latest album.) As expected, she has "special" feelings for certain tracks on *Special*. The extremely soulful "Can't Get Enough Of Your Love" may contain her best singing of the album. "That may be my favorite lyrically--it's almost like a conversation between two people. And it says exactly what one would say in that situation."

"Where Does The Love Go?" is the big ballad, and Vesta explains how it ended up on the album. "That was actually a song I had written maybe seven or eight years ago. I have this old raggedy tape bag that I carry around, and one night I pulled it out and played it for some friends. They loved the song and convinced me to record it--to rescue it

from the archives. I'm gonna have to pull some more stuff outta that bag! That was also the only totally live track--live drums, live keyboards, live bass--We just cut it like the big girls do!"



Vesta Williams

Not to be missed is the track "Rib Joint," populated by characters like Jimmy "Night Train" Ripple. "That was a lot of fun," Vesta recalls. "We've always done little skits on each album, and we decided to take it to the max this time. I wrote the lyrics to 'I Don't Want No Woman That Look Like No Bone!' The video is going to be hilarious."

Vesta was born in the small town of Coshocton, Ohio, but moved to California at age seven when her disc jockey father took a

job in Los Angeles. At 14, she returned to Ohio, where she nurtured her talent for singing, comedy and musical impersonations.

Although her early association with Chaka Khan invariably prompts comparison, Vesta's singing has been influenced by a number of artists. "I've always been highly influenced by male vocalists," she reveals. "Marvin Gay, Bill Paul...I loved the O'Jays. As far as female singers, I'd have to say Aretha, Sarah Vaughn, Joni Mitchell, lots of Phoebe Snow, and Gladys Knight."

Vesta has truly arrived with *Special*--and has no plans to slow down. "I'm really happy with this album. I wrote all of the songs but one myself. I think it shows a more sophisticated, more mature vocal approach--a lot of emotion, a lot of control. And I feel the strong support of the record company on this one."

"I really feel I'm movin' in the right direction. I don't dwell too much on what I've done...I dwell more on what I'd like to do. But I'm very pleased so far. I feel very blessed."

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WEDNESDAY JULY 10
J.C. Rico

THURSDAY JULY 11
Terry Robb/
Chris Miller

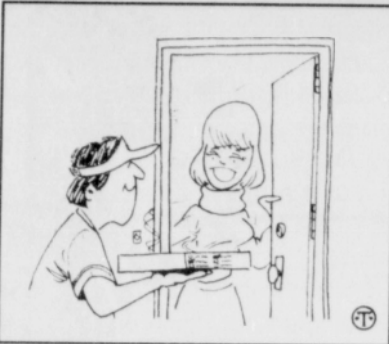
FRIDAY JULY 12
Crazy 8's

SATURDAY JULY 13
Crazy 8's

SUNDAY JULY 14
Calvin Walker

MONDAY JULY 15
Holy Modal Rounders/
Tutu Band

TUESDAY JULY 16
Mother Tones



Most pizza deliveries take place on Friday and Saturday evenings, surveys show.



The first practical phonograph was invented in 1877 by Thomas Edison.

Elaine Rohrer



Meet Elaine Rohrer, world traveler, budding actress, model, and beauty pageant winner. At 23, she's already had a busy life.

Now living back in her childhood home of Portland, Oregon, Elaine recently spent a year-and-a-half occupying the Beverly Hills mansion built by actor Lionel Barrymore. While in Southern California, she appeared in a pilot show for NBC called "Whip Valentine" and in the film "Flatliners."

Elaine, a former Miss Oregon, was born in the Philippines, where her father was the principal at the U.S. Embassy School. Her first modeling assignment was 10 years ago when she was only 13 years old. At age 19, Elaine competed in the Miss USA pageant, making her one of only two teenagers to vie for the title.

None of these, however, were her original career goal.

"For years, I wanted to attend the Fountainebleau and become a chef and

the owner of my own restaurant," she says. "My life took a big turn when I became Miss Oregon."

Elaine's 18 months in Beverly Hills came rent-free in the Barrymore mansion which was recently renovated at a 4 million dollar pricetag. It also included a TV pilot with Roddy McDowall and C. Thomas Howell. And, of course, a part in "Flatliners."

"Did I survive," she says of the film. "No."

"They film hours and hours and hours...more than they can ever use. Then you don't know what will be in the movie."

"When I went to the screening, the storyline had changed so much. I was saying, 'Did I work on this film?'"

"But everybody told me I was pretty lucky to be involved in a feature film especially having been in Hollywood for such a short time...I felt very fortunate."

Artquake 91 Literary Arts Finalists to 'Read Off' At Key Largo

Thirteen Northwest literary artists will compete in a final Artquake "read-off" Sunday, July 14 at Key Largo, 31 N.W. First, Portland.

Scheduled for 5:30-8:30 p.m., the performances will yield six winners who will join invited writers in reading from their original works at Artquake 91 over Labor Day weekend. The writers each will receive a \$75 honorarium. Audience response determined four

winners from each of three competitions in June. Among writers selected to advance to the July 14 read-off were Dan Duling, local fiction writer and playwright; Stephen Thomas, a cabaret poet formerly of Portland, now active on Seattle's literary scene; Leanne Grabel, performance poet; Ron Metherton-Johnson, a poet who works with a three-piece acoustic jazz combo, and Lois Marie Lewis, a poet and poetry publisher.

Oregon Public Broadcasting Wins NEA 1991 Broadcast Award

"The Mozart Mystique with Peter Ustinov," a co-production of Oregon Public Broadcasting, has been presented a 1991 Award for the Advancement of Learning Through Broadcasting by the National Education Association. The presentation was made July 1 in Miami Beach, Florida, in conjunction with the Association's annual meeting.

The NEA also honored three public broadcasting series in its 1991 list: the PBS TV series, "The American Experience" and "The Civil War," and the National Public Radio series, "Class of 2000: The Prejudice Puzzle." All have aired over Oregon Public Broadcasting.

The award to "The Mozart Mystique" was the first NEA honor given to an OPB production. The program

premiered in May 1990 and was recently repeated over PBS nationally. Prior programs in the series have explored the life and music of Beethoven and Bach. All are co-productions of OPB with Wisconsin Public Television and TransTel, GMBH, of Cologne, Germany.

The 1991 award-winners, selected from 250 entries from around the nation, come from public radio and cable, public, local, and network television.

NEA's President Keith Geiger said that the awards, now in their 12th year, "demonstrate commitment of Association members to education achievement beyond the classroom." He added that the awards also "serve to influence the constructive and creative use of television and radio..."

Creed of the black Press

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from social and national antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color, or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are gurt as long as anyone is held back.

"PHENOMENAL!"

Larry Frascella, US MAGAZINE

"TWO THUMBS UP!"

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Enormously involving, beautifully acted."

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