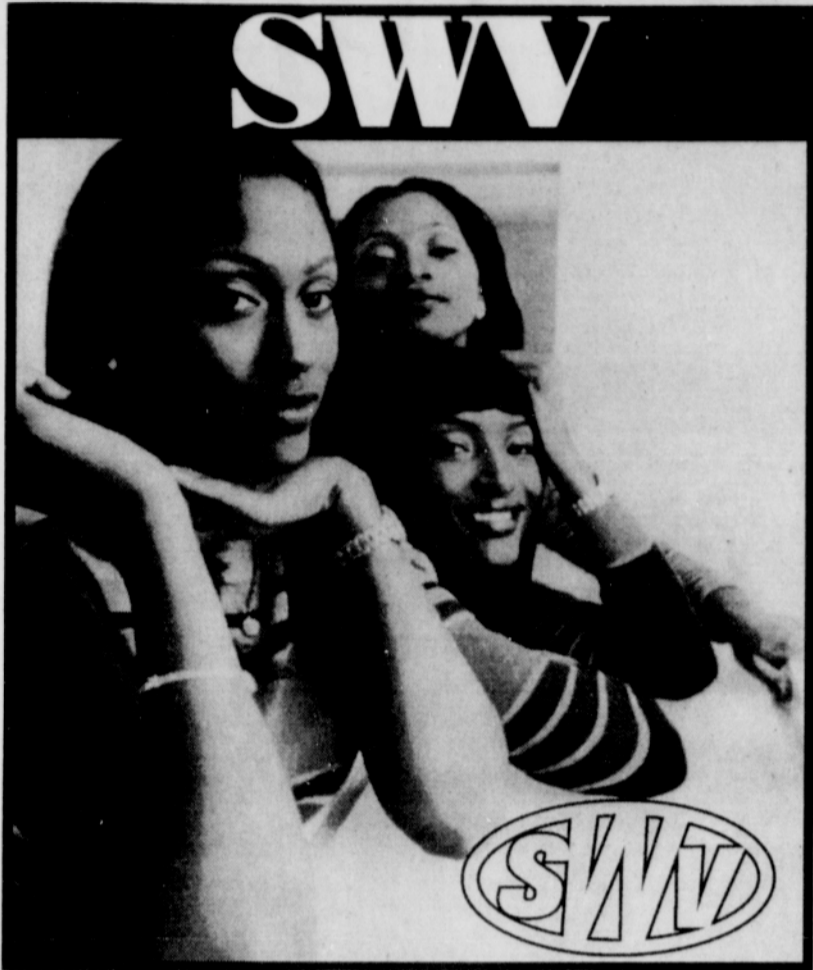


# Arts ENTERTAINMENT



**Pamela Jordan**  
**"Standard Procedure"**  
**Portland Artist Creates First Album**



By MARY BURLINGAME, KMHD FM 89

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If James Brown, the hardest working man in show business, headed an exclusive club, his charter members would certainly be three energetic young ladies from New York named **Cheryl Gamble (Coko), Tamara Johnson (Taj) and Leanne Lyons (Lelee), the members of SWV (Sisters With Voices).**

To briefly walk down Memory Lane and recount how SWV became SWV, they first took the world by storm in 1992, with their first RCA album, "It's About Time," which went Double Platinum and spawned such Number One hits as "Weak," "I'm So Into You," "Right Here/ Human Nature" (their memorable duet with Michael Jackson) and "You're Always On My Mind." Following their debut LP, the "SWV Remixes" LP was released and zoomed to Gold status. It included remixes such as SWV's chart-topping rap collective Wu-Tang Clan, "Anything."

SWV gathered enormous attention with their auspicious debut. They received nominations for a Grammy Award, an American Music Award and The Source Award in 1993. **They won a Children's Choice Award and BET "Best of Video**

**Soul" Award.**

SWV again grabbed thousands of ears in 1996 with their second album, the outstanding, Platinum "New Beginning." That LP debuted the ladies' songwriting and production skills, as well as duets by Taj and Lelee, after all lead vocals on the first album had been sung by Coko. Number One hits such as "You're The One For Me" and "Use Your Heart" came from that album.

**The multi-platinum vocal trio is consistently present on the music scene, whether with one of their own chart-topping albums or by participating in the projects of other top talent in the business.**

SWV is continuing a steady pattern, with the release of their third RCA Records album, **RELEASE SOME TENSION.** The LP is chock full of the best of today's most slamming grooves, done SWV-style. Following up and continuing on the heels of the success of their hit single "Can We" (with Ms. Rap Thang, Missy Elliot), from the "Booty Call" movie soundtrack.

The first impression I had when listening to Pamela Jordan's new and first release, is, Pamela's voice has "Standard Procedure" was how polished the sound of this release is. **Pamela's voice has a unique quality that's similar in its discernible sound to that of Billie Holiday and Nat King Cole.** A pleasurable contrast to other vocalists releases that are copying exactly what Nancy Wilson and other vocalists have already done.

Ms. Jordan's voice is in the warm, sultry middle to low range, an unusual one for a vocalist to make sound so comfortable with her choice of difficult standard compositions.

Her interpretation of the songs on this release show a sell thought out phrasing and familiarity with jazz these jazz standards. The modicum of accompaniment from guitar-

tarist, John Stowell gives the vocalist room to display her versatility and use of space, inflection and show the pleasure that she derives from her choice of material. While leaving enough room for the guitarist to also shine when he interjects some lovely brief solos, that all have John's unequaled sound. Some of the beauty in the delivery of these tunes is the fact that many of them were popular long before Pamela Jordan was born making them recognizable, yet she achieves original renditions that suit her vocal range.

This musical release from Pamela Jordan reminds me why I know jazz will continue to be an evolving artform with a hopeful future. It also reminds me of why the first time I heard her sing at a local jam session I paid particular attention to make sure I heard the name and remembered it. If this release is an indicator I think more people than myself will hear Pamela Jordan sing and listen intently to hear what she has to say while leaving them wanting to hear more from her.

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