

112's New Record Reveals Their Musical Maturity

Growing up is hard to do, especially when you're a member of a platinum-selling R&B quartet. For one, you're faced with the arduous task of trying to assert your individuality while maintaining your role as a team player. For another, the development of groups like New Kids on the Block and New Edition have demonstrated that it's not easy for hormonal, young crooners to be taken seriously once they've matured into grown men. Fortunately, with the release of their third album, Part III, the young men of 112 — Daron, Slim, Q and Mike — have successfully maneuvered this sometimes troublesome sonic leap, and in the process,



Members of 112 from left: Q, Slim, Mike

crafted their most ambitious, revealing and sensual album to date. But in order to fully appreciate 112's remarkable artistic maturation, you must first understand the evolution of their distinguished sound.

Daron, Slim, Q and Mike met while attending high school in their native Atlanta, Georgia. United by a shared love of gospel, soul and hip-hop, the guys formed an R&B quartet and honed their harmonizing skills and dazzling showmanship while performing at talent shows and local churches. It didn't take long for the then 16 year-olds to attract the attention of the Courtney Sills and Kevin Walles management team, which introduced the group to Bad Boy Entertainment CEO Sean "Puffy" Combs. Puffy swiftly signed the foursome to his label and renamed the group 112, the name of the popular club in Atlanta where he met them.

Now, with the release of Part III, 112 emerges as a fully matured ensemble of passionate young men in their early twenties whose personal and musical growth is compellingly translated in their rip-

ened self-penned lyrics and sophisticated production. Take, for instance, the sizzling first single, "It's Over Now," an infectious mid-tempo groove about confronting a cheating lover. Produced by Daron, the single contains a sample of the same rubbery bass line that anchored Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five's classic "White Lines," as well as Mobb Deep's thugged-out smash "Quiet Storm." By contrast, "I'm Still in Love," which was also produced by Daron, is a touching, piano-driven power ballad about forgiveness and enduring, unconditional love. Another standout is "Player," a bluesy, pro-bachelor, mid-tempo number in which Daron unleashes soulful, 70s-era grit: "I'm a player/ And I've traveled all around the world/ I've broken many hearts/ And it really hurts me to say this to you, girl/ But I'm a player/ And it's kind of sad that it has to be this way/ But I don't wanna lock you down until I'm ready." Then his group members join him in the chorus "...But when I do get ready to settle down/ The first one I'm calling is you..."

Despite the sharply contrasting personalities of the individual members of 112, one thing's for certain altogether, they sure can sing some

love songs! "We're not one of those R&B groups with one cat singing lead, one back-up cat, and a couple other cats who can't sing and are just there to look good," says Mike.

"We all sing lead, we all look good, we're dancing, our showmanship is tight, and we still give our praise to God at the end of the day." Amen to that!

kmhd for the love of jazz

89.1

Show & Sell

Friday, April 6 & Saturday, April 7

April 6 and 7 will mark the eleventh year that Buckman Arts Magnet Elementary School and da Vinci Middle School have celebrated the Art Show and Sell. Anyone wanting to check out the latest art in the region is invited to attend. This is a show of over one hundred distinguished, professional artists from the community. Call Emily Crawford at 503/636-8319 or Tia Regan at 503/287-3223.

Riding Into the 21st Century

Friday, April 6 — Sunday, April 8

Oregon Equestrian Trails (OET) for the sixth year is sponsoring the Recreational Horsemanship Clinic, with the theme of "Riding into the 21st Century." The clinic will be on April 7 and 8, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds in Canby, Oregon. This year, the clinic will focus on issues that are confronting and concerning horseman and government agencies. The event is FREE for all. Call 503/658-7185 or 503/637-3878.

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