

FOCUS

George Benson Releases New CD

Mixes soul with contemporary urban edge



George Benson adds 'Irreplaceable' to the shelf of grooves.

Eight-time Grammy winner George Benson is simply one of the greatest guitarists in jazz history and a great all around musician as well. Now the instrumental smooth jazz superstar is back with a vengeance, this time in a fresh direction.

His new album titled, "Irreplaceable" is a significant shift back to the silky sexy soul music of old with

a decidedly contemporary urban edge.

"I'm just trying to wake some people up," Benson says with the confidence. "I want to give fans something that they wouldn't expect just like in '76 when I was recording 'Breezin' and everybody expected instrumentals at 8,000 notes per second like I'd done in the past. I dropped a vocal. 'This

Masquerade,' on 'em instead! So, we're coming in strong from the left this time. When the DJ says, 'That was George Benson,' folks will be like, 'What?' They're not gonna believe it...and that's what we want."

This new album is expected by critics to floor the entire music industry with new flavor that fans are sure to enjoy.

Benson has gracefully appeared on contemporary urban radio as an instrumental guest to popular artists such as Mary J. Blige and Nuyorican Soul.

Now, with "Irreplaceable," the time has arrived for George Benson to remind the world where his talents all began with a soulful album precisely tuned to the tenor of the times.

Destiny's Child to Reunite for Game Show



"Destiny's Child" members—Michelle Williams (from left), Beyoncé Knowles, and Kelly Rowland—pose for a photo during the nominations announcements for the Grammy Awards show on Jan. 3, 2001, during a news conference at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. (AP Photo)

(AP)—Destiny's Child will perform together for the first time in nearly two years as part of the Pepsi "Play for a Billion" TV game show on ABC this fall.

They will sing new songs from their upcoming album before a live audience in Los Angeles this September. One song will air on "Play

for a Billion" on Sept. 12, the Pepsi-Cola Co. announced Thursday.

"We are really looking forward to getting back on stage and performing together as a group," Beyoncé, lead singer of Destiny's Child, said in a statement. Their next album is scheduled for release this November.

"Play for a Billion," with Damon Wayans as host, will offer a \$1 billion grand prize but also guaran-

tees that one finalist will win \$1 million even if the grand prize isn't awarded.

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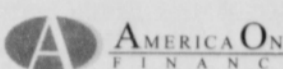
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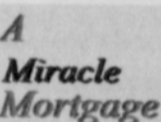
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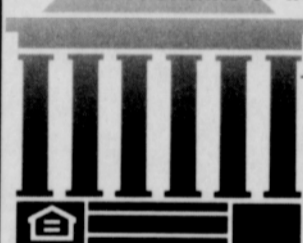
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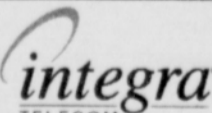
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