

# Soulful songs celebrate New Year



Ray Charles with the Raeletts and the Ray Charles Orchestra will appear at the Music Hall.

The "King of Soul," Ray Charles, will sing his greatest hits at Detroit's Music Hall. Backed by the Raeletts and the Ray Charles Orchestra, Ray Charles' revue opens Dec. 28 and will wrap up with a special New Year's Eve show.

At age 48, Ray Charles has become a legend in his own time. He has dipped into more styles of music than almost any other singer and has come out with a kind of "soul" that reaches out to everyone, breaking all barriers of language, culture and education. Frank Sinatra once stated, "Ray Charles is the only genius in our business."

Winner of 10 Grammy awards, Ray Charles was selected by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) as winner of the "Best R & B Vocal Performance—Male" category for his single of Stevie Wonder's "Living for the City."

That same year Ray Charles was presented the Golden Plate Award by the American Academy of Achievement. In 1976 Ray Charles was named Best Jazz Male Vocalist in the Playboy Magazine Music Awards Readers' Poll and was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in New York.

FEATURED IN Ray Charles' show is Detroit trumpet man Marcus Bel-

## Concerts

grave. A five-year veteran of "The Ray Charles Show," Marcus Belgrave is listed on the "Ray Charles at Newport 1968" album and the recent "My Kind of Jazz Part 2."

Belgrave has played with both Charles Mingus, master bassist and composer, and Joe Cocker. In Detroit, Belgrave divides his time between various jazz clubs and H.O.M.E. (House of Minority Employees), the place of his most important project, the Jazz Development Workshop.

On Dec. 31 Ray Charles presents a special New Year's Eve show at 10:30 p.m. Ticket prices include champagne, snacks and party favors.

Evening performances Tuesday-Thursday are at 8:30 p.m., the Saturday matinee is 2 p.m., and the early show on Sunday is 6:30 p.m. All tickets can be obtained at the Music Hall box office, 330 Madison Avenue, or by calling 963-7820, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Master Charge, Visa, and Hudson's credit cards are accepted. Group rates are available by calling Joan Heidt, 963-7822.

## Joan Rivers opens '79 at db's Club

In the Hyatt Regency, db's club will reopen Friday, Jan. 5, following a four-week closing for minor renovation.

Heading the 1979 season is comedienne Joan Rivers, back for her third appearance in the 330-seat night club. Creator of the motion picture "Rabbit Test," Ms. Rivers has recently returned to the television and night club arena and touts db's as one of her favorite clubs on the circuit.

Appearing for eight days Ms. Rivers opens Jan. 5 and continues through Saturday, Jan. 13.

Admission to Joan Rivers exclusive Detroit-area appearance will be by ticket sales only, on sale at locations including the Hyatt Regency Dearborn, Olympia Travel, Birmingham, and Hudson's.

Among the nation's leading names in

the television and recording industry to be showcased in db's club during 1979 are the Hudson Brothers, stars of the television music comedy series, "Bonkers." They open Jan. 16, carry through to Jan. 20, and will be followed by Jose Feliciano Jan. 22-27.

Winner of two Grammys, an Oscar nomination and 32 gold records, Feliciano returns to db's for his third appearance.

Rita Moreno, the only female performer to have been awarded all four show business awards: The Oscar, Emmy, Grammy and Tony, makes her first db's appearance Jan. 29-Feb. 3.

The February repertoire includes B. B. King; singer John Gary; "Roots" star Leslie Uggams, and a headliner of television's controversial night-time soap opera, "Soap," Billy Crystal.

## Singer returns home to perform at Midtown

Folk singer Paula Ann Gills will be returning to Birmingham to make her first public appearance in the city at the Midtown Cafe Wednesday-Saturday.

Ms. Gills is a 1968 graduate of Marian High School. She graduated from Michigan State University in 1972 and received her master's degree from MSU in 1974.

Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. John Gills of Birmingham.

The young singer recently cut an album, "Made It This Far," with Green Mountain Records in Vermont. The album will be released soon.

ALBUM NOTES describe the record as her "culmination of four years of trying to write 10 good songs and three

months of trying to figure out the best way to arrange and record them."

She was one of six winners in the New England Talent Competition at the New England Folk Festival last August.

During performances, Ms. Gills accompanies herself on the acoustic guitar and dulcimer, singing many original songs as well as a wide variety written by others.

She taught English for two years in Lincoln, Ill., and began performing while attending a creative writing workshop in Orono, N.Y. She sang in coffee houses and on the radio. A year ago she moved in with a friend in Vermont, to try for a show business career.



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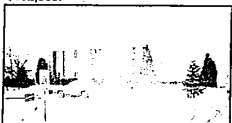
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