

Starship exceptional in newest offering

By WILSON LINDSEY

Jefferson Starship-Red Octopus (Grant-Rca).

Simply put, this is the Starship's finest effort in years. As the debate rages on about the importance and necessity of quality production, mixing, and arrangement, etc., most people react immediately to the material. The melody, the beat, or both figure prominently in the success of most commercial records, and Red Octopus' abundance of fine songs and the return of vocalist Marty Bain are a pleasant surprise.

Grace Slick's voice hasn't sounded better in years, and the musicians' emphasis on a supportive role rather than a competitive one with the vocalists works beautifully on the tracks during which this approach is employed. "Miracles" and "There Is Love" are in this reviewer's opinion two of the finest songs this group has produced.

This album's direction and feel from a group that frankly was enmeshed in its own repetitiveness and reliance on the musicians' "licks" in an apparent effort to fill in gaps and pull them through weak material are really inspiring.

They didn't compromise the sound that is theirs alone. The latest beauty that they were always capable of was simply released.

Eric Gale-Forecast Kudu 11. Eric Gale's lp has been around for

a couple of years now. It's not out of print, luckily, for it is one of the finest guitar-orchestral recordings produced in years.

Gale's cult popularity is spreading recently due to his excellent efforts as sideman on many prominent jazz-oriented hits, most notably Grover Washington's gold lp "Mister Magic."

Gale's approach to playing is economical and tasteful. Rather than being an avalanche of one-dimensional notes and technique, his playing strikes an emotional chord (no pun intended) as stimulating as his artistry. I've listened to this lp often since its release, preferring to keep it in close

proximity to my turntable. Disc jockeys, musicians and other acquaintances familiar with this disc as one of their all-time favorites. It's peculiar why this record did not gain wider acceptance.

The excellent arrangements by Bob James, who has since emerged as a star in his own right, have much to do with this lp's artistic success.

I have a feeling this lp will be re-marketed properly in the not-too-distant future. Until a new album is released by Gale, "Forecast" is a classic. Musicians, take note.

Ensembles to perform

Sunday's "Brunch with Bach" at the Detroit Institute of Arts will showcase two ensembles from "Workshop in the Woods." Held every summer at Duns Scotus College in Southfield, "Workshop in the Woods" is one of the few programs in the nation devoted en-

tirely to chamber music. Brunch tickets are available by advance paid reservations only. A limited number of tickets for coffee and pastry will be available 10 minutes after the regular seating times of 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. and noon.



Trombones in Franklin

The ring of "76 Trombones" will be in the air Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. when the Franklin Village Junior Players present their production of Meredith Willson's "The Music Man" in West Hills Junior High School. In the cast are Kathy Farbrother (left) and Ann Demitroff (center) being di-

rected by Tim Vaughn. Others performing will be Jody Broad as librarian Marian and Gary Park of Birmingham as Harold Hill. Music director is Kathleen Pulliam and choreographer is Kelly Pino. The show also will be presented Aug. 22 and 23. (Photo by Brian O'Connor)

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