

Local artists score big in the world of music

By Nick Charles
Special writer

In 1982, the local music scene was just as busy as the rest of the country. The year belonged to a single performer. It was owned by Marshall Crenshaw. The 28-year-old Berkley native stunned the world with his debut album of pure pop masterpieces. Crenshaw played the Royal Oak Music Theatre, the Second Chance Bar and Hart Plaza before popping off to London, Dublin and Stockholm (not to forget New York City and an appearance on the David Letterman show). In August, the Look released its second album, "Look Again," on Southfield's Plastic Records. The album's single, "You Can't Sit Down," was played on the "rate-a-record" portion of Dick Clark's "American Bandstand" on Sept. 11 and pulled a powerful 94 percent. It had a "very infectious beat to it," Clark told the TV audience. "I'll be a big hit."

"I got excited when I heard it, but it was like it was happening to someone else," said Randy Volin, the Look's guitarist.

It took me at least a day to believe it!"

TOBY REDD released his debut album, "A to Z," on Plastic Records while Letter O (formerly Radio City) logged a fantastic debut on Canada's A&M Records.

It's also definitely "Time to Move" for BSA (Bittersweet Alley). Hopefully, that means onward and upward for the hardest-working group in the Detroit area.

BSA is recording its first album for Orient/RCA Records (of Canada). Lead guitarist/vocalist Gary Spanola is producing and arranging the upcoming album. It's set for release this month.

Another talented guitarist producing his own works is Bruce Nazarian of the Automatix. The group recently signed with MCA Records.

"It's going real well," Nazarian said. "We're done with most of the recording and it should be out by February."

While all these people are busy writing and recording music, WLLZ-FM's Dave Scott and Doug Fodell are responsible for Detroit's answer to MTV, the cable music network. Their show,

"The Beat," airs at 11 p.m. Saturdays on WTVS, Channel 56.

THE SHOW, simulcast on WLLZ-FM, is one of the best things to come out of the Detroit area in a long time. Not only does "The Beat" feature videos of national recording groups, it showcases local bands.

The mystical, magical game of musical chairs seemed to be played every year as line-ups of bands all over the country change. Metro Detroit isn't any exception this year, with the break up of the Knack. Two members of the band (Bruce Gary and Berton Averre) are playing with former Doors guitarist Robby Krieger. Lead singer/songwriter Doug Fieger formed a new group, Taking Chances.

He's written a lot of new music and they have dates all over California, Texas and the Southwest," said Fieger of Southfield, the musician's mother. "Doug is writing all the new material."

Detroit's own boys in red (or whatever color they're wearing this year), The Romantics, replaced bassist Rich

Cole of Rochester by rehiring lead guitarist Mike Skill.

"A lot of people say I left because of musical differences, which isn't true," Cole said. "I liked what I was doing. They had to replace me with Mike because of their lack of songwriting ability. Mike's a good songwriter. I won't deny that."

COLE IS putting together a new band in Rochester. "I'm having a great time working with these people. It's a break from the fact I was in," he said.

The Wagon Wheel Saloon in Troy conducted its second annual Muscular Dystrophy benefit Sept. 5 with the help of flutist Alexander Zornig, Violator, Trifecta (one of the best pop bands in the area), the Rick Hall Band and Letter O.

Special credit goes to Lorio-Ross' David Black, who actually sold personal belongings off his body, yelled, begged and went without sleep to help this year's benefit earn \$3,185, topping last year's take.

"I felt great that it was a success," said Paul Van Gamper, Wagon Wheel manager. "The whole situation was very positive."

Jeff Ryan of Canton fulfilled one of his dreams when he wrote "Recollections, the Detroit Years." The book tells the story of Motown's artists, records and influence. Singer Martha Reeves, a Motown alumna who once was teamed with the Vandellas, is helping Ryan promote the book.

Bob Stewart of Bloomfield Hills left his band, Bolts, in which he played keyboards, sang and composed, to form his own sound company. Stewart has joined forces with guitarist Russ Epler of Birmingham, who played with the News, a Birmingham-based band. The talented twosome will be spinning off jingles for Dave Orr at Associates of Bloomfield.

SOUTHFIELD'S WRIF-FM conducted its second annual "Motor City Jam" at Cobo Hall and raised more than \$25,000 from 3,200 fans to help pay for the Detroit Zoo train. The jam, headlined by the Romantics, featured the Dick the Bruiser Band, Letter O, Toby Redd, BSA, and the Look.

WLLZ of Farmington Hills joined in on the fun by sponsoring its first "Mo-

tor City Rocks" concert Sept. 11 at Pine Knob. The concert, which began at noon and lasted until 11 p.m., featured 10 bands. Among them were the Roomates, the Cadillac Kidz, Vendetta, Muggy, Adrenaline, and Sinf Mich Ryder led the lineup. All proceeds from the show went to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Southfield.

Here's my top-10 list of albums released worldwide in 1982:

1. Marshall Crenshaw - Marshall Crenshaw - Warner Bros.
2. Letter O - Letter O - A&M of Canada
3. Rick Springfield - Success Hasn't Spelled Me Yet - RCA
4. Cheap Trick - One on One - Epic
5. Pat Benatar - Get Nervous - Chrysalis
6. Robert Plant - Pictures at Eleven - Atlantic
7. Alan Parsons Project - Eye in the Sky - Arista
8. John Waite - Ignition - Chrysalis
9. Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers - Long After Dark - MCA
10. John Cougar - American Fool - Riva/Poligram

Blood bank procedures explained at Mercy

Medical technologists will have the opportunity to refresh their mental knowledge and basic techniques of blood bank procedures at Mercy College of Detroit's Clinical Immunohematology Update Feb. 8 to April 28.

In addition, the 10-week course will introduce students to the new terminology and to the wealth of new information that exists in the areas of immune response, immunology of complement, molecular structure of immunoglobulins and some new methodologies

used in evaluating a patient with an incompatible crossmatch or a positive anti globulin test.

This is the fifth in a series of update programs designed to reacquaint and refresh the inactive medical technologist in the constantly changing field of Clinical Laboratory Medicine. Both lecture and laboratory time are included in the 50 hours of classroom instruction.

The 20 on-campus sessions will be held Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning Feb. 8. Lecture sessions will be held 7-9 p.m.; laboratory sessions, 7-

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Chance to study in Israel offered

A recruitment meeting for a Young Leadership Mission to Israel, April 10-20, will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18, at Colony Park Apartments Clubhouse, 21890 Colony Park Circle, Southfield.

Persons aged 25-40 have been invited to join the 10-day "YACHAD" mission, sponsored by the United Jewish Appeal and coordinated locally by the Jewish Welfare Federation. The mission will offer 1,500 young American Jews the

opportunity for intensive travel and study in Israel as they celebrate the state's 35th anniversary.

The meeting will provide background on missions and give general literary information on the April trip. Howard Stone, UJA national director of overseas programs, is the featured speaker.

For further information, contact Sandra Feuer at the Jewish Welfare Federation, 955-3929.

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10 p.m.

The program has been approved for 5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) by Mercy College of Detroit. All participants will receive a certificate, and a permanent record of these CEUs will be kept on file at Mercy College of Detroit.

The deadline for limited enrollment is Jan. 26; cost is \$270.

Mercy College of Detroit is located at 8200 W. Outer Drive, at the Southfield Freeway, just south of Seven Mile Road.

For more information and to register, call 592-6191.

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