Talent In Action

• Continued from page 16

fessionally together on both vocal and instrumental levels. Steve Marriott, lead singer and

guitarist, might seem like a boyish Mick Jagger. But when he breaks into hot Pickett-like shreaks, you know he knows you know he ain't no boy.

Humble Pie played with slick, hard rock and sensual blues from their latest A & M recording "Performance: Rockin' the Fillmore" and other albums in their past. Sweathog, the first group to

grace the Academy's stage on the eve of March 17, had difficulty

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keeping the audience's attention This was not because of their hard rock music, which the audience liked and moved with, but because the audience was blatantly impa-tient to see Humble Pie.

Black Oak Arkansas, a carnally indulgent group of seven, outma-neuvered the Academy audience's impatience. Their fearless leader had a running monolog string one song to another. In a low, deep, sinister voice he would build a tension that culminated in such Woman" and "Hot and Nasty" or such unlikely ones as "Dixie" or "Silent Night." The latter, of course, were performed in their unscrupulous, exhibitionist manner. **CAROL SEILER**

BYRDS

DAVE MASON

J. F. MURPHY & SALT

Academy of Music, New York

uration of the Byrds began tour-

ing three years ago, their act was tight and very polished. The band would walk onstage briskly, al-

ready tuned and ready to plug in and sweeten the air with the first clean bars of "You Ain't Goin'

Sadly, the March 10 perform-ance suggested that the Byrds aren't really going anywhere. What

had been a highly-evolved and very

personal style of music, highlighted by Clarence White's economical

yet always lyrical guitar and Mc-Guinn's classic vocals, was sur-vived by a grim parody of itself that was no longer fresh or precise.

Perhaps this act, one of Colum-

bia Records' most venerable bands, was simply tired. Perhaps the chronic P.-A. problems blunted their fire. Or, and this seems to be more likely, the performance's ennui was evidence of creative

menopause within one of the most

distinctive and certainly influential bands of the last decade.

albums have testified to his craftsmanship. Mason's performance was a joy, offering moments of pure, incendiary brilliance b a l a n c e d against gentle, acoustic versions of

his mellower songs. His current band is a triumph of supple strength, with every element mesh-ing nicely behind Mason's concise

guitars and vocals. His music is

Preceding the Byrds was special guest Dave Mason, a consummate musician whose three Blue Thumb

Nowhere."

When the most recent config-

clean bars of "You Ain't Goin" clean bars of "You Ain't Goin' truly synthetic, incorporating every phase of his stylistic progress from Traffic on, and the audience squealed happily in appreciation. J. F. Murphy & Salt opened the evening with their customary power. Now recording for Elektra Pacords, this band is extraordin

Records, this band is extraordi-narily disciplined, drawing from r 'n' b, Gaelic folk music, and rock. Murphy himself is source point for that energy, but Ron Allard's reeds (and bagpipes) and Joe Parrino's guitar also demand attention. Hopefully, their new allegiance will permit the exposure they richly deserve. SAM SUTHERLAND

JONI MITCHELL **JACKSON BROWNE** Los Angeles Music Center

Even though she was handicapped slightly by an approaching cold that took some of the edge off her vocal volume and range, Joni Mitchell proved to her youth ful sold-out audience that at this stage of her career she is a far more vibrant and outgoing per-former than ever. She also plays her accompaniment instruments, guitar, piano and dulcimer more fluently than ever.

Garbed in a gray '30s pantsuit with Joan Crawford padded shoul-ders, she perked up her familiar songs by genuinely funny intros about the odd circumstances of her life which inspired them. And she brought in much new material which displayed her at top form. An added encore of "Circle Game" featuring the Geffen-Roberts male choir provided additional comic relief.

Jackson Browne, the songwriting legend from Orange County now finally emerging as an artist, didn't act nervous as he began his set, but somehow the more he sang. the more his voice opened up. The Browne songs are outstanding and he is a highly likeable if somewhat undisciplined performer, given to excessive tuning and idle rapping between songs. Promising is the apt descriptive word. NAT FREEDLAND

BONNIE KOLOC

Bitter End, New York Bonnie Koloc, a singer from Waterloo, Iowa, is possessed of truly stunning talent. Her voice is piercingly clear, and her range is sweeping. She has firm control of dynamic shadings, and she is equally at home in gentle melodic material and rough-edged blues. Miss Koloc also knows how to

interpret a song. Her affection for (Continued on page 41)

Says Audiences Are More Hip

LOS ANGELES concert audiences are getting much more musically aware, according to Jon Mark, the vocalist-guitarist-writer of Mark-Almond. "On our recent tours, we've found that U.S. audiences are able to get behind a scope of all kinds of music styles," said Mark. "Labels aren't nearly as important anymore.

Mark credits the change to FM's opening up of radio formats and introducing the mass audience to a wide variety of music. "There's no comparison between U.S. con-certs and European concerts," he said. "Over there the promoter just publicizes the act by putting their name on the hall the night of the show and collecting the ticket money in the boxoffice. Also, none of the halls seat more than three to five thousand."

Mark-Almond is cutting a third Blue Thumb album live at the Troubadour on its current tour as well as making a live broadcast over KDAY from the club.

From The Music Capitals of the World

DOMESTIC

• Continued from page 16

Beach on March 18. Jazz pianist Eddie Heywood will perform at Barney Josephson's Cookery Restaurant in Greenwich Vil-lage from April 10 through June 8. . . Singer Harlene Winston makes her cafe debut at Rodney Dangerfield's on March 27 for one week Loey Dec & the Starweek. . . . Joey Dee & the Starlighters move into Danny Mazur's Supper Club in Huntington, N.Y., on March 27 for a two-week gig. ABC radio and TV sportscaster Howard Cosell will be the guest of honor at the 24th Anniversary Ball of The Bedside Network of the Veterans Hospital Radio and Television Guild. The ball will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the New York Hilton Hotel, Friday night, April 21. . . . Bobby Jones and Friends will play weekly at Fiddlestix in Manhattan. Reedman Jones will provide musical direction for guest jazz musicians. DAN BOTTSTEIN

LOS ANGELES

Carol King and Chase have switched to ASCAP.... A&N re-corded Joe Cocker's new tour debut at Madison Square Garden. . San Diego's Funky Quarters, only 18 months old, has doubled in size and switched from a musical beer bar to a musical theater with top artists. Merry Clayton kicked off the room's weekly live broad-casts over KDEO.

Elton John had Princess Margaret boogieing at one of his three free concerts for England's Na-tional Youth Theater. . . . Day-break Records moves to larger quarters at 6725 Sunset Blvd. . . . Chicago has sold out a week of concerts Holl concerts two years Carnegie Hall concerts two years in a row.

The Noel Bridges VW Union got socko response at the Gregar Club. Bridges is an unusually Club. Bridges is an unusually fluent-styled pop vocalist. . . . Daddy Cool back from Australia to tour 35 college dates in five weeks. . . NRBQ, new Buddah group, debuted on the West Coast at the Whisky Wednesday (29). Bob Alcivar to score "Butter-flies Are Free" . . . Steve Miller down with hepatitis and had to cancel current dates. . . . Pianist

concel current dates. . . Pianist Roger Kellaway sings for first time on his new album, "Center of the Circle." . . . Freddy Hart had an on his new album, "Center of the Circle." . . . Freddy Hart had an autograph party at Bakersfield's Singer Co. broadcast by KUZZ. Dallas declared a "Bread Day" after the group performed at a benefit for Southern Methodist University Medical Center. Mike Belkin Productions has acc

Mike Belkin Productions has acquired a 1,500-seat Cleveland night club, to be renamed the Threshold. Low-admission weekend shows will Low-admission weekend shows will be the policy. Already booked are **Lighthouse**, Malo, S we at hog, **Cheech & Chong** and **Canned Heat**. The **Guess Who** raised \$20,000 at a Winnipeg benefit to build a local Indian recreation center. . . . G r a m my nominees John Van Hamersveld and Norman Seef to design cover for Michael Jarrett's Playbox album

Playboy album. John Denver to tape an English television special. . . Debbie Reynolds will speak and sing the lead role as a friendly spider in the Hanna-Barbara animated film, "Charlotte's Web." ... Elmer Bernstein to score "In Search of the Lost World". the Lost World."

Bill Cowsill sat in on the new Ike & Tina Turner single, "Right On." . . . Van Morrison playing Santa Monica Civic April 27-28. . . . Shanti, Atlantic's raga-rock head footuring Assish Khard control of the second band featuring Assish Khan, at UCLA Friday (31). . . . The Rhodes Kids, new Oak act, at Las Vegas Hilton lounge for eight

weeks. Richard Harris starts a week's stand at the Huntington Hartford Theater April 11.... Mary Travers of Peter, Paul & Mary fame starts solo touring with an April 15 Car-

negie Hall concert Lettermen to play IBM's Puerto Rico convention, the only act per-forming. . . . Ashton, Gardner & Dyke at the Whisky April 19-23. NAT FREEDLAND

MEMPHIS

Isaac Hayes keeps busy. Just back from London where he guested with **Rex Harrison** in a Burt Bacharach special to be aired over ABC-TV Apr. 23, he found time to complete a new single, "Let's Stay Together." And it's different. Isaac doesn't sing; he plays the saxophone on this instru-mental number. It's on the Enterprise label. Hayes also is ready to start scoring the Shaft sequel, "Big Bamboo." In between, the Black Moses of Soul will join the case of "An Evening of Soul," a troupe of black student-performers at Memphis State University. Hayes will appear in four of the six performances in May. . . . Stax also has released albums by **Rufus Thomas** and **O.B. McClinton. LINOMAS** and **U.B. McClinton.** Thomas is on the Stax label, Mc-Clinton on Enterprise. . . Singles released by Stax are by **Hot Sauce** on Volt; **Johnny Taylor** on Stax; **Songs of Slum** on Stax, and **Albert King**, also on Stax.

Working at the Stax studio are David Porter, Eddie Floyd and the Bar-Kays. American studio has released a first LP by Billy Burnette on Entrance, distributed by Columbia. The album, called "Billy Burnette," was three months in production by Chips Moman. Bur-nette wrote eight of the songs and combined with Johnny Christopher

as co-writer for the other two. . . . Trans-Maximum has released singles by Roy Head, Ronnie Stoots, Reni Crook, St. Andrews Fairway, Sid Herring and Watch Pocket. Ronnie Capone is producing the Warner Brothers group, Tower of Power, and Steve Cropper is pro-ducing Columbia's Diane Colby at Trans-Maximum.

Capitol's group Goose Creek Symphony, which has the hit sin-gle, "Mercedes-Benz," was in Mem-phis to record an album with Terry Manning engineering at Ar-dent Studio Freddy King also is dent Studio. Freddy King also is working on an LP at Ardent for Shelter Records, produced by Leon Russell and Denny Cordell. . . . Charlie Freeman is working on a single at Sam Philling Studio with single at Sam Phillips Studio, with Knox Phillips producing. At the same studio, Atlantic's Jackie De-Shannon has put vocal overdubs on previous recordings.

Cymmarron has a new single recorded at American for Entrance. and Gerald Hooker is working at American on a blues album for 77 records. . . . A new single ready for release from Sounds of Mem-phis is by **The Minites**, "Still a Part of Me." **JAMES CORTESE**

Puerto Rico Fest Readies Pop Acts

NEW YORK-Mar Y Sol, the first International Puerto Rico Pop Festival has been set for April 1-3. Mar Y Sol is being produced by Island Ventures, Inc., an Atlantabased organization headed by Alex Cooley.

Lined up for the Festival are: Faces, featuring Rod Stewart; Ron Wood; Ronnie Lone; Ian McLagan and Kenny Jones; Emerson, Lake & Palmer; Alice Cooper; Black Sabbath; J. Geils Band, Roberta Flack; the Allman Bros. Band; Bloodrock, Dave Brubeck Quartet with Gerry Mulligan; H er b i e Mann; Goose Creek Symphony; B.B. King; Fleetwood Mac; Dr. John; Malo; Osibisa; and Pot Liquor, among others.

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LIGHTS

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Los Angeles Music Center

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